

# **Mgr. Pavel Horák, Ph.D.**

Curriculum Vitae

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## **CONTACT**

Institut für Religionswissenschaft Kath.-Theol. Fakultät, Universität Wien, Schenkenstraße 8-10, 1010 Wien, Austria

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## **EDUCATION**

2018 Study of Religions (Ph.D.): University of Pardubice, Czech Republic, Department for the Study of Religions.

Doctoral thesis: *Christian Concepts in Thought and Praxis of Contemporary Neo-Pagans*. Supervisor: Ass. Prof. Martin Fárek, Ph.D.

2013 Study of Religions (Mgr.) University of Pardubice, Department for the Study of Religions.

2011 Study of Religions (Bc.) University of Pardubice, Department for the Study of Religions.

## **Further training and courses**

2018 *Critical Thinking and Global Issues* (Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking method). 80 hours. 23 October 2017 - 14 May 2018. Accredited by Czech Ministry of Education and Sports: MSMT-25112/2016-1-734. NaZemi, z.s. Kounicova 42, Brno, Czech Republic.

## **PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

2023 Research fellow, Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Ethnology, Department of Critical Heritage Studies, Na Florenci 1420/3, 110 00 Prague 1, Czechia.

2023 Marie Skłodowska Curie Postdoctoral Fellow, Institut für Religionswissenschaft, Kath.-Theol. Fakultät, Universität Wien, Austria. (September 2023–February 2026).

2021 Junior Research fellow, Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Ethnology, Department of Critical Heritage Studies, Na Florenci 1420/3, 110 00 Prague 1, Czechia.

2019 Postdoctoral Researcher, Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Ethnology, Department of Critical Heritage Studies, Na Florenci 1420/3, 110 00 Prague 1, Czech Republic. (July 2019 – June 2021).

- 2019 Visiting Scholar, Centre for the History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents, Department of History, European Studies, & Religious Studies, University of Amsterdam (January - May).  
Researcher (Volunteer), The Ritman Library and Research Institute, Amsterdam (January - May).
- 2018 Intern, Research Centre Vergelijkende Cultuurwetenschap [Comparative Science of Cultures Research Centre] Ghent University, Belgium (October - December).
- 2016- External lecturer, Department for the Study of Religions, University of Pardubice, Czech Republic (October 2016 - June 2018).

## **RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS**

- 2024 Visiting researcher, *University of Texas, Austin*, Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies. (February)
- 2023 Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Postdoctoral Fellowship. "Occult Bohemia: Magic and Nationalism in Central Europe (OCCULT-NATION)" University of Vienna.
- 2023 **Otto Wichterle Award** (The Czech Academy of Sciences Prize for the best researchers under 35 years)
- 2023 Jan Hus Educational Foundation Stipendium
- 2022 Visiting researcher, *University of Cambridge*, Department of Social Anthropology. (February – June)
- 2021 Jan Patočka Junior Visiting Fellowship. *Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen*, Vienna, Austria. (October – December)
- 2019 *The Center for History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands*. Post-Graduate research internship with focus on intercultural research of magic. ERASMUS+ (January - May)
- 2018 (October - December) - *Department for the Comparative Science of Cultures, India Platform, Ghent University, Belgium*, and *SDM College, Karnataka, India*. Post-Graduate research internship in Comparative Science of Cultures Research Programme. ERASMUS+
- 2016 (February - June) - *Department for the Comparative Science of Cultures, India Platform, Ghent University, Belgium*. Study stay in Comparative Science of Cultures Research Programme. ERASMUS+ Programme.
- 2015 (March - April) - *University College Cork, Ireland; fieldwork*. Internal Grant Agency, Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, University of Pardubice.
- 2015 (October) - *Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Ljublanja, Slovenia*. (CEEPUS Programme).

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Monographs**

- 2024 *Návrat starých bohů: od falešného náboženství k modernímu pohanství*. [Return of the Old Gods: From a False Religion to Modern Paganism] Praha: Nakladatelství Lidové noviny, 520 p.

