

Výzkumné semináře

Masarykova ústavu a
Archivu AV ČR, v. v. i.

Masarykův ústav a Archiv AV ČR srdečně zve na přednášku

Audience Building Understanding the Third Czechoslovak Republic through Radio Programming and Infrastructure

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What were the practical uses of radio when rebuilding a state? This talk considers how policymakers, radio employees and listeners approached this question in the Third Czechoslovak Republic (1945–1948). It examines the case of a rogue radio station in Teplice-Šanov - about which Czechoslovak Radio and the Ministry of Information complained bitterly in 1947 - and analyzes the conflicts between infrastructural expansion and functionaries' dreams of centralization, which I take to broadly reflect the Third Republic's consolidation. The case exposes the different views contemporaries held on how radio should entertain listeners, and on the medium's potential to serve as a tool for governance. Rather than charting an ineluctable and uncontested path toward Communist dominance of the ether and the country in February 1948, this study instead presents the shortages, internal divisions and ubiquitous conflicts, which I argue typified both the medium's postwar expansion and the construction of the Third Republic.

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