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Preparing for an ERC grant



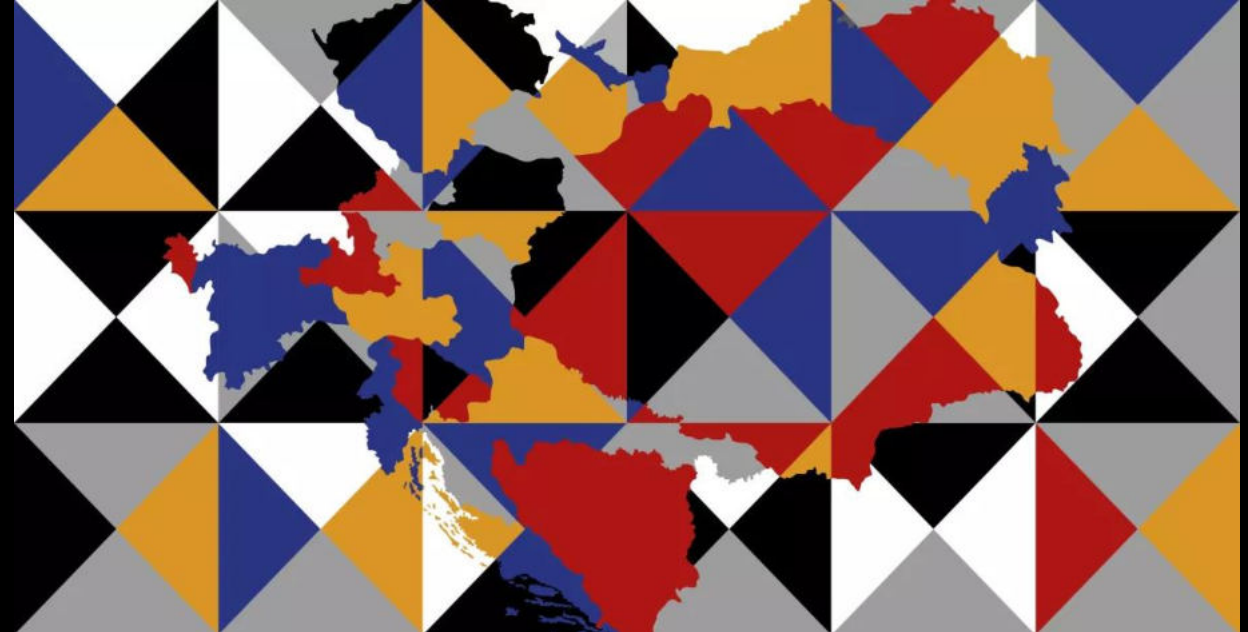
ERC Advanced Grant

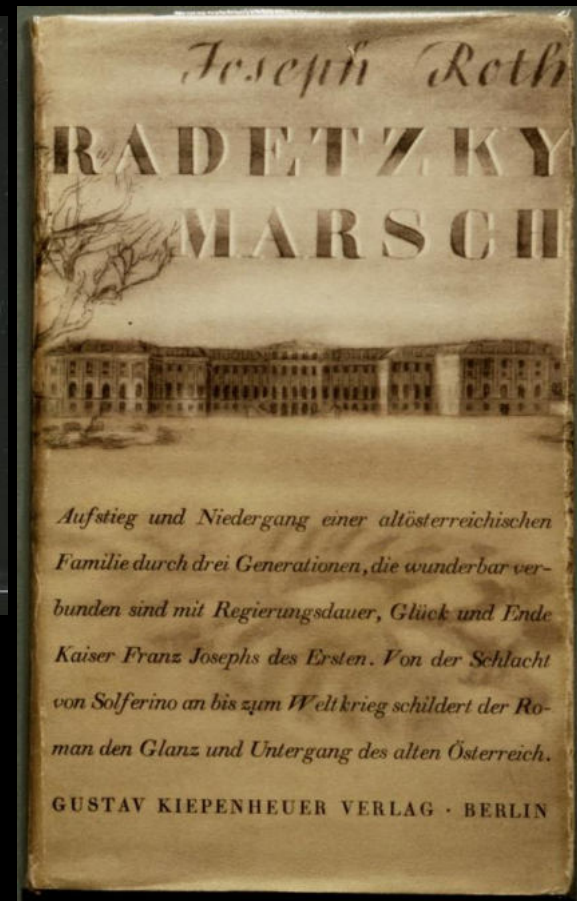
CRAACE

Continuity / Rupture in Art and Architecture in Central Europe 1918-1939

- Five Year Project
- Comparative study of interwar Austria, Czechoslovakia and Hungary (+ post-Ottoman Turkey, Europe and the Middle East, Baltic States)

- One 0.6 Principal Investigator
- Three 1.0 Post-doc Researchers (with appropriate language spread)
- One administrator
- Four monographs + one edited volume + five conferences / workshops





- What was the meaning of the year 1918 for art and architecture in Central Europe?
- When new political elites and social structures emerge out of historical rupture, how are art and architecture affected?
- How might one describe the cultural memory of Austria-Hungary after 1918?
- In what ways do these questions challenge existing orthodoxies about interwar art?
- What questions might this raise for our understanding and practices of periodization?



