

IN MEMORIAM PROF. MARKUS CERMAN (* 27. July 1967, † 3. October 2015)

A few days ago we learned of sad news. Our colleague and friend, Professor Markus Cerman from the Institute for Economic and Social History at Vienna University passed away at the age of 48 years.

I had met Markus Cerman as a young assistant of professor Michael Mitterauer in Budapest in May 1994 during an international conference, which was entitled a bit provocatively – Where Europe ends? At this international forum for family researchers, where professors Rudolf Andorka, Peter Laslett or the already mentioned Michael Mitterauer were engaged also we, the younger generation, some of them already known or in the future “start-up” scholars such as Jasna Čapo-Žmegač, Mojca Ravnik and Jože Hudales, Tamás Faragó, and others, we discussed the European model of family structure and ecotypes – approaches which led to understanding family characteristics and the forming the thinking on its research. For me Markus stood as an allied person. He was kind and friendly, the one who never put forward his knowledge or personality, although his expertise was highly appreciated by us at that time. After all, it was only a few years after the change of the regime in Czechoslovakia and we found ourselves still in overlapping that obscure knowledge-based, but also the methodological gap in the development of our disciplines on the other sides of the iron curtain. Markus gave his advice about things which, at that time were not known in Slovakia, journals, economic theories and scientific discussions,

which he also applied innovatively and productively in his own research.

Not more than a year passed and Professor Mitterauer with Markus Cerman accepted our invitations to Bratislava. The neighbours from Vienna came to our meeting, a seminar organized by the Department of Ethnology at Comenius University. I guess it used to be normal in the free/opened/liberal world, but for us it seemed simply amazing – and what’s more, we were pleased that we were able to publish the contributions of this seminar, where we asked Markus Cerman to prepare an overview study on the issue of protoindustry and its reflection in family life (Cerman, M.: The protoindustrial family economy. In: J. Michálek (Ed.), *Central European Contexts of Folk Culture in Slovakia*. Bratislava: Stimul, 1995).

I was lucky to meet Markus Cerman in summer 1997 in England, in The Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure. Here again, I felt his collegial friendship, assistance in networking with colleagues, whom he had met earlier. In Cambridge I met his then girlfriend and later wife Dana Štefanová. Dana was so kind that together with Markus they organized a presentation of our book on Slovak family traditions in Vienna at the Faculty for Interdisciplinary Research and Continuing Education in May 2001 in Vienna.

Our collaboration lasted, although the meetings may have been less regular, those occasions always brought interesting content and have been rewarding also for our



Prof. Markus Cerman. Picture from the archives of Vienna University (Universität Wien).

students. In 1998, I invited Markus and he came and lectured on protoindustrialization for our students within the course of ethnocultural aspects of the family studies. In the spring of 2003 we managed to organize an international (mostly) student and doctoral research seminar on gender and family (New perspectives in social science and historical anthropology. Kolloquium. Bratislava, 20. - 21. 3. 2003). This time again the two inspiring souls of the meeting fiercely commenting on the contributions of young scholars were Dana Štefanová Cerman and Markus Cerman. Students from the University of Vienna visited Bratislava and participated in this seminar together with our students and PhD students of the Institute of Ethnology and the Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

Markus Cerman graduated at the Vienna University, where he obtained his PhD. degree and worked from 1993 as an assistant, and from 2001 in the position of associated professor and professor.

Although the University of Vienna was his Alma mater, his personality and the scientific activity could be characterized by

interest in international affairs. From 1990 on he spent several research stays at the world's top universities, for example the University of Cambridge, or the Charles University in Prague, a research stay at the famous Birkbeck College, University of London in 2003 - 2004, to complete his education with the title Master of Economics. He worked at the Humboldt University of Berlin as a researcher in the year 2000, and again as a Humboldt Fellow in 2005 - 2006.

