



**MASARYK UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGIONS**

## **Call for applications: Ph.D. study of religious dissent and its repression in medieval Christianity**

I am in search of motivated students from all over the world who are interested in **dissident movements in medieval Christianity and/or their conceptualization and repression** and who would like to pursue their studies in order to obtain a **Ph.D. degree** in the Study of Religions.

### **What my department can offer:**

- A four-year Ph.D. programme in English, awarded with an **internationally recognized Ph.D. degree**.
- **Dedicated individual supervision** contributing to the success of your studies and maximizing your opportunities in the job market.
- The infrastructure of a **well-established department connected to many different professional networks**.
- A scholarship of **7,000 CZK net** per month, which would cover approximately 50 % of monthly living expenses in Brno (if you live in a private flat). You receive this scholarship **automatically** in our full-time Ph.D. programme.
- An **excellent location in the heart of Europe**. The city of Brno, Czech Republic, is a pleasant, safe and vibrant place to live, living expenses are very reasonable, and the city is only at two hours from Vienna (Austria) and two-and-a-half hours from Prague (Czech Republic).
- One of the **finest book collections worldwide** focused on **heresy in Europe and the inquisition**.
- A **minimum of 400 € per year for books** of your choice, plus **travel grants** covering the costs of participation at conferences.
- A **dedicated team of students**, both undergraduate and graduate, working on related topics.

### **What we expect:**

- An **M.A. degree** or equivalent in the study of religions, history, cultural history, paleography, anthropology, sociology, cultural studies, or a related field.

- Fair **English-language writing skills** and fluency in the major **languages of the sources and literature** relevant to your field.
- Some awareness of the **state of research** in your field of interest.
- **Dedication** to the topic.

## Topics for doctoral projects

I am happy to consider preliminary proposals for research projects in **any relevant area and based on any approach or method**. I have been working mostly on Catharism, Waldensianism, individual religiosity, inquisitional records, and anti-heretical writing. In my emerging team, I would like to transcend the division between Western and Eastern Christianity. Therefore, projects on **religious dissent in Slavic and Greek language** areas are just as welcome as projects from the area of **Latin Christianity**, a field in which I have predominantly been working myself.

I am especially interested in supervising doctoral projects based on **social scientific research** into dissident movements and into discourses on heresy, on **historical anthropology**, on the constitution of **historical databases**, on the methods of **digital humanities**. However, I am also interested in supervising doctoral projects on **more traditional historical approaches and questions**, including but not limited to **critical editions of sources**.

## Practicalities

The **deadlines** for Ph.D. applications are the **30 April** (for studies beginning in mid-September) and the **30 November** (for studies beginning in mid-February).

More information on how to apply can be found at <http://www.phil.muni.cz/relig/phd.php>, more information about the department at <http://www.phil.muni.cz/relig/indexen.php> and <http://www.phil.muni.cz/relig/flyer.pdf>, and more information about myself at <http://www.david-zbiral.cz>.

You can contact me at [david.zbiral@mail.muni.cz](mailto:david.zbiral@mail.muni.cz) to discuss your idea or to ask any questions. I am looking forward to collaborating with you.

With all best wishes,

David Zbiral

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