

# MUNI FACULTY OF SOCIAL STUDIES

Monthly  
Newsletter for  
International  
Students



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Meislová**

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## A QUICK MESSAGE...

As we approach the end of another enriching semester, it's time to gear up for exams and finalize our pursuits. With the semester drawing to a close, you are all preparing diligently for the upcoming examinations. However, before you dive into your studies, let's take a moment to embrace the festive spirit!

Come to the [Czech Christmas celebration](#) at the faculty on 7th December and decorate the Christmas cookies.

On behalf of the International Relations Office, we wish you a joyful and relaxing holiday season. May this Christmas be filled with warmth, happiness, and well-deserved moments of rejuvenation.

Happy holidays to all our diligent students!

International Relations Office

# PAST EVENTS AT THE FACULTY

## Brunch for international employees

The Department of Media Studies and Journalism has decided to host the first-ever "internationalization brunch" with the hope it could start a faculty-wide tradition of interdisciplinary networking among foreign visiting professors and local scholars at the Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University. The meeting hosted three current visitors of the fall semester of 2023: prof. Khin-Whee Chen (a new "draft" for the Department of Media Studies and Journalism), prof. Kenneth Yang (a visiting Fulbright professor at the same department) and Prof. Andrea Lambert South (a visiting professor at the Department of Psychology). The brunch offered a unique opportunity for the visiting professors to meet with the Ph.D. students and senior staff and offer a more friendly and connected environment.



## Interviews with professors, alumni and current students



Our interviews with the professors are continuing, you can read the interview with the full professor and the guarantor of the Master program Public and Social Policy and Human Resources [Tomáš Sirovátka](#),

Recently, we have also interviewed the assistant professor of the department of Social Policy and Social Work [Roman Baláž](#).



You can listen to the interview with the visiting professor [Andrea Lambert South](#) from the Northern Kentucky University on our new Spotify channel called [FSS lounge](#).

We had a very lovely guest, the associate professor at the Department of International Relations and European Studies and the Programme Director of European Studies [Monika Brusenbauch Meislová](#).

# FSS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



**FSS Christmas Celebration**  
**7 December 2023, 2-4 p.m.**  
**U32**



Join us for the Czech Christmas celebration and come to share your Christmas traditions. You will have the unique opportunity to decorate the Christmas cookies and prepare your own Christmas card.

Save the date, stay tuned for the program and [register here](#).

## DECEMBER HOLIDAYS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

5 December is St. Nicholas Day (Mikuláš). On this day you will typically see people dressed up as one of three characters: St. Nicholas (Mikuláš), the Angel (anděl) who represents the Good, and the Devil (čert) representing the Evil and will visit children. The characters will ask children if they will be good, and children should say yes and sing a song to get sweets.

The Christmas holiday season is very important to the Czech Republic. The Christmas days last 3 days, 24-26 December. Christmas Eve in the Czech Republic is the most celebrated day. The typical day will be spent decorating the tree, baking vánočka (Christmas bread) and eating the traditional meal of Carp and Potato Salad. After dinner, many families will sing Christmas carols and open presents.

There are a series of Christmas traditions and superstitions that are followed throughout the years which can be found [here](#).

25-26 December are typically spent now a days relaxing with family.

DECEMBER 2023

# VIRTUAL OPEN DAY

20 January 2024, 16:00-18:00



Are your friends interested in studying at our faculty? Invite them to our virtual open day. Send them [the registration form](#) and share this information in your social bubble.

Our ambassadors will share their experience with their study program and we gladly answer any questions.

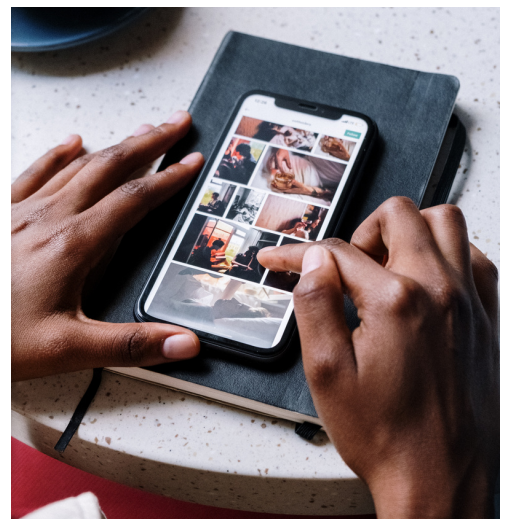
You can watch us on [Youtube channel](#)

## Help needed

Would you like to help us with the videos, making reels, taking pictures or interviews ?