### **Edited volumes, special issues**

- 2024 **Pavel Horák** and Karolina Maria Kotkowska. Occultism and Politics in Central and Eastern Europe. Special issue of *The Polish Journal of the Arts and Culture. New Series*, 2023, 17 (1/2023). <https://ejournals.eu/en/journal/pjacns/issue/17-1-2023>

### **Articles**

- 2024 **Pavel Horák** and Karolina Maria Kotkowska. "Introduction: Studying the Complex Histories of the Occult and Politics in Central and Eastern Europe". *The Polish Journal of the Arts and Culture. New Series* 17 (1/2023). [doi.org/10.4467/24506249PJ.23.001.18994](https://doi.org/10.4467/24506249PJ.23.001.18994)
- 2023 **Pavel Horák**. "Universalism, the Society of Czechoslovak Hermeticists: Between Occult Universalism and Nationalism." *Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism*, 2023, vol. 23, no. 1, pp. 55–83. <https://doi.org/10.1163/15700593-02301004>
- 2023 **Pavel Horák**. "Translating Esotericism: Czech." *Correspondences: Journal for the Study of Esotericism*. Vol. 11, no. , pp. 59-65.
- 2022 **Pavel Horák**. "Discovering Slavic Mythology between East and West: Folklore Research and the Pagan Past in the Service of Nation-Building" *Folklore*, vol. 133, no. 4 (December), pp. 463-486. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0015587X.2022.2077562>
- 2022 **Pavel Horák**. "'If the Base Fundamentals Are Too Much for You...': Reconsidering the Existence of Doctrines in Modern Paganism" *Nova Religio: Journal of Emergent and Alternative Religions*, vol. 26, no. 2, pp. 30-45. <https://doi.org/10.1525/nr.2022.26.2.30>
- 2021 Fárek, Martin; **Horák, Pavel**. "Magic between Europe and India: On Mantras, Coercion of Gods, and the Limits of Current Debates" *Religions* 12, no. 2: 87. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel12020087>
- 2020 **Pavel Horák**. "Who is, and Who Is Not a Pagan? Struggles in Defining Contemporary Paganism". *The Pomegranate: International Journal of Pagan Studies*, vol. 22, no. 2. pp. 125–145. <https://doi.org/10.1558/pome.39673>
- 2017 **Pavel Horák**. "The Image of Paganism in the British Romanticism". *Pomegranate: The International Journal of Pagan Studies* vol. 19, no. 2. pp. 141-65. <https://doi.org/10.1558/pome.34524>.
- 2016 **Pavel Horák**. „The Image of Paganism in the Age of Reason: From Idolatry towards a Secular Concept of Polytheism". *Pomegranate: The International Journal of Pagan Studies* vol. 18, no. 2. pp. 125–49. doi:10.1558/pome.v18i2.31664.
- 2014 **Pavel Horák** "Vliv novodobého hermetismu na novopohanství," [An Influence of modern Hermeticism on Contemporary Paganism] *Theologická revue*, 2014, vol. 85, no. 3, pp. 384-400. ISSN: 1211-7617.
- 2013 **Pavel Horák** „Společenství Cesty Síly : Jediismus v České republice,“ [The Fellowship of the Force: Jediism in the Czech Republic] *Lidé města/Urban People*, 15, 1/2013, pp. 49–64.

### **Book chapters**

- 2017 “Keltské svátky: stare tradice nebo moderní invence?” [The Celtic Festivals: Ancient Traditions or a Modern Invention?] in: *Hradiště Hrádek u Libochovan. Výsledky archeologického nedestruktivního výzkumu (2013-2016)*. Jindřich Štefl - Radka Hentschová (eds.). Teplice: Regionální muzeum v Teplicích, 2017. s. 111-124. [in Czech]

