



INSTITUTE  
OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
Charles University

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# The Czech-(Slovak)-Albanian Relations: One Hundred Years in the Making

Regional  
Knowledge  
Global  
Connections

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## INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

Venue: Prague (Online via Zoom: <https://cesnet.zoom.us/j/4590951100>; Meeting ID: 4590951100; Streaming: <https://www.facebook.com/adrian.brisku>)

Organizers: Dr Adrian Brisku (IMS, FSS Charles University & University of Vienna),  
Mgr. Přemysl Vinš (FF) & Dr Orkida Borshi (FF) Charles University

Time: 26.11.2020, from 09:30 to 15:30

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Except for those attuned to contemporary diplomatic relations between the Czech Republic and the Republic of Albania, few might be aware that the Czech-Albanian relations – with their diplomatic ties established on 5 July 1922 – are to reach a hundred years. To mark this approaching centenary, this first international academic conference on the Czech(Slovak)-Albanian relations – organized by the Department of Russian and East European Studies (IMS, Faculty of Social Sciences) and the Department of South Slavic and Balkan Studies (Faculty of Philosophy) of Charles University – brings together ambassadors, historians and scholars from both the Czech Republic and Albania to deliver accounts on historical and contemporary cultural, economic, diplomatic and people to people interactions between the two nations. Drawing on archival material as well as contemporary interactions and experiences, the contributors of this conference will shed light on as to why and how these two geographically non-contiguous European countries – during these one hundred years – have gotten closer, at times cooled off, and rebounded with more dynamic, amicable and entangled interactions.



Historic Photo of the Czechoslovak Consulate in the Albanian Capital, Tirana. Circa 1925 © Valter Gjoni.

## PROGRAMME

**09:30** CONFERENCE OPENING

**CHAIR & MODERATOR:** Dr Adrian Brisku

**PANEL 1. Getting to Know Each Other: Between the First and the Second World Wars**

**09: 40** The Memoirs of Czech Soldiers Serving in Albania in WWI – **Mgr. Přemysl Vinš**, Charles University

**10:00** Czechs in the Albanian Mountains: The Ethnography of the North Albanian Mountainous Tribes during WWI in the Work of Karel Sellner – **Bc. Robert Dobra**, Charles University

**10: 20** The Interwar Period as the Onset of the Czechoslovak-Albanian Diplomatic Relations – **Mgr. Matěj Křepinský**, Charles University

**10:40-11:00** *Discussion*

**11:00-11:20** *Break*

**PANEL 2. From a Strengthening to a Cooling off of the Relations: Post-War to the Fall of the Iron Curtain**

**11:20** Albania and the Soviet Occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1968: Closer to Beijing through Prague – **Dr. Artan Puto**, University of Tirana

**11: 40** The Economic Dimension in the Albanian-Czechoslovak Relations during the Communist Period – **Prof. Ana Lalaj**, University of Tirana

**12:00** Czechoslovak-Albanian Cultural Relations since 1945 – **Honorable Former Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Mr. Piro Milkani**

**12:20-12:40** *Discussion*

**12:40-14:00** *Lunch Break*

**PANEL 3. Closer Ties through Education, Tourism, EU Integration: Post-Socialist Dynamics**

**14:00** A Revival of Albanian Studies at Charles University – **Dr. Orkida Borshi**, Charles University

**14:20** Contemporary Czech-Albanian Relations – **Honorable Albanian Ambassador in the Czech Republic Mr. Ilirian Kuka**

**14:40** Tourism as a Hidden but Effective Instrument of Integration – **Honorable Czech Ambassador in the Republic. of Albania, Mr. Jaroslav Ludva**

**15:00-15:30** *Discussion & Closing Remarks*