

From Research to Impact: A Summer School for Early-Career Scholars in Asian and African Studies

Date: 13 and 14 August 2026

Location: Transfer Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences (Vodičkova 40, 110 00 Prague 1, Czech Republic)

Project ID: OP JAK CZ.02.01.01/00/23_026/0011445

Event ID: VA7.4 Science to Policy

"Science to policy" is the practice of using research, data, and scientific expertise to inform and improve government decisions and legislation. It bridges the gap between researchers and lawmakers to ensure policy decisions and regulations are evidence-based while increasing societal impact of the science and research.

We invite early-career researchers in the humanities, particularly those focusing on Asia and Africa, to join us in Prague for two days of intensive workshops and discussions. The programme addresses the increasing demand to articulate the social and policy relevance of research in disciplines such as philology, linguistics, literary and cultural studies, history, and related fields, where such concerns have often received limited attention. With this aim, the workshop will equip participants with practical tips and tools for thinking beyond the immediate scholarly problem. Rather than focusing on a specific grant scheme, it will encourage participants' creativity and deepen their understanding of the broader logic behind successful research design, with a particular focus on societal impact and knowledge transfer, including the policy sphere. At the same time, the Summer School aims to strengthen networks among early-career researchers in area studies and related disciplines in the Czech Republic and to create a shared platform for long-term collaboration, community-building, and the development of new ideas. Participants will work with their own projects and receive structured feedback from peers and workshop facilitators.

Required documents and deadline for the application:

12 July 2026

- CV (any format and length)
- a short motivation letter stating the reason for applying and expectations from the Summer School

31 July 2026

- Short description of your research project you want to work on during the summer school (max. 2 paragraphs) so we can look for relevant case studies for areas of expertise.

Eligibility: PhD researchers at all-but-dissertation level and postdocs up to 3 years after doctorate, who are working in the Czech Republic.

Please submit the above documents to the organisers:

Zbyněk Mucha (mucha@orient.cas.cz)

Adéla Provazníková (provaznikova@orient.cas.cz)

PROGRAMME

DAY 1 (13.8.2026)

10:00 – 10:30 Welcome & Opening Remarks

10:30 – 11:20 Introduction of Attendees (Max. 3-5 mins per person)

What is my research about and what is my core expertise? What are my career plans – am I staying in academia, or considering other options? If so, which ones? What brought me here today and what do I want to take away from this workshop?

11:20 – 11:30 Short Break

11:30 – 12:00 Workshop Introduction & Context

- Aim and structure of the workshop
- Case studies
- What is "Impact" and possible pathways to achieve it
- Motivation & why it matters
- European context and current trends
- Short overview of funding sources

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch Break

Afternoon Session – Group Work & Feedback

Focus: Applying concepts to individual research projects with peer and lecturers feedback.

13:30 – 15:00 Guided Workshop: Part 1

Format per block: 5 min intro + 20 min exercise (work in groups) + 15 min discussion (1-2 examples presented by the group).

- Block 1: The "What" (Technical Description) – What is the research/result/competence about? What are the possible forms of outputs?
- Block 2: The "Who" (Target Groups) – Who would be interested in your research outcomes?

15:00 – 15:20 Coffee Break

15:20 – 16:50 Guided Workshop: Part 2

Format per block: 5 min intro + 20 min exercise (work in groups) + 15 min discussion (1-2 examples presented by the group).

- Block 3: The "Why" (Value Proposition) – Which problem is being solved?
- Block 4: Understanding Impact & Theory of Change

16:40 – 16:50 Presentation Tips and Instructions

Choosing your audience (e.g., Head of the Department/Supervisor, Institutional Management, Funding Provider, External Partner)

16:50 – 17:00 Day 1 Wrap-up

Evening Social Programme

DAY 2 (14.8.2026)

Morning Session

10:00 – 12:00 Presentation Preparation & Writing Session

Format: Independent work. Lectors will be available for consultations.

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch Break

Afternoon Session – Facilitated Presentations

Format: 5-minute pitch + 5-minute feedback = 10 mins per person

13:30 – 14:20 Pitch Session 1 (5 presentations + feedback)

14:20 – 14:40 Coffee Break

14:40 – 15:30 Pitch Session 2 (5 presentations + feedback)

15:30 – 15:45 Wrap-up & Concluding Remarks by the Organisers

Evening Social Programme

Lecturers:

Ivana Sýkorová (Freelance Consultant)

Ivana is a seasoned innovation and knowledge transfer consultant working across the UK and EU research sectors. Currently operating as a freelancer, she partners closely with Kindling Ventures to help research organisations train scientists, cultivate an entrepreneurial spirit, and drive innovations to create impact-at-scale. Previously, Ivana spent 9 years as a Transfer Specialist and Deputy Director at the Knowledge Transfer Office of Charles University in Prague. Prior to that, she worked at the Czech Academy of Sciences, where she managed large EU-funded research infrastructure projects in biomedicine and biotechnology. She brings a wealth of practical experience from the intersection of academia and business, with unique expertise in supporting Social Sciences and Humanities (SHAPE) alongside a broad understanding of project and grant support (TAČR, EU funding). Newly, she is also acting as a mentor for Charles University postdocs within the Charleston project.

Jan Mareš (CETAV)

Jan works as a project manager for knowledge transfer in the social sciences and humanities at the Transfer Office of the Czech Academy of Sciences. He also serves as the coordinator of the Science for Policy platform at the CAS, supporting Science-for-Policy activities across all academic fields. He holds a PhD in history and has ten years of experience working in the Office of the Government and at the Ministry of the Environment.

Tereza Butková (CETAV)

Tereza has a background in science and technology studies (STS), focusing on knowledge cultures and science communication. She has previous journalistic experience and currently works in knowledge transfer for social sciences and humanities at the Transfer Office of the Czech Academy of Sciences.