

PROF. MGR. MILAN KOVÁČ, PhD.

CURRICULUM VITAE

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Head of the Department of Comparative Religions,
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SCHOLARLY BIOGRAPHY:

Professor Milan Kováč is the founder of Mesoamerican and Maya studies in Slovakia and one of the most important scholars in this field in Central Europe. His direct professional influence and international pedagogical activities have impacted many disciplines related to Mesoamerican studies in Austria, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. He is a leading scholar in the fields of Maya Anthropology, Maya Archaeology and the Study of Maya Hieroglyphic Writing. His research results and peer reviewed publications have been widely recognized in the world of Maya studies.

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. Science of Religions, Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University, 1995-1999

Dissertation: “Binary Oppositions in Ancient Mesoamerican Religious Thinking“

M.A. Science of Religions, Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University, 1992-1997

M.A. Philosophy & History, Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University, 1990-1995

TEACHING & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Professor of Comparative Religions, Department of Comparative Religions, Comenius University, 2011-Present

Associate Professor of Comparative Religions, Department of Comparative Religions, Comenius University, 2002-2011

Assistant Professor of Comparative Religions, Department of Comparative Religions, Comenius University, 1999-2002

Instructor of Comparative Religions, Department of Comparative Religions, Comenius University, 1995-1999

Visiting Research Fellow, Centro de Estudios Mayas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, 1999-2000, 2005

Visiting Research Fellow, Department of Comparative Religions, University of Uppsala (Sweden), 1998

ADMINISTRATIVE & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Head of the Department of Comparative Religions, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University, 2002-Present

Head of the Center for Maya Studies (CMS), Comenius University, 2012-Present

Director, Archaeological Project SAHI-Uaxactun, Guatemala, Slovak Archaeological and Historical Institute (SAHI), 2009-Present

Vice-president of the Slovak Society for the Study of Religions, Slovak Academy of Sciences

Chair of Committee for Doctoral Study, Department of Comparative Religions, Comenius University

Member of Committee for Doctoral Study, Department of History of Religions, Masaryk University, Czech Republic

Managing Editor, of the journal for the Science of Religions – *Hieron*

Member of editorial boards:

- *Religio: Revue pro Religionistiku*. (Brno. Czech Republic),

- *Pantheon: Religionistické studie*. (Univerzita Pardubice. Czech Republic)

- *Ethnologia Actualis Slovaca*, (Univerzita sv. Cyrila a Metoda, Trnava, Slovakia)

- *Axis Mundi* (Slovak Society for the Study of Religion)

FIELDWORK IN ANTHROPOLOGY

2012 – Lacandon grammar categories, Mexico, Chiapas (Comenius University, Bratislava)

2010 – Lacandon Ritualism, Mexico, Chiapas (Comenius University, Bratislava).

2008 – “Yucatan 2008” Historical and comparative anthropological investigations of the work of Fray Diego de Landa (Slovak Archaeological and Historical Institute).

2007 - “Petén 2007” Research on Maya History - Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras (Slovak Archaeological and Historical Institute).

2005 - Research on Maya-Lacandon Religion, Chiapas, Mexico, (Comenius University and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México).

1993-1994 - “Yucatán 1993” Research of Mesoamerican History and Anthropology. - Mexico, Guatemala, Belize (Comenius University).

1999 - 2000 - Research of Maya-Lacandon Myths and Rituals, Chiapas, Mexico (Comenius University and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México).

2001 - 2002 - Religiousness of Slovak Romanies (Gypsies). (Central European University).

1998-2008 - Research on Folk Beliefs, Magic and Demonology in Slovakia (Comenius University).

FIELDWORK IN ARCHAEOLOGY

2012-2009 – Director of Archaeological Project Uaxactun, Central Peten, Guatemala (SAHI).

2012-2010 – Director of Archaeological Project Tz’ibatnah, Northeastern Peten, Guatemala (SAHI).

