

65.

LETNÍ ŠKOLA SLOVANSKÝCH STUDIÍ V PRAZE

Filozofická fakulta Univerzity Karlovy



Legendary Prague – The City and Its Mythology

The workshop presents Prague – and Czech national culture in general – through its mythology, folklore and popular culture. It consists of three easy 2-hours walks which can be visited separately. Short guided walks will present hidden facet of Czech capital by local folk stories told by common people – both now and in the past. Legendary Prague is a hidden narrative space of everyday life of the metropolis, whose mysteries we will try to decipher. We will also try to analyse if we can regard this narrative space as uniquely Czech one, or if it consists of themes typical for wider Central Europe, Slavic nations, or even global humanity.



Legendary Prague II. Legends of the Old Town

Short guided walk around both famous and forgotten sites of central Prague with focus on local legends, rumours and stories depicting both ancient past and present times. We will also get acquainted with local place names and narratives connected with historical events of the Middle Ages and early modern period, and discuss dynamics between local stories and modern tourism.



Suggested Readings

Hartwig, Kurt : *The Incidental History of Folklore*. in Bohemia. *The Folklore Historian* 16, 1999, pp. 61-73. (short scholarly history of interest in folklore in the Czech Lands)

Ježková, Alena: *77 Prague Legends*. 2006.

(popular book on the most well known stories from historical centre of the city)

Rippelino, Angelo Maria: *Magic Prague*. 1995.

(important essay by famous Italian Slavist on literary demonology of Czech capital).

Workshop takes place 4th August at 14.30, meeting in front of the main building of Faculty of Arts, Charles University.

Petr Janeček's area of study is contemporary folklore – rumours, urban legends, memes and conspiracy theories. He has published 4 books on this topic in the series Černá sanitka (Black Ambulance), which were adapted for theatre, radio and TV. He has been teaching at the Institute of Ethnology at the Faculty of Arts since 2012. He regularly organises workshops for the summer school in the form of guided tours through the legends of old and modern Prague. This is his childhood dream coming true, because he loved old Prague legends as a child, especially those with ghosts and phantoms. He never leaves his house without his GPS device, where he can track the movements of his tomcat Frank as he wanders the gardens of Prague's district Pankrác. He is an introverted extrovert.



LETNÍ ŠKOLA SLOVANSKÝCH STUDIÍ

Web: <https://lsss.ff.cuni.cz>, e-mail: lsss.praha@ff.cuni.cz, telefon: +420 221 619 839