

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

# Queering

20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY EAST CENTRAL EUROPE



**PRAGUE, May 26–28, 2026**

Venues:

**CHARLES UNIVERSITY,  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

Pátkova 2137/5, Praha 8

**LAICHTER HOUSE**

Chopinova 4, Praha 2

# Tuesday may 26, 2026

13:30 – 14:00 **REGISTRATION**

14:00 – 14:10 **OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE**

Welcome by the organizers and partner institutions

14:10 – 15:25 **PANEL 1**

## **Archives, Recovery, and Queer Life-Writing**

(Chair: Judit Takács, ELTE Center for Social Sciences, Budapest)

- **Barbara Schnalzer** (MONAliesA – Feminist Library and Archive, Leipzig)  
*Archiving Queer Lives: The Herstory of the "Lila Archiv" in East Germany*
- **Paweł Matusz** (University of Regensburg)  
*Where Is Zbigniew P.? An Attempt to Reconstruct an Archive of the Host of Queer Balls in Poznań in the 1960s and 1970s*
- **Dani Carron** (European University Institute, Florence)  
*"Deutschland – Einig Hetenland? [Germany – United Hetero-land?]"  
Queer Engagements with German Reunification, 1989–1991*

15:25 – 15:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:45 – 17:00 **PANEL 2**

## **Institutions, Expertise, and the Governance of Sexuality**

(Chair: Anna Dobrowolska, University of Basel)

- **Eha Emilia Oras** (University of Tallinn)  
*(Not) the Right Kind of Patient: Expertise, Credibility and Sex-Gender Non-Normativity in Interwar Estonian Medicine*
- **Michał Narożniak** (European University Institute, Florence)  
*Wojciech the Hermaphrodite and Leon Wachholz: Early-Modern Lives, Fin-de-Siècle Forensics, and the Emergence of Gender Identity Category*
- **Flavia Guerrini** (University of Innsbruck)  
*What Survives in a Hostile Archive? Recovering Traces of Queer Youth in the Archives of Child and Youth Welfare*

17:00 – 17:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

17:30 – 19:00 **KEYNOTE LECTURE**

Welcome by Věra Sokolová, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Charles University

- **Ann Cvetkovich** (University of Texas at Austin)  
*Feeling My Way through the Archives: A Journey in Queer Method*

# Wednesday may 27, 2026

10:00 – 11:15 **PANEL 3**

## **Sexology, Psychiatry, and Gender Concepts under Socialism**

(Chair: Věra Sokolová, Faculty of Humanities, Charles University, Prague)

- **Stoyo Tetevenski** (Sofia University)  
*"Gender Self-Esteem": Gender and Gender Identity in Socialist Bulgaria*
- **Zsófia Anna Veszely** (European University Institute)  
*Queer Comrades: Teenage Friendship and Same-Sex Desire in Hungarian Sex Education during the Cold War*
- **Inxhi Brisku** (Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)  
*From Prison to Psychiatry: Queer Lives and Medicalization in Socialist Albania*

