

Evaluation of research and professional activity of research-oriented institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences for the period 2015–2019

Final Report

Name of the Institute: Institute for Contemporary History of the CAS, v. v. i.

Evaluated teams and their leaders:

1. Department of the History of Ideas and Conceptual History (Michal Kopeček)
2. Department of Global Conflicts and their Consequences (Vít Smetana)
3. Department of Political History (Adéla Gjuričová)
4. Department of Social and Cultural History (Tomáš Vilímek)

Part A: Evaluation of the institute

Strengths:

The Institute has a well-established and clear profile in the field of contemporary history. Several scholars are at a high international level and have been able to attract substantial funding from national and international agencies. Its research profile is dynamic and innovative, and its oral history activities unique in the Czech Republic in their scope and methodological quality. The Institute has a well-defined and comprehensive strategy, which seems to enjoy broad support in the staff. The gender balance is good, and the management seems aware of the importance of this issue.

Weaknesses:

The present infrastructure (housing) of the Institute is clearly inadequate and will continue to be so for the next four or five years. Although the research conducted within the Center for the History of Science is of high quality, the limited numbers and age structure of its staff make it vulnerable in the longer run. We find it problematic that research on the history of science is dispersed among several teams and institutes within the CAS.

Opportunities:

The Institute must continue its efforts to increase the number of publications in international peer-reviewed journals and with recognized academic publishers. This will enhance the chances of getting the national and international funding required for its further development and growth. The Institute must take full advantage of its well-developed digital expertise and online presence. We see it as an asset for Czech scholarship that several research institutions deal with contemporary history. We therefore recommend that the Institute increases its cooperation – and when possible, clarifies the division of labor – with the Masaryk Institute and Archives and the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes.

Several teams have begun to investigate the 1990s as a highly important and until now understudied period in Czech and European history. We see great opportunities for the Institute in further developing this research field.

Threats:

The high degree of dependence on external funding is a threat to long-term research planning and hence to the stability of the Institute. The very limited opportunities for securing permanent employment even for highly qualified and productive younger scholars threatens the dynamism and development of the Institute.

Main criterion: 1. Quality of results (H1.1-H1.5)

H1.1	Quality of selected outputs of Phase I
Three out of four teams within the Institute got ratings in Phase I above average among all institutes in History and Archaeology.	
H1.2	Contribution of workers on the outputs reached
The researchers across all four teams generally contribute very well to the Institute's research output.	
H1.3	Quality of all outputs and results

The institute has made significant progress in having the results of its research published in high quality academic outlets, national or international. There has been a marked growth in the number of articles published in internationally recognized journals with rigorous peer review procedures. Several monographs have appeared with prestigious international publishing houses.	
H1.4	The most valuable discoveries and findings in the fields, their importance for the field
See the answers to this question for each team.	
H1.5	Contribution of the participation of the authors in large collaborations
Not applicable	

Main criterion: 2. Societal relevance (H2.1-H2.5)

H2.1	Societal relevance of outputs and results pursuant to CAS and institute mission
The institute and its teams take very seriously their responsibility for disseminating the results of their work to Czech society and to relevant institutional partners in the Czech Republic, as documented by their many outreach activities. The institute's media strategy of 2017 testifies to the high priority given to this aspect of the institute's work.	
H2.2	System functionality for knowledge transfer into practice, its usefulness for society. The impact of the institute's activity on proper practice in society in the area of social sciences and humanities
The institute and all four teams have useful strategies for how to contribute to raising historical awareness in Czech society, be it among teachers of history at all levels, in various other institutional contexts, or in the broader public.	
H2.3	Relation to practice
See the answers to H2.1. and H2.2.	
H2.4	Participation in AV21 strategy
The institute has participated in a range of programs and activities within the AV21 strategy. The Department of Political History (Team 3) co-created and now coordinates a recently approved, large multi-disciplinary project „City as a Laboratory of Change“. The institute has been active within the programs and activities “Europe and the State: Between barbarism and civilization,” “Memory in the Digital Age,” “Forms and Functions of Communication,” “Science in Czech Society: Paradigms, Institutions, Comparisons,” and “Global Conflicts and Local Interventions.” The institute is highly active in public outreach activities.	
H2.5	Cooperation with regions of the Czech Republic
The Institute cooperates with universities in Brno, Hradec Králové, Ústí nad Labem, Pardubice and Liberec, but cooperation with the Charles University, Prague, is by far the most intensive. A variety of other outreach activities take place across the Czech Republic.	

Further criterion: 1. Position in international and national context (D1.1-D1.3)

D1.1	Comparison of the teams and the institute with similar international and national institutes
The Institute is the leading Czech research institution in the field of contemporary (post-1938) Czech and Czechoslovak history.	
D1.2	Scope and quality of international and national cooperation and the role of the institute in such cooperation; engagement in broad international cooperation
The Institute enjoys broad recognition domestically and internationally as a high-quality research institution. Its long-term cooperation with a wide range of relevant international partners in Europe and beyond testifies to this.	
D1.3	Participation of the workers in scientific community activities (organizing of conferences and workshops, invited lectures, awards)
Researchers at the institute are generally very active in a variety of scholarly communities in the Czech Republic and abroad.	

