

International workshop

Forest, Border, Identity: Past and Present of the Bohemian Forest through the Lens of the Environmental Humanities

September 23–25, 2026

Špičák, Czech Republic



This workshop brings together researchers working in the field of environmental humanities with a focus on the cross-border Bohemian/Bavarian Forest region. The region's forests and natural environment are important elements of its identity, while its location along the Czech-German border has shaped its history through major political and social changes, including border shifts, displacement, the Iron Curtain, EU integration, and the development of cross-border cooperation. The workshop provides a space for researchers at different career stages – from PhD students and early-career researchers to senior scholars – to present their ongoing and completed projects, exchange perspectives, and explore common themes and interests. It also fosters networking among researchers from the Czech Academy of Sciences, other academic institutions, and regional actors, with a view to identifying opportunities for future collaborations.

Programme

Wednesday September 23

- 14:00 – 17:30 Excursion to the former Prokop Lodge and the glacial lakes
- 17:30 – 19:00 Dinner

Thursday September 24

- 7:00 – 9:30 Breakfast
- 10:00 – 12:30 Workshop Part I:
 - Greetings, Introduction
 - Project Presentations
 - Anna Kolářová (Institute of Ethnology CAS): *Tourism and Border(s) in the Bohemian and Bavarian Forest 1870–1950 / OP JAC Land Gone Wild*
 - Kristýna Kaucká (Masaryk Institute and Archives of CAS): *Border-Crossing Battle: Bark Beetle Blight in Bohemia, Austria, and Bavaria (1868–1929)*
 - Kristýna Kaucká (MIA CAS), Michal Hořejší, Veronika Faktorová (Institute of Czech Literature CAS): *Measuring the Urwald, Imagining the Wilderness: Heinrich Göppert, Foresters, and the Bohemian Forest in the Nineteenth Century*
 - Wolfgang Göderle, Malte Rehbein, Arne Cypionka (University of Passau): *Bridging the Archives: Linking Archival and Palaeoecological Data in the Bohemian Forest*
 - Barbora Řehořová (Faculty of Arts CUNI): *Nationalizing Nature, Shaping Identity: The Bohemian Forest as a Contested Landscape 1880–1938*
 - Jiří Woitsch (Institute of Ethnology CAS): *The Schwarzenberg Canal – Between an unwanted heritage and a “reliable” source of information on forest management in the Bohemian Forest*
 - Tereza Kuchaříková Blažková (Center for Theoretical Study CAS/CUNI): *The Industrialization of the Šumava Mountains: Transformations of the Landscape and Settlement*
 - Nikola Novotná (Faculty of Arts CUNI): *Aspects of the Environmental History of the Iron Curtain in the Bohemian Forest*
 - Eliška Švarná (National Museum): *Lipno Dam as a Great Construction of Socialism*
 - Pavla Šimková (Collegium Carolinum): *Lost in the Forest: Researching the History of Nature Conservation on the Czech-German-Austrian Border*
 - Markus Rudolphi (OTH Regensburg): *Negotiating delicate cohabitation: A multispecies perspective of the Bohemian Forest*
 - Felix Bruckner (Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial): *Rethinking the border – an online exhibition about the Bavarian-Bohemian borderlands*
- 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch
- 14:00 – 17:00 Workshop Part II:
 - Funding – Roundtable

- Potential Collaborations

- 18:00 – 20:00 Dinner

Friday September 25

- 7:00 – 10:00 Breakfast
- 11:00 Optional excursion (Pancíř)

Organised by:

Anna Kolářová, Institute of Ethnology CAS

Kristýna Kaucká, Masaryk Institute and Archives of CAS

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