### Reviews

- 2024 “Zuzana Marie Kosticová. Kosmické stromy a magické portály. Praha: Karolinum, 2023.” *Dějiny a současnost*. č. 3/2024, pp. 49.
- 2024 “Anagažované dějiny moderního pohanství. ”*Dingir*. roč. 27, č. 1, pp. 35.
- 2022 “Kristýna Bernardová, Nacisus a okultismus v protektorátu: osudy Jiřího Arvéda Smíchovského a Jana Kefera. Masarykova univerzita, Brno 2019, 201 s.- ” *Český lid/The Czech Ethnological Journal*, vol. 109, no. 2, pp. 537-539.
- 2020 “Jan Reichstätter, Předkřesťanské náboženství severních Indoevropanů. Tradice Keltů, Germánů a Baltů v kritické perspektivě humanitních věd. Masarykova univerzita, Brno 2019, 201 s.-” *Český lid/The Czech Ethnological Journal*, vol. 107, no. 4, pp. 537-539.
- 2020 “Emily Lyle (ed.). Emily Lyle (ed.). Celtic Myth in the 21st Century: The Gods and Their Stories in a Global Perspective, New Approaches to Celtic Religion and Mythology, volume 2. Cardiff: Gwasg Prifysgol Cymru/University of Wales Press, 2018” *Pantheon: Journal for the Study of Religions*, vol. 13, no. 2, pp. 116-119.
- 2020 “Dva příspěvky Jiřího Dyndy ke studiu tradic starých Slovanů: Slovanské pohanství ve středověkých latinských pramenech; Slovanské pohanství ve středověkých ruských kázáních.” *Český lid/The Czech Ethnological Journal*, vol. 107, no. 1, pp. 107-109.
- 2019 “Katja Ritari and Alexandra Bergholm (eds.). Understanding Celtic Religion: Revisiting the Pagan Past, New Approaches to Celtic Religion and Mythology, volume 1.” *Pantheon: Journal for the Study of Religions*, vol. 13, no. 1, pp. 76-80.
- 2019 “David Frankfurter (ed.), *Guide to the study of Ancient Magic*. Leiden: Brill, 2019” *Religious Studies Review*, vol 45, no. 4, pp. 524-525.
- 2019 “Dylan Michael Burns and Almut-Barbara Renger (eds.), *New Antiquities: Transformations of Ancient Religion in the New Age and Beyond*: Sheffield and Bristol: Equinox, 2019.” *Religious Studies Review*, vol 45, no. 3, pp. 399-400.
- 2019 “Michael York, *Pagan Mysticism: Paganism as a World Religion*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2019.” *Religious Studies Review*, vol 45, no. 3, pp. 399-400.
- 2019 “Jeniffer Snook, *American Heathens: The Politics of Identity in a Pagan Religious Movement*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2015.” *Religious Studies Review* vol 45, no. 3, pp. 399
- 2019 “Jefferson Callico, *Being Viking: Heathenism in Contemporary America*. Contemporary and Historical Paganism, 1. Sheffield, UK and Bristol, CT: Equinox Publishing, 2018.” *Religious Studies Review*. vol. 45, no. 2, pp. 233.
- 2017 “Daniel Dubuisson, *Religion and Magic in Western Culture*. Supplements to Method & Theory in the Study of Religion, volume 6. Leiden - New York: Brill, 2016.” *Pantheon: Journal for the Study of Religions*. vol. 12, no. 2. pp. 82-85.
- 2017 “Rountree, Kathryn (ed.). Contemporary Pagan and Native Faith Movements in Europe Colonialist and Nationalist Impulses. EASA Series, Volume 26,” *Pantheon: Journal for the Study of Religions*, vol. 12, no. 1. pp. 73 - 76.