Further criterion: 2. Vitality, sustainability and strategy (D2.1-D2.9)

D2.1	Direction in line with the perspective of the planned research directions
The Institute has a clear idea of its strategic research direction and seems to be following this to a substantial degree.	
D2.2	Assessment of the previous research objectives and their achievement
The Institute has worked systematically at achieving its strategic research ambitions for the period 2015-2019. The successful organizational reform in 2017 testifies to these ambitions.	
D2.3	Assessment of implementation of recommendations from past evaluation
As recommended, the Institute has increased the level of its researchers' participation in international (and internationally funded) research projects. It has done well in obtaining funding for junior scholars and postdocs and has worked systematically to increase the number and share of its publications appearing in international, peer-reviewed journals.	
D2.4	Success in receiving grants
Researchers in the Institute have proven successful in receiving grants from national and international sources, be it as principal investigators (30 grants listed) or as co-investigators or partners in projects hosted by other institutions (10 grants listed). A crude calculation dividing the sum total of grant funding received by the Institute by the number of FTE's in its four teams reveals that the Institute of Contemporary History has succeeded in obtaining more 'per capita' grant funding than either of the two other historical institutes considered in this evaluation.	
D2.5	Adequacy of instrumental equipment
Office space must be considered a vital part of any research institution's 'instrumental equipment.' The facilities of the Institute are clearly inadequate and having two locations in Prague reflects only a lack of space in the main location in Prague 1, not any functional logic. These conditions have an adverse effect on the Institute's library and on the general	

workplace conditions of its staff. Concrete plans exist for moving the Institute to bigger and more adequate facilities, but the move is not expected to happen until 2025. We therefore fear that the present suboptimal conditions will continue to have a negative impact on the institute's functioning in the coming years. We strongly recommend that the institute be given financial support that will enable the fastest possible solution to this problem.	
D2.6	Effectiveness of management
The Institute management is competent and efficient. The restructuring of the departments of the Institute in 2017 had clear strategic aims and must be considered a success. The Institute has a comprehensive and well-defined strategy for the next five years.	
D2.7	Assessment of professional structure, development strategy and the strategy of keeping best scientists, age structure, career and qualification growth
The Institute staff has a balanced age structure, and the management pays attention to team building, for example in the form of events to strengthen social cohesion within the institute despite the adverse physical conditions (see D2.5). Standard procedures are followed to ensure that the regular evaluation of employees focuses primarily on professional growth and development. The Institute takes appropriate steps to secure funding and sufficient salaries for junior scholars/postdocs, but like all CAS institutes in the humanities, it struggles with a structural problem, as its basic funding independent of grants is insufficient to secure permanent employment for young researchers.	
D2.8	Creating work-life balance conditions, assessment of approach towards possible gender issues
Czech scholars in the humanities generally have to work far too hard for far too meager salaries to have any realistic prospects of a healthy work-life balance. However, the Institute has done an excellent job in securing a close to equal gender balance, except at the highest levels of the qualification structure. Flexible working-time arrangements and part-time jobs for working mothers (and, we suppose, working fathers, should these show any interest in this) are integral parts of the Institute's HR policy.	
D2.9	Relation of the institute with regard to the integration, development and sustainability of the research center funded by the National Programme of Sustainability II.
Not applicable to research in this discipline	

Further criterion: 3. Cooperation with universities and participation in education (D3.1-D3.6)

D3.1	Scope of cooperation with universities on national and international level
The Institute cooperates with universities in Prague, Brno, Hradec Králové, Ústí nad Labem, Pardubice and Liberec, and with the Comenius University, Bratislava. The Institute and its individual staff members cooperate on a regular basis with institutes and colleagues at a range of universities across Europe.	
D3.2	Effectiveness of joint research centres
N/A	
D3.3	Success rate in supervision of PhD students

The Institute has increased the number of PhD students affiliated with its four teams and supervised by team members.	
D3.4	Participation of PhD students in the outputs
The Institute cooperates with PhD programs in history and political science at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University. Affiliated PhD students have taken part in team research projects, leading to the successful completion of several PhD studies.	
D3.5	Participation of the institute in master or bachelor studies
Numbers for semester lectures, seminars, and courses at the BA, MA, and doctoral levels offered by staff members of the Institute are high, as are the numbers of supervised BA, MA and doctoral theses.	
D3.6	Assessment of cooperation intensity with universities in the form of teaching
See the answer to D3.5. The Institute cooperates most intensively with the Charles University.	

Further criterion: 4. Outreach activities (D4.1-D4.3)

D4.1	Sufficiency of media strategy and activities in the area of research popularisation
The Institute has a clear media strategy, coordinated by its PR manager. The strategy includes formalized, long-term cooperation with Czech Television and Czech Radio. The Institute has its own YouTube channel and active and well-functioning web pages. The number of media outputs is high.	
D4.2	Publishing activities and its quality
<p>The Institute's journal, <i>Soudobé dějiny/Czech Journal of Contemporary History</i>, has appeared since 1993. It operates according to international standards for scholarly journals (peer review, etc.) and is indexed in relevant international databases. The journal has open access in its electronic version. While the annual English language issue functions as a 'display window' for the Institute's own researchers, the Czech version is open to and used by scholars from outside the institute's ranks. This contributes significantly to the journal's quality and reputation.</p> <p>The Institute has various series for publishing the research output of staff members. It works systematically on making older publications accessible online.</p>	
D4.3	Participation in professional organisations in the area of research and development
The institute and its staff members are highly active in professional organizations in the area of research and development, be it in the Czech Republic or abroad.	

Other comments of the commission:

The present teams, established in 2017, seem to function well and deliver good results. Still, we recommend that the Institute evaluates this structure in 2024-25. In so doing, it must clarify if it considers the present definitions of its fields of research to be a semi-permanent taxonomy, or are open to change as research interests and focuses among its researchers evolve.

Unlike the other historical institutes within the Czech Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Contemporary History does not at present participate in joint research centers with Czech universities. We recommend that the institute explore relevant possibilities for establishing such centers.

