

MSCA PF/GF 2026: LIST OF TOPICS DESCRIPTIONS AND SUPERVISORS

FACULTY	INSTITUTE/DEPARTMENT	RESEARCH TOPIC (PROJECT)	DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH TOPIC (approx. 60 words)	SUPERVISOR (+ e-mail)	CONTACT PERSON (+e-mail)
Faculty of Social Sciences	Department of European Economic Integration and Economic Policy	Multinational corporations	Tax avoidance by multinational enterprises remains a central challenge of globalization. Despite major reforms over the past fifteen years, we still lack clear evidence on what works and what this implies for the future of international taxation. Using unique administrative and country-by-country reporting data, the project evaluates existing reforms and assesses whether incremental changes suffice or systemic reform offers a more effective solution.	Petr Janský, petr.jansky@fsv.cuni.cz	Petr Janský, petr.jansky@fsv.cuni.cz
Faculty of Social Sciences	Institute of Economic Studies	Finance in Place: Banks, Inequality, and Political Behavior	This project investigates how banking-sector shocks and regulatory interventions redistribute credit and shape political outcomes. Using newly linked bank–firm microdata and granular measures of local political behavior, it will identify how funding stress, capital/liquidity rules, and crisis programs alter who receives credit, at what price, and with what default risk. Quasi-experimental exposure designs and local projections will quantify distributional effects across regions and sectors, then test whether these shifts predict political instability—changes in turnout, polarization, inequality and support for anti-establishment parties.	Prof. Roman Horvath, horvath@fsv.cuni.cz	Prof. Roman Horvath, horvath@fsv.cuni.cz
Faculty of Social Sciences	Institute of International Studies	Open Strategic Autonomy in the Defence Sector: Interests, Strategies, and Contestations	The project should focus on the development of defence sectors in EU member states in the context of the push for open strategic autonomy. The dual shock of Russian war against Ukraine and the Trump administration's credibility issues has led the EU and its member states to reconsider their approach to military force, defence industry, and European collaboration. The aim of the project should be to deliver a comparative analysis of selected EU member states, particular, but not limited to smaller and middle-sized countries, to better understand their interests and preferences in the defence open strategic autonomy debate, as well as the consequences for European cooperation.	Prof. Tomáš Weiss; weiss@fsv.cuni.cz	Prof. Tomáš Weiss; weiss@fsv.cuni.cz
Faculty of Protestant Theology	Department of Church History and Systematic Theology	Concepts of death	Death is an omnipresent reality and a constitutive boundary of (human) life, but simultaneously a multi-layered and multi-faceted phenomenon, which is quite difficult to grasp. The project should elaborate current philosophical and theological conceptions of death (whole-death theory, theory of immortal soul) and bring it into a dialogue with an interdisciplinary context of other disciplines including biotechnology and medicine, in which current problems as, e.g., euthanasia/assisted suicide or the transhumanist vision of technological overcoming of death and achieving immortality open up. The goal is a complex conception of death, which includes all its current dimensions: the ontological, the biological, the technological, and the ethical ones.	Doc. Petr Gallus, Ph.D. (gallus@etf.cuni.cz)	Doc. Petr Gallus, Ph.D. (gallus@etf.cuni.cz)
Faculty of Protestant Theology	Department of Biblical Studies	Making New Models of the Emergence of Pentateuch Relevant	In the centuries-long debate about the history and theology of the Pentateuch, the clear division of literary sources has been superseded by more open concepts that pay attention to interest groups behind the texts—resulting in continuous Fortschreibung—technical aspects of scribal activities, and the blurred boundaries between literary and textual criticism. The struggle for relevance has been recognized behind these processes. This struggle, in its historical context as reflected in the texts of the Pentateuch, will be studied—with an admitted search for inspiration for today.	doc. Petr Sláma, Ph.D. slama@etf.cuni.cz	slama@etf.cuni.cz
Faculty of Protestant Theology	Ecumenical institute	Reimagining Transcendence: A Hesychast–Protestant Dialogue Toward a New Theological Anthropology	This project examines the contemporary search for transcendence by bringing Eastern Orthodoxy's embodied, experiential Hesychast path into dialogue with Protestant phenomenology of religion. Integrating the mystical anthropology of Evagrius Ponticus, St. Symeon the New Theologian, and St. Gregory Palamas with the experiential insights of Schleiermacher, Otto, and William James, it seeks to craft a renewed theological anthropology grounded in lived encounter. Through historical-textual study, qualitative research in Athonite monastic contexts, and systematic-theological synthesis, the project develops an integrated framework of spiritual transformation capable of addressing both modern existential quests and academic theological discourse.	Zdenko Širka, PhD sirka@etf.cuni.cz	Zdenko Širka, PhD sirka@etf.cuni.cz
