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## Call for Papers: Historie – Otázky – Problémy (1/2023)

### Scientific thinking about man and his behavior in communist Czechoslovakia and Central Eastern Europe

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“The soul, stripped of its supersensible, supposedly unknowable qualities, found itself in the laboratory of scientists.” In this sentence from the publication *The Mysteries of Mental Life* (1959), psychiatrist Ivan Horvai pointed to the new role of psychiatry in Czechoslovakia, which was to take an active part in building a socialist society. Psychiatric education, proclaimedly based on the teachings of I. P. Pavlov, was to lead to the “liberation” of the people from various superstitions and beliefs. As contemporary literature points out, not only psychiatry, but also other sciences of man such as pedagogy, psychology, penology, biology, and the humanities began to play an important role in various aspects of communist rule and people’s everyday lives: from the family, to the prison, the school, or the workplace.

Contemporary historiography on the history of expert knowledge in communist countries presents a wide variety of topics and approaches. Their common denominator is the attempt to understand the role of scientists, doctors, and experts in the broader political and social context of state socialist establishments. Drawing inspiration from French philosophy and new cultural history, particular attention is paid to the influence of scientific thinking on the ways in which socialist societies are managed or the formation of the “new socialist man”. Thus, with this thematic issue, we would like to build on this developing debate and address



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all authors with different disciplinary backgrounds who focus on the role of scientific thinking about man and his behavior in Czechoslovakia and Central Eastern Europe after 1948. In particular, we are concerned with the following thematic areas:

- the influence of scientific thinking about man on Communist Party policy and the management of society
- the contents, roles, and actors (circulation) of professional knowledge about man – psychology, psychiatry, (special) pedagogy and defectology, hygiene, medicine, biology, etc.
- images of the “new socialist man” in media, culture and science
- the medicalization of criminal behavior and the role of expert knowledge in state repressive policy
- the content and role of the categories of gender and ethnicity
- the Roma as an object of scientific thought
- comparative and transnational histories of expert knowledge about man