The commission understands that there is a complicated institutional history involving the Center for the History of Science in the ICH and Team 6 in the Masaryk Institute and Archives. We also understand and appreciate, given all the circumstances, the rationale for the current thematic focuses of these two research units and the division of labor between them. We are pleased to note the productive cooperation between members of the two research units and the strong research and publication records of each of these units. Nonetheless, we believe that research on narrower or broader aspects of the history of science and scientists under the auspices of the Czech Academy of Sciences is hampered by the small size and necessarily limited agenda of these two research units and that work in the larger field of the history of science could be served better by the CAS.

Internationally, research on the history of science and scientists has been an important, rich, and innovative field of scholarly inquiry since the 1950s. We believe that research in this area deserves more robust support by the Czech Academy of Sciences. This evaluation commission is aware that in recent years there was a proposal to create a consolidated unit for the history of science within the Czech Academy of Sciences and also an alternative proposal to transfer the researchers in the history of science from the Institute for Contemporary History to the Masaryk Institute and Archives. For various reasons both these proposals failed. The current evaluation commission believes that in purely intellectual terms it is far from optimal to have two small teams in separate institutes of the Academy of Sciences, each devoted to particular aspects of the history of science with neither committed to broader work in the history of science. Therefore, we would like to see a new effort to find institutional arrangements that would serve better research in the larger field of the history of science.

The Commission wishes to thank the Institute, its director and team leaders for an informative and interesting presentation of the Institute's many activities.

Part B: Evaluation of teams

1. Department of the History of Ideas and Conceptual History

Strengths:

The team consists of several top-class senior and junior researchers who are well integrated into international research networks and whose research is fully up to date, theoretically and methodologically. Their research projects are innovative and have the potential for broad scholarly and public resonance.

Weaknesses:

The small size of the team (in particular, the Center for the History of Science) may weaken the coherence and innovative capacity of the team as a whole. As all team members are busy as individual scholars, it may be difficult to set aside time and resources for the development of joint projects for major grant applications, etc.

Opportunities:

If the necessary resources for project preparation are made available, the high quality of the affiliated scholars and their research output should give team members good prospects for obtaining national and international funding.

Threats:

The high degree of dependence on external funding, especially for junior scholars, may threaten the long-term stability and development potential of the team. Without attractive career prospects, highly qualified junior scholars will seek other employment.

Main criterion: 1. Quality of results (H1.1-H1.5)

H1.1	Quality of selected outputs of Phase I
The outputs evaluated in Phase I received a better than average rating within the Institute, and in the field of History and Archeology in general. A high number of the evaluated publications appeared in recognized international journals or with established international publishers.	
H1.2	Contribution of workers on the outputs reached
All team members have contributed to the output of the team. The general productivity of the team is impressive and notable for its above average share of articles in prestigious journals and for the high number of monographs.	
H1.3	Quality of all outputs and results
Most members of the team are fully integrated and active in international research cooperation, be it in Central Europe or beyond. This correlates with the high quality of the research of the team members.	
H1.4	The most valuable discoveries and findings in the fields, their importance for the field

<p>The work by several team members on the genesis and development of technocratic governance in socialist Czechoslovakia and on its impact beyond 1989 on the formation of Czech post-socialist ‘neo-liberal’ governance is pioneering. It links up well with the innovative studies of dissent and ‘post-dissent’ and with the new research on the 1990’s as a site of remembrance and ‘transformation nostalgia.’</p> <p>The autonomous “Center for the History of Science” has had several high quality projects with international partners resulting in international publications.</p>	
H1.5	Contribution of the participation of the authors in large collaborations
N/A	

Main criterion: 2. Societal relevance (H2.1-H2.5)

H2.1	Societal relevance of outputs and results pursuant to CAS and institute mission
<p>The ‘Center for the History of Science’ has been highly active in disseminating knowledge of prominent Czech scientists and raising public awareness of the societal importance of science.</p> <p>The output of the ‘core’ team contributes significantly to the public understanding of continuities and changes in Czech social and political life before and after 1989.</p>	
H2.2	System functionality for knowledge transfer into practice, its usefulness for society. The impact of the team’s activity on proper practice in society in the area of social sciences and humanities
Team members take part in a high number of outreach activities and have well-established contacts with different media, universities, high schools and other relevant partners in outreach activities and dissemination of knowledge.	
H2.3	Relation to practice
See the answer to H2.2.	
H2.4	Participation in AV21 strategy
The Center for the History of Science’s work on the theme ‘Science as a Tool of Communication’ has been part of the program “Forms and Functions of Communication” within the AV21 Strategy Framework. Team members have also been active in programs and activities relating to ‘Memory in the Digital Age.’	
H2.5	Cooperation with regions of the Czech Republic
Pedagogical activity at Czech universities has primarily consisted of lectures at the Charles University in Prague and at the Technical University of Liberec. Popular outreach activities have taken place broadly across the country.	

Further criterion: 1. Position in international and national context (D1.1-D1.3)

D1.1	Comparison of the team with similar international and national institutes
The team does research at a high level, even in international comparison.	

D1.2	Scope and quality of international and national cooperation and the role of the team in such cooperation; engagement in broad international cooperation
Team members are very active in national and international cooperation, be it with partners at foreign universities and research institutions, in large cooperative research projects, or with joint publication projects. Several members play leading roles in these international endeavors.	
D1.3	Participation of the workers in scientific community activities (organizing of conferences and workshops, invited lectures, awards)
The level of activity is generally high. Four team members have received prestigious awards in the evaluated period.	

