

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT, SEARCH FOR INDIAN AMERICA 5

A two-day conference called *Search for Indian America 5* was held from February 28 to March 1st, 2022, at the University of Pardubice in Pardubice, Czech Republic. The conference, unlike in previous years, was organized by Radoslav Hlúšek from the Department of Ethnology and World Studies at University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava in cooperation with Livia Šavelková and Milan Duřák from the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy at the University of Pardubice, and the Center for Mesoamerican Studies at Comenius University in Bratislava. *Search for Indian America 5* was a hybrid event for the first time, featuring participation both in person and online. This way allowed the conference to be attended by a larger number, including even overseas researchers. That is why the official languages of the conference were not only Czech and Slovak, but also English and Spanish.

After the welcome speech from Livia Šavelková, Ukjese van Kampen, an independent scholar from Canada and the author of the painting on the conference program cover, opened the conference with his keynote address, “Origins of the Early Yukon First Nations Beading Style”. The keynote address was followed by a Czech language section chaired by Monika Brenišínová from Charles University. The first speaker, Anna Libánská from Charles University, presented her contribution entitled “Indiáni a praxe zjinačování v českých psaných pramenech 16. století (Native Americans and the Practice of Othering in Czech Written Sources of the 16th Century)”. Another speaker from Charles University, Tadeáš Dufek, introduced his work on “Indian Hobbyism as Cultural Appropriation (Indiánský hobbyismus optikou kulturní aropriace)”. The section was concluded by Jan Dolejš, an independent scholar from the Czech Republic, with his “Comparative Analysis as a Tool for Identification Collection Artifacts (Srovnávací analýza jako nástroj identifikace sbírkových artefaktů)”.

In the afternoon there were two simultaneous sections. The first one in the Czech language chaired by Livia Šavelková (Section 2), and the second in the Spanish language chaired by Radoslav Hlúšek (Section 3). Miroslav Černý from University of Ostrava opened Section 2, focusing his presentation on “Last Speakers of Native North America (Poslední mluvčí nativních jazyků Severní Ameriky)”. He was followed by Martin Heřmanský from Charles University who introduced the audience to the “Construction of Gender in Native American Hip Hop (Konstrukce genderu v indiánském hip hopu)”. Tomáš Boukal from the University of Pardubice talked about “Genes and Stories: Native Siberia and North America in Biocultural Comparison (Geny a příběhy: nativní Sibiř a Severní Amerika v biokulturní komparaci)”. Jan Kapusta from the University of West Bohemia made a presentation on “Maya Cosmology between (Indigenous) Animism and (Western) Spirituality (Mayská kosmologie mezi (indigenním) animismem a (západní) spiritualitou)”. The final contribution under the title “Fenómén tarantismu v hispanoamerickém románu (The Phenomenon of Tarantism in the Spanish-American Novel)” by Roman Zařko from Charles University terminated the panel in the Czech language.

Section 3 was dominated mostly by Mexican scholars, except for the first speaker, Oldřich Kašpar, from the University of Pardubice, whose contribution bore the title “Prohibidos vuelos de papalotes. Acerca de un manuscrito novohispano del siglo XVIII (Flying Kites Prohibited. On a New Spanish Manuscript of 18th Century)”. Rogelio Martínez Cárdenas from University of Guadalajara gave an insight into the Festivities of the Virgin of Guadalupe, analyzing the tweets in his presentation “Las fiestas de la Virgen de Guadalupe, una visión a través de la red social de Twitter (The Festivities of the Virgin of Guadalupe: A View through the Social Network of Twitter)”. Karen Jeanette Reyes Badillo from Autonomous University of the State of Hidalgo introduced her

work entitled “La tradición oral y los medios de la comunicación masiva. El caso de la tradición oral totonaca en el contexto de la comunicación moderna (Oral Tradition and the Mass Media. The Case of Totonac Oral Tradition in the Context of Modern Communication)”. She was followed by Rosa Elena Durán González also from Autonomous University of the State of Hidalgo who presented her paper “Historical Approach: Being Native Woman in the Otomí-Tepehua Region, Hidalgo (Acercamiento histórico; ser mujer indígena en la Región Otomí Tepehua, Hidalgo)”. The last contribution by Luis Francisco Rivero Zambrano from the National Polytechnic Institute of Mexico focused on the same region, specifically on the impact of globalization on the carnival. His presentation “El carnaval en la región Otomí-Tepehua en el Estado de Hidalgo. Diversidad cultural y globalización (Carnival in the Otomí-Tepehua Region in the State of Hidalgo: Culture Diversity and Globalization)” closed not only Section 3 but also the first day of the conference.

The following day the participants gathered in the morning in the Czech language section chaired by Tomáš Boukal (Section 4) which started with a presentation by Monika Brenišínová from Charles University on “The Walls that Talk: the Street Art of Bogotá (Stěny, které mluví: pouliční umění Bogoty)”. Then Jana Jetmarová from the Technical University of Liberec in her speech “Ani rovnost, ani rozdílnost: komunita! Antipatriarchální komunitní feminismus v Bolívii (Neither Equality nor Difference: Community! Anti-patriarchal Community Feminism in Bolivia)” unfolded the social issues sketched by the former speaker. She was followed by Marek Halbich from Charles University who offered a “Brief Report of Preliminary Research in Sierra Tarahumara in 2021 (Sierra Tarahumara v roce 2021: Stručná zpráva z předvýzkumu)”. The morning section ended with a contribution from Peter Vyšný from Trnava University named “Predhispánská nahuaská rodinná domácnost’ a Lévi-Straussov koncept domu (The Pre-Hispanic Nahua Household and the Lévi-Strauss House Concept)”.

The afternoon program was divided into two simultaneous panels (Section 5 and 6) according

to the research areas. The Mexican one (section 5) consisted of four speakers, starting with John Chuchiak from Missouri State University and his contribution “‘Itz en caan, itz en muyal’: Offerings to the Primordial Lord and Lady of the Heavens – Colonial Yucatec Maya Rituals to the Sky Deities Itzamna and Ix Chebel Yax”. Then Maria Felicia Rega from Comenius University Bratislava and Sapienza University of Rome shared her results on “Playing on the frontiers: analysing the distribution of ballcourts along regional borders in Peten through GIS”. Michelle Leisky from Charles University presented her research on “Danza Azteca and the Movement of Mexicanidad (Danza Azteca y la Mexicanidad)”. Section 5 concluded with the contribution of Raquel Barceló Quintal from the Autonomous University of the State of Hidalgo.

Section 6, chaired by Martin Heřmanský, opened with a presentation by Lucie Kýrová from Charles University called “An ‘Indian Think Tank’: Native American Transnationalism and Intellectual Sovereignty”. She was followed by György Tóth from the University of Stirling with his contribution “The Politics of Allyship in Scholarship and Praxis”. The last speaker Jan Ullrich from The Language Conservancy concluded the conference with his contribution entitled “It is All About Aspiration. What motivates and informs attitudes toward orthographic choices and other aspects of Lakota language revitalization?”.

The conference program was exciting in its wide ranging and multidisciplinary content. The *Search for Indian America 5* offered a unique opportunity to meet and learn from fellow researchers, academics, and scholars, to share recent research, and to answer questions and doubts in a friendly atmosphere. A sincere thank you to the organizing committee for creating such an inspiring event and platform for not only Czech and Slovak Americanists. I returned from the conference with new ideas, approaches, and energy for my future work. *Search for Indian America* is an event that is not to be missed.

by Michelle Leisky, Prague
(Written in English by the author)