



RAISING THE VELVET CURTAIN

SLOVAK LITERATURE SINCE 1989



Institute
of Slovak
Literature
Slovak
Academy
of Sciences



**5 November 2019: 1-day seminar hosted by
UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies,
16 Taviton Street, London WC1H 0BW**

The seminar forms part of a series of events organised in the UK in October and November 2019 to mark the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution. While the speakers include leading Slovak literature specialists as well as social science scholars from Slovakia, the Czech Republic, the US and the UK, the seminar is aimed not only at specialists in Slavonic studies but also at the wider public, students, cultural journalists, publishers and everyone interested in Slovak and/or Central European literature.

Draft Programme

9:30 Registration

9:45 Welcome: Professor Diane P. Koenker, UCL SSEES Director
Opening remarks: His Excellency Ľubomír Reháč, Slovak Ambassador to the UK

Keynote address: Peter Zusi

Introduction: Julia Sherwood

10:00-11:30 **Panel 1 - The Slovak Social and Literary Landscape After 1989**

- Karen Henderson: Social and political development after 1989: was the Slovak transition unique?
- Ivana Taranenková: Stories of "time out of joint": Slovak literature after 1989
- Radoslav Passia: Literary life in Slovakia after 1989

Chair: Dr. Thomas Lorman

11:30-11:45 Coffee Break

11:45-13:15 **Panel 2 - After the 'End of History'**

- Dagmar Kročanová: Modern Slovak history on the stage after 1989
- Peter Darovec: Revolution in literature, literature in revolution (The case of Peter Pišťanek)
- Tim Beasley-Murray: The Age of Cultural Appropriation and #MeToo
- Charles Sabatos: Contemporary Transnational Slovak Women's Writing

Chair: Peter Zusi

13.15-14.15. Lunch break

14.15-15.45 **Panel 3 - Literary life in Slovakia**

- Ján Gavura: The Role of small publishing houses in post-communist Slovakia
- Rajendra Chitnis: Comparing Czech and Slovak literature in English translation and its role in shaping Slovak identity
- Ivana Hostová: Slovak Poetry in English translation after the Velvet Revolution: can it ever be commercially successful (but should it even try)?

-

Chair: Tim Beasley-Murray

15.45-16.00 Coffee break

16.00 -17.30 **Panel 4 - Putting Slovak literature on the Anglophone map**

- Julia Sherwood: Challenges of popularising Slovak literature in the anglophone world
- Susan Curtis: Challenges of publishing translated literature in the UK
- Katarina Gephardt –A planned Companion to Contemporary Slovak Literature
- Zuzana Pinčíková – The Slovak holdings of UCL SSEES Library
- Pitches – brief recommendations of books that should be translated into English

Chair: David Short

17:30 Drinks reception hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Slovakia