

## **BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER: CONFLICTS OVER ARTISTIC RESTORATION OF PUBLIC SPACES**

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14 January 2025, 17:00-18:30

Faculty of Social Sciences, Hollar building, room No. 212 & online (registration and online access [here](#))

### **Abstract:**

Can beauty provoke conflict? How do local communities react to initiatives aimed at restoring public spaces with the use of artistic means? Are controversies emanating from such efforts avoidable through the process of public participation? How do images of human bodies connect with the theme of a fragile body in the city?

The workshop “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder: conflicts over artistic restoration of public spaces” will discuss the aforementioned and related questions. Using the controversy over the artistic renovation of the underpass near the Faculty of Social Sciences’ Jinonice mini-campus as a starting point, it will connect it to the issues tackled by the project “**The recognition of the fragile body in the city: an interdisciplinary perspective on European fundamental values (REBO)**”, run in cooperation between Charles University, University of Geneva and University of Copenhagen with the support of the 4EU+ European University Alliance.

### **Workshop programme:**

The workshop will commence with an introductory statement by **Tomáš Karásek**, dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, who will outline its dominant themes and relate them to the overarching topic of the 4EU+ project.

The first discussant will provide an intimate view of the case-study to which the workshop is related. **Klára Hamsíková** will represent the initiative PRAHO! Project which was founded with the aim of “restoring humanity in the city” through artistic means, including poetry, posters, billboards or art installations. As the creator of the renovative intervention in the Jinonice underpass, it is uniquely well suited to reflect on the promises and challenges of artistic restoration of public places.

The second discussant, **Eva Němečková**, is a graduate of Urban Studies at Vrije Universiteit Brussel and a public participation specialist. Working for the city district Prague 7 and cooperating with the renowned Prague Institute of Planning and Development (IPR Prague), she has accumulated valuable expertise in how the local communities perceive artistic and other interventions in public spaces and how public participation can manage and avoid possible conflicts arising from such initiatives.

The presentations by the panel discussants will be followed by a **Q&A session** that will allow all workshop participants to raise their questions and voice their opinions on the subject matter.

We are looking forward to your participation!