Markus Cerman contributed through his study topics to many international research discussions related to economic and social history. His main interest was researching the long-term socio-economic transformation from the late Middle Ages to the Industrial revolution, comparing the regions across the whole of Europe. From the end of the 1990-ies, he worked on the theme of the transformation of rural communities. He was the central figure in a large and long-term research project concerning on the organisation of social structures in Bohemia, which was based on the cooperation with Czech universities and archives, Collegium Carolinum in Munich and the

Max Planck Institutes in Göttingen and Potsdam. This project studied the micro level of the family, the household and village communities, as well as great historical questions about the nature of the so-called "Gutsherrschaft" (a Manor Estate Management) and "second serfdom". The project results make a decisive contribution to the critique of the traditional historiographic concepts of presented topics. In his latest monograph, *Villagers and Lords in Eastern Europe, 1300 - 1800* (2012), he expanded the theme on the whole region of Central and Eastern Europe. From 2013 he led the research project supported by the Austrian Research Fund (FWF) with the title *Busy Tenants; The Land Market North and South of the Alps in Late Medieval Times*. These studies show strong economic and social dynamics and the importance of market relations in pre-modern Europe. They are also an example of the academic interests of Markus Cerman, who, although his research was firmly anchored in German and English material, showed great interest in the terms and conditions of similar research in Eastern and Central-Eastern Europe. His working methods were the case studies, which he created on the basis of the analysis of archival sources. His talent for languages and his social contacts with many scholars around the world have contributed significantly to the international recognition of the research at the Institute for Economic and Social History at the University of Vienna.

At the same time, he was an excellent

teacher and performed a number of functions in University management. As a teacher he was interested in the problems and needs of students, at the same time, however, he insisted on maintaining a high standard of academic teaching. He was a willing mentor for students and colleagues, domestic and foreign colleagues interested in cooperation. Whether just on short visits to Vienna or during the 3-year research stay at his Institute, he used to be assiduously helpful and care taking, simply with the effort to make life in Vienna a scientifically fruitful and pleasant time.

From 2014 onwards he worked as the Head of the Institute of Economic and Social History and he proved admirable in linking his many activities. His sudden death in the 48th year of his life was totally unexpected and surprising. We all are losing not only a recognized scientist, but an always reliable, sympathetic and friendly colleague. We lose a great, always helpful fellow, with an interest in common themes and challenges and pleasant, compassionate man who was also willing to share, for example, a family recipe for vanilla Christmas rolls. We express our condolences to his wife Dana Cerman-Štefanová.

Honour his memory.

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WHAT SHOULD ENGAGED SCIENCE BE LIKE?¹ THE CONFERENCE *Civil Activities and Engaged Research* (3–4 November 2015, Bratislava)

On 3–4 November 2015, the conference "Civil Activities and Engaged Research" was held in Impact Hub, Bratislava. The event was organised as part of project VEGA

2/0024/14 *Civic activities as a determining factor of sustainable development of cities (an ethnological perspective)* carried out by the Institute of Ethnology SAS (IE SAS).

1 This report was originally published online on the website of the Institute of Ethnology SAS www.uet.sav.sk.



Participants to the conference Civil Activities and Engaged Research. Photo: Soňa G. Lutherová.

17 papers in total were presented at the conference by various academic departments, non-governmental organisations and practitioners. The conference was interdisciplinary in the full sense of the word, gathering academics and activists, experts in ethnology and anthropology, sociology, human geography, as well as linguistics. What was common to them was primarily their interest in applied research. Most papers focused on the ethical and methodological dilemmas of researchers. One of the specific features of applied research is its emphasis on outputs which often aim to enhance the knowledge of the general public or to policies or the development of the communities subject to research. Researchers therefore often face the problem of how to approach their communicators, to what degree to intervene in the given environment, and how to synchronise their different roles in the field (research and activism).