Any help with digital and marketing activities is wanted.

Please contact [Michaela Nespěchalová](mailto:Michaela.Nespěchalová@63272@muni.cz) at [63272@muni.cz](mailto:63272@muni.cz)



# BRNO CHRISTMAS MARKETS AND EVENTS

**24 November-23 December**

At Zelný trh, the beautifully decorated fir tree is already shining, scented by cinnamon, cloves, and star anise, filling the city with aroma. The Ferris wheel is spinning. The Advent markets are in full swing. Perhaps you've already found time for a stroll through the city, stopped at the craft stalls in Zelný trh, admired the wooden nativity scene at Dominikánské náměstí, brought joy to non-profit organizations, and purchased a small gift at Svobody Square or at Jošt on Moravské náměstí.

Ice rink

You've checked out the [newly built ice rink](#) in the park and eagerly watched the weather, wondering if you'll go ice skating (don't worry, you can borrow the ice skates) or take a ride on the Ferris wheel. And if you've followed this route, you probably couldn't resist the temptation to warm up with a hot drink.

And what about the cup?

Perhaps you're among those who turn it into a good deed. You'll join the queue at the stall marked with the sign 'Daruj Kelímek' and choose which organization to support. You'll find these stalls both at Zelný trh and at Moravské náměstí and Svobody Square.

Musical program

At Zelný trh, Svobody Square, and Moravské náměstí, apart from the sales stalls, there's also a rich accompanying program. Mornings belong mostly to children from kindergartens and elementary schools, while evenings are accompanied by music from both well-known and lesser-known yet intriguing bands."

Tips for the presents

If you want to buy some traditional products, buy beerwax candles, herbal teas or warm socks, do not hesitate. The Christmas market ends on 23 December.



# UNIVERSITY EVENT

7 December 2023, 10:30-12:30



Markets for People

## WHY DO WE NEED COMPETITION?

Masaryk University, Faculty of Law | Veveří 158/70, Brno, Czechia  
Thursday, 7 December 2023, 10:30-12:30

MASARYK UNIVERSITY

ÚOHS

EUROPE DIRECT Brno

European Commission | COMPETITION

Join us for a discussion on the economic, social, and political implications of market justice and its impact on citizens' daily lives.

The debate is organized by the Directorate-General for Competition of the European Commission in collaboration with Masaryk University, Europe Direct Brno, and the Office for the Protection of Economic Competition (ÚOHS).

The Brno debate is part of a series that invites opinion leaders, public opinion influencers, and experts to discuss the relationship between the market and ordinary people within the context of daily reality at the national and local levels across different parts of Europe.

Guests:

- Petr Mlsna, Chairman of the Office for the Protection of Economic Competition (ÚOHS)
- Pavel Telička, former European Commissioner and former Member of the European Parliament
- Michala Hergetová, economic journalist and moderator
- Martin Kvizda, professor at the Faculty of Economics and Administration, Masaryk University

The event will be moderated by Tereza Jahůdková from the Directorate-General for Competition of the European Commission.

Audience members and attending media representatives will have the opportunity to meet with the debate guests over light refreshments, concluding the event. For those unable to attend in person, the debate will be streamed online. In such cases, participants will also have the chance to ask questions via the Slido application (links will be provided on the [event page](#)).

To participate in the event, please register using the [following link](#).

# AUTUMN 2023 EXAM PERIOD

## 2 January - 16 February

Make sure you follow the instructions from your teachers of how to sign up for your exams. If you have signed up for an exam date and decide to take the exam a different day, be sure to cancel the original date. If you do not, you will be listed as not attending and your final grade for the course may be effected.

# SPRING 2024 SEMESTER

## Important dates

Apply for being Enrolled in the term: 2 January - 26 February 2024

Term Enrolment: 1- 26 February 2024

Registration for courses: 2 January (17:00 CEST) - 29 January 2024

(please note registration opens by seniority, you may not be able to register the first day.)

Course enrolment period: 30 January (17:00 CEST) - 18 February 2024

Enrolment for seminar groups: 30 January (17:00 CEST) - 3 March 2024

Course Enrolment changes: 19 February - 3 March 2024

Timetable released: 24 January 2024

Teaching: 19 February - 19 May 2024

Examination period: 20 May - 28 June 2024

BA and MA state examination period: 27 May - 28 June 2024

# FINISHING YOUR STUDIES?

Make sure you know the deadlines!