2008 – Director of Archaeological Prospection in Lacanja Region, Chiapas, Mexico (SAHI).

2006 – Director of Archaeological Prospection in Lake Metzabok Region, Chiapas, Mexico, (Comenius University).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/RESEARCH & SCIENTIFIC SPECIALIZATION

2012 – *Workshop of Maya Hieroglyphic Writing* Cracow: Cracow Maya Conference, workshop led by Dr. Dmitri Belaev.

2011 – *Autumn Academy of Maya Hieroglyphic Writing*, Bratislava, led by Dr. Nikolai Grube.

2011 – *Workshop of Maya Hieroglyphic Writing*, Wayeb - European Association of Mayanists Copenhagen, workshop led by Dr. Dmitri Belaev.

2010 – *Autumn Academy of Maya Hieroglyphic Writing*, Bratislava, led by Ramzy Barrois.

- 2010 – *Workshop of Maya Hieroglyphic Writing*, Warsaw, workshop led by Dr. Nikolai Grube.
- 2009 – *Autumn Academy of Maya Hieroglyphic Writing*, Bratislava, led by Dr. Harri Kettunen.
- 2009 – *Workshop of Maya Hieroglyphic Writing*, Wayeb - European Association of Mayanists led by Dr. Dmitri Belaev.
- 2007 *Maya Hieroglyphic Writing: Intermediate level workshop* led by Erik Boot and Elisabeth Wagner: *Sacred Narratives and Their Manifestation in Local Classic and Postclassic Maya Tradition*. Geneva, Switzerland, December 3-8, Wayeb - European Association of Mayanists.
- 2005 *Seminario de Cultura Náhuatl: Codex Feyervári-Meyer* led by Miguel León-Portilla. April-September 2005. Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas UNAM, México.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN EDUCATION

- 2003 “Teaching and Learning in the Bologna Context”, Prague, Czech Republic. Professional Development Program for academics in Central Europe, CEP.
- 2004 “Academic Skills”, Vilnius, Lithuania. Professional Development Program for academics in Central Europe, CEP.

PUBLICATIONS:

Books/Monographs

- Správa o veciach na Yucatáne, ktorú napísal brat Diego de Landa z rádu sv. Františka roku Pána 1566 / Diego de Landa's Account of the Affairs of Yucatan*. SAHI, 2010.
- Zlatý baran. Príbehy ľudovej viery a mágie spod hory Radzim./ Golden Ram. Folk Belief and Magic under Radzim Mountain*. Brdárka, 2004.
- Slnko jaguára. Náboženský svet Olmékov, Mayov a Aztékov./ The Sun of Jaguar. Olmec, Maya and Aztec Religious World*. Chronos, Bratislava, 2002.

Coursebooks

- Teória mýtu/Theory of Myth*, Stimul, Bratislava, 2010.
- Náboženstvá staroveku: Antika / Religion of Antiquity*. Stimul, Bratislava, 2010.

Co-Authored Books/Monographs

- (with Ernesto Arredondo), editors, *Nuevas Excavaciones en Uaxactun III*. SAHI, Guatemala City – Bratislava, 2011.
- (with Tomáš Gál), editors, *Religious Change*. CERES - Central European Religious Studies, 2010.
- (with Ernesto Arredondo), editors, *Nuevas Excavaciones en Uaxactun II*. SAHI, Guatemala City – Bratislava, 2010.
- (with Ernesto Arredondo), editors, *Nuevas excavaciones en Uaxactun I*. SAHI, Guatemala City – Bratislava, 2009.
- (with Attila Kovács and Tatiana Podolinská), editors, *Cesty na druhý svet. Smrť a posmrtný život v náboženstvách sveta. / Ways to the Otherworld. Death and After-Life in Religions of the World*. CERES - Central European Religious Studies, 2005.
- (with Arne B. Mann), editors, *Boh všetko vidí/ O Del sa dikhel/ God sees everything – Spiritual world of Romanies in Slovakia*. Chronos, Bratislava, 2003.