Further criterion: 2. Vitality, sustainability and strategy (D2.1-D2.9)

D2.1	Direction in line with the perspective of the planned research directions
The team's research is well in line with its planned research direction.	
D2.2	Assessment of the previous research objectives and their achievement
The 'core' team and the Center for the History of Science have both fulfilled the tasks and objectives defined in the activity plan for 2015-2019.	
D2.3	Assessment of implementation of recommendations from past evaluation
<p>The team has successfully continued its development of innovative topics and approaches, and it has increased its number of publications and the quality of their venues of publication. The team still needs to work on securing funding as a grant holder for a major European project within the framework of the ERC or similar.</p> <p>The Center For the History of Science has not been able to increase the number of team members due to restrictions in its core funding. The Center's embedding within the Team "History of Ideas and Conceptual History" has partly solved the issue of its interim status, but the greater issue of how to organize research in the history of science within the structures of the CAS still awaits its definitive resolution.</p>	
D2.4	Success in receiving grants
Several team members have received grants from Czech or international sources, including the ERC.	
D2.5	Adequacy of instrumental equipment
No issues to report.	
D2.6	Effectiveness of management
The team seems well managed with a high level of internal cooperation and shared awareness of the team's goals.	
D2.7	Assessment of professional structure, development strategy and the strategy of keeping best scientists, age structure, career and qualification growth
The 'core' team has a balanced age structure. There are several women among the doctoral students collaborating with the team. This creates a good foundation for	

addressing the less than ideal gender balance in the team. The high degree of dependence on external funding creates uncertainties for the career perspective for even highly qualified doctoral and post-doc scholars.	
The 'Center for the History of Science' has two permanent employees of the older generation and one of the middle generation. A younger researcher joined the team in 2019, but his employment is temporary and tied to a grant. The need for generational stabilization is obvious, and it may require a rethinking of the organization of research in the history of science within the Academy.	
D2.8	Creating work-life balance conditions, assessment of approach towards possible gender issues
Four out of eleven researchers are women, and one of these is an employee emerita. The team attracts talented women scholars, but their dependence on external funding makes their situation and career prospects precarious.	
D2.9	Relation of the team with regard to the integration, development and sustainability of the research centre funded by the National Programme of Sustainability II.
Not applicable to research in this discipline	

Further criterion: 3. Cooperation with universities and participation in education (D3.1-D3.6)

D3.1	Scope of cooperation with universities on national and international level
The team's pedagogical activity at Czech universities has primarily taken the form of lectures at the Charles University in Prague and the Technical University of Liberec.	
D3.2	Effectiveness of joint research centres
N/A	
D3.3	Success rate in supervision of PhD students
Team members have supervised or monitored three PhD students in the evaluated period. All already have or are about to move on to further (post-doc) projects. This seems to be a good marker of success.	
D3.4	Participation of PhD students in the outputs
See the answer to D3.3.	
D3.5	Participation of the team in master or bachelor studies
Team members have been involved in 15 seminars at the BA level, 17 at the MA level and 4 at the doctoral level in the period 2015-2019. They have supervised 5 MA theses, and 2 doctoral theses.	
D3.6	Assessment of cooperation intensity with universities in the form of teaching
There seems to be room for increased diversity in the number of partner universities and for increased cooperation outside of Prague.	

Further criterion: 4. Outreach activities (D4.1-D4.3)

D4.1	Sufficiency of media strategy and activities in the area of research popularisation
Both parts of the team have a high media presence and are active in the area of research popularization.	
D4.2	Publishing activities and its quality
Team members have a high level of publishing activity with a comparatively strong focus on publishing in prestigious journals and on producing monographs. The team seems to have a well-developed ability to find academically attractive outlets for its research, be it in a national or an international context.	
D4.3	Participation in professional organisations in the area of research and development
Team members participate in a high number of national and international scholarly associations and institutions.	

Other comments of the commission:

As mentioned above (p. 6), we recommend that discussions continue with the Masaryk Institute and Archives and other institutions of the CAS on how best to create a long-term, durable organizational framework for research on the history of science. The Centre for the History of Science performs admirably, but its limited staff and obvious recruitment issues among younger scholars make it vulnerable in the longer run. In general, the struggle for self-preservation of small units can make them risk-averse and hence less innovative.

2. Department of Global Conflicts and their Consequences

Strengths:

The team has excellent scholars, several of whom are at a high international level. Many topics researched by team members enjoy a high degree of international recognition and interest.

Weaknesses:

The high degree of dependence on external funding forces the team to move resources from research to the preparation of grant applications and makes it difficult to do long-term strategic planning. The team's internal diversity of interests may also present obstacles to the development of a coherent long-term research strategy.

Opportunities:

The present research of the team is heavily centered on the war years, 1939-1945 and the early postwar period. This is legitimate and the research is generally high quality and meets with international interest. In the longer run, however, it might be worth exploring new research agenda on global conflicts and the role of Czechoslovakia/The Czech Republic at the end of the Cold War and beyond. Other teams within the Institute are now investigating the period 1985-2004, and we believe that it will strengthen Team 2 to include this period more firmly in its research agenda in the coming years.

Threats:

The high degree of dependence on external funding, especially but not exclusively for junior scholars, may threaten the long-term stability and development of the team. The recent departure of a highly competent senior scholar who found more stable employment at the Charles University testifies to the urgent need to secure stable and sufficient basic funding.