- 2014 „Osvícení v tradici gnosticko-teosofických a alchymicko-rosenkruciánských tajných společností do konce 18. století (Karl R. H. Frick: *Die Erleuchtete*), *Pantheon: Journal for the Study of Religions*, 1/2014. pp. 228 - 230. [in Czech]
- 2013 „Astro-Psychology dealt in a Theological Way (Rudolf Starý: Correspondences),“ *Dingir*, no. 2, vol. 2013, pp. 68. [in Czech]
- 2011 „Mánavadharmaśāstra (Dušan Zbavitel: *Manu`s Code of Law*),“ *Sacra - rukověť religionisty*, no. 1, vol. 2011. pp. 90 – 93. [in Czech]

## **INVITED TALKS**

### **Invited lectures at Other Departments**

- 2024 “Orthodoxy and Otherness”. *Institute of Ethnology of the Serbian Academy of Sciences*, Belgrade, 7 May.
- 2024 “Slavic Paganism and Nation-building”. *Faculty of Philology, University of Serbia*, Prague. 7 May.
- 2019 “Role of Paganism in the European Intellectual History”. *Hussite Theological Faculty, Charles University*, Prague. 5 December 2019. [in Czech]
- 2019 “Paganism and Religions of the Others: English Deists and David Hume”. *University of Amsterdam, The Centre for the History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents*, The Netherlands, 12 March.
- 2015 “The Influence of Christianity on Neo-Paganism and the Study of Religions.” *University College Cork, Department for the Study of Religions*, Cork, Ireland, 25 March.
- 2015 “The Influence of Christianity on Neo-Paganism and the Study of Religions.”. *Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University*, Prague. 2 March. [in Czech]

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND SCIENCE POPULARISATION**

### **Science-Popularizing Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals in the Czech language**

- 2024 “Války o lidskou mysl. Parapsychologie: dějiny, kontext, kritika”, *Dingir*, 4/2014, s. 124-125.
- 2024 “Jesenické prameny jako téma pro Akademii věd ČR” *Naše město*, January. pp. 16.
- 2019 “Scholarly Research of Esotericism”, *Dingir*, 4/2019, s. 120-123.
- 2019 “Nature as Sanctuary: Contemporary Paganism”, *Dingir*, 2/2019, pp. 55 - 58. [in Czech]
- 2015 “Being a Pagan will be Normal soon: An Interview with prof. Ronald Hutton”, *Dingir*, 1/2015, pp. 28 - 30. [translated from English into Czech]
- 2015 “Study of Neo-Paganism”, *Dingir*, 1/2015, pp. 18 - 20. [in Czech]
- 2015 “Contemporary Czech Neo-Paganism”, *Dingir*, 1/2015, pp. 10 - 13. [in Czech]
- 2013 „Through the Zodiac towards Individuation: An Interview with Jungian Astro-psychologist Lenka Adamová,“ *Dingir*, no. 2, vol. 2013, pp. 62 – 64. [in Czech]
- 2012 „The Phenomena of Transformation 2012,“ *Dingir*, no. 3, vol. 2012, pp. 74 – 76. [in Czech]

### **Public Lectures, TV interviews, journal interviews, podcasts:**

- 2024 “Tajemné síly národa: okultismus a nacionalismus ve střední Evropě”. *Týden AV ČR*, 5 November, Institute of Ethnology, Prague.

- 2024 “Pohanství dnes: návrat ke kořenům nebo nová víra?”. *Týden AV ČR*, 5 November, Institute of Ethnology, Prague.
- 2024 Zuzana Kultánová: “Religionista Pavel Horák: Pohanství může být za půl století nový mainstream“ Interview in *Právo: Salon*, 31 October.
- 2024 “Paganism Lecture and Return of the Old Gods Book Presentation”. *Festival Lughanasad*, 26 July, Nasavrky.
- 2024 “Stará božstva se vracejí. Co hledají tisíce Čechů v pohanství?” Respekt. Podcast interview, [in Czech]
- 2024 “Nechtějí, aby jim někdo říkal, v co mají věřit, vysvětluje religionista vzestup pohanství” *Czech TV Interview*, 3 July
- 2023 “On Magic and Witchcraft as a New Paganism” The Czech Academy of Sciences PODCAST interview, [in Czech]
- 2021 “Rozhovor s Pavlem Horákem: Komerční rozměr Vánoc nikdy neustoupí. S religionistou o Kolu roku, slunovratu a Vánocích.“ *Sedmá generace*, 6/2021 (prosinec), pp. 73–77. [Environmentalism journal interview about my research, Christmas festivals, and modern Paganism]
- 2021 TV Interview: Czech Television, CT24: Události, komentáře: “České Velikonoce bez mýtů. O Velikonocích, pohanství starém i novém a taky o hodně diskutovaném zvyku – šlehání.“ [Czech Easter without Myths: On Easter and Paganism]. 1 April.
- 2019 “Paganism and European Understanding of Other Cultures”. *The Ritman Library - Embassy of the Free Mind*, 14 March, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- 2018 “Celtic Festivals” [in Czech]. *Festival Lughanasad*, 28 July, Nasavrky, Czech Republic.

