

## Jindřich Toman

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### Affiliation

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan  
Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan (courtesy appointment)

### Associate Member:

Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Michigan

### Brief Profile

Trained in Czechoslovakia, Germany and USA, Jindřich Toman follows an academic path defined by languages and cultures of Central and Eastern Europe. In the 1970s and 1980s he focused on linguistics, with special emphasis on Czech and German (see his dissertation *Wortsyntax*, Tübingen: Niemeyer 1983; 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1987), as well as on 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 been addressing interfaces of visual culture and cultural history, with topics including Central European avant-gardes and modernist book design (cf. his *Photo/Montage in Print*, Prague 2009). He also co-curated the exhibition of the Czech Surrealist Jindřich Heisler at the Art Institute of Chicago in 2012 (see J. Toman & M. Witkovsky, eds., *Surrealism under Pressure*, Yale UP and Art Institute of Chicago 2012) and an exhibition of interwar Czech design (see 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 Jiří Weil into English.

His teaching focuses on literary and cultural studies, including undergraduate courses "Prague: The Magic City" (Slavic 150), "Arts and Cultures of Central Europe" (Slavic 225), "Modern Czech Literature" (Czech 484) and "Visual Culture of the USSR" (Slavic 470).

Service includes chairing the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures through 1995-2000, 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.

### Degrees

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|-----------|---|
| 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 (assoc. member; courtesy appointment 2019)  
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, W 2017  
2014 Fellow, Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, Fall 2014  
2010/11 Alexander-von-Humboldt Research Prize  
2007 Center of Russian and East European Studies, U of Michigan: Ronald and Eileen Weiser Professional Development Award, Slovakia  
1998/89 IREX Individual Research Grant, Czech Republic

## RESEARCH

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

## TEACHING

### Courses Taught:

**Slavic 150**—Prague: The Magic City  
**Slavic 225**—Arts and Cultures of Central Europe  
**Slavic 290**—Karel Capek: A Path to Nazi-Resistance  
**Slavic 290**—Jewish Prague  
**Slavic 470**—Culture of Eastern Europe: Visual Culture of the USSR  
**Slavic 470**—Culture of Eastern Europe: Avant-gardes East and West  
**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, member (1993)

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

*Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics* – series editor  
*Central Europe* (London) - Advisory editorial board

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