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**The Making of an Academic Activist in Interwar Vienna: Marie Jahoda and the Possibilities of Intellectual Labour from Austria to Exile**

Although Marie Jahoda eventually succeeded as an academic and researcher in America and Great Britain, where she earned accolades as a pioneering sociologist as well as a professorship, her intellectual persona was forged in the interwar fervour of 'Red' and then 'Black' Vienna. Here, she enjoyed a double education as a broad-ranging social researcher under Charlotte Bühler and at Paul Lazarsfeld's 'Wirtschaftspsychologische Forschungsstelle', and as a socialist activist engaged in the fight against the rising Nazi menace. Through mentoring, collaboration, and experimentation, she established a novel sociologist practice that laid the foundation of her later success in exile. Crucially, hers was a sociology informed by her own immersion in the subject matter – through moments of participation in her own studies, but also her political work, which brought her up close and personal with the problems she was illuminating from a researcherly standpoint.

This paper traces the beginnings of her academic career and intellectual maturation in interwar Vienna, whilst also extrapolating from this particular example the outline of a methodology and typology to understand and analyse the possibilities for intellectual engagement open to women since the end of the First World War and across the twentieth century. Women's intellectual history has made great strides over recent years, but it still lacks a decisive engagement with the problem of (the/a) canon, and related issues of gendered in/exclusion, intellectual hierarchies and marginalisation. By shifting the focus from questions of success raised at the beginning of this proposal to those of practice and habitus, the paper claims new perspectives on the possibilities and dynamics of women's intellectual labour emerge.

### **“The Legal Prosecution of Czechoslovak Communists for Treason and Disloyalty, 1919-ca. 1925”**

During the 1920s, Czechoslovakia’s communists were the group most frequently prosecuted by the state’s legal organs for alleged treason or disloyalty to the state. While early cases were adjudicated according to the Austrian (and occasionally, Hungarian) penal code, the Czechoslovak parliament passed a specific “Law for the Protection of the Republic” after the assassination of Finance Minister Alois Rašín in 1923 – a law that contemporaries saw as directed mainly against the Czechoslovak Communist Party (KSČ).

In most post-1923 legal cases against Communist Party activists, the defendants were charged with instigation against the “democratic-republican order” of the state (§14.1 of the Law for the Protection of the Republic). The key question underlying these trials was therefore that of determining the border between acceptable political criticism of the government and punishable instigation against the state’s very existence and democratic constitution. The prosecutors needed to construe concrete threats to the state’s security, while defendants often argued that the content of their speeches merely mirrored the party’s published slogans and that a party could hardly be prosecuted for the will to attain power and change the state according to its ideals. Therefore, the case summaries of these trials (found in the archives of the Czechoslovak Ministry of Justice) are ideal sources to reflect on the limits of the freedom of speech in interwar Czechoslovakia and on the difficulty of protecting democracy against authoritarian political actors without resorting to authoritarian means.

The paper will present several legal cases against Czechoslovak leftwing Social Democrats and communists, place them in the context of ongoing political events (the Hungarian Soviet Republic, the party split of 1921), and discuss what they reveal about the workings of the Czechoslovak *Rechtsstaat*.

## **ABSTRACT**

### **Connections and Education: How Could a Female Journalist Succeed at the Turn of the Century?**

At the turn of the century, female journalists in Central Europe encountered significant challenges in a male-dominated profession. Nevertheless, some pioneering women – especially in the Austro-Hungarian Empire and its neighboring regions – managed to establish successful careers, contributing to the growth of female professional representation and shaping the social and political narratives of the time. In my presentation, I will explore the factors that enabled female journalists to flourish in Central Europe from the 19th to the 20th century, emphasizing the importance of education and professional networks.

Successful female journalists of the time, such as Margit Vészi, Alice Schalek, Annie Christitch, and Flavia Steno, were multilingual and had extensive knowledge in literature, politics, and social sciences, enabling them to publish in international newspapers. However, their success also heavily depended on their social and professional networks. At the conference, I will present a section of Margit Vészi's correspondence with one of the most renowned Italian opera composers of the 20th century, Giacomo Puccini, for the first time. I discovered this correspondence in a private library in New York. Puccini described Margit as someone whose gaze "*left a deep melancholy in his soul.*"

In my presentation, I will focus on the journalistic environment of the Habsburg Empire and its neighboring regions by examining how these women navigated the multilingual and multinational press landscape of Central Europe. I aim to highlight that female journalists at the turn of the century were not just reporters but also active participants in shaping social and political discourse.

I hope my research will enhance understanding of the history of female journalism in Central Europe and promote international and interdisciplinary dialogue about the history of the Habsburg Monarchy and its neighboring regions.

**Keywords:** female journalists, education, professional networks, turn of the century, Austro-Hungarian Empire

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