

Intimate States:

New Histories of Medicine, Welfare, and Care under Socialism

Venue: Czech Academy of Sciences, Národní 3, Praha (room 205)

DAY 1 – 28 May 2026

9:30 Registration and morning coffee

10:00–10:30 Workshop Introduction: Kateřina Lišková, Alexander Langstaff

10:30–12:00 Session 1: “Delivering the Future: Birth, Babies, and Intimacy in State Infant Care”

Chair: Alexander Langstaff

- Lisa Füchte — *Destroying intimacy: Crèches during the Stalinist industrialization and the quantification of care work in 1930s Soviet Union*
- Natalia Jarska — *Applying “Vitamin M” to the system: Polish experts, transnational exchanges, and the debate on infant homes in the late 1950s*
- Viktorija Čurlin — *Forging the socialist newborn: Intimacy, impersonality, and the medicalization of childbirth in Yugoslavia*

12:00–13:00 Lunch buffet on site

13:00–14:30 Session 2: “Compassion, Fear, Dignity: Abortion and Reproductive Care”

Chair: Kateřina Lišková

- Ivana Tomic — *Abortion without compassion. The betrayal of socialist promises in Yugoslav hospitals*
- Kateryna Ruban — *Pain, fear, and money: abortion care in a post-Stalinist Ukrainian hospital*
- Anna Sidorevich — *Claiming reproductive dignity under late socialism*

14:30–15:00 Coffee break

15:00–16:30 Session 3: “Teaching Intimacy: Child Welfare Expertise Across Institutions”

Chair: Annina Gagyiova

- Barbara Klich-Kluczevska — *Training for bonding. The relationship between the child and the adoptive parent in the policies and practices of the Society of Friends of Children’s Adoption and Care Centers in PRL, 1964–1989*
- Krisztina Plenter — *The implementation of the Pikler approach in state infant and childcare institutions after World War II*
- Fanni Svégel — *Nurses Between the Family and the State: Intimate Care and Soft Power in Socialist Hungary*

16:30–17:00 Coffee break

17:00–17:30 Day 1 Group Discussion: Taking stock, conceptual overlaps and affordance of ‘intimacy’

19:00 Dinner (restaurant TBA), self-paid

DAY 2 – 29 May 2026

9:30–11:00 Session 4: “Intimate Publics: Advice, Sexology, and the Governance of ‘Private’ Bodies”

Chair: Natalia Jarska

- Anastasiia Zaplatina — *Intimacy on trial: Syphilis, expert knowledge, and the socialist family in a 1935 Soviet courtroom*
- Anna Dobrowolska — *Confidential letters. Negotiations of menstrual management practices between teenage girls and experts in 1970s and 1980s Poland.*
- Zsófia Anna Veszely — *Constructing intimate citizenship in state-socialism: The life and work of Elvira Lux*

11:00–11:30 Coffee break

11:30–13:00 Session 5: “Psychiatric Intimacies and Sexual Difference under Socialism”

Chair: Kateřina Lišková

- Natalia Pamula — *A Familial turn? Family and intimacy in late socialist Polish psychiatry*
- Liisa Lail — *Negotiated Closeness: Emotional Labour and Intimacy in Institutional Life*
- Anna Domdey — *Asking intimate questions: Expert intervention into intimacy and (de)pathologization of lesbian love in the GDR*

13:00–14:00 Lunch buffet on site

14:00–15:00 Session 6: “Trust Beyond the Clinic: From Spas to Late-Socialist Care Networks”

Chair and discussant: José Luis Aguilar López-Barajas

- Adelina Stefan — *Care and tourism under socialism: Spa resorts as spaces of intimacy in Romania of the 1950s and the 1980s*
- Katarzyna Szarla — *“We care for each other”: The HIV/AIDS crisis and the politics and practices of care under late state socialism in Poland*

15:00–15:30 Coffee break

15:30–16:00 Day 2 Group Discussion, wrap-up, publication plans