## CONFERENCES

### Conferences organised

- 2022 *Critical Heritage Studies: Central European Perspectives*. Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences. Prague, Czech Republic, 6–7 October (together with Jiří Woitsch and Jaroslav Otčenášek).
- 2021 *The 4<sup>th</sup> CEENASWE Conference: Occultism and Politics in East-Central Europe*. Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Association for Social Anthropology in cooperation with European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism, The Central and Eastern European Network (CEENASWE). Prague, Czech Republic, 27–29 September (together with Karolína Maria Hess).
- 2020 “Nadpřirozené Československo: magie, okultismus a víra v nadpřirozeno v kontextu utváření moderního státu” [Supernatural Czechoslovakia: magic, occultism, and the supernatural beliefs in the context of modern state formation]. Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, and Czech Association for Social Anthropology, Český Krumlov, Czech Republic, 2–4 October (together with F. Herza and M. Slavková).
- 2020 “Locating Religion and Nonreligion in Eastern/Central Europe”. *V4Net Anthropologists Network*, Warsaw, Poland, 2–5 September (together with A. Halemba – main organiser, T. Podolinska and D. Henig).

### Panels organised

- 2023 Living with other-than-human beings in uncertain times: demons, spirits, apparitions in ethnographic and historical perspectives. *SIEF 2023: Living Uncertainty*, Brno, Czech Republic, 7–10 June. (together with Jiří Dynda and Jennifer Butler)
- 2022 “Capital Magic: Esoteric Narratives and Shaping the Capitals of East-Central Europe.” *8th Biannual Conference of the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE) Western Esotericism and Creativity: Art, Performance and Innovation*. University College Cork, Cork, Ireland, 5–7 July 2022.

### **Papers presented**

- 2024 “Sacred Sites and Secular Frames: Religion, Secularisation, and Heritage Processes Reconsidered.” *Religion, Cultural Heritage and the Idea of Europe*. Norwegian Institute, Athens, 29–30 October.
- 2024 “Occult dimensions of race and ethnicity: Slavic and German occultism in comparison” The 21st annual *EASR congress: Nature, Ecology, and Religious Responses to Climate Change*. University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden, 19–23 August.
- 2024 “Institutional mimicry of the heritage care in the Czech borderlands.” *7th Biennale Association of Critical Heritage Studies Conference*, Galway, Ireland, June 3-6.
- 2024 “Understanding Understanding Czechoslovak Nationalism through the Occult Lenses.” *The 23rd Annual Czech and Slovak Studies Workshop*. The University of Texas, Austin, 23–24 February.
- 2023 “‘Slovan a příroda to jako bratr a sestra’ Rodná víra a odkaz bádání 19. století” [Slav and Nature are like Brother and Sister: Native Faith and a Legacy of the Nineteenth-century Scholarship] *Slovanské pohanství v mezioborovém pohledu*. Slovanský ústav AV ČR, Praha, 22 November 2023. [in Czech]
- 2023 “It’s not good to anger the gods!”: Negotiating Celtic Heritage in Prague’s Sacred Wilderness” *The 20th EASR Conference: RELIGION & TECHNOLOGY*. Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania, 4–8 September
- 2022 “Critical Heritage Studies and Researching the Czech Borderlands” *Critical Heritage Studies: Central European Perspectives*. Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences. Prague, Czech Republic, 6–7 October (together with Filip Herza and Jiří Woitsch)
- 2022 “Narrating, Embodying, and Experiencing the Magical Prague.” *8th Biannual Conference of the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE) Western Esotericism and Creativity: Art, Performance and Innovation*. University College Cork, Cork, Ireland, 5–7 July 2022
- 2022 “Christianity and Paganism: On a Statue and its Shadow.” *Paganism and its Others*. Masaryk University, Brno, Czechia, 13-14 June 2022
- 2022 “Alternative Religions and a Future of Digital Societies.” *Anthropology, AI and the Future of Human Society. Virtual Conference*. The Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, 6-10 June.
- 2022 “Nature Worship: From Idolatry to Modern Paganism and Eco-Spirituality.” *The 12th International Conference on Religion & Spirituality in Society. Common Grounds Research Network*. University of Córdoba, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Córdoba, Spain. 9-10 June.
- 2021 “How to Magically Edify Nation: The Rise and Fall of Universalia, The Society of Czech Hermetics.” *EASR 2021 Conference: Resilient Religion*, Pisa, Italy, 30 August – 3 September.
- 2021 “‘Musíš mít nějakou víru, ať už je jakákoli!’ O údajné absenci víry a doktrín v současném novopohanství.” 6. bienální konference CASA 2021 (6th biennial conference of the Czech Association for the Social Anthropology). Prague, online – ZOOM. 17-18 April.