Faculty of Protestant Theology	Department of Philosophy of Religion	Early Christian Thought	Early Christian Thought: Eastern and Western Philosophical and Theological ideas in comparison (e.g. Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Gregory of Nyssa, Donsysius the Areopagite, Marius Victorinus, Augustine, Boethius).	Prof. Lenka Karfíková, Dr. theol. karfkl@volny.cz	Prof. Lenka Karfíková, Dr. theol. karfkl@volny.cz
Faculty of Protestant Theology	Ecumenical institute	Theological Anthropological Investigations of Totalitarianism, Freedom, Faith and Resistance: Lessons from the Communist Past	The project should focus on analysis of a selected key figure active in ecclesial diplomacy during the Communist persecution, such as Cardinal Josef Beran or Cardinal František Tomášek, figures of strong ecumenical impact who were examples of resistance and supporters of freedom and human rights. Scholars coming from outside of that milieu, and hence having some distance to it, should work with archival materials, historical, political and cultural contexts, should ground a solid theological analysis of their implicit and explicit understanding of human beings, their faith in God, relationship with the church and with the world in the times of crisis, and draw possible analogies to our times of crisis.	Prof. Ivana Noble, Ph.D. noble@etf.cuni.cz	Prof. Ivana Noble, Ph.D. noble@etf.cuni.cz
Faculty of Humanities	Department of Historical Studies, Oral History - Contemporary History	Governing Queer Lives: State Power, Intimacy and Citizenship in East Central Europe, 1956–20??	This project investigates how late socialist and early post-socialist regimes governed queer lives in Czechoslovakia and its successor states within a comparative East Central European perspective. It analyses policing, public health, and urban regulation, and reconstructs everyday negotiations with state power. Drawing on archival research, oral history, and queer theory, this research compares socialist and neoliberal regimes, advancing debates on contested citizenship, intimacy, and emerging illiberalisms in the region.	Jaromír Mrška (jaromir.mrška@fhs.cuni.cz)	Jaromír Mrška (jaromir.mrška@fhs.cuni.cz)
Faculty of Humanities	Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology	ResisTerra: Rethinking Politics Across the Range of More-Than-Human Struggles	From animals in captivity striking back against their trainers to alliances between weeds and locals in confronting expansive plantations. Studies of other-than-human or more-than-human resistance, refusal or unruliness are on the rise in anthropology, environmental humanities, and related disciplines. What remains side-stepped or under elaborated in most of this work, the ResisTerra project argues, is the question of politics; that is when and how relations become political in such struggles. Deploying ethnographic methods over a case suggested by the postdoc, the project aims at centre-staging precisely this neglected trouble.	Bob Kuřík, Ph.D., bob.kurik@fhs.cuni.cz	Bob Kuřík, Ph.D., bob.kurik@fhs.cuni.cz

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Faculty of Social Sciences	Institute of International Studies	Moralism in international politics	The project should focus on any aspect related to the problem of moralism in international politics. Morality has been at the heart of both academic debates in the field of International Relations, and practical foreign policy doctrines, e.g. those building on the notions of normative power, ethical foreign policy, or feminist foreign policy. Yet, moralism – a discourse characterised by an uncompromising deployment of morality in social and political contexts – can also be divisive and self-defeating. The project should look into innovative ways of theorising moralism in and for IR, or for empirical studies of moralism in novel contexts.	Assoc. Prof. Jakub Eberle (jakub.eberle@fsv.cuni.cz)	Assoc. Prof. Jakub Eberle (jakub.eberle@fsv.cuni.cz)
