
Editorial

This issue of the *Czech Sociological Review* is no different from many others in that it contains regular articles and book reviews. It features, however, several special sections that are worth a short commentary. July of this year marked one hundred years since the birth of the great social scientist Karl Wolfgang Deutsch. Deutsch was born in Prague, spoke both German and Czech, and his mother was one of the first female members of the Czechoslovak Parliament as a deputy for the German Social Democratic Party. Deutsch had to flee from the Nazis and found a new home in the United States, where he became one of the core protagonists in US political science from the 1950s to the 1970s. While his work is nowadays perhaps less well known than it should be, his centenary was celebrated at a number of places: a panel in his honour was scheduled at this year's annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in New Orleans, which was then unfortunately cancelled because of a hurricane; an international conference was held also here in Prague under the auspices of the Institute of International Relations Prague, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung, and Charles University in Prague. We join in this series of celebrations with several texts commemorating Karl W. Deutsch the scholar and the person, contributed by many of his most prominent former students and collaborators from the United States and Germany (Andrei Markovits, Peter J. Katzenstein, Dieter Senghaas, Charles L. Taylor). It was in these countries where his influence was the strongest and his creative mind the most productive, whereas in the country of his birth his path-breaking ideas could not resonate with ease owing to oppressive political conditions, of which Karl W. Deutsch was one of the most outspoken enemies. But he visited Czechoslovakia in the 1960s and then again in the early 1990s; and his masterpiece, *The Nerves of Government*, was published in Czech in 1971. At least for some receptive minds in his home country, Deutsch became a decisive scholarly influence, despite the unpropitious circumstances. In an article published in this issue, the historian Miroslav Hroch looks back at the inspiration he drew from Deutsch's work in his influential studies on nationalism in small European nations.

In late summer, the community of Czech sociologists lost two of its most distinguished members. Professor Jiří Musil was well known internationally as a leading expert on urbanisation in state-socialist countries, as the director of the Prague College of the Central European University in the early 1990s, and as the President of the European Sociological Association from 1999 to 2001. Musil belonged to the last cohort of students at Charles University's Faculty of Arts who were still allowed to complete their studies after the communist takeover in the early 1950s. Unable to find employment as a sociologist, given that he was not a Marxist or a Party member, he nevertheless managed to find a professional oc-

cupation, in which he was able to produce excellent work in his chosen discipline, working for many years as an urban sociologist at the Institute for Research on Building and Architecture, and then later at the Faculty of Architecture of the Technical University in Prague. His professional career received a fresh boost after 1989: before accepting the post at the CEU, he served as the first director of the Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences (1990–1992); after the CEU left Prague because of the pettiness of the Czech government, which was unwilling to provide even minimum support for such a cosmopolitan and open-minded university institution, Musil taught in Budapest and Warsaw, but he also gave courses both at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and the Faculty of Social Sciences of Prague's Charles University. In the conditions of freedom, his academic interests went far beyond urban sociology, a forced choice under the communist regime, to encompass the most general questions of the theory and history of the social sciences. He was an admirer and friend of the Czech-British social anthropologist Ernest Gellner, with whom he collaborated at the CEU, and he was one of the finest experts on Gellner's work. In honour of his late friend, Musil founded the so-called Gellner seminars in Prague back in the late 1990s, a unique forum for social scientists, whether local or from far away, to present their research and have it passionately debated by a highly knowledgeable but also sympathetic audience, presided over by Musil himself. He was a member of the editorial board of this journal since the early 1990s and was one of its most productive contributors. His last research article from 2008, on the subject of inner peripheries in the Czech Republic, is the most cited article published in our journal in the last couple of years. As recently as February 2012, he wrote an original piece in which he discussed the sociological dimension of the writings of Václav Havel, with whom he collaborated as programme chair at the Forum 2000 conferences.

Miloslav Petrušek, whose sudden death in August 2012 was a real shock for his many students, admirers, and sympathisers in this country, had an encyclopaedic mind combined with an extraordinary rhetorical talent and a captivating personality. After a promising start in the 1960s working in a research team investigating social stratification, led by another prominent representative of Czech sociology, Pavel Machonin, Petrušek saw himself increasingly marginalised in his discipline and the space left to him for teaching and writing more and more circumscribed during the post-1969 so-called Normalisation era. Ousted from the profession and relegated to an auxiliary job in the university library (an early heart attack saved him from being forced into manual work), Petrušek continued to devour all available social scientific literature, wrote 'for the drawer', and published a samizdat journal. It is indicative of the seriousness of the situation that a supposedly representative dictionary of Czechoslovakia's sociologists published in 1985 does not even mention his (or Musil's) name among more than 400 adepts of the profession. After 1989, Petrušek began an extraordinary academic and intellectual career, serving as the dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and then vice-provost at Charles University for more than 10 years. Despite huge adminis-

trative burdens, he continued to publish prolifically and was, among many other activities, a dedicated member of the editorial board of the Czech edition of this journal. He was, from 1990 until his passing, one of the most frequent writers for the Czech edition and the most original and charismatic personality in the journal's circle of permanent collaborators. In an age when sociology is highly specialised and its sub-disciplines mostly self-referential, Petrusek wrote studies on fundamental topics of concern to any particular specialty focus; in an age when the language of sociology is becoming increasingly technical and enigmatic, he published essays and reflections of rare literary quality in a language comprehensive to any reader; last but not least, in an age when no one reads other people's work, he regularly submitted thoughtful reviews of many, many books he had not just read but had carefully examined and, as one old saying goes, understood better than their authors themselves.

The deaths of Jiří Musil and Miloslav Petrusek mark the end of an era in Czech sociology and are an extraordinary loss to the profession in this country.

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