- 11:15 – 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**
- 11:30 – 12:45 **PANEL 4**  
**War, Occupation, and Queer Lives in Extremis**  
 (Chair: Jaromír Mrňka, German Historical Institute Warsaw – Prague Branch)
- **Frédéric Stroh** (University of Strasbourg, ARCHE)  
*Race and Sexuality under Nazism: The History of Slovenian Homosexuals during the Second World War in a Museum Cellar*
  - **William Ross Jones** (University of Oxford)  
*Risk(y) Reading: A Reparative Framework of Risk for the Trans Feminine Past*
  - **Eugenia Seleznova** (Central European University)  
*"Straightening", Silences, Utilizing "Girlhood": Three Strategies of a Soviet WWII Youth Resistance Member's Queer Story Public Narrations*
- 12:45 – 14:00 **LUNCH BREAK**
- 14:00 – 15:30 **PANEL 5**  
**Public Discourses and the Making of Queer Modernities** (Chair: Rasa Navickaitė, Vilnius University)
- **Barbara Trojanowska** (European University Institute, Florence)  
*Heartfelt Friends: Women-Loving Women in Habsburg Galicia's Public Discourse*
  - **Judit Takács** (ELTE Center for Social Sciences, Budapest),  
**Gábor Csiszár** (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)  
*Queer Intimacies in the Hungarian Popular Press, 1910–1939*
  - **Anna Borgos** (Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience and Psychology, HUNREN, Budapest)  
*From Abnormal Sexual Feelings to Rebellious Women: Representations of Women's Same Sex Attractions in Hungary from the Prewar Years to the State Socialist Period*
  - **Denisa Vídeňská** (Brno University of Technology)  
*Caught in the Trap of Representation: Visual Images of Female Homosexuality in Interwar Czechoslovakia*
- 15:30 – 15:45 **COFFEE BREAK**
- 15:45 – 17:00 **PANEL 6**  
**Cultural Fields, Visuality, and Memory Politics**  
 (Chair: Josef Šebek, Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague)
- **Kata Benedek** (Faculty of Humanities, Charles University, Prague)  
*Queer Cultural Capital in State Socialist Cultural Fields. The Hungarian Case / Releasing Emotional Archives: Ethical Reflections on Two Unreleased Queer Documentaries (1981 & 1986) from State-Socialist Hungary*
  - **Maria Vtorushina** (European University Viadrina Frankfurt-Oder)  
*Studying Queer Embodiment in Ukrainian Art: Museums and Archives — Allies or Obstacles?*
  - **Anna Dżabagina** (University of Warsaw)  
*"Catastrophe of Rampant Homosexuality" – Tracing Lesbian Past in 19th and early 20th Century Polish Egodocuments*
- 17:00 – 17:30 **QUEERING THE EAST CENTRAL EUROPEAN ART: A Cozy Evening at the Laichter House**
- 17:30 – 18:00 **Štěpán Lars Laichter, Larissa Friedrich** (Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe, Institute of the Leibniz Association, Marburg)  
*Introduction to the Laichter House and the Exhibition with a Special View on Jan Laichter and His Connection to Rainer Maria Rilke*
- 18:00 – 18:45 **Lisa Rocke & Maximilian Wahlich** (The Bauhaus Archive, Berlin)  
*New ideas on figures of the Bauhaus*
- 18:45 – 19:30 **Gideon Horváth**, moderated by Larissa Friedrich  
*Artist Talk: Discussion with the Contemporary Hungarian Artist*
- 19:30 – 20:00 **Barbora Lungová** (Brno University of Technology)  
*Artist Talk: Queering the Countryside*
- 20:00 **OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION**  
**"Unknown Longings, Hidden Feelings – Concealed Stories in Authoritarian States"**

# Thursday may 28, 2026

10:00 – 11:15

## PANEL 7

### Activism, Crisis, and Community Knowledge

(Chair: Michal Pitoňák, Faculty of Humanities, Charles University, Prague)

• **Magda Wlostowska**

(Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe, GWZO Leipzig)

*Documenting Queer Activists' Responses to the HIV/AIDS*

*Crisis in Late Socialist and Early Post-Socialist Poland*

• **Rasa Navickaitė** (Vilnius University)

*Between Sexiness and Monstrosity: Representations of Lesbianism in Post-Soviet Lithuania*

• **Franko Dota** (University of Rijeka)

*A Letter from Macedonia: The Homophile Voice from the Archives of Yugoslav Queer Lives*

11:15 – 11:30

## COFFEE BREAK

11:30 – 13:00

## PANEL 8

### Friendship, Affect, and Queer Memory Across Borders

(Chair: Kateřina Kolářová, Faculty of Humanities, Charles University, Prague)

• **Georgia-Taygeti Katakou** (European University Institute, Florence)

*Archiving the Greek Left: Friendship, Queerness, and Counter-Communities of Emotion*

• **Riikka Taavetti** (University of Turku)

*Connections in Interwar Northeastern European Queer History:*

*Martti Laine's novel *Kuilu* (1937) in Finnish and Transnational Contexts*

• **Shaban Darakchi**

(Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences/University of Lund)

*Love, Secrecy, and State Power: Affective Traces of a Lesbian Relationship in Socialist Bulgaria*

• **Ioana Zamfir** (University of Oxford)

*Mapping Soviet and Post-Soviet Queer Desire: Reconsidering*

*Identity Formation through Spaces of Affection and Tenderness*

13:00 – 14:00

## LUNCH BREAK

14:00 – 15:15

## PANEL 9

### Queer Subjects and Cultural Imaginaries (Chair: Eszter Timár, Central European University, Vienna)

• **Mathias Foit** (University of Padua)

*The Male Bride of Breslau, Hungary's George Sand and the L'Uomo-Donna of Rome: The Queer Diva*

*and Gender Non-Conformity in Belle Époque and Interwar Europe (approximately 1901–1935)*

• **Eszter Varsa** (Central European University / Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences)

*Approaches to the Silenced Queer History of Romani Woman Activist Mária László in 1950s Hungary*

• **Jennifer Ramme** (University of Graz)

*No Hero's Tale: Tracing Queerness in Alternative Cultures and Music Scenes of Late State Socialism in Poland*

15:15 – 16:00

## FINAL DISCUSSION AND CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS

**Towards Publications** (Chair: Jaromír Mrňka)

16:00

## END OF THE CONFERENCE