- 2020 “Between Paganism and Christianity: Czech Neopagans and Constructing Neopaganism under Christian Influences”. *Locating religion and nonreligion in Eastern/Central Europe: Conference of the Visegrád Anthropologists’ Network*. Konstancin-Jeziorna, Warsaw, Poland, 2–5 September.
- 2018 “European Neo-Pagan Movement: Diversity or Uniformity?”. *Diversity Management: Views from India and Europe*, SDM College, PG Centre, Ujire, Karnataka, India, 26 – 27 October.
- 2016 “Christian Heritage in Researching Neopaganism: On How Christian Questions became internal in Neopaganism and Pagan Studies.” *EASR 2016 Conference: Relocating Religion*, University of Helsinki, 28 June – 1 July.
- 2015 “We are Pagans...“: Self-reflection and the Influence of Christianity in the Czech and Irish Contemporary Paganism.” *XXI World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR)*, Erfurt, Germany, 23 – 29 August.
- 2014 “Changes in Neopaganism: On hidden Christian tendencies in contemporary Neopaganism”, *Religions: fields of research, methods and perspectives: International Krakow Study of Religions Symposium*, Kraków, 26 – 30 October.
- 2014 “Vliv moderního hermetismu na novopohanství“ *Hermetické nauky v české společnosti*, Hussite Theological Faculty, Charles University, Prague, 23 March 2014. [in Czech]

## TEACHING

### University of Vienna

2024 Introducing modern Paganism

### University of Pardubice

2017 – 2018 Selected Questions from the Western Esotericism (winter term)

2015 – 2018 Methods of fieldwork I, II, Anthropology of Religion I, II (winter + summer term)

2014 – 2018 Neo-Paganism (winter + summer term)

## STUDENTS SUPERVISION AND GUIDANCE

- 2018 Kristýna Žáčková, *The Influence of Rosicrucianism on the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn* (Bachelor Thesis). Department for the Study of Religions, University of Pardubice. Defended 28 August.
- 2017 Jiří Dusík, *The Notion of Slavic Mythology by Contemporary Czech Native Faith Followers* (Bachelor Thesis). Department for the Study of Religions, University of Pardubice. Defended 30 May 2017.
- 2016 Matouš Mokřý, *Contracultural works of Thursathru*. (Gymnasium student: Students’ Professional Activities). Awarded by the 1st prize in the National round, June 2016.

## MEMBERSHIP IN SCHOLARLY ORGANIZATIONS

SIEF – International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (since 2022)

ACHS – Association of Critical Heritage Studies (since 2022)

EASA – European Association of Social Anthropologists (since 2019)



CASA – Czech Association For Social Anthropology (since 2019)

CASR – Czech Association for the Study of Religions (since 2010)

ESSWE – The European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (since 2015)