

TO SUPERVISE AND TO PHILOSOPHISE
Control and Autonomy at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University
During the Period of “Normalisation”

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Drawing on the example of the instruments used for the social control of the individual and the practical effects of this control at the Faculty of the Arts of Charles University during the period of the so-called normalisation, this contribution demonstrates that working with the cadres was a remarkable combination of power both concentrated and distributed. It shows, on one hand, to what extent the cadre practice in a given institution was steered and supervised by that institution's top communist-party bodies. On the other hand, the article enables a glance at how evaluations and other assessments were drawn up and proves that all party members (and, to a lesser extent, non-members as well) let themselves be involved in this system, both in the role of supervisor and as those who were supervised. In the process, they willingly adopted the language and the values of state socialism. The example of the handling of cadre work by the staff of the faculty conclusively shows that the system of mutual control was perpetuated not so much by an inherent fanaticism on the part of the party members or by reckless careerism, but rather by a general desire to evade avoidable conflict.