The first conference panel called “Beyond the Borders of Academy” dealt with a wider understanding of engaged anthropology in different research. The conference was opened by Eva Riečanská with a paper on applied and engaged research through the work of non-governmental organisations in Slovakia. Alexander Mušinka (Institute of Roma Studies of the University of Prešov) offered his own perspective of engaged research on

Roma topics, and Monika Vrzgulová (IE SAS) talked about her long term experience in the research of the Holocaust in Slovakia. The second conference panel dealt with the application of research. Linguists Lucia Satinská (Linguistic Institute of Ľudovít Štúr in Bratislava) and Boglárka Bilász (Department of Hungarian Language and Literature of the Faculty of Arts, Comenius University) presented their own research and the education and popularisation activities of the S(z)lomarát civic association dealing with the development of multilingual Slovak-Hungarian communities in Slovakia. The next two papers came from CVEK non-governmental organisation (Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture). Tina Gažovičová and Ivana Rapošová presented their research on cultural sensitivity of foster home staff and the follow-up project of trans-cultural approach training. The third panel dealt with ethical and methodological dilemmas in research practice. Kamila Beňová from Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica reflected upon the demarcation of borders between the researcher, communicators, the society and relevant institutions. Oto Polouček from the Institute of European Ethnology in Brno talked about the problem of being an insider/outsider in his own research among tramps. The panel was closed by Juraj Podoba from the Faculty of Social and Economic



Participants to the conference Civil Activities and Engaged Research and poster. Photo: Soňa G. Lutherová.

Sciences, Comenius University in Bratislava (FSES CU), describing his experience in the engagement of anthropologists.

The second conference day was opened by a panel on participation. Barbora Bírová from the Faculty of Humanities of Charles University in Prague talked about the possibilities and limits of cooperation of a social anthropologist with providers and beneficiaries of social services in the context of homelessness. Tomáš Hrustič (IE SAS) presented the method of participative evaluation in selected Roma settlements, and Juraj Janto (Department of Ethnology and Museology of the Faculty of Arts, Comenius University), described his experience in community work with people in a particular city district. Mirka Hlinčíková (IE SAS, Institute for Public Affairs – IVO) closed the panel with a paper on the research of the integration of people under international protection. The last conference panel addressed again the application of research. Soňa G. Lutherová (IE SAS) and Romina Kollárik presented the pilot research of TransFúzia civic association on transgender children at elementary and secondary schools. Martina Sekulová from IVO continued with a paper on the research of a burning social topic of care for women during labour and post-natal period in the context of human rights. In the next presentation, linguist Marika Arvensisová from the Faculty of Arts of Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica described the

ethical and methodological challenges which she faced during her research among deaf people. In the last conference paper, Petra Ezzedine from the Department of General Anthropology of the Faculty of Humanities, Charles University in Prague, talked about the research conducted among house-keepers which resulted in an advertising campaign produced in cooperation with the advertising agency Ogilvy & Mather.

Two practical workshops were held at the end of both conference days. Andrej Findor (FSES CU) facilitated the discussion of the participants on engaged social science, and Tomáš Grečko and Juraj Caránek (Seesame, PR agency) offered their own ideas about the popularisation of science.

Each conference day attracted around fifty participants (with or without papers) who joined the discussions. This time, the role of the panel moderators was not to encourage the audience to raise questions, but rather to find space for answering all the questions asked. It was confirmed that many social scientists feel responsibility for being engaged in issues of public concern and are actively seeking a way of satisfying this need.

We are looking forward to our next meeting with discussions on applied social science!

SOŇA G. LUTHEROVÁ,
Institute of Ethnology SAS in Bratislava

THE ACADEMY OF ROMA STUDIES ACCOMPANIED BY CONVERSATIONS IN ROMA LANGUAGE (11–13 November 2015, Bratislava)

The Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (IE SAS) actively joined the Science and Technology Week in Slovakia this year again. On 11–13 November, the Institute organised, in co-operation with the Representation of the European Commission in Slovakia and the Office of Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities, a conference with a Roma lan-

guage workshop for an expert audience under the title Academy of Roma Studies. This event was one of the outcomes of the academic project VEGA 2/0099/15 *The “Roma” label – emic and ethical reflections and their social impacts*, carried out by the Institute of Ethnology SAS.

