

Editorial

Dear readers,

Welcome to this year's first issue of *History – Theory – Criticism* (*Dějiny – teorie – kritika*), this time in the spirit of theoretical concepts of intellectual and cultural history. The introductory study by Lenka Řezníková analyses the famous *Pansophy* by Johannes Amos Comenius in the sense of an interplay between systematic and historical concepts. In her study, the author accentuates the fact that, although Komenský was very active in the field of history, he completely omitted historical concepts in his *Pansophy*, whose aim was to collect universal human knowledge. Lenka Řezníková offers an interesting interpretation of this seemingly very surprising “omission”.

The second text, by David de Pablo, deals with a remarkable phenomenon of positive representations of Muslims and Islam in medieval Castile. It is generally understood that these representations have so far been overwhelmingly pejorative. In his study, the author points out a number of positive cultural representations and examines the ways in which these were applied, how they evolved historically and how they fitted into a broader alterity framework and may even have resulted in the disappearance of perceived alterity in some cases. If David De Pablo's text is refreshing, then it is safe to say that the literal theoretical-methodological premiere in the DTK brought by Zuzana Křižalkovičová is boldly innovative. It deals with the agency of the non-human in history from the position of new materialism: in her case, it is the agency of military uniforms (coats) in the narratives of women's resistance against totalitarian regimes in the years 1938–1953. Her text brings a new and original perspective on how these artefacts represented co-agents in the resistance movements and how their example can be used to demonstrate the necessity to acknowledge the agency of material objects in history. The last, fourth, study presented in this issue is, in a way, a late fruit of our almost two-year collaboration with historians working in the field of medical science. Jan Hrudka presents a study analysing the gradual

transformation of the historical medical paradigm of tumours: from the ancient model to pathological anatomy and experimental physiology.

In the *Discussion and Disputes* section, we bring you a remarkable text by Jan Horský and Miloš Havelka, which provides an opportunity for a discussion covering many areas. It deals with the concepts of the so-called big history. This section is followed by our review section, where we reflect on the recently published and discussed literature. In this issue, we offer you critical evaluations of texts on the history of scientific foresight, animal studies, historical re-enactment, and theories of cultural heritage.

I will conclude this *Editorial* with a look forward to the second 2024 issue of *History–Theory–Criticism*, which is currently in preparation. You may once again expect interesting and relevant analytical texts, which will often bring an innovative insight and in one case, an unprecedented approach to rarely researched areas in the Czech environment: from a historical-anthropological analysis of a unique subculture to a premiere treatment of the agency of animals, specifically horses, in the context of contemporary military historical re-enactment.

Finally, on the occasion of the memorable anniversary of prof. Miloš Havelka, one of the founders of DTK, who has been managing the journal for many years, we would like to wish him a happy birthday, a true joy of writing, and good health, well-being and prosperity in the years to come.

I wish you all a wonderful rest of the summer and look forward to seeing you with the next issue of our magazine,

Petr Wohlmuth, Editor-In-Chief

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