

The Students' Literary Studies Conference has been arranged by the ASCR Institute of Czech Literature in collaboration with the Charles University Faculty of Education since 2002. Its objective is primarily to initiate and support research activity among young Czech and Slovak Studies scholars both at home and abroad, and to engage as many representatives of other humanities disciplines and social sciences as possible in the discussion. Hence the subjects of the conference are chosen to focus the attention of participants on joint issues and at the same time to provide space for papers which are intentionally of an interdisciplinary nature.

The conference is aimed primarily at pre-graduate students, but we also welcome doctoral students; the presence of scholars from institutes of higher education as well as other representatives of fields associated with the conference debate who may be involved as discussion participants and panel members is greatly appreciated. The most inspiring paper will be given the Vladimír Macura Award by a specialist panel made up of university educationalists and Institute of Czech Literature scholars, as a reminder of the contribution made to research by this prominent literary historian, semiotician, writer and translator.

Selected conference papers are published regularly in the journals *Česká literatura*, *Tvar* and *Zrcadlení*. Book editions of the collections of proceedings were supported in the first few years of the conference by Charles University Faculty of Education. Since 2005 the collections have come out each year in digital format and been made available on this site. Thanks to Institute of Czech Literature support a representative selection of 34 papers from the previous eight years was published in 2009. Its title was inspired by the man behind the main conference award and his famous collection of semiotic essays : *In Macura's shoes* [<http://www.ucl.cas.cz/slk/macura-obsah.pdf>]. You can find the names of many of these papers' authors today on the pages of specialist periodicals or in university staff listings.

The working languages will primarily be Czech and Slovak, as well as English and possibly German.