

Project n. 76p9: Moral economies of the monasteries of Benedictine tradition in Czech Republic and in Austria

Final report

1. Implemented actions

Period	Place	Type	Involved persons
10.2016	Monastery of Venio Czech Republic	Interview with 2 sisters	Dr. Spalová, Dr. Jonveaux with 5 students from Prag
	Monastery of Poličany. Czech Republic	Participant observation	Dr. Spalová, Dr. Jonveaux with 5 students from Prag
	Monastery of Břevnov	Interview with the prior	Dr. Spalová, Dr. Jonveaux with 5 students from Prag
10.2016	Charles University Prag, Faculty of social sciences	Lecture about monastic economy in the world	Dr. Isabelle Jonveaux
01.2017	Monastery of Nový Dvůr, CZ	2 interviews with monks, participant observation	Dr. Spalová and 4 students
04.2016	Monastery of Vyšší Brod Czech Republic	2 interviews with the prior, participant observation	Dr. Spalová, Dr. Jonveaux with 3 students from Prag
	Monastery of Kremsmünster - Austria	2 interviews with monks, visit of the monastery	Dr. Spalová, Dr. Jonveaux with 3 students from Prag
	Monastery of La Verna Maria Enzendorf - Austria	1 interview with the prior	Dr. Spalová, Dr. Jonveaux with 3 students from Prag
	Monastery of Heiligenkreuz - Austria	1 interview with a monk, visit of the monastery	Dr. Spalová, Dr. Jonveaux with 3 students from Prag
	Monastery of Rajhrad, Czech Republic	1 interview with a monk and visit of the monastery	Dr. Spalová, Dr. Jonveaux with 3 students from Prag
05.2017	Monastery of Rein - Austria	visit with a monk	Dr. Spalová, Dr. Jonveaux with 2 students from Prag
	University of Graz	lecture about monasticism in Czech Republic	Barbora Spalová
10.2017	Monastery of Nový Dvůr, CZ	participant observation	Dr. Spalová with three students

11.2017	Monastery of Vyšší Brod, CZ	1 interview with the mayor of the town, 1 with the manager of the monastic forestry company, participant observation	Dr. Spalová with 3 students
	Monastery of Kremsmünster - Austria	1 interview with a monk, 1 with a lay man	Dr. Spalová, Dr. Jonveaux with 3 students

	Monastery of Steinerkirchen, Austria	1 interview with the prioress	Dr. Spalová, Dr. Jonveaux with 3 students
	Community Subiaco, Austria	1 interview with the prioress	Dr. Spalová, Dr. Jonveaux with 3 students
	Monastery of Rajhrad, Czech Republic	1 interview with a monk, participant observation	Dr. Spalová with 3 students
	Monastery of Porta Coeli, Tišnov, Czech Republic	1 interview with a sister	Dr. Spalová, Dr. Jonveaux with 3 students

2. Main results

The main research question of this project consisted in analysing the difference in the economic models of Austria and Czech Catholic monasteries. Austria and Czech Republic present nowadays a very different situation concerning monastic life, as monasticism is now being refounding in Czech Republic since 1990 after an interruption of 40 years. The case of Austrian monasticism, which still shows the heritage of the policy of Joseph II is also a testimony of the earlier form of Czech monasticism before the communism.

Thank to empiric field inquiries in 13 monasteries and semi-structured interviews with monks, nuns and lay people involved in the activity of the monastery, we tried to understand the dynamics of contemporary monastic economy. In particularly we developed the concept of “economy of stability” to analyse the specific dimension of monastic economy because of the stability (*stabilitas loci*) of monastic life. This led us to study the dimension of economy of heritage, sustainable economy, economy of hospitality and tradition.

3. Dissemination of research results

1. Paper “Moral investments: A comparison of Czech and Austrian Benedictine monasteries” at the German Anthropological Association Conference 2017 (Berlin, 4-7.10.2017)
2. Paper “Other time: Construction of Temporality in Benedictine Monasteries” at the CEFRES and Faculty of Arts Charles University conference (Trans)missions: Monasteries as Sites of Cultural Transfers (Prague, 25–26 September 2017)
3. Open lecture “Moral economy of the monasteries of Benedictine tradition in Czech Republic and in Austria” at the Faculty of social sciences Charles University, 25.10.2017
4. Article “The lived spirituality of Czech monasteries through architectural materiality” (co-authored with student Tereza Sedláčková involved in the project). In: M. Jewdokimow and Thomas Quartier OSB, eds.: *Zooming on monasteries: Visual Approach towards Monasticism*. Warsaw: Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński Univeristy Publishing House, publication summer 2018
5. Article “Other Time: Construction of Temporality in Contemporary Benedictine Monasteries” (co-authored with student Jan Tesárek involved in the project). *Ibero-Americana Pragensia*, publication spring 2018
6. Article “The economy of stability in Catholic monasteries in Czech Republic and Austria”, in *Annual Review of the Sociology of Religion*, publication 03.2018.
7. Planned article for *Social compass* in French.

4. Pedagogical dimension

Participation of 6 students: Marek Liška, Zuzana Pešková, Tereza Picková, Jana Proboštová, Tereza Sedláčková, Jan Tesárek

Reflexions of the students

"Work in the research team under the leadership of professor Barbora Spalová is always an enriching experience mainly for her open attitude and interest in student's ideas and approaches. Her excellent leadership and such a fruitful field, that studying monasteries is, allowed me to develop my research's skills and publish my own very first academic article." Tereza Sedláčková

„The opportunity to take part in the project of Dr. Spalova and Dr. Jonveaux was a wonderful opportunity to learn to conduct research in all its stages. They have led us to cooperate in the research from its very beginning. We have the opportunity to participate in theoretical preparation, fieldwork research and even in the presentation of scientific results during the writing of a paper and presentation of the contribution at the international conference in Berlin. Barbora Spalová has taught her students with an extraordinary commitment that far exceeded her pedagogical duties. Isabelle Jonveaux was also an excellent teacher who not only mediated the Austrian and international context of monastic life, but also opened us to valuable insights of the French tradition in the social sciences. Comparative research in both countries has also shown me how much Austria and the Czech Republic have in common - starting with a long history, culture, and habits. To participate in long-term, international research has brought me key professional skills that I have not been able to acquire at university and enriched me on a personal level too.” Jan Tesárek

„Thanks Aktion, I was given an opportunity to be a part of a research, which corresponds with my own academic interests very well. Since the beginning of my studies of anthropology, I was attracted to the anthropology of religion and thanks to Aktion I was finally able to try such research in person. Moreover I find the visits in the monasteries unforgettable.“ Jana Proboštová

5. Future projects

1. Enlargement of the comparison to Central European level (to include Germany, Poland, Slovakia, ev. Hungary and Slovenia, Croatia) - planned application for FWF - GAČR joint seminar
2. Continuation of the research of moral economies of the monasteries in Czech Republic and in Austria with detailed focus on the exchanges between monasteries and societies in the context of the ongoing process of the separation of the state and church in Czech Republic - planned application 4. 2018 Aktion Czech Republic - Austria and 5. 2018 programme ETA of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic

23. 1. 2018 Barbora Spalová and Isabelle Jonveaux