Faculty of Social Sciences	Institute of International Studies	Everyday Histories of Violence in Europe (c. 1800-Early 21st Century)	<p>Excellent candidates interested in applying for a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship are invited to develop a research proposal within the thematic framework outlined below.</p> <p>This supervision offer focuses on the history of violence in Europe from roughly the nineteenth century to the early twenty-first century. Projects may explore violence in its everyday historical contexts, addressing how it was perceived, experienced, interpreted, and dealt with within societies. Projects may also examine how different actors—local or central, state and non-state—responded to violence in discourse and practice. There is a particular interest in research that foregrounds the agency and perspectives of historical actors, especially victims, perpetrators, and witnesses. Other possible analytical perspectives include the study of silence, silencing, and processes of marginalization.</p> <p>Methodologically, the framework encourages qualitative research grounded in history. Projects combining microhistorical approaches with comparative or transnational perspectives are particularly welcome. The geographical focus is Europe, and projects should take the form of case studies situated in specific European contexts rather than attempting to cover the continent as a whole. At the same time, proposals may explore connections beyond Europe—for example through imperial, colonial, or other transnational contexts—provided that the European dimension remains central. Within this broad framework, projects may address various forms of violence, such as collective, political, sexualized, interpersonal, or domestic violence. Projects may also engage with analytical perspectives such as gender and gendered violence. Another possible analytical dimension concerns the concept of the “postwar” as a framework for understanding how societies dealt with violence in the aftermath of major conflicts. Proposals that draw on lesser-known or previously unexplored sources, or on a diverse range of source types, are encouraged. Interdisciplinary perspectives are also relevant when they contribute to historically grounded analyses of violence.</p> <p>Applicants are encouraged to develop ambitious and innovative research questions, case studies, and methodological approaches within this broad thematic framework. Rather than covering the entire chronological span indicated above, the aim is to situate individual projects within the wider historical context of violence in European societies. Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact me at an early stage to discuss project ideas and further develop them for a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship proposal.</p>	prof. PhDr. Ota Konrád, Ph.D.	prof. PhDr. Ota Konrád, Ph.D.
Faculty of Social Sciences	Institute of International Studies	Memory Studies	We welcome applications from outstanding researchers seeking to develop a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship project on the memory of conflict and difficult pasts across Europe and beyond. Proposals may examine how societies remember, narrate, contest, or silence past conflicts, crises, and difficult histories, and how these processes shape collective identities, public debates, and cultural representations. Projects should be historically grounded and may combine microhistorical case studies with comparative or transnational perspectives. Fellows will join the Research Centre for Memory Studies, an internationally recognized hub in the field, embedded in the global memory studies network and closely cooperating with the Memory Studies Association, offering an excellent environment for innovative and internationally connected research.	Prof. Kateřina Králová. kralova@fsv.cuni.cz	Prof. Kateřina Králová, kralova@fsv.cuni.cz
Faculty of Arts	Center for Multidisciplinary Area Studies	Democratic resilience	<p>Democracy is under pressure across the globe. The challenges facing democracy come from different directions and at different speeds. From the rise of authoritarian populists to increasing polarization and from the erosion of citizens' democratic norms to the declining appeal of the liberal model of democracy, there is an increasing doubt whether democracies can remain resilient. Democratic resilience has preventive and curative dimensions. Democratic resilience can be preventive by mitigating the rise of democratic challenges in the first place (e.g., election of an authoritarian populist) or can be curative by successfully pacifying those challenges once they happen before democratic breakdown (e.g., depolarization of society). However, much less is known about the origins, dynamics and extent of democratic resilience.</p> <p>Questions that could be examined by the project include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Does the emergence of fewer challenges (and crises) indicate, by default, more democratic resilience, or does it mean that those systems have not yet been tested? •How does resisting the challenges facing democracy shape the political system's capacity to withstand future challenges and crises? •Are democracies that bounce back to democracy (after breakdown) more or less resilient to future challenges? •How to measure the degree of democratic resilience for mixed-record political systems that successfully contain some challenges but not others? •Is it possible to forecast future democratic resilience by looking at or learning from the past? 	Mahmoud Farag, Dr. phil., mahmoud.farag@ff.cuni.cz; PhDr. Radek Buben, Ph.D., radek.buben@ff.cuni.cz; Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Karel Kouba, M.A., Ph.D., karel.kouba@ruk.cuni.cz	Mahmoud Farag, Dr. phil., mahmoud.farag@ff.cuni.cz (content- related questions; Marketa Morska (admin- related questions)