Main criterion: 1. Quality of results (H1.1-H1.5)

H1.1	Quality of selected outputs of Phase I
The outputs evaluated in Phase I received a general rating slightly better than the average within the field of History and Archeology in general. Approximately half of the submitted contributions appeared in international journals or with international publishers.	
H1.2	Contribution of workers on the outputs reached
The twenty contributions submitted for evaluation in Phase I stemmed from eleven different contributors. The "Personal structure of team" fact sheet lists sixteen researchers. There seem to be big differences among the team members in terms of their output levels in the evaluated period. This may have natural explanations (some present members may for example have joined the team only towards the end of the period), but we missed a discussion of this imbalance in the team's report.	
H1.3	Quality of all outputs and results
Some team members produce research at a very high international level. Given the international/global/transnational focus of the team, we would have expected a higher	

number of articles in highly respected international journals than the reported four. At the same time, some team members have produced high quality monographs.	
H1.4	The most valuable discoveries and findings in the fields, their importance for the field
Team members' research into governments in exile during the Second World War and into Czechoslovakia's international role between 1938 and 1948 deserves mention, as do the contributions by several team members to the study of war-time genocides, postwar forced and non-forced migration, and social mobility.	
H1.5	Contribution of the participation of the authors in large collaborations
Not applicable to research in this field	

Main criterion: 2. Societal relevance (H2.1-H2.5)

H2.1	Societal relevance of outputs and results pursuant to CAS and institute mission
Team members' research contributes significantly to raising historical awareness of the political, social, cultural, and population transformations affecting Czechoslovakia and the Czech lands in the period 1938-48 and in the early period of Communist rule.	
H2.2	System functionality for knowledge transfer into practise, its usefulness for society. The impact of the team's activity on proper practice in society in the area of social sciences and humanities
Team members take part in a high number of outreach activities in relevant fora. Their focus on issues such as Jewish and Roma history, including the Holocaust and Porajmos and their Czech dimensions, the transformation of the parts of the Czech Lands from which most of the Sudeten German population was expelled, and Czechoslovak co-responsibility in the Communist seizure of power, etc. all work to nuance and qualify public understandings of the country's recent history.	
H2.3	Relation to practice
See the answer to H2.2.	
H2.4	Participation in AV21 strategy
The emphasis placed on public outreach activities and science popularization is in accordance with the aims of the Strategy AV21 program. The team's research on minorities in post-war Czechoslovakia and Europe is relevant for the AV21 topic 'Global Conflicts and Local Interventions.'	
H2.5	Cooperation with regions of the Czech Republic
Beyond teaching at the Charles University, team members have lectured at universities in Brno and Hradec Králové. Broader outreach activities have occasionally ventured beyond Prague.	

Further criterion: 1. Position in international and national context (D1.1-D1.3)

D1.1	Comparison of the team with similar international and national institutes
Several team members enjoy international scholarly recognition. The team seems to function as a relatively open structure, with most academic work being done in smaller research groups. Inevitably, these differ in their scholarly profile and output and in their ability to attract external funding.	
D1.2	Scope and quality of international and national cooperation and the role of the team in such cooperation; engagement in broad international cooperation
Several team members take extensive part in international research cooperation.	
D1.3	Participation of the workers in scientific community activities (organizing of conferences and workshops, invited lectures, awards)
In the evaluated period, team members organized or co-organized thirteen international conferences or workshops. Six team members gave invited lectures abroad.	

Further criterion: 2. Vitality, sustainability and strategy (D2.1-D2.9)

D2.1	Direction in line with the perspective of the planned research directions
The team's work seems well in line with its planned research direction.	
D2.2	Assessment of the previous research objectives and their achievement
The team has largely fulfilled its research objectives for the period 2015-2019. The high degree of dependence on grant funding has forced members of the team to devote so many resources to the writing of grant applications that actual research has to some extent suffered as a consequence.	
D2.3	Assessment of implementation of recommendations from past evaluation
As the team was only constituted in 2017, not all recommendations from the previous evaluation are directly applicable here. Its participation in large European programs has increased, and the team has followed the advice to increase its supervision of PhD students.	
D2.4	Success in receiving grants
Although inevitably not all grant applications have been successful, team members have registered significant achievements in receiving national and international grants.	
D2.5	Adequacy of instrumental equipment
No issues to report (apart from the housing issues common to all teams in the institute).	
D2.6	Effectiveness of management
The team seems well managed, although it is not clear how coherent the team is, given the high emphasis on autonomous smaller research groups.	
D2.7	Assessment of professional structure, development strategy and the strategy of keeping best scientists, age structure, career and qualification growth

The team's age structure seems balanced. The high degree of dependence on external funding makes career perspectives uncertain for affiliated junior researchers.	
D2.8	Creating work-life balance conditions, assessment of approach towards possible gender issues
With ten men and six women among the team's sixteen researchers, the team's gender imbalance is far less than in most history departments in the Czech Republic. Women lead three out of the four research groups.	
D2.9	Relation of the team with regard to the integration, development and sustainability of the research centre funded by the National Programme of Sustainability II.
Not applicable	

Further criterion: 3. Cooperation with universities and participation in education (D3.1-D3.6)

D3.1	Scope of cooperation with universities on national and international level
Pedagogical cooperation with Czech universities has primarily involved the Charles University, Prague, the Masaryk University in Brno and the University of Hradec Králové. Team members have cooperated with New York University, Prague.	
D3.2	Effectiveness of joint research centres
Not applicable	
D3.3	Success rate in supervision of PhD students
Four PhD students have participated in the team's academic activities. One of these has now joined the team after successfully finishing her PhD studies.	
D3.4	Participation of PhD students in the outputs
See the answer to D3.3.	
D3.5	Participation of the team in master or bachelor studies
Team members have been involved in 112 BA seminars, 73 MA seminars and 10 seminars at the doctoral level. They have supervised 53 BA thesis, 47 MA thesis, and 4 doctoral theses.	
D3.6	Assessment of cooperation intensity with universities in the form of teaching
While there may be room for cooperation with more partner universities, the figures presented in D3.5 are impressive and testify to a high intensity of cooperation with the chosen partner universities.	