Refereed Journal Articles

- “Tz’ibatnah-el nuevo sitio maya del norte de Petén” in *XXIV Simposio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas en Guatemala*. Guatemala, Museo Nacional de Arqueología y Etnología, - Ministerio de cultura y deportes, (2011), pp. 439-448.

- (with Vladimír Karlovský) “Astronomická a rituálna funkcia architektonického komplexu H Sever v Uaxactúne / Astronomical and Ritual Function of Maya Architectural Complex H North in Uaxactun, Guatemala” in *Religio* 19/1 (2011), pp. 27-48.
- (with Fatima Tec Pool), “Hallazgos recientes en las cuevas alrededor de Uaxactun,” in *XXIV Simposio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas en Guatemala*. Guatemala, Museo nacional de arqueología y etnología - Ministerio de cultura y deportes, (2011), pp. 801-814.
- “Nuevas investigaciones arqueológicas en Uaxactun : resultados preliminares de la primera temporada de campo 2009 del Proyecto arquiológico Sahi-Uaxactun,” in *XXIII Simposio de investigaciones arqueológicas*, Guatemala, Museo Nacional de Arqueología y Etnología - Ministerio de cultura y deportes, (2010), pp. 425-440.
- “Stability and Patterns of Change: Lacandon Maya Gods in Transformation,” in *Ethnologia Actualis: The Journal of Ethnographical Research* 7/2007, (2007), pp.110-118.
- “Příbeh T'uba. Lacandónsky astrální mýtus./Narrative about T'ub. Comparative Study of the Maya Astral Myth,” in *Český lid/ Ethnological Journal*, 92/ 3, (2005), pp. 273-296.

Refereed Book Chapters

- (with Ramzy Barrois) “El Papel de Siyaj K'ahk' en Uaxactún y el Peten Central,” In: *Maya Political Relations and Strategies*, edited by Jaroslav Zralka. Acta Mesoamericana, Verlag Anton Saurwein, Bonn (in press, 2012)
- “Lo verdadero versus lo falso: Estrategias para evitar conflictos socio-políticos en las comunidades lacandonas en Chiapas,” In: *Estrategias políticas entre los mayas desde el periodo Clásico hasta la actualidad*, editado por Ma. Eugenia Gutiérrez González, Rogelio Valencia Rivera y Verónica A. Vázquez López. British Archaeological Reports, (in press, 2012).
- “Archaeo-geophysical measuring in the Jungle of Guatemala” In: *Archaeological Prospection*, edited by M.G. Drahor, M.A. Berge, Archaeology and Art Publications, International Society for Archaeological Prospection - ISAP, (2011), pp. 120-125.
- “Ritual Drunkenness and the Religious Change of Lacandons at Present,” In: *Religious Change*, edited by Milan Kováč and Tomáš Gál, Central European Religious Studies - CERES, (2010): pp.167-178.

SCHOLARLY CONFERENCES AND FOREIGN LECTURESHIPS:

Invited International Presentations

- 2012– International Congress of Americanists (Austria)
- 2012 – Cracow Maya Meeting, Cracow University (Poland)
- 2011– International Symposium in Museum Quai Branly, Paris (France)
- 2010 – Congreso internacional de Mayistas, Mexico City (Mexico)
- 2010 – Maya Conference, Warsaw University (Poland)
- 2009 – Wayeb, European Maya Congress, Cracow (Poland)
- 2006 - Société des Américanistes, Paris (France)

Invited Foreign Lecturships

- 2012 - Cracow University (Poland)
- 2012– Masaryk University, Brno (Czech Republic)
- 2011 – Wien University (Austria)
- 2010 – Wien University (Austria)
- 2009 - Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (Mexico)
- 2008 – Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán, Mérida (Mexico)