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Faculty of Arts	Center for Multidisciplinary Area Studies	Resisting Autocratization	<p>Autocratization is on the rise across the globe. There is a growing line of research that examines how domestic actors (e.g., political parties, civil society, the judiciary, the bureaucracy, among others) and international actors (e.g., regional organizations and international NGOs) respond to the global wave of autocratization that is currently underway. However, this literature is characterized by a number of notable gaps. However, there are a number of notable gaps that hinder our understanding of the origins and effects of the multiple strategies used to resist autocratization.</p> <p>Questions that could be examined by the project include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •How do the various actors frame (or justify) their efforts in resisting autocratization, and how does such framing affect their success or failure? •Do concurrent resistance strategies by multiple actors reinforce or cancel each other's effects? •What are the determinants of resistance strategies against autocratization and their particular timing (i.e., early vs. late after autocratization onset)? •How can we measure the success of resistance strategies beyond stopping or slowing down autocratization? •What are the negative side effects of the strategies employed to resist autocratization? 	<p>Mahmoud Farag, Dr. phil., mahmoud.farag@ff.cuni.cz; PhDr. Radek Buben, Ph.D., radek.buben@ff.cuni.cz; Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Karel Kouba, M.A., Ph.D., karel.kouba@ruk.cuni.cz</p>	<p>Mahmoud Farag, Dr. phil., mahmoud.farag@ff.cuni.cz (content- related questions; Marketa Morska (admin- related questions)</p>
Faculty of Arts	Center for Multidisciplinary Area Studies	Culture Wars and New Cleavages	<p>Politics—whether in fully liberal democratic settings or in other types of regimes—is undergoing a profound change of previously stable cleavages and global realignment. This transformation includes the rebranding of established political actors, emergence of new set of political representatives, as well as the emergence of new forms of representation and patterns of political mobilization. Too often subsumed under overstretched concepts of populism or personalization, these dynamics—linking societal cleavages and divisive issues on the one hand with new styles and types of representation on the other—should instead be understood as part of a deeper and more enduring transformation. In line with the framework of Lipset and Rokkan, this shift reflects a restructuring of cleavages and their systems of representation, rather than merely the product of manipulative mobilization by ambitious populists or power-hungry autocrats. Since most divisive issues are framed in terms of identity or cultural politics, a widely used term for them is “culture wars.” These have emerged in highly diverse settings such as the United States, India, South Korea, and Western Europe. Approaching them through Lipset and Rokkan’s framework, with its emphasis on enduring societal cleavages, offers a perspective that goes beyond analyses focused on populism or democratic backsliding. From this viewpoint, culture wars appear to interact with—and often reactivate—earlier regional, religious, and class-based divisions.</p> <p>Questions that could be examined by the project include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can culture wars be theoretically and empirically defined and conceptualized as a new cleavage within a Rokkanian framework? • What sets of issues constitute the repertoire of culture wars within specific countries, regions, and across them? • How do culture wars interact at the global level? To what extent are they driven by transnational or globalized patterns? • What is the relationship between populism and culture wars? Are culture wars primarily the product of historically rooted societal divisions, or are they strategically mobilized by political actors within contemporary media environments? 	<p>Radek Buben, Ph.D., radek.buben@ff.cuni.cz</p>	<p>Radek Buben, Ph.D., radek.buben@ff.cuni.cz (content-related questions; Marketa Morska (admin-related questions)</p>