Further criterion: 4. Outreach activities (D4.1-D4.3)

D4.1	Sufficiency of media strategy and activities in the area of research popularisation
Several team members have a high media presence, especially in TV and radio programs with a high level of popular outreach. The team fully lives up to its obligations in the area of research popularization.	
D4.2	Publishing activities and its quality
Most team members have a high level of publishing activity. Some team members are very skilled at finding optimal publication channels for their work, but given the international relevance of most of the topics studied by the team's research groups, there is room for general improvement in this regard.	
D4.3	Participation in professional organisations in the area of research and development
Most of the senior scholars are highly active in relevant domestic and international research associations, editorial boards, etc. The team and research group leaders may wish to focus on broadening the number of team members active in national and international research forums.	

Other comments of the commission:

The work by one of the senior team members belongs thematically in the framework of the Center for the History of Science under Team 1. This testifies to the need for considering how research in the history of science should be organized.

3. Department of Political History

Strengths:

This is an experienced team with several internationally recognized scholars. It works on innovative and at times neglected topics, with a strong international research potential.

Weaknesses:

The team is relatively small, lacking young researchers and Ph.D. students. New hires could also help balance the gender structure of the team. There are noticeable differences in performance within the team.

Opportunities:

This team is involved in large, important national and international projects on topics of considerable academic and public interest. These projects may have further funding possibilities that could allow for this team to expand its workforce. The team's commitment to 'New Political History' is promising, as is the team's increasing focus on the highly interesting period of the 1990s. The team's general focus on Czech(oslovak) political history inevitably overlaps in many ways with the core agenda of the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes. Cooperation with this institute may increase funding opportunities, and a conscious division of labor between the two can increase the national and international profile of this team.

Threats:

Not enough researchers to complete projects.

Main criterion: 1. Quality of results (H1.1-H1.5)

H1.1	Quality of selected outputs of Phase I
The average rating of the selected outputs evaluated in Phase I is very close to the general average in the field of History and Archeology. In terms of production of excellent outputs, the team lags a bit behind the average. Only two of the fifteen submitted publications appeared internationally.	
H1.2	Contribution of workers on the outputs reached
All team members have contributed to the team's research output.	
H1.3	Quality of all outputs and results
Some monographs are of very high quality and have been translated into English in order to reach an international readership. A significant share of the team's production is published within the Institute's own publication system. More articles need to be published internationally, preferably in highly respected journals.	
H1.4	The most valuable discoveries and findings in the fields, their importance for the field
The team deals in innovative ways with the history of urban planning and development, a neglected part of research on socialist regimes and beyond with great potential. The team's work on the functioning of parliaments before and after 1989 also has international	

relevance and potential. The long-term project on the history of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia approaches the subject from non-traditional perspectives and represents a valuable work of synthesis.	
H1.5	Contribution of the participation of the authors in large collaborations
The team is involved in two large international collaborative projects: <i>European History Reloaded</i> and <i>The European Information and Research Network on Parliamentary History</i> .	

Main criterion: 2. Societal relevance (H2.1-H2.5)

H2.1	Societal relevance of outputs and results pursuant to CAS and institute mission
The team contributes to raising awareness of political developments affecting Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic. Its work on urban history also has high societal relevance.	
H2.2	System functionality for knowledge transfer into practise, its usefulness for society. The impact of the team's activity on proper practice in society in the area of social sciences and humanities
The team has taken part in extensive outreach activities, in particular in connection with important historical anniversaries. It has been very active in the application of new digital formats as tools for raising historical awareness.	
H2.3	Relation to practice
See H2.2.	
H2.4	Participation in AV21 strategy
The team has put together a multi-disciplinary project, "City as a Laboratory of Change," which will involve over a dozen institutes of the CAS and will be coordinated by the Institute of Contemporary History (2020–2024).	
H2.5	Cooperation with regions of the Czech Republic
Team members have taught at universities outside of Prague as for example in Brno, Pardubice, and Ústí nad Labem.	

Further criterion: 1. Position in international and national context (D1.1-D1.3)

D1.1	Comparison of the team with similar international and national institutes
Some members of the team are highly respected international researchers. There is much support of and emphasis on international cooperation. Domestic cooperation is primarily within the CAS.	
D1.2	Scope and quality of international and national cooperation and the role of the team in such cooperation; engagement in broad international cooperation
Some team members are well-connected and recognized abroad thanks to their research and to their participation in international projects such as <i>European History Reloaded</i>	

(Horizon 2020), or The European Information and Research Network on Parliamentary History. The level of international participation is, however, highly uneven within the team.	
D1.3	Participation of the workers in scientific community activities (organizing of conferences and workshops, invited lectures, awards)
Several team members are active on scientific committees and editorial boards, primarily at the national level. The team has organized a number of conferences and workshops. Three awards were received for individual monographs, and the <i>Attentat 1942</i> computer game has won numerous awards.	

Further criterion: 2. Vitality, sustainability and strategy (D2.1-D2.9)

D2.1	Direction in line with the perspective of the planned research directions
The team is in line with its planned research direction.	
D2.2	Assessment of the previous research objectives and their achievement
Research objectives were met, except for the publication of the four-volume history of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. This was partially due to the researchers' opportunities in unforeseen, but rewarding new international projects.	
D2.3	Assessment of implementation of recommendations from past evaluation
The team has consistently and with great success implemented the recommendation to participate in larger European projects. It has increased its international visibility through translations into English of some of its most significant outputs, and through increased international publication. Some of the planned large-scale works of synthesis have not yet been published, and the team still needs to work on placing its outputs in leading national and also international journals.	
D2.4	Success in receiving grants
The acceptance of the team's project "City as a Laboratory of Change" in the AV21 Programme for 2020-2024 is a major achievement. The team has also received grant support for its work on <i>EuParl.net</i> , while the team was one of three principal investigators in the project funded by Horizon 2020, <i>European History Reloaded</i> .	
D2.5	Adequacy of instrumental equipment
[Not applicable]	
D2.6	Effectiveness of management
The team is well led by Adéla Gjuričová, who has management skills stemming from her experience in public administration.	
D2.7	Assessment of professional structure, development strategy and the strategy of keeping best scientists, age structure, career and qualification growth
The team has a balanced age structure except for a shortage of young researchers. From 2015 to 2019, it lost the equivalent of one FTE. The team has a promising development strategy, but it needs to grow in numbers, especially in young researchers, if its goals are to be realized.	
D2.8	Creating work-life balance conditions, assessment of approach towards possible gender issues