VERNACULAR
MODERNISMS, NOSTALGIA
AND THE AVANT-GARDE



PRESENTING THE STATE:
WORLD FAIRS AND
EXHIBITIONARY CULTURES



PIETY, REACTION AND
RENEWAL



CONTESTED HISTORIES:
MONUMENTS, MEMORY
AND REPRESENTATIONS OF
THE HISTORICAL PAST

Planning:

- It takes a long time to develop a proposal through to the end. It may require a year or more of conceptual preparation before you even start writing
- It took **9 months** to write – the application is long and demanding, and it took about 20 versions before submitting the final one
- Take advantage of colleagues for feedback on drafts – and *not just* colleagues in your field
- Find a **critical friend**

In your application, spell out:

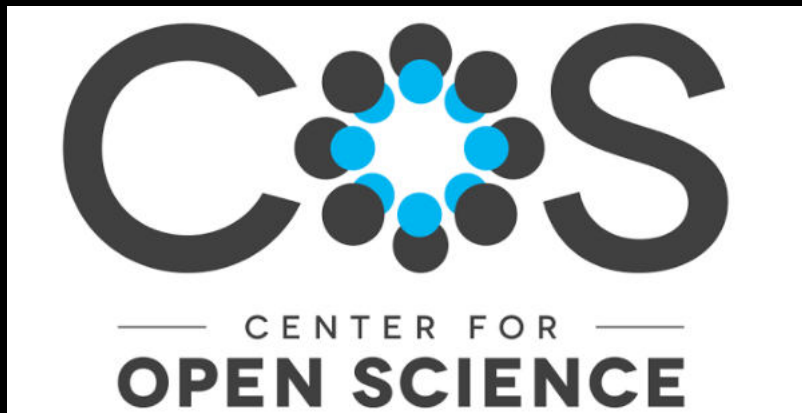
- **Significance:** the significance of the research – its merits and benefits – should be spelled out. Why is it needed? Why should anyone care?
- **Aims:** is it clear what the research is aiming to achieve? What are the *questions* driving it?
- **State of the Art:** This has to be *more* than just listing recent publications on the topic. You have to position your own project in relation to the state of the art – and indicate how it is addressing current gaps / problems in the field
- **Ambition:** it has to be an obvious measurable *departure* from your previous work, *not* just an incremental addition or more of the same.

In your application (2), spell out:

- **Staffing:** my application included *named* staff, but there had to be a rationale as to why *they* were needed (vs. open competition for funded posts)
- **Staffing:** indicate what each person is going to do, what aspects of the project they will be responsible for and, crucially, what their *outputs* will be
- **Staffing:** PhDs or research assistants?
- **Salience:** this was a historical project, but it touched on a topic with particular political salience: central Europe and identities in a time of flux. I think this helped.
- **Flexibility:** as the project develops, changes are possible

In your application (3), spell out:

- **Management:** it should be clear *who* is responsible for *what* in the team and why they are needed. What is *your* contribution as the lead investigator?
- **Risk management:** have you identified risks? What practical measures are there to minimise risk? How will you deal with potential disruptions, e.g. researchers / collaborators leaving?
- **Open Access:** a central priority for the ERC – build it into the design of the project (includes open data as well as open access publications)



In your application (4), spell out:

- **Rationale:** why the ERC (rather than the GAČR or some other body)?
- **Audience:** do not just write it for specialists – writing for a non-academic reader will force you to spell out the aims and significance of the research without relying on jargon
- **Scale (1):** projects should be on a scale in keeping with the scheme – big enough to *require* 5 years.
- **Scale (2):** the project should be ambitious enough for the money to be *necessary*

Planning

- You may need long-term strategic planning – is your academic profile quite there yet?
- But there are different schemes for different levels – and reviewers take this into account when assessing applications.

Developing your profile

- **Think longer term** – you may not be ready *now* but can you plan to have a compelling *curriculum vitae* in 2 or 3 years' time?
- **Develop a publication strategy.** This means:
 - making sure you publish in journals / with presses that will get you *noticed*
 - don't just go for the first journal that accepts your paper
 - being ambitious – aim for the best known / leading journals first (Panels will be better able to judge the quality of your publications)
 - decide who your audience is and cultivate them
 - language issues (Czech or German / English / French / Italian?)