

## REGISTRATION FORM FOR CZECH SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION

**1. Research institution data (name and address):**

**Faculty of Arts**  
**Palacký University Olomouc**  
Křížkovského 511/10  
771 80 Olomouc  
Czech Republic

**2. Type of research institution:** Public university (veřejná vysoká škola)

**3. Head of the institution:** Prof. MUDr. Martin Procházka, Ph. D. – rector

**4. Contact information of designated person(s) for applicants:**

doc. Mgr. Tomáš Bubík, Ph.D. – Head of the Cognitive Laboratory (CO-LAB)  
[tomas.bubik@upol.cz](mailto:tomas.bubik@upol.cz), +420 724 100 674  
tř. Svobody 26, Olomouc 779 00 Olomouc, Czech Republic

**5. Research discipline in which the strong international position of the institution ensures establishing a Dioscuri Centre:**

**Cognitive Science of Religion**

**Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences:** *Fundamental questions of human existence and the nature of reality* - philosophy, cognition, religious studies

**6. Description of important research achievements from the selected discipline from the last 5 years including a list of the most important publications, patents, or other results:**

PI Tomáš Bubík is the head of the Cognitive laboratory (CO-LAB) for research of religious behaviour and cognition. PI with his team has been focusing lately on several research topics: cognitive research of atheism and non-religion, cognitive study of funeral religiosity and non-religion and research on religion in museums.

**Selected research achievements:**

**The latest books**

Bubík, Tomáš; Rimmel, Atko; Václavík, David (eds.), *Freethought and Atheism in Central and Eastern Europe: The Development of Secularity and Non-Religion*. Routledge, London 2020.

Bubík, Tomáš; Havlíček, Jakub (eds.), *Academic Study of Religions in a Cognitive, Anthropological and Sociological Perspective*. Palacký University Olomouc, Olomouc 2021.

**The latest articles and book chapters:**

Tomáš Bubík, David Václavík, *The Czech Study of Religions and Western Scholarship*. *Studi e materiali di storia delle religioni*, La Sapienza, Università di Roma, 2021, 554–579.

Tomáš Bubík, *Cognitive Science of Religion as a Search for a New Paradigm in the Study of Religions*, in Tomáš Bubík; Jakub Havlíček (eds.), *Academic Study of Religions in a Cognitive, Anthropological and Sociological Perspective*. Univerzita Palackého v Olomouci, Olomouc 2021, 9–37.

Tomáš Bubík, *A Graveyard as a Home to Ghosts or a Subject of Scholarly Research? The Czech National Cemetery at Vyšehrad*, *Changing Societies & Personalities*, Vol. 4, No. 2/2020, 136–157.

Tomáš Bubík; David Václavík, *Freethinkers and Atheists in the Czech Lands in the Twentieth Century*, In: *Freethought and Atheism in Central and Eastern Europe: The Development of Secularity and Non-religion*, Bubík, Tomáš, Rimmel, Atko, Sulhan, Václavík, David (eds.), Routledge 2020, 58–83.

Tomáš Bubík; David Václavík; Atko Rimmel, *Nonreligion in the CEE Region: Some Remarks*, In: *Freethought and Atheism in Central and Eastern Europe: The Development of Secularity and Non-religion*, Bubík, Tomáš, Rimmel, Atko-Sulhan, Václavík, David (eds.), Routledge 2020, 320–335.

Tomáš Bubík, *Tell a Story of the Nation: Image of Religion and Non-religion in the Czech National Museum*, *Historická sociologie* 2/2019, 11–33.

**7. List of no more than 3 important research projects in the selected discipline awarded in national and international calls to the institution in the last 5 years:**

One of the important grant projects is the grant of Czech Science Foundation GAČR 18-11345S (2018–2020) titled *Atheism, Freethinking and Secularization in Central and Eastern Europe*. As Principal Investigator, Tomáš Bubík organized a research group of 20 scholars from 12 CEE countries. The grant was financed by Ministry of Education and the total budget was 4.011.000 CZK

A significant grant project is the OP VVV grant entitled *New Doctoral Study Programme in Religious Studies at Palacký University Olomouc - Preparation of Accreditation and Staffing (2017-2022)*. PI: Tomáš Bubík. The project aimed to launch a doctoral study programme in Religious Studies at the Faculty of Arts of Palacký University Olomouc. The grant project was financed by the *Operational Programme "Research, Development and Education"*. The total budget was 7.915.443 CZK.

In terms of long-term research focus was the key project OP VVV *New PhD in Religious Studies at UP - Research and Technical Support (2017-2022)*. PI: Tomáš Bubík. The project aimed to build laboratory facilities for the PhD programme, i.e. for PhD students and their supervisors. Thanks to this project, this cognitive laboratory is one of the best equipped religious studies workplaces in Europe. It aims at a strong integration of humanities and natural sciences research with a focus on scientific study of human cognition and behaviour. The grant was financed by the *Operational Programme "Research, Development and Education"*. The total budget was 19.402.000 CZK.

