

CHANGES AHEAD FOR "BOHEMIAN STUDIES" IN GERMANY?

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The scientific environment is experiencing changes, with the result that traditional demarcations between subjects, according to faculty affiliation and methods of research, are disappearing. Regardless whether the subject will continue to exist independently, with several subdivisions, or evolve into something resembling Bohemian area studies, the fact of the ongoing change is enough of a reason to give the interdisciplinary study of Bohemian history, culture, and contemporary developments some thought, and to attempt to take an inventory along institutional lines. Only if it comes up with fresh approaches and manages to overcome the hitherto dominating preoccupation with things exclusively Bohemian, will Bohemian studies gain attention in the general scientific discourse. A way to get there could be projects which either devote themselves to phenomena which can rightly be called exemplary, or have an interdisciplinary, comparative approach. In the framework of the humanities

and cultural and social studies in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland Bohemian studies, with its subject which is often closely related to German developments, could make a valuable contribution to the elucidation of structures, connections and patterns of thought on a European scale.