

Castles, Salons, and Darkrooms (Prague/online, 20 Oct 26)

Prague / Online, Oct 20, 2026

Registration deadline: Oct 15, 2026

Petra Trnkova

Castles, Salons, and Darkrooms: Mapping the nobility's impact on early photographic history (1840s–1860s).

PROGRAMME:

20 October 2026,

Academic Conference Centre (AKC), Husova 4a, Prague 1 & online

09:00–09:30 Registration & Coffee

09:30–09:45 Welcome & Opening Remarks / Tomáš WINTER, Petra TRNKOVÁ

PANEL 1: NOBLE AMATEURS

09:45–10:05 Marija TONKOVIĆ (Zagreb) – Juraj Drašković (1804–1889): Photography and Aristocratic Networks in the Habsburg Monarchy

10:05–10:25 Helen LEWANDOWSKI (Windsor) – Queen Victoria's Photographic Networks in Central Europe

10:25–10:45 Anna BEDNAREK & Wojciech WALANUS (Kraków) – Count Aleksander Branicki (1821–1877): The First Polish Amateur Photographer?

10:45–11:15 Discussion

11:15–11:30 Coffee Break

PANEL 2: MATERIAL NETWORKS

11:30–11:50 Dainius JUNEVIČIUS (Vilnius) – Photography at Plateliai Manor in the 1860s: Reconstructing the Photographic Activities of Count Alexandre Choiseul-Gouffier

11:50–12:10 Zsuzsanna SZEGEDY-MASZÁK (Budapest) – A Photoceramic and the Social Worlds of Photography

12:10–12:30 Discussion

12:30–13:30 Lunch

PANEL 3: ELITE CIRCLES

13:30–13:50 Anthony HAMBER (London) – Knowledge Networks and the Role of the Nobility in the Rise of Photography: A British Framework

13:50–14:10 Charles Paul AZZOPARDI (Malta) – Noble Exposure: The Preziosi Brothers & Early Photography Between Malta and Constantinople

14:10–14:30 Libor JÚN (Prague) – Photography between Central Europe and the Near East: Otto

von Ostheim – Adventurer, Émigré, and Photographer

14:30–15:00 Discussion

15:00–15:15 Coffee Break

PANEL 4: BEYOND PATRONAGE

15:15–15:35 Stéphanie ONFRAY (Madrid) – Aristocratic Women and Photographic Culture: A Methodological Proposal

15:35–15:55 Anežka MIKULCOVÁ (Prague) – Servants Through the Camera Lens: Portraits of Domestic Staff in Aristocratic Photo Albums

15:55–16:15 Discussion

16:15–16:30 Coffee Break

PLENARY LECTURE

16:30–17:00 Monika FABER (Vienna) – Photographs for the Habsburg Family

17:00–17:30 Discussion & Closing Remarks

17:30–18:30 Farewell Networking Reception

Attendance is free, but registration is required. Please register by emailing to [ticha\[at\]udu.cas.cz](mailto:ticha[at]udu.cas.cz) by 15 October 2026. The conference will be held in a hybrid format; registered attendees will receive the Zoom link a few days prior to the event.

The programme is subject to change.

Organizers: Libor Jůn, Francesca Strobino, Denisa Tichá, and Petra Trnková

This conference is organized as part of the project 'Photography Go-Betweens and the Closed Society,' hosted by the Institute of Art History of the Czech Academy of Sciences and supported by the Czech Science Foundation (Project ID: 26-20400S).

Reference:

CONF: Castles, Salons, and Darkrooms (Prague/online, 20 Oct 26). In: ArtHist.net, Sep 8, 2026 (accessed Oct 4, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/54136>>.