

Impact case study form

- The Impact case study form consists of two sections. In Section A, provide basic information about the applicant, the unit of assessment, the title of the case study, the period when the research on which the case study is based was conducted, and information about the submitting institution's staff who are (or have been) involved in the research. The information regarding the underpinning research does not need to be linked to current staff, nor does it need to be linked to the evaluation period (2020-2024) or to the outputs submitted in the previous section.
- Section B has 5 main parts:
 - Brief summary of the impact (max. 100 words): briefly state the specific societal impact described in the case study;
 - The research on which the impact is based (max. 500 words): provide the key research findings or insights that underpin the societal impact and details of what research has been conducted, when and by whom;
 - References to the research (max. 6 references): provide references to the key outputs from the research described in the previous section;
 - Details of the societal impact (max 750 words): using supporting evidence, explain how the research has clearly supported or substantially contributed to the declared societal impact, and also the nature and extent of the societal impact, including a description of the societal impact on specific institutions or target groups, including a description of the evidence to support the societal impact;
 - Up-to-date contacts to sources supporting the societal impact (max. ten references): provide contacts of those external sources (i.e. sources outside the submitting institution) that have supported the specific claims made in the case study.
- The last part of the form is 'other contextual data', which applicants may fill in if relevant in the context of the application (this information is supplementary and optional; it is not included in the limit of five pages).

Section A

The fields in this section are compulsory.

Applicant: Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Philosophy and Art, Trnava University

Unit of assessment: 24 Philosophy and Theology

Title of case study: The Legacy of Ancient Greek Philosophy for the 21st Century

Type of the impact: Cultural Impact: Preservation of cultural heritage and traditions, cultural artefacts, new forms of artistic expression, cultural tourism, intellectual property, cultural understanding and new ways of thinking		
Time period when the underpinning research was conducted: 2019 – 2024		
Details about the personnel conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:		
Name/Names:	Roles (e.g. work position):	Period of employment at the submitting institution:
Mgr. Mgr. Michal Zvarík, PhD.	Assistant Professor, Head of the Department of Philosophy	From 2011 until today
Details about the personnel from the submitting institution who have contributed to the impact:		
Name/Names:	Roles (e.g. work position):	Period of employment at the submitting institution:
Mgr. Mgr. Michal Zvarík, PhD.	Assistant Professor, Head of the Department of Philosophy	From 2011 until today
Period when the declared impact occurred: 2019 – 2024		
Section B		
1. Brief summary of the impact (max. 100 words)		
<p>In the case study we will point out the use of the results of Michal Zvarík's research in the realization of the theatre play Zmeškané rozhovory (<i>Missed Conversations</i>), prepared by the Ján Palárik Theatre. Zvarík's scientific activity in the field ancient philosophy builds on the cultural heritage of Western civilization, its roots in Greek thought, and through modern interpretations he communicates them to contemporary society. Involving this expertise in the preparation of a theatrical production extends the impact of this research from the academic field to wider society through theatre is a medium of the dissemination of values and ideas.</p>		

2. Research on which the impact is based (max. 500 words)

Michal Zvarík has been involved in teaching and research in ancient philosophy and phenomenology practically since the beginning of his work as an assistant professor at the Department of Philosophy of the Faculty of Philosophy and Art at Trnava University. He is a regular participant in conferences, workshops or summer schools devoted to problems and interpretations of classical Greek texts, especially Plato and Aristotle, but also other figures of ancient Greek philosophy.

In addition to the reception of the works of ancient authors, his scholarly activity also focuses on the dialogue between the ancient world and modern philosophical thought. This concerns his works in the field of phenomenology and political philosophy, where he explored the thinking heritage of [H. Arendt](#), [E. Husserl](#), [M. Heidegger](#) or [J. Patočka](#). Zvarík's research is a critical reassessment of these interpretations and their development in social discourse in the 21st century.

Zvarík's scientific activity is recognized in academic circles at home and abroad. His expertise in several areas of philosophical thought is confirmed by his membership in professional editorial boards or associations: from 2013 to 2017 he was a member of the editorial board of [The Yearbook for History and Interpretation of Phenomenology](#), since 2011 he has been a member of the [online journal for the humanities Ostium](#), he is also a member of the executive committees of the [Central and East European Society for Phenomenology \(CEESP\)](#) and the [Slovak Philosophical Association at the Slovak Academy of Sciences](#). He is repeatedly invited as a reviewer of grant projects, studies in the field of ancient philosophy or as an editor of volumes dealing with Western philosophical thought.

He is also involved in collective research work as a researcher of several projects concerning continental philosophy. He was a member of the research team of the project VEGA No. 1/0020/21 entitled "The development of the concept of shame in ancient and contemporary moral philosophy with emphasis on its ethical functions", he was also a member of the research team in the successfully solved project VEGA No. 1/0174/21 "Revision of anthropology: the concept of the human in the 21st century" or a member of the project APVV-20-0137 "Philosophical anthropology in the context of contemporary crises of symbolic structures" and others. In 2024 he was awarded a V4 grant as Principal Investigator on "[Philosophy and Culture of Intimacy in Central Europe](#)", which focuses on the reception of the sources of continental thought in modern Central Europe.

Zvarík's research activity is also reflected in his publications, whether they are his monographic works, chapters in collective monographs or articles in scientific and professional periodicals published at home or abroad. Among those that primarily concerned ancient philosophy, we select the following:

ZVARÍK, M.: [Od Nikoho k Odysseovi: Jan Patočka, intersubjektivita a mýtus](#) [From Nobody to Odysseus: Jan Patočka, intersubjectivity and myth]. Trnava: Filozofická fakulta Trnavskej Univerzity v Trnave, 2024.

ZVARÍK, M.: [The crisis of the idea of the university and its origins](#). In: *The Yearbook on History and Interpretation of Phenomenology* 2017. Berlin: Peter Lang, 2018, pp. 81–97.

ZVARÍK, M.: [The Spectrality of Shame in Plato's Menexenus](#). In: *Pro-Fil*, vol. 24, no. 1, 2023, pp. 23–33.

ZVARÍK, M.: [Socrates and Polis in the Thought of Jan Patočka and Hannah Arendt](#). In: Božič, A. (ed.): *Thinking togetherness: Phenomenology and sociality*. Ljubljana: Institute Nova Revija for the Humanities, 2023, pp. 313–326.

ZVARÍK, M.: [Etika ako prvá filozofia podľa Pierra Hadota](#). In: *Ostium*, vol. 14, no. 1, 2018.

Since 2019 he is the Head of the Department of Philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts, Trnava University and a member of the Academic Senate of the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts, Trnava University.

3. References to the research (max. 6 references)

Research citations in the academic community:

VYDRA, A.: [Alimentary Images as Metaphor of Education](#). In: [Studies in Philosophy and Education](#), vol. 43, no. 5, 2024, pp. 499–514. DOI: 10.1007/s11217-024-09940-9. WOS CC, SCOPUS.

Cited document: ZVARÍK, M.: The Spectrality of Shame in Plato's *Menexenus*. In: *Pro-Fil*, vol. 24, no. 1, 2023, pp. 23–33.

MAJERNÍK, J.: [The Problem of Teaching Virtue Between the Protagoras and the Phaedrus](#). In: *Pro-Fil*, vol. 25, no. 1, 2024, pp. 25–37. DOI: 10.5817/pf24-1-35740. SCOPUS.

Cited document: ZVARÍK, M.: The Spectrality of Shame in Plato's *Menexenus*. In: *Pro-Fil*, vol. 24, č. 1, 2023, pp. 23–33.

PORUBJAK, M.: [Sókratovská pedagogika v Platónovom dialógu Menón](#). In: *Pro-Fil*, vol. 23, no. 1, 2022, pp. 1–15. DOI 10.5817/pf22-1-20425. SCOPUS.

Cited document: ZVARÍK, M.: The crisis of the idea of the university and its origins. In: *The Yearbook on History and Interpretation of Phenomenology 2017*. Berlin: Peter Lang, 2018, pp. 81–97.

KALAŠ, A. – ZELINOVÁ, Z.: [Alkibiadov pedagogický eros?](#) In: *Filozofia*, vol. 74, no. 1, 2019, pp. 13–27, WOS CC, SCOPUS, CCC.

Cited document: ZVARÍK, M.: Etika ako prvá filozofia podľa Pierra Hadota. In: *Ostium*, vol. 14, no. 1, 2018, online.

Selected grants in which M. Zvarík was a co-investigator

Principal investigator: Prof. Jon Stewart, PhD., Dr. habil phil. et theol.

Grant title: Philosophical anthropology in the context of contemporary crises of symbolic structures

Grant Scheme: APVV-20-0137

Period: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2025

Financial value: 200.000 EUR

Principal investigator: Assoc. Mgr. Mgr. Ulrich Wollner, PhD.

Grant title: The development of the concept of shame in ancient and contemporary moral philosophy with emphasis on its ethical functions

Grant scheme: VEGA No. 1/0020/21

Period: January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2023

Financial value: 35.505 EUR

Principal investigator: Prof. PhDr. Matúš Porubjak, PhD.

Grant title: The origin, formation and transformations of the *phronesis* notion in ancient philosophy

Grant scheme: VEGA No. 1/0416/15

Period: January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2017

Financial value: 14.343 EUR

4. Details of the impact (max. 750 words)

Department of Philosophy have long been engaged in research activities in philosophical reflections on continental thought and its history, Central European culture, as well as broader civilizational issues. In the context of this interest, we have chosen for this study following case.

The case presented here concerns the use and involvement of the expertise of Michal Zvarík in the preparation of the theatre performance [Zmeškané rozhovory](#) (*Missed Conversations*), which was realized by the Ján Palárik Theatre in Trnava (see Confirmation in the part 5a) as a series of three stories, as it is stated in the press release for this production, [“about interpersonal communication, the failure of discussion or the limits of dialogue”](#). The play was premiered on February 2–3, 2024 and is composed of three separate units, each of which takes place in a different space of the theatre. It was directed by Lucia Mihálová, Rastislav Ballek and David Jařab, with Lucia Mihálová and Jakub Molnár as dramaturgs. The cooperation between the Ján Palárik Theatre and the Department of Philosophy was reflected especially in the second part of the performance, which was directed by Rastislav Ballek. He was – as the theatre itself states on its [website](#) – inspired by “the first complex reflection on language in European culture – Plato’s *Dialogues*. It deals with early reflections on what it means to communicate and what dialogue means. It draws on the philosophies of Plato and Socrates, who, more than two thousand years ago in ancient Greece, explored how misunderstandings arise, how to formulate arguments, and what language is for.” See also documentation in the part 5d.

As this is a thematic area of ancient philosophy, the creators of this performance approached Dr. Zvarík with a request for his expert help in conceiving this part of the play. This request also resulted from the long-term cooperation between the two institutions, which was further consolidated by the signing of a [Memorandum of Cooperation](#) at the beginning of 2023, as stated in the report on the evaluation of the activities of the Ján Palárik Theatre in Trnava (p. 28 in the [PDF document](#)), and as it is also evident from the text of the Memorandum of Cooperation itself (available on the repository). Incidentally, the Department of Philosophy has also signed similar [Memoranda of Cooperation](#) with other cultural institutions with which it closely collaborates on other projects (cultural center [Malý Berlín](#) in Trnava, cultural center [Eleuzína](#) in Banská Štiavnica, and the [Library of Juraj Fándly](#) in Trnava).

After consulting the creators of the theatrical performance with Dr. Zvarík, specific passages from Plato’s dialogues – namely the dialogues *Menon*, *Phaedo*, *Theaetetus*, *Alcibiades I* and *Republic* – were selected and provided to the students of the master’s degree program at the Department of Philosophy. Under the supervision of Dr. Zvarík, the students were asked to prepare short essays on the selected dialogues, and these were subsequently used as part of the preparation of the second part of the theatrical performance *Zmeškané rozhovory*.

However, the cooperation between the theatre and the department did not end only with the performance itself, but also continued in the project, which is a continuation or extension of the performance itself. The Ján Palárik Theatre started special discussions with the creators of the plays after the end of some of the performances (see documentation in the part 5b and 5c). The Department of Philosophy has already collaborated in this way on the play *Palárik (a to jeho teátro)* [*Palárik (and his theatre)*], but it was the same in the case of *Zmeškané rozhovory*. The first such discussion, in which Dr. Zvarík participated along with the other creators of the play, took place on February 21, 2024 and was attended by [approximately 50 people](#), which is also the usual attendance at other similar events in DJP. Other similar discussions were held on April 13, 2024, and later May 25, 2024 – both with similar numbers of visitors.

The case study presented here shows how philosophical research in continental philosophy is still relevant and that expertise in this specialist area is also highly valued in the cultural community. Theatre, in turn, is an effective disseminator of values and ideas and participates in their dissemination among a wide cross-section of society, represented by different generations and social groups. The unquestionable role of the theatre as a tool for cultivating society and encouraging reflection and self-reflection is thus a guarantor of a free, critically thinking citizenship.

5. Sources to support the impact (max. ten references)

- a) Confirmation of the Ján Palárik Theatre (DJP) on cooperation with Dr. Zvarík on the preparation of the theatre production *Zmeškané rozhovory*, source DJP ([available on the repository](#)).
- b) Photo documentation of the post-performance discussion on February 21, 2024, DJP source ([link](#)).
- c) Video documentation of the post-show discussion on 21 February 2024, DJP source ([accessible on the repository](#)).
- d) Interview with the performance's dramaturg Lucia Mihálová for the magazine *Divadlo* ([Autumn 02/2024, p. 14](#)), where she said: "The second part of the production was created in cooperation with the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts of Trnava University. As part of a seminar on Plato's dialogue *Alcibiades*, Professor Zvarík and I involved students in the rehearsal process by assigning them to write short essays or analyses of the staged text from a philosophical point of view" ([scan of the document available on the repository](#)). This statement is also found in an interview with L. Mihálová published in the bulletin for the performance *Zmeškané rozhovory* ([scan of the document available on the repository](#)); source DJP.

Other contextual data

Fields in this part are additional and optional. This information is provided in a separate form and is not included in the five-page limit.

Name(s) of funder(s):**Global Research Identifier of funder(s) (<https://www.grid.ac/>):****Name(s) of funding programme(s):****Grant number(s):****Amount of grant (in EUR):****ORCID for each named researcher, where available:****Name(s) of formal partner(s):****Countries where the impact occurred:**