“Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past.”

― George Orwell, 1984

We are honored to invite you to the international conference called **Facing lost letters, false friends and lazy pronunciation. Communication struggles and problems then and now.** The conference will be organized by the Faculty of Arts at Charles University in Prague on 25 and 26 June 2021. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the conference will be held online via Zoom. The registration to the conference is free of charge.

The conference is an opportunity for early-career researchers as well as for the experienced ones to discuss their work with an international community of scientists. The main goal of the conference is to discuss the panorama of problems, struggles, and difficulties in communication in the past and today. The discussion might be an opportunity to search for varied possibilities and challenges to improve our interpersonal communication and to make it more effective. The conference is seeking submissions related to the area of linguistics, literature, history, or cultural studies.

Proposals might include the following topics and question (are not limited to):

* How did the given language change over time? What challenges have the researchers to tackle by preparing a critical edition of an old document or literary work? In the past, the question of the possibility to translate given text completely arose - is the question already answered, or would it be a never overthrown issue?
* How has the language evolved over the years in literary texts? In literary works, how has the way of communicating evolved?
* What methodology can or should be used to study written communication in the past? How did the character and social role of written communication change? What were the origins of the post service in Europe and was it a reliable way of communication? What types of communication were used in non-European areas? Is it possible to apply some methods of digital humanities to the study of communication in history?
* Do the false friends influence communication? Are they the cause of misunderstanding? What is the role of the false friends in communication?
* How do the different dialects affect the clear communication? Is it better to avoid them to prevent misunderstanding? Should we preserve the linguistic peculiarities or should we prefer the linguistic convergence?
* How important is the clear pronunciation in communication? How does borrowing words affect pronunciation? Should we avoid them?

An abstract (approx. 300 words) along with a short academic bio should be submitted by April 30 to conference-communication@gmail.com. Submitted abstracts will be evaluated by the Scientific Committee and the results will be announced by the end of May. After the conference, there will be a possibility to publish presented papers in the official proceedings.

Important deadlines:

Abstract submission: 30 April 2021

Notification of acceptance: the end of May

Conference dates: 25-26 June 2021

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