



FACULTY OF ARTS
Charles University



Institute for the Study
of Strategic Region
Charles University



EVROPSKÁ UNIE
Evropské strukturální a investiční fondy
OP Výzkum, vývoj a vzdělávání



Communist Europe and the Caribbean during the Cold War: Diplomacy, Espionage, Migrations and Other Forms of Mutual Engagement.

Workshop venue: Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

Date: September 25, 2019

Deadline for submitting proposals: June 30, 2019

The Caribbean, in its broader meaning, including Mexico, Central America, and Venezuela, had been one of the Cold War hot spots, even before the Cuban Revolution toppled Batista's dictatorship. Even the smaller communist countries were not absent from it. Already during the coup against Arbenz's government in 1954, arms sold by Czechoslovakia were used as an excuse to topple his regime. After the Cuban revolution and during a long list of crises (Cuban Missile Crisis, Venezuelan guerrilla experience, Jagan's rule in Guyana, Manley's "socialist" government in Jamaica, armed conflicts in Central America, Nicaraguan Revolution, or Grenadan imbroglio), both the alleged communist threat and real activities of European socialist countries, together with the US Cold War paranoia, converted Caribbean into an ardently disputed area.

At the same time, other aspects of mutual relations between the two regions also flourished. Cuban ties to the Eastern bloc were more than close, and the Nicaraguan revolution brought another country into the COMECON's sphere. Many Caribbean intellectuals, artists, and activists either visited or lived in socialist countries. Refugees from Hungary found their exile in the Dominican Republic etc.

All these topics deserve a deep, complex, detailed and original historical research, which has not been done so far. **The main purpose of the conference is to gather specialist from different countries who are working/are willing to work on a collaborative monograph that will be published from the papers whose outlines and plans will be first discussed at the workshop.**

The working language of the workshop/chapters will be English.

Call for papers:

As we have mentioned, the main purpose of the conference is to publish a book based on the paper/chapter proposals that will be discussed at the workshop. We thus invite all scholars dealing with the mutual relations between the Caribbean and Eastern Europe, who are willing to publish in their pieces, to participate in the workshop with their papers. **The organizers will accept only original and unpublished research, based either on archival research or on other original sources (interviews, newspapers, memoirs etc.).**

The workshop will serve as a coordination meeting for those selected for the collective monograph **that will be sent to some prestigious international publisher. We expect to discuss there the first fruits of the investigation, agree on the structure of the book, and arrange the next meeting.**

Guidelines for submission:

The deadline for submitting chapter proposals (in English) is June 30, 2019. Successful applicants will be notified by July 31, 2019.

Submissions should include:

1. the name of the applicant, institutional affiliation, postal and email address, a brief professional CV;
2. title and outline of the chapter (at least 1500 characters).
3. the sources that will be used by the author.

Proposals and inquiries should be emailed to radek.buben@ff.cuni.cz.

Organizers: Center for Ibero-American Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University; and Institute for the Study of Strategic Regions, Charles University.