The Academy of Roma Studies, held in the SAS premises at Klemensova 19, Bratisla-



Participants to the Academy of Roma Studies. Photo: Ivana Šusterová.



Conversations in Roma language by the participants of Roma language lessons. Photo: Ivana Šusterová.



Teachers of Roma language (from left to right): Pavel Kubaník, Anna Koptová and David Tišer during the Academy of Roma Studies. Photo: Ivana Šusterová.

va, was opened by Tatiana Podolinská, Director of the IE SAS. Her introductory words were followed by speeches by Mária Kadrliaková (Representation of the European Commission in Slovakia) and Peter Pollák, Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities. Four experts in Roma studies from Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Finland-subsequently presented their research. The first day of the Academy aimed to present the most recent trends in Roma studies in the European context.

The introductory paper of the Academy was titled “Roma still unknown. A short history of Roma”. Arne Mann presented to the public many facts from Roma history. In her paper “The possibilities of Roma inclusion – the results of recent research of the IE SAS”, Tatiana Podolinská focused on the current state of Roma studies in the context of the Institute of Ethnology. She presented specific projects and their results concerning various aspects of life of Roma people.

The next part included papers with a linguistic context by foreign guests – Kimmo Granqvist from the University of Helsinki, Finland, and Viktor Elšík from Charles University, Prague. The former described the

history and dialectology of the Roma language. On the basis of his long-term research, V. Elšík talked about the diversity of Roma dialects in Slovakia, providing concrete examples displayed on maps. The lecturers opened a lively inter-disciplinary discussion about the newest trends in Roma studies with an audience of around 50 participants.

Another important aim of the Academy was to launch a regular course (once a year) of Roma language for the public. During two days (12–13 November 2015), the Roma course participants, registered in advance, moved to the premises of the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities (Vajnorská 25, Bratislava), where the course was held under the leadership of three lecturers experienced in Roma language teaching: Pavel Kubaník (working at the Seminar of Roma Studies of Charles University in Prague, which is the only university department focusing on the study of the Roma language, history and culture of Roma in the Czech Republic and Slovakia), Anna Koptová (among other things, co-author of the Slovak-Roma and Roma-Slovak dictionary), and David Tišer, Roma activist and



Teaching aids of the the participants of Roma language lessons. Photo: Ivana Šusterová.

graduate from the Seminar of Roma Studies in Prague. The lecturers complemented each other in an excellent manner. The course was full of different activities related to Roma language teaching, including socio-cultural aspects, which will undoubtedly facilitate further contact of the course participants with Roma people. The fifteen course participants were mostly persons coming into contact with Roma within their professional work. They demonstrated their sincere interest in understanding Roma and in improving communication with them. The motivation to organise this course was based on the fact that most professionals (academic sphere, the third sector, staff of the decision-making sector) dealing with Roma studies in Slovakia do not speak Roma, though the knowledge of this language is one of the key determinants of a deeper understanding of this target group.

Even though two days might have seemed to be too little for learning a foreign language, the positive feedback from the course participants proves that it was worth organising this type of event. This opinion was

supported by Pavel Kubaník, one of the lecturers: “In the Czech Republic and Slovakia, we sometimes hear opinions from even educated people that the Roma language is just a mixture of other languages or a hidden language with limited functions. We cannot expect that students would learn Roma in two days. But I expect that what they learn during these two days is the awareness that Roma is a fully-fledged language with a clear structure. And, just like any other language, it forms part of a culture about which one can learn more by speaking the language.”

The organisers wish to organise the course again next year. Besides the knowledge and materials obtained by the course participants, they would have the opportunity to continue promoting their knowledge of the Roma language. In addition to that, there is a plan to open a course again for beginners for all those interested. We are looking forward to our next meeting!

