



EUROVISION SONG CONTEST IN A TURBULENT WORLD: *PREFIGURING TRENDS, MIRRORING DIVIDES*

Taking the 2026 Contest as a point of departure, workshop explores Eurovision as a cultural, media and institutional arena in which broader transformations of Europe and the world are reflected, performed and negotiated. It asks what the Contest can tell us about changing configurations of Europeanness and belonging; how musical and media practices mediate social and geopolitical divisions; how fandoms, journalists, broadcasters and the EBU negotiate the boundaries of the Contest; and whether Eurovision can not only mirror contemporary transformations but also prefigure emerging cultural, political and institutional trends.

7-8 SEPTEMBER 2026

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
HOLLAR BUILDING, ROOM H012
SMETANOVO NÁBŘEŽÍ 995

More info at: ims.fsv.cuni.cz

PROGRAM OF THE WORKSHOP

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

13:00-13:30 – **Registration & welcome coffee**

13:30 – **Opening words**

14:00-15:30 – **Panel discussion "Rethinking Europeanness: Musical Tropes and Contested Belonging"**

- Christiane Wiesenfeldt (Heidelberg University): *"How Does Europe Sound? Mapping Models of Belonging in the 2026 Eurovision Song Contest"*
- Valeria Korablyova (Charles University/CEFRES): *"Moving 'East' to the Centre: Eurovision 2026 in a World of Turmoil"*
- Claudia Macey-Dare (Charles University): *"Pour the vodka straight, no need to mix': Folklore and conspiracy in perceptions of post-Socialist countries at Eurovision"*

15:30-16:30 – **Panel discussion "Covering the Contest: Fandom, Journalism and the Eurovision Media Machine"**

- Lisa Bolz (Sorbonne University) & Jonathan Hendrickx (University of Copenhagen)

16:30-17:00 — **Coffee break**

17:00-18:30 – **Panel discussion "Who Navigates the Contest? EBU, National Broadcasters and Other Stakeholders Negotiating the Future"**

- Marcin Bogucki (University of Warsaw): *"Institutional Critique of the ESC: EBU and Fandom"*
- Mads M. Tommerup Andersen (University of Copenhagen): *"Traces of Reality TV in the ESC"*
- Sébastien Appiotti (Sorbonne University) & Arthur Betton (Panthéon-Assas University): *"Bridges Over Politics: Staging Neutrality in EBU's Institutional Ethos"*

19:00 – **Dinner** (Café Louvre, Národní 22, 110 00 Prague 1 - by invitation)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

8:00 – **Morning coffee**

8:30-11:00 – **Brainstorming session on future project applications**

11:30 – **Lunch** (Café Platýz, Národní 37, 110 00 Prague 1 - by invitation)