The team has a strong desire to address its unfortunate gender balance, but this requires funding for future hires.	
D2.9	Relation of the team with regard to the integration, development and sustainability of the research centre funded by the National Programme of Sustainability II.
Not applicable	

Further criterion: 3. Cooperation with universities and participation in education (D3.1-D3.6)

D3.1	Scope of cooperation with universities on national and international level
There is pedagogical cooperation with universities in Prague, Brno, Pardubice, and Ústí nad Labem.	
D3.2	Effectiveness of joint research centres
Not applicable	
D3.3	Success rate in supervision of PhD students
Not applicable	
D3.4	Participation of PhD students in the outputs
Altogether four Ph.D. students have contributed to different projects of the team. One of these students has stayed on part-time. There is still room for substantial improvement in this respect.	
D3.5	Participation of the team in master or bachelor studies
Researchers have offered seminars and courses to BA and MA students at four universities across the country.	
D3.6	Assessment of cooperation intensity with universities in the form of teaching
The team's researchers have supervised a high number of BA, MA, and PhD theses.	

Further criterion: 4. Outreach activities (D4.1-D4.3)

D4.1	Sufficiency of media strategy and activities in the area of research popularisation
The team has had a central role in the Institute's outreach activities such as research popularization, co-designing media productions and exhibition projects, and contributing to educational activities.	
D4.2	Publishing activities and its quality
Publication activity is uneven. The team has some very active members with excellent publications, while other team members are less visible.	

D4.3	Participation in professional organisations in the area of research and development
Team members are generally active in relevant professional organizations.	

Other comments of the commission:

The team should not be afraid to be assertive about the relevance of research in political history.

4. Department of Social and Cultural History

Strengths:

This team has a wide thematic scope and a broad methodological base. This allows for interdisciplinary studies combining history with sociology, gender studies, cultural anthropology, political science, etc. and increases the team's sensitivity and responsiveness to new trends in social and cultural history. The team is a national leader in the field of oral history. Many members are active as university teachers, which provides several advantages, but also represents a threat.

Weaknesses:

Part-time work in teaching can take resources away from research. Like all teams within the Institute, the team has limited financial resources and can only hire young scholars if they become team members on a specific grant project or secure a junior grant or similar support. The team has so far not succeeded in gaining funding as a partner in large-scale international research projects.

Opportunities:

The research focuses of the team have great social and academic relevance, giving the team a solid foundation for increasing its international contacts and with these also funding opportunities. Oral history and other research on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Czech society has a huge potential, academically and in terms of funding.

Threats:

The lack of permanent positions for young researchers threatens the continuity of the team, as does the fact that many team members are involved in management at the institute level.

Main criterion: 1. Quality of results (H1.1-H1.5)

H1.1	Quality of selected outputs of Phase I
The average rating of the selected outputs was the lowest of the four teams of the Institute, and below the average for all institutes in the field of History and Archeology as well. In terms of productivity in excellent outputs, the team lags a bit behind the average. This result may in part be explained by the unconventional nature of some of the submissions and – with some notable exceptions, such as a monograph published by Oxford University Press – the chosen venues of publication.	
H1.2	Contribution of workers on the outputs reached
All researchers of the team are active and productive, despite the fact that several team members have administrative functions in the Institute.	
H1.3	Quality of all outputs and results
The output of the team is diverse in its academic quality. The team must intensify its efforts to publish its results internationally and in highly respected journals. The team does great work with new digital forms of documentation that may not always get the academic appreciation they deserve.	

H1.4	The most valuable discoveries and findings in the fields, their importance for the field
The team's work on oral history is unique in a Czech(oslovak) context and it has international resonance. The work done on contemporary places of memory (<i>lieux de mémoire</i>) is innovative. The team has – along with the other teams of the Institute – unique opportunities to develop further a strong research profile in history and memory studies of the Czech post-1989 era.	
H1.5	Contribution of the participation of the authors in large collaborations
Not applicable to research by this team	

Main criterion: 2. Societal relevance (H2.1-H2.5)

H2.1	Societal relevance of outputs and results pursuant to CAS and institute mission
The work done by the team has high societal relevance, and the team has an excellent track record of outreach activities, including the use of new media, etc.	
H2.2	System functionality for knowledge transfer into practise, its usefulness for society. The impact of the team's activity on proper practice in society in the area of social sciences and humanities
As society is becoming more interested in contemporary history, the team is involved in presenting research outputs to the public, especially emphasizing accounts by eyewitnesses. The research team also contributed to the three educational simulations "Czechoslovakia 38–89," which are used in the teaching of history in secondary schools. The oral history archive of the team is a particularly important digital resource that needs to be sustained and developed further.	
H2.3	Relation to practice
Sharing the outputs of research with the general public is one of the major strengths of this team and the institute in general.	
H2.4	Participation in AV21 strategy
The team has participated in the AV21 strategy programs, <i>Europe and the State: Between barbarism and civilization</i> and <i>Memory in the digital age</i> . Its impressive outreach activities are fully in line with the general strategic ambition of AV21.	
H2.5	Cooperation with regions of the Czech Republic
Several of the team's projects – not the least, <i>Stories of Places: The topography of the nation's contemporary memory</i> – cover all regions of the Republic. The team can increase its non-digital outreach to embrace cooperation with regions outside of Prague.	