## **8. Description of the available laboratory and office space for a Dioscuri Centre:**

The laboratory consists of four parts with a total area of 200 square meters, which is located in the faculty building in close proximity to the city centre. The first part houses the Immersive Virtual Reality (green screen cave) and the Motion Capture System. In the second part there are special cabins for EEG research in combination with eye-tracking devices. The lab also includes two offices, one for researchers and the other for Ph.D. students. In total, the laboratory is designed for ten people to work. The laboratory is also equipped with one seminar room (for 15 people) and one lecture room (for 40 people) and includes a teleconferencing system, interactive whiteboards, a special data storage for preserving research data, and a reference library with the latest religious studies literature.

## **9. List of the available research equipment for a Dioscuri Centre:**

The laboratory team uses for research of religious behaviour and cognition specifically Immersive Virtual Reality (Varjo X3 glasses with built-in Tobii eyetracking) in combination with ECG and Motion Capture System (Vicon) to investigate body movement. We use a stationary True Scan EEG 32 CL (Deymed) in combination with Eye-tracker Tobii Pro. The eye-tracking is also used in mobile version, specifically TrueScan PT 64 SN in combination with mobile eye-tracking (Tobii Pro Glasses).

The DEYMED diagnostic system also enables ECG (Electrocardiograph), EOG (Electrooculograph) and EMG (Electromyograph) measurements. The laboratory is very well equipped for research on religiously, but not only, stimulated behaviour such as body movement, visual movement and electrical brain activity, i.e. evoked potentials.

### **Research equipment currently used for the lab research projects:**

Experimental research of preference behavior (using Immersive Virtual Reality with Eye-tracking), i.e. to what extent religious identity has a decisive influence on the preferences of believers in relation to other race and ethnic groups. The aim of the research is to demonstrate whether religious identity enhances or weakens negative attitudes towards different type of identity.

Experimental research of non-religiosity. The goal is to investigate the causal relationship between a participant's non-religious position and their physiological responses to stimuli, such as the fear of death and awareness of personal finality. For this research Tobii eye-tracking in combination with ECG will be used. The collected data will be combined with a questionnaire survey.

All of the above laboratory equipment and facilities can be used within the Dioscuri Centre.

**10. List of the additional benefits (other than listed in the conditions for hosting a DC, see invitation) that the Institution declares to provide for a Dioscuri Centre (i.e.: additional funds, personal benefits, dual career options, relocation support or other):**

Palacký University provides a number of benefits for its employees. The most frequently provided benefits include meal vouchers, various insurance contributions or kindergarten for employees' children. An interesting item in the list of benefits is the offer of discounted calls. Employees and their family members can take advantage of very favourable cell-phone services provided by CellBest.

Other benefits include, for instance, discounted sport activities in university facilities, discounts on various types of cultural activities in Olomouc, the possibility to regularly download the full version of Microsoft Office Professional for free for up to five devices of one user and at the same time to use the Office 365 suite of services, then discounts on the purchase of books and publications in the UP-Publishing House or on the purchase of goods in UPoint. University staff can also obtain 10 percent discount on purchases at OBI or discount to the Premiere Cinemas multiplex.

The relocation support is also available.

There are other benefits related to Social fund, including subsidy to life insurance or pension fund.

**11. Other information about the internationalization of the research institution, international researchers employed at the institution, the availability of English language seminars etc.:**

Members of the PI Olomouc research team were in the years 2018-2020 Dr. Atko Remmel from University of Tartu in Estonia and prof. Anita Stašulane from Daugavpils University in Latvia. At present (2021-2023) is international member of the team Dr. Valerio Severino from La Sapienza University in Rome, as the holder of the ERC grant Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. PI is the project's supervisor.

Palacky University (PU) has in its Strategic Development Plan for the Teaching and Research Activities 2021+ declared that one of the priorities is internationalization. In that respect, PU supports all international activities in terms of student and staff exchange and research cooperation within EU and beyond. PU has been a very experienced institution in international cooperation and has been the most successful applicant among the Czech universities in mobility scheme. Faculty of Arts has the highest share of international students and staff that amounts to over 40% of the university volume. Due to the scheme of study programmes that offered also in foreign languages, the campus has been truly international. The faculty supports foreign national in providing classes in Czech language that help the foreign nationals overcome not only language but cultural barriers. In addition, important university documents and communication is conducted bilingually, ie. in Czech and in English. Palacky University has now applied for a mobility scheme that includes 11 out of 12 world regions thus it makes every effort to become internationalized to the greatest degree possible. Key administrative staff speaks English which helps newly arrived foreigners intergrate quickly into Palacky University community. Should foreign researchers be accompanied by family members, children can attend both English kindergarden as well as primary and secondary school where the instruction is in English. Palacky University is part of the Aurora project which is a European Universities project funded by the EU and which strengthens international cooperation. Before the outbreak of the pandemic, inn 2019, 4497 foreign students from 108 countries studied at University Palacký, which was 452 more students that in the previous year. If the numbers of foreign students are compared with 2008, there are 2355 more today. Within a decade, the number of foreign students at the university has therefore increased by more than hundred percent. The increase in the number of foreign students corresponds to the 6 current strategy of the university. Palacky University believes that the key to success in the global world of quality university education is targeted, purposeful internationalization. In 2019 PU received the prestigious European Association for International Education (EIAE) Institutional Award for its successful international strategy.