

## Jindřich Toman

Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures  
3218 Modern Languages Building  
ptydepe@umich.edu

### Affiliation

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan

#### Associate Member:

Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Michigan  
Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan

### Brief Profile

Trained in Czechoslovakia, Germany and USA, Jindřich Toman follows an academic path defined by languages, literatures and cultures of Central and Eastern Europe. In the 1970s and 1980s he focused on linguistics, with a special emphasis on Czech and German (see his dissertation *Wortsyntax*, Tübingen: Niemeyer 1983; 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1987), as well as the history of linguistics in Central and Eastern Europe (see his *The Magic of a Common Language: Mathesius, Jakobson, Trubetzkoy and the Prague Linguistic Circle*, MIT Press 1995).

His subsequent research has addressed interfaces of visual culture and cultural history, with topics including Central European avant-gardes and modernist book design (see his monographs *Czech Cubism and the Book*, 2004, and *Photo/Montage in Print*, Prague 2009). He also co-curated the exhibition of the Czech-Jewish Surrealist Jindřich Heisler at the Art Institute of Chicago in 2012 (J. Toman & M. Witkovsky, eds., *Surrealism under Pressure*, Yale UP and Art Institute of Chicago 2012) and an exhibition of interwar Czech design (J. Toman and Z. Sylvestrová, eds., *Horizonty modernismu*, Brno: Moravská galerie, 2015).

A concurrent research area has been the history of Bohemian Jews, see his studies on the Golem legend (Toman 2009a), nineteenth-century Czech anti-Semitism (Toman 2011b, d; Frankl and Toman, eds., 2013), and the Prague Jewish Cemetery (2012a). He also initiated the translation of the Holocaust prose *Colors* by Jirí Weil into English.

His teaching focuses on literary and cultural studies, including undergraduate courses "Arts and Cultures of Central Europe" (Slavic 225), "Jewish Prague" (Slavic 290), "Modern Czech Literature" (Czech 484) and "Visual Culture of the USSR" (Slavic 470).

Service includes chairing the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures through 1995-98, 1999-2000, and 2001-2004; interim chair W 2015.

During his academic career he has been the recipient of several major awards, including the Alexander-von-Humboldt Research Prize (*A.-v.-Humboldt Forschungspreis*), 2010/2011, and Michigan Humanities Award, W 2017.

### Degrees

MA                      Germanic and Slavic Philology, Universität Freiburg, 1972  
dr. phil.                Germanic and Slavic Philology, Universität Köln, 1981

### Theses

MA Thesis:        *Hugo Ball und der Dadaismus in Zürich*. Universität Freiburg, 1972.

Doctoral dissertation: *Beiträge zur Wortsyntax: Eine Diskussion ausgewählter Probleme deutscher Wortbildung*. Universität Köln, 1980. (Tübingen: Niemeyer, 1983; second, enlarged ed. 1987)

### Languages

Czech (native); German (semi-native); English, Russian

### Positions Held in the US

2005- Frankel Center for Judaic Studies (associate member)  
1995- Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures, U of Michigan  
1990-95 Associate Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures, U of Michigan  
1987- Center for Russian and East European Studies (associate member)  
1987-90 Assistant Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures, U of Michigan

### Major Awards

2017 Michigan Humanities Award, Winter 2017  
2014 Fellow, Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, Fall 2014  
2010/11 Alexander-von-Humboldt Research Prize (12 months)  
2007 Center of Russian and East European Studies, U of Michigan: Ronald and Eileen Weiser Professional Development Award, Slovakia, May-July 2007 (3 months)  
1998/89 IREX Individual Research Grant, Czech Republic (9 months)

### RESEARCH

**Current Research Areas**—Central European modernism; history of the modern book; Bohemian Jewish history

### TEACHING

#### Courses Taught—Current:

**Slavic 290**—Jewish Prague

**Slavic 290**—Karel Capek: A Path to Nazi-Resistance

**Slavic 470**—Culture of Eastern Europe: Visual Culture of the USSR

**Czech 484**—Modern Czech Literature

### SERVICE

#### Service—University of Michigan

Admissions Committee, Dept. of Slavic Langs. and Lits., member (repeatedly)