IVANA ŠUSTEROVÁ,
Institute of Ethnology SAS in Bratislava

THE FIRST EAST EUROPEAN WOMEX WAS SUCCESSFUL ALSO FOR SLOVAKS (21–25 October 2015, Budapest, Hungary)

This year's edition of WOMEX (World Music Expo) was the 21st in its history, but for the first time held in a former East European country – in Budapest, the capital of Hungary. It was attended by more than 2500 delegates representing about 1500 companies from 90 countries. Among 680 exhibiting companies from 54 countries at the trade fair there were also some newcomers such as Kosovo, Tunisia, Chile and – finally, Slovakia.

WOMEX 15 was organised by German company Piranha Arts and Hangvető, a common platform of Hungarian independent artists and labels. The effort of local organisers caused a big influx of artists, exhibitors and other participants not only from Hungary, but also from the wider East and Central European region. As Balázs Weyer, programming director of Hangvető, said in one of the press conferences: “As the first hosts in Central Eastern Europe, our main goal was to open the doors of the world music community to new friends from the wider region. The astonishing number of newcomers to this WOMEX edition proves that the efforts that we have put into this have not been in vain. We are proud to provide the scene new professional encounters and hopefully lasting friendships.”

WOMEX has many faces, but none are ugly. First of all, it is a big three day trade fair – this year it was held in the futuristically reconstructed building on the bank of the river Danube called Bálna (The Whale). During WOMEX 15 it was full of buzzing, humming, singing and playing – there were also some daily showcase concerts taking place in the same building – and talking about business, but above all about so-called world music. Never mind that this term is still not fully accepted by all people from the community – some of them call it folk, traditional music, ethno, cross-cultural, etc. There were also special film screenings, conference sessions, network meetings, one-to-one mentoring,

round-table mentoring and speed-dating. The topics of the conference sessions were rather global than local – themes like *Nationalism and Traditional Music*, *Cross-Cultural Musical Collaborations*, *Crossing the Border*, *Latinos and the Global Music Industry* or *Music Bridging Communities in Post-Conflict Environments* were clearly defined by their titles. Some of the sessions were dedicated to such problems as getting a visa for artists from certain regions, using marketing tools in world music or managing “Artist and Repertoire”. Despite all of these exact scientific methods and marketing tools sometimes really funny situations occurred – for example if speakers in two different conference sessions (*Introduction to the Music Scene in India* and *Touring the Balkans*) were using the same arguments to support their opinion – something like: “it is very good to tour in these regions because you could find a cheap hotels, cheap food and a lot of faithful fans there”.

The main part of the evening programme was so-called showcase concerts at a local venue called Müpa. The grand building of the theatre and concert hall named after the famous composer Béla Bartók on the Danube river bank was supplemented by a big tent with two stages and a special DJ summit stage at the ship A38 Hajó anchored at the Danube. During three days of trade fair there were 60 concerts (not including the opening programme Gypsy Heartbeats on 21st October and the performance of WOMEX Award winner Cheikh Lo from Senegal on 25th of October) with over 280 artists from 50 countries on 7 stages. One of these stages was called Club Duna and its programme included artists from the countries of Central and Eastern Europe: Hungary, Austria, Czech Republic, Poland, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Latvia and Slovakia. The first Slovak band playing at WOMEX in its history was Pacora Trio – their performance became a great success with their typical witty and



The building of Bálna (The Whale) in Budapest where Trade Fair took its place. Photo: Vladimír Potančok.



Pacora Trio (Stano Palúch, Robo Ragan and Marcel Commendant) on Duna Club stage during WOMEX 15 in Budapest. Photo: Vladimír Potančok.



The Slovak stand at WOMEX 15 Trade Fair in Budapest. Photo: Peter Motyčka.

pretty combination of swing and Slovakian and Moldavian folklore.