Further criterion: 1. Position in international and national context (D1.1-D1.3)

D1.1	Comparison of the team with similar international and national institutes
The team is a pioneer in Oral History studies and is internationally renowned in this respect. It is also performing very well in the field of digitalization of research.	

D1.2	Scope and quality of international and national cooperation and the role of the team in such cooperation; engagement in broad international cooperation
<p>Team members have participated in many international conferences and seminars in Europe, USA, and Canada. Its researchers have given talks at universities and centers in many European countries as well as China and India. In the evaluated period, the team put a lot of effort into applying for large international grants in cooperation with foreign partners. These efforts were not successful, but it must be stressed that success rates in general are very low for most European funding, and that numerous excellent projects therefore do not get funded. The team must continue its efforts to find relevant partners and refine its application strategies. The team is cooperating actively with relevant partners in the Czech Republic.</p>	
D1.3	Participation of the workers in scientific community activities (organizing of conferences and workshops, invited lectures, awards)
<p>Team members are involved in the activities of many expert committees, scientific and editorial boards and management bodies of various societies and civic associations.</p> <p>The team organizes international conferences, seminars, and workshops.</p> <p>The videogame <i>Attentat 1942</i> involved collaboration across various disciplines. It has won Czech and international awards.</p>	

Further criterion: 2. Vitality, sustainability and strategy (D2.1-D2.9)

D2.1	Direction in line with the perspective of the planned research directions
The team's research is following the planned direction.	
D2.2	Assessment of the previous research objectives and their achievement
The research objectives of the activity plan for 2015-2019 were largely achieved, except for becoming a partner in a successful application for major European grant funding.	
D2.3	Assessment of implementation of recommendations from past evaluation
The team has followed the advice to analyze and balance the benefits and risks of having its researchers working part-time at universities. It has increased its collaboration with the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes.	
D2.4	Success in receiving grants
Team members have received several national grants.	
D2.5	Adequacy of instrumental equipment
Not applicable	
D2.6	Effectiveness of management
The team management is effective. Several team members have management functions at the Institute level as well.	
D2.7	Assessment of professional structure, development strategy and the strategy of keeping best scientists, age structure, career and qualification growth

The team has grown considerably from 7.26 to 11.37 FTE in the period 2015-2019. This has allowed the team to reach gender balance. Women have important management functions in the team. The age structure is characterized by a relative shortage of younger researchers.	
D2.8	Creating work-life balance conditions, assessment of approach towards possible gender issues
Like the Institute as a whole, the team has a supportive HR policy allowing for working part-time and from home for researchers with family obligations.	
D2.9	Relation of the team with regard to the integration, development and sustainability of the research centre funded by the National Programme of Sustainability II.
Not applicable to research in this discipline	

Further criterion: 3. Cooperation with universities and participation in education (D3.1-D3.6)

D3.1	Scope of cooperation with universities on national and international level
The team has a strong and intensive cooperation with the Charles University. The establishment of the study program <i>Oral History – Contemporary History</i> at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, taught by members of the team from the Centre for Oral History, deserves special mention in this regard. Team members also cooperate with other domestic universities and with several universities around the world.	
D3.2	Effectiveness of joint research centres
Not applicable	
D3.3	Success rate in supervision of PhD students
Team members successfully supervised two PhD theses.	
D3.4	Participation of PhD students in the outputs
Both of the supervised doctoral students contributed significantly to research projects within the team.	
D3.5	Participation of the team in master or bachelor studies
Team members offer numerous seminars and lectures at the Charles University, in particular at the MA level. Team members supervised sixty MA and three BA theses.	
D3.6	Assessment of cooperation intensity with universities in the form of teaching
The intensity of cooperation with the Charles University is excellent. We encourage the team to extend these activities to other universities across the Czech Republic.	

Further criterion: 4. Outreach activities (D4.1-D4.3)

D4.1	Sufficiency of media strategy and activities in the area of research popularisation
<p>The team had extensive involvement in outreach activities and the presentation of their research findings in the media space. Members of the research team have appeared regularly on Czech TV and in Czech Radio, particularly in the anniversary years of 2018 and 2019. Team members have also cooperated with Czech print and online media and international media. Team members' development of the educational computer game <i>Attentat 1942</i> led to the establishment of the spin-off company <i>Charles Games</i>, which currently works on a follow-up game, <i>Svoboda 1945</i>. This is a very promising venture. Video screenings in public spaces to commemorate the 30-year anniversary of the Velvet Revolution were very well attended.</p>	
D4.2	Publishing activities and its quality
<p>The team's publishing activity is high, but we see a need to focus more on identifying the optimal publication outlets for the team's research – nationally and internationally. The team is expanding its digital collections continuously, and public interest in using these resources is steadily growing.</p>	
D4.3	Participation in professional organisations in the area of research and development
<p>Team members are generally active in relevant professional organizations, in particular in the field of oral history. The team can work more on heightening its international visibility as an important actor in innovative forms of research in contemporary history.</p>	

Other comments of the commission:

The work by one of the senior team members belongs thematically in the framework of the Center for the History of Science under Team 1. This testifies to the need for considering how research in the history of science should be organized.

Commission 10 - History and archaeology
Evaluated teams No.: 1, 2, 3, 4

Commission Chair: Prof. Gary B. Cohen

Commission Deputy Chair: Pavel Vařeka

Commission Members:

Peter Bugge

Alessandro Catalano

Maciej Gorny

Anthony Harding

Barbara Horejs

Dušan Kováč

Hana Píchová

Alain Soubigou