

Jindřich Toman

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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; 2nd 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 (cf. his *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 (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 Jirí Weil into English.

His teaching focuses on literary and cultural studies, including undergraduate courses "Arts and Cultures of Central Europe" (Slavic 225), "Prague: The Magic City" (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.

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

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

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

TEACHING**Courses Taught—Current:**

Slavic 290—Prague: The Magic City (First-year Seminar)

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.)

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- 1983** *Wortsyntax: Eine Diskussion ausgewählter Probleme deutscher Wortbildung*. Tübingen: Niemeyer.
 • *Wortsyntax: [...] 2., erweiterte Auflage [Second, expanded edition]*. Tübingen: Niemeyer. 1987.

Edited Books

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- 2015** [With Marta Sylvestrová] *Horizonty modernismu: Zdeněk Rossmann, 1905-1984*. Brno: Moravská galerie. 256 pp.
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- 2014** *Roman Jakobson: Selected Writings*, vol. 9.2, *Uncollected Works, 1934-1943*. Berlin: de Gruyter.
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- 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*. Praha: Akropolis.
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- 2012** [With Matthew Witkovsky] *Surrealism under Pressure: Jindřich Heisler, 1938-1953*. Chicago: Art Institute and New Haven: Yale UP.

Recent Articles and Book Chapters

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- 2016a** Conversational Modernism: Turning Czech Men into Gentlemen by Way of *The Gentleman*. To appear in *Central Europe* (London).
- 2016b** Böhmisches Juden als böhmische Juden: Literarische Zeugnisse der 30er und 40er Jahre des 19. Jhs. To appear in *Brücken*.
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- 2015a** Exemplary Modernism: Zdeněk Rossmann's New Typography, 1925-1943. To appear in *Changing the Field of View: Modern Printing and the Avant-Garde*, ed. by Daniel Muzyczuk, Lodz: Muzeum sztuki.
- 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.
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- 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.
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- 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.