Center for Russian and East European Studies, executive committee (member, 1995-2004)

Chair, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures (1995-98; 1999-2000; 2001-2004; interim 2015)

Executive Committee, Dept. of Slavic Langs. and Lits., member (repeatedly)

Graduate advisor in Slavic linguistics (repeatedly)

University of Michigan Senate Assembly, substituting member (1993)

## Jindřich Toman: Selected Publications

### Authored Books

- 2009** *Foto/montáž tiskem - Photo/Montage in Print*. Praha: Kant (The Modern Czech Book, 2), 380 pp.
- 2004** *Kniha v českém kubismu / Czech Cubism and the Book*. Praha: Kant (The Modern Czech Book, 1), 206 pp.
- 1995** *The Magic of a Common Language—Mathesius, Jakobson, Trubetzkoy and the Prague Linguistic Circle*. Cambridge: MIT Press. 355 pp. (Translated into the Czech as *Příběh jednoho moderního projektu: Pražský lingvistický kroužek, 1926-1948*. Praha: Karolinum, 2011.)
- 1983** *Wortsyntax: Eine Diskussion ausgewählter Probleme deutscher Wortbildung*. Tübingen: Niemeyer.
- *Wortsyntax: [...] 2., erweiterte Auflage [second, expanded edition]*. Tübingen: Niemeyer. 1987.

### Authored Books in Preparation

- in prep.** *Projects and Conflicts: Bohemia's Jews and Their Nineteenth-century*. (Currently 350 pages; to be completed in Summer 2018)
- in prep.** *Languages of Simplicity: Abstraction and Functionalism in Print, Czechoslovakia 1920s-1930s*. (Currently 150 pages; to be completed in Summer 2019)

### Edited Books

- 2017** *Angažovaná čítanka Romana Jakobsona: Články, recenze, polemiky – 1920-1945 a Moudrost starých Čechů*. [Roman Jakobson's Engaged Reader: Articles, Reviews, Polemics, 1920-1945]. Praha: Karolinum.
- 2015** [With Marta Sylvestrová] *Horizonty modernismu: Zdeněk Rossmann* [Horizons of Modernism: Zdeněk Rossmann]. Brno: Moravská galerie. 256 pp.
- 2014** *Roman Jakobson: Selected Writings*, vol. 9.2, *Uncollected Works, 1934-1943*. Berlin: de Gruyter.
- 2013a** *Roman Jakobson: Selected Writings*, vol. 9.1, *Uncollected Works, 1916-1933*. Berlin: de Gruyter.
- 2013b** [With Michal Frankl] *Jan Neruda a Židé: Texty a kontexty* [Jan Neruda and Jews: Texts and Contexts]. Praha: Akropolis.
- 2012** [With Matthew Witkovsky] *Surrealism under Pressure: Jindřich Heisler, 1938-1953*. Chicago: Art Institute and New Haven: Yale UP.