- 2008 – Wien University (Austria)
- 2006 - University of Nanterre, Paris (France)
- 2005 - Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (Mexico)
- 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2009 - Masaryk University in Brno (Czech Republic)
- 2001: - University of Lublin (Poland)
- 2000: - Wien University (Austria)
- 1999: - Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (Mexico)
- 1998: - Uppsala University (Sweden)

COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES/RESEARCH SYMPOSIUMS

- 2012 – *Main coordinator* of symposium: “End of Times and Cycles of Life: Boundaries of Maya Cosmovision.” Stockholm. European Association for Study of Religions.
- 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009 – *Main coordinator* of “Autumn Academy of Maya Hieroglyphic Writing”, Bratislava, Comenius University.
- 2006 – *Main coordinator* of international conference “Religious Change,” Central European Religious Studies, Bratislava.
- 2005 – *Main coordinator* of international research symposium: “Religion y Dualidad en Mesoamérica,” Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas, UNAM, México.
- 2004 - *Main coordinator* of symposium “Vías de transformación y asimilación cultural de etnias indígenas autóctonas” IV, Congreso Europeo CEISAL de Latinoamericanistas, Bratislava.
- 2002 – *Main coordinator* of Program “Lacandon-Maya Narratives”, INAH, Mexico.

ORGANIZATION OF MAJOR CULTURAL EXHIBITIONS

- 2004 - *The Lacandons - Last True Maya*. Naprstek Museum - Czech National Museum, Prague.
- 2001 - *The World of Lacandon-Maya Indians*. Slovak National Museum, Bratislava.
- 1998 – 2000 *Rock Carvings in European Prehistory*. Slovak National Museum, Bratislava and 8 local museums in Slovakia.
- 1996 – 1998 *Culture and Religion of Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica*, Slovak National Museum, Bratislava and 12 local museums in Slovakia.

MAJOR RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS OBTAINED

- 2008-2005 – VEGA (Scientific Grant Agency): “Mexican Indigenous Spirituality”.
- 2007 - 6Frame Program of European Union: “Religion and Values in Central Europe” (REVACERN) coordinated by Szeged University, Hungary.
- 2006 - A.W. Mellon Foundation, New York- CNRS Paris: “*L’analyse de l’oeuvre Diego de Landa: Relation des choses de Yucatan.*”
- 2005 – “Genaro Estrada” for specialists on Mexico: “Religion and Duality in Mesoamerica: The basic principles of dualistic thinking.” UNAM, Mexico City.
- 2001-2003 - VEGA (Scientific Grant Agency): Superstition and Magic Narration in Slovak Countryside.
- 2001-2002 - Roma Culture Initiative, Open Society Institute, Budapest Religiousness of the Slovak Romanies.
- 2000- Pro-Slovakia, Bratislava: Exhibitions and Catalogue to “The World of Lacandon- Maya Indians.”
- 1999-2000- Charter 77, Open Society Fund, Bratislava (1999-2000): Religious Change among the Maya-Lacandons, Chiapas.

COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate Courses

- *History and Religion of Mesoamerica – Maya*
- *History and Religion of Mesoamerica – Aztecs*
- *History and Religion of Pre-Columbian America*
- *Theory and Methodology of Religion*
- *Ancient History and Religion of Mediterranean Area II. (Egypt and Syro-Palestine)*
- *Ancient History and Religion of Mediterranean Area III. (Greece)*
- *Theory of Myth*

Graduate Courses

- *Texts of Pre-Columbian America*
- *Gods Images in Maya Codices*
- *Contemporary Maya Religion*
- *Maya Myths and Symbols*
- *Popol Vuh-Sacral Book of Maya-Quiché*
- *Comparative Religion*
- *Eliade's Theory of Religion*
- *New Comparativism of William E. Paden*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

WAYEB- European Association of Mayanist

IAHR - International Association for History of Religions

EASR – European Association for Study of Religions

LANGUAGES

Slovak (native speaker), English, Spanish, Russian, Latin, Maya (Classic), Maya (Modern Lacandon)