But Slovakia arrived at WOMEX 15 not only with a band, but also with a stand. The main coordinator of Slovak activities on this year's WOMEX was Musical Centre in Bratislava, but there were also people from the World Music From Slovakia initiative, recording labels and other institutions. This official stand was a part of the so-called Central European Music Square, a common place for representatives of the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary. This approach was similar to other countries and regions – you could find there also neighbouring stands of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland (not so surprising), Germany (at previous WOMEX trade fairs scattered at many singular places), Nordic countries (Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark side by side), Benelux or France. But at the same time there were independent exhibitors from Catalonia, Galicia, Basque Country, Bretagne, Rhone-Alps, Apulia and some other regions from Europe, who feel themselves culturally different to their “motherlands”. Some of the national repre-

sentations were directly organised by ministries of culture or cultural centres as some kind of cultural export e.g. Azerbaijan, South Korea, Lithuania and other countries, other exhibition stands were a combination of state agencies and private entrepreneurs e.g. Austria, Switzerland, Spain, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, etc. Of course, some of the booking agencies, festivals, promoters, recording labels or musical magazines were able to organize a stand of their own without collaborating with anybody else.

The hot topic of this year's WOMEX 15 was the unpleasant situation with immigrants flowing into Europe from war regions of the Near East. It looks like the irony of fate that this festival of tolerance in music and culture takes place in the country which as the first one started to build fences on its borders to prevent this influx. WOMEX 15 was not cancelled (in spite of such suggestions from some of its participants on internet), on the contrary, there were many signs of solidarity and empathy with refugees by WOMEX participants. You could see t-shirts and stickers with inscriptions like *No Human*



Monika Lakatos and members of the band Romengo in front of the Central European Music Square. Photo: Vladimír Potančok.



The Slovak stand at WOMEX 15 Trade Fair in Budapest. Photo: Peter Motyčka.

Being Is Illegal (even with a home-made password *I love Budapest, but I hate Orbán*), people were discussing these topics everywhere, because crossing cultures is their everyday job and they are very sensitive to all these matters. Delegates of WOMEX 15 supported also various NGOs and aid organisations helping refugees and they took a group photo

in front of the Bálna building as a form of solidarity with these people trapped between two worlds. Also the opening concert by Gypsy Heartbeats was built on the idea of Gypsies like “useful immigrants” who are preserving during centuries not only their own musical traditions, but also traditional music of countries in which they settled.

The next edition of WOMEX will take place in Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, Spain, from 19th till 23th October 2016 and we hope that its participants will learn once again much more about each other's musical

(and not only musical) traditions and cultures.

VLADIMÍR POTANČOK,
Institute of Ethnology of SAS in Bratislava

AWARDS FOR RESEARCHERS OF THE INSTITUTE OF ETHNOLOGY SAS IN 2015

The most recent publication by our colleague Oľga Danglová with the title *Modrotlač na Slovensku* (Blueprint in Slovakia) won the **Literary Fund Prize 2014** in the category of social sciences. This bilingual Slovak-English publication offers an overview of blueprint as a phenomenon which played an important role both in the Slovak and European textile traditions. A review of the book was published in SN1/2015 (pp. 91–92) in Slovak and in SN2/2015 in English (pp. 178–179).

On 24 April 2015, the traditional **Mayor's Prize** was awarded under the 12th year of the "Bratislava for All" event, held in the Hall of Mirrors of the Mayor's Palace in Bratislava. The laureates received a bronze statue of Knight Roland, defender of city rights and privileges, from Ivo Nesrovnal the Mayor of Bratislava. One of the awardees was our col-

league Peter Salner who received this prize for his long-term work in propagating the Jewish community in Bratislava and for his outstanding contribution to tolerance and understanding between people.

Our colleagues Arne Mann, Mirka Hlinčíková and Tomáš Hrustič appeared on the **map of social innovators**, published on the Pontis Foundation website in November. This map includes 945 names of people who have contributed over the past years to the development of the Slovak society in the field of education, social inclusion, active citizenship and promotion of democracy and community development, and are thus considered actors of social change.

Congratulations to all our awarded colleagues!

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