## Recent Articles and Book Chapters

- 2017a** Lingvistova cesta na veřejnost [A Linguist's Road to the Public]. In *Angažovaná čítanka Romana Jakobsona*, ed. J. Toman, Praha: Karolinum, 253-283.
- 2017b** Happiness in Zlín. *Slavic Scene* 24, Fall/Winter 2017, 4-5.
- 2017c** Permanent Synthesis: László Moholy Nagy's Idea of a Synthetic Journal. In Gábor Dobó – Merse Pál Szeredi (eds.), *Local Contexts / International Networks – Avant-Garde Journals in East-Central Europe*, Budapest: Kassák Foundation (to appear in 2017).
- 
- 2016a** Conversational Modernism: Turning Czech Men into Gentlemen by Way of *The Gentleman*. *Central Europe* (London). 13(1/2): 19-35.
- 2016b** Böhmisches Juden als böhmische Juden: Literarische Zeugnisse der 30er und 40er Jahre des 19. Jhs. To appear in *Brücken*.
- 2016c** More on Gas Masks, *Modernism/Modernity: Print Plus Platform*, March 2, 2016.
- 
- 2015a** Exemplary Modernism: Zdeněk Rossmann's New Typography, 1925-1943. In *Maszyna do komunikacji: Wokół awangardowej idei nowej typografii*, ed. by Paulina Kurc-Maj and Daniel Muzyczuk, Łódź: Muzeum sztuki, pp. 385-418.
- 2015b** From the Imperial to the Local. *Jews and Empires: Frankel Institute Annual 2015*, 19-21.
- 2015c** Zdeněk Rossmann a jeho čtení modernismu. In *Sylvestrová & Toman (2015)*, 16-24.
- 2015d** Zdeněk Rossmann a proměny nové typografie (1925–1943). In *Sylvestrová & Toman (2015)*, 61-89.
- 2015e** Epilogy. In *Sylvestrová & Toman (2015)*, 192-199.
- 
- 2013a** Fake Fragments, Fake Ruins, and Genuine Paper Ruination. In *The Inhabited Ruins of Central Europe: Re-imagining Space, History and Memory*, ed. by Dariusz Gafijczuk and Derek Sayer. London: Routledge, 134-147.
- 2013b** Stín antisemitismu: Židé podle Jana Nerudy. In *Frankl & Toman (2013)*, 29-55.
- 
- 2012a** Making sense of a ruin: Nineteenth-Century Gentile Images of the Old Jewish Cemetery in Prague. *Bohemia* (München) 53, 108-122.
- 2012b** The Hope of Fire, the Freedom of Dreams: Jindřich Heisler in Prague and Paris, 1938-1953. In *Surrealism under Pressure: Jindřich Heisler, 1938-1953*, ed. by Jindřich Toman and Matthew Witkovsky, Chicago: Art Institute and New Haven: Yale UP, pp. 11-21.

## Reviews

- 2016** Vendula Hnídková, *Národní styl: kultura a politika*. Praha: Vysoká škola uměleckoprůmyslová, 2013. *Central Europe* 14, 2016, 76-77.
- 
- 2015** Petr A. Bílek, Josef Vojvodík, and Jan Wiendl (eds.), *A Glossary of Catchwords of the Czech Avant-Garde: Conceptions of Aesthetics and the Changing Faces of Art, 1908-1958*. Translated by David Short. Prague: Charles University and TOGGA Publishers, 2012. *Central Europe* (London). 13(1/2): 117-118.

## Presentations 2009-2017

- 2017 Photomontage and the 1930s: Boris Klinch;  
Soviet Photomontage workshop, Harriman Institute, Columbia University, March 26, 2017

