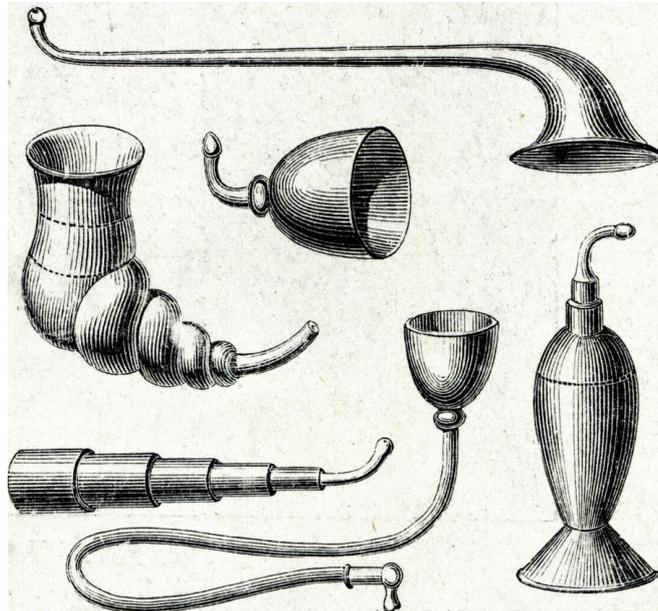


1 Postdoctoral position and 0,5 PhD position at the Centre for Theoretical Study (Charles University & the Czech Academy of Sciences) in Prague, 3 years



Applicants are invited for 3-year positions within the project **“The Second Sense: Sound, Hearing and Nature in the Czech Modernity”**. The project is funded by the Czech Science Foundation, awarded to the principal investigator, Anna Kvicalova.

Research project

The research project sets out to explore the relationship between sound, hearing and modernity in the Central European region, above all in the Czech (and later Czechoslovak) context. It will examine how the shifting boundaries between nature and culture, and the natural sciences and humanities in the 19th and early 20th centuries were inscribed in the human ear and definitions of aural perception, as well as in the attempts to imitate, imagine, and record the sounds of nature. Its aim is to initiate a more intense consideration of the role of sound analysis in fashioning modern notions of sensory perception and representations of natural environment. By focusing on the topics of sound and hearing in the fields as diverse as physiology, natural philosophy, aesthetics, science & technology, ornithology, and entertainment industry, the research will offer alternative readings of nature in the Czech modernity. The project's aim is to open up an area of study which has been neglected in the Czech historiography, and through microhistorical and theoretical studies of the Czech and Czech- German modernity contribute to a thriving field of research in the already well-established field of "sound studies".

Job description & requirements

This is an opportunity to join a new research team carrying our collaborative work on the history of sound and hearing in the Czech and Central-European context. The appointed researchers will have the opportunity to expand on the details of their own research based on their expertise, the material they gather and their own ideas. The research should address one of the following areas:

- **Auditory perception in the 19th century.** This part of the project sets out to investigate the knowledge on sound and hearing in the context of the Czech physiology of the 19th century, where the search for “auditory objectivity” was located at the intersection of the exact sciences, philosophy, and the arts.
- **Imagining Nature Through Sound.** The first part **(a)** will investigate the emergence of a new category of “wild” or “authentic” nature in the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century, which was created in reaction to the rise of modern industrialization, urbanization and social differentiation. It will examine how this notion of nature was constructed through imagining and re-creating its sounds. **(b)** The second part of the research is concerned with (re)creating hybrid sounds of the natural environment in the 1930’s and 1940’s, after the invention of (electro-)acoustic techniques of recording. It will investigate the first practices of recording natural sounds and sounds of animals in the context Czech ornithology or entertainment industry.

We invite applicants who have relevant experience with **historical research**. This is an interdisciplinary project and junior researchers from all relevant disciplines are welcomed to apply. These may include (but are not limited to): the history of science/knowledge, STS, media history, cultural history, musicology, religious studies, art history.

Depending on the specific research topic, knowledge of Czech and/or German is likely to be required. Excellent communication and writing skills in English are a prerequisite, since the candidates will be engaging on an international level and producing English-language publications.

Please, note that this is a junior research project and **it is required that** the applicants are no more than **35 years old**.

Application

Interested candidates are invited to submit their:

1. letter of motivation summarizing relevant experience and reasons for interest in the position.
2. research proposal related to the project described above (max 1,000 words)
3. CV
4. PhD degree certificate (for a postdoc) or MA degree certificate (for a PhD)

Please send your application electronically to the Secretariat of the Centre for Theoretical Study (office@cts.cuni.cz).

For any doubt or question, please do not hesitate to e-mail at the address: kvicalova@cts.cuni.cz

The deadline for submitting your application is 31 January 2020

All applicants will be notified shortly after the deadline as to whether or not they have been selected for an interview with the search committee. Interviews will take place in Prague and/or via Skype during February.