	IREP (BA)	CDS	CSOC	ESOC	EPS	IREP (MA)	PSPHR
Apply for state exam	6. 11. 2023	1. 10. - 30. 11. 2023	10. 12. 2023	10. 12. 2023	do 6. 11. 2023	6. 11. 2023	1. 11. 2023
Submission of the final thesis to the IS archive	17. 12. 2023	4. 1. 2024	14. 12. 2023	14. 12. 2023	2. 1. 2024	10. 12. 2023	12. 12. 2023
Defense of the final thesis	15. 1. 2024	24. 1. 2024	10. 1. 2024	10. 1. 2024	24. 1. - 25. 1. 2024	10. 1. - 12. 1. 2024	22. 1. - 26. 1. 2024
Dates of state exam	19. 1. 2024	24. 1. 2024	10. 1. 2024	10. 1. 2024	24. 1. - 25. 1. 2024	10. 1. - 12. 1. 2024	22. 1. - 26. 1. 2024



## OPENING HOURS IN DECEMBER

### **Study Office, International Office, Library**

Study Office: Closed 18 December to 1 January 1, reopens on 2 January 2024

International Office: Closed 25 December to 1 January, reopens on 2 January 2024

Library:

- until 16 December: regular opening hours
- 18 - 20 December: open 10:00-17:00
- 21 December – 1 January 2024: closed, reopens on 2 January 2024

## GRADUATION

### **dates to save**

Graduation ceremony traditionally takes place about 2 months after the state exams. An email will come from the Study Office to sign up for graduation. The graduation dates are as follows

- January state exams: March
- May/June state exams: 1st week in September



# NAVIGATING ACADEMIC TEXTS: 10 GREAT TIPS TO CONQUER YOUR READING LIST WITH A SMILE



## Tips from Monika Brusenbauch Meislová Associate Professor at the Department of International Relations and European Studies

In one of my recent classes, we had a candid discussion about the struggles many students face with assigned readings. It became evident that students would love to have a workshop on academic reading skills, as these skills had never been formally addressed in any of their university courses. Heeding this call, I organized an engaging workshop in our next class, dedicated to mastering the art of reading (without dozing off :-). We had a great time together sharing various valuable tips and best (but also worst :-) practices in reading strategies. The session was so insightful that it seemed unfair to limit this knowledge to our classroom alone. Hence, I am sharing our top 10 tips with you, so get ready to turn the page to a new chapter in your reading journey:

### 1. Read abstracts, introductions and conclusions first

Diving straight into the main text can be overwhelming. Start with abstracts, introductions and conclusions. These sections often encapsulate the core ideas and can offer a roadmap for what is to come, saving you both time and effort.

### 2. Highlight and underline... wisely

Highlighting or underlining key points is a tried and tested method. But remember, less is more. Over-highlighting can clutter your page, making it hard to distinguish what is truly important.

### 3. Skim and scan for quick insights

Do not ignore headings, subheadings, and text in bold or italics. They are your clues to the main ideas. Skimming and scanning for keywords or phrases can provide a quick snapshot of the content, guiding your deeper reading efforts.

# NAVIGATING ACADEMIC TEXTS: 10 GREAT TIPS TO CONQUER YOUR READING LIST WITH A SMILE

## 4. Prioritize your reading list

Faced with multiple assignments? Start with the most important or challenging ones when your mind is fresh and focused. This strategy ensures that your peak concentration is put to good use.

## 5. Active reading for deeper engagement

Passive reading often leads to forgotten content. Engage actively with the text by highlighting, underlining, or jotting down important points. This not only aids memory but also deepens your understanding.

## 6. Eliminate distractions

Distractions are the bane of effective reading. Use apps like "Focus@Will" or "Forest" to block out distractions and keep your concentration on track.

## 7. Question as you read

Start each reading section with a purpose. Write down questions you want answers to before you begin. This approach keeps your reading goal-oriented and efficient.

## 8. Teach what you learn

One of the best ways to solidify understanding is to teach the material to someone else, or even yourself. This method reinforces your knowledge and often highlights areas that need more attention.

## 9. Create flashcards for quick recalls

Flashcards are an excellent tool for quick revision. Jot down the main points or concepts on flashcards and use them for speedy reviews.

## 10. Take breaks

Use techniques like the Pomodoro Technique (25 minutes of work followed by a 5-minute break) to maintain energy and focus.

Academic reading is a skill, and like any skill, it can be honed and refined. These tips, distilled from our class workshop, are a great place to start. Happy reading and learning!