- 
- 2016a** Roman Jakobson as a Public Intellectual; Charles University, Prague, Oct. 2016
- 2016b** Photomontage in the USSR; photomontage panel, The Art Institute of Chicago, Oct. 20, 2016
- 2016** Photopoetry: Photography in Avant-Garde Poetry Books -- Fictional Photography, photomontage, Generic Photography, Collustration; conference presentation, European Network for Avant-garde and Modernism Studies (EAM) Conference, June 2016, Rennes (France)
- 2016** Periodicals as a Site of Modernity: Moholy-Nagy's Idea of a Synthetic Magazine; Conference: Periodical Counter Cultures: Tradition, Conformity, and Dissent (European Society for Periodical Research); John Moores University, Liverpool, July 2016,
- 2016** Dada in Prague—and Beyond; Conference: Dada-Techniques in East-Central Europe, 1916-1930. Hungarian Academy of Sciences/Kassák Múzeum, Budapest, October 2016.
- 2016** Bodies, Brains, and Tools: Visual Tropes of Labor in the Soviet 1930s; panel presentation, ASEES, November 2016.
- 2016** Profane Illuminations: An International Glimpse into the Historical Avantgardes; Avantgarde working group, University of Michigan, March 8, 2016, invited panelist.
- 2016** Soviet Constructivist Posters, panel, Feb. 12, 2016, UM Museum of Art, invited panelist.
- 
- 2015a** Böhmsche Juden als böhmische Juden: Literarische Zeugnisse der 30er und 40er Jahre des 19. Jhs. Conference presentation. Prager Figurationen jüdischer Moderne, Tübingen, Feb. 15, 2015.
- 2015b** Moholy Nagy's Vision of a Synthetic Magazine. Conference presentation. Local contexts / International Networks: Avant-Garde Magazines in Central Europe (1910–1930), International conference 17-18. September 2015, Kassák Museum, Budapest.
- 
- 2014a** Propaganda vs. Damage Containment: Hippler's *Eternal Jew* and the 1944/45 Terezín Film. Conference presentation. Films from Ghettos and Camps: Propaganda-Clandestine Messages-Historical sources. Terezín, Sept 14, 2014
- 2014b** Exemplary Modernism: Zdenek Rossmann. Conference presentation. A Machine for Communicating: Around the Avant-garde Idea of New Typography, Lodz, Oct. 14, 2014.
- 2014c** Multiple Targets: Czech Holocaust Films of the 1960s. Panel presentation. ASEES Annual Convention, San Antonio, Nov. 14, 2014.
- 
- 2013** Images, Colors, Typography: The Path from *The Disc* (Disk) to *The Reel* (Pásmo). ASEES Annual Convention, Boston, Nov. 24, 2014.
- 
- 2012a** Surrealism Under Pressure: Jindrich Heisler's Photo Works from 1940-1945. ASEES Convention, New Orleans, Nov. 2013. Panel presentation.
- 2012b** Roman Jakobson's Reading of Bohemian Jews. Roman Jakobson Conference, University of Olomouc, Dec. 2012. Conference presentation.
- 2012c** Jak Nezval rozpustil surrealistickou skupinu a jak si surrealisté stěžovali. Conference Neviditelný Nezval, Masaryk University, Brno, June 20–22, 2012. Conference presentation.
- 
- 2011a** Schwierig ist der Stand Juden... Universität Regensburg, May 2011. (Alexander-von-Humboldt Lecture)
- 2011b** Making Sense of a Ruin: Images of the Old Jewish Cemetery in Prague. Aarhus University, Denmark. June 2011. Invited lecture.

- 2011c** The Hope of Fire, the Freedom of Dream: Jindřich Heislner in Prague and Paris, 1938-1953. Symposium New Formations: Change and Continuity in Czech Avant-Garde Art. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, November 5, 2011. Invited lecture.
- 2011d** Making Sense of a Ruin: Images of the Old Jewish Cemetery in Prague. Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan. October 2011. Invited lecture.
- 2011e** From Mass Printing to Private Scissoring: Karel Teige's Photomontage Praxis. ASEEEES Convention, Washington, D.C., Nov. 20, 2011.
- 
- 2010a** Ladislav Sutnar. Art Institute of Chicago. Invited lecture.
- 2010b** Prague: Sometimes Magic, Sometimes Not. Invited lecture. University of Lisbon, Nov. 3, 2010
- 2010c** Bez obojživelníků. Colloquium on Jan Neruda and Jews. Prague: Inst. for Czech Literature and Jewish Museum, Prague. Oct. 2010
- 2010d** Image Inflation. Conference presentation. ASEEEES, Los Angeles
- 2010e** Photopoetry and Issues of Reference. Conference presentation. ASEEEES, Los Angeles
- 
- 2009a** Renarrating Maharal in Nineteenth-Century Bohemia. *Maharal of Prague: Four Hundred Years Since his Death*. Jerusalem. August 2009. Conference talk.
- 2009b** Memory Has Agendas: Early Representations of the Old Jewish Cemetery in Prague. Conference talk. *American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies*, 2009, Boston.
- 2009c** Weil's Return. Association for Jewish Studies, Los Angeles, Dec. 2009.

Updated January 3, 2018