



The Enlightenment and Liberalism

Continuities and Discontinuities
Between the Eighteenth and the Nineteenth Centuries

Brno, 24–25 June 2026

Venue

Masaryk University, Faculty of Arts
Arna Nováka 1, 602 00 Brno, Czech Republic
Room B 2.13

Program, 24 June

9:30

Opening Addresses

Nathaniel Wolloch, Jiří Hanuš

The Enlightenment Sources of Liberalism

Chair: Nathaniel Wolloch

10:00–10:30

Mr. Nobody vs. Dr. Smith? William's Playfair's comments on the question of monopolies and liberalism in Britain (1790–1820)

Jean-François Dunyach, Université Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV)

10:40–11:10

Adam Smith and Mme de Stael on Tyranny and Despotism

Spyridon Tegos, University of Crete

11:20–11:50

The greatness of a democratic republic in Tocqueville: the legacy of Montesquieu

Hana Fořtová, The Czech Academy of Sciences

12:00–13:30

Lunch Break

Habsburg and Other Perspectives

Chair: László Kontler

13:30–14:00

Habsburg Liberalism and the Enlightenment Past

Franz Leander Fillafer, Austrian Academy of Sciences

14:10–14:40

Habsburg Reform Absolutism and “State Enlightenment” as a “Promoter” of Liberalism?

Daniela Tinková, Charles University, Prague

14:50–15:20

Overcoming Decadence in the Hispanic Empire: Continuities, Changes and Beyond from Enlightened Reforms to Liberalism

Pablo Sánchez León, University of the Basque Country

15:30–16:00

Coffee Break

Further Enlightenment Precedents

Chair: Ere Nokkala

16:00–16:30

Character as Infrastructure: From a Humean Dialectic to the Böckenförde Paradox

Tamás Demeter, Corvinus University of Budapest, and Pamela Ahern, University of Delaware

16:40–17:10

Translating (the) Enlightenment in the Era of Liberal Reform: An Initiative of the Hungarian Learned Society (1830s–1840s)

László Kontler, Central European University

18:00–20:00

Evening reception

Seminar library of the Department of History, 4th floor, Building B

Program, 25 June

Further Central and Northern European Perspectives

Chair: Jean-François Dunyach

10:00–10:30

From Enlightenment to “Liberals”: Reassessing Intellectual Continuities and Ruptures in Sweden

Ere Nokkala, University of Jyväskylä

10:40–11:10

The Notion of “Feudalism” in Liberal and Illiberal Histories of the Rise and Fall of the Polish State

Radosław Szymański, University of Warsaw

Jewish and Other Perspectives

Chair: Tomáš Malý

11:30–12:00

Macaulay and Motley: Two Nineteenth-Century Historians and the Legacy of the Enlightenment

Nathaniel Wolloch, Masaryk University

12:10–12:40

“The Festival of Freedom”: The Conservative Turn in the Haskalah

Shmuel Feiner, Bar-Ilan University

13:30–16:00

Lunch Break

Keynote Lecture

16:00–17:30

What Happened to the Optimism of the Radical Enlightenment in the Early Nineteenth Century?

Jonathan Israel, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton