

## SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Name: **Patrik Gažo**

Home university and faculty: **Palacký University Olomouc, Faculty of Philosophy**

Host university and department: **University of Vienna,**

**Department of Political  
Science**

Grant period: **winter term 2020/21 (5 months)**

Even though my internship at the Department of Political Science at UW has been a little bit limited due to coronavirus situation, nevertheless I could say, that this experience has helped me to successfully implement theoretical and empirical knowledge of my host supervisor Prof. Ulrich Brand and his colleagues into my dissertation project.

During my research stay at the host department, I have been working on several tasks, and I have been involved in some activities that relate to my dissertation project and research question. Firstly, I have been working on an academic paper on the automotive industry's political ecology, which will be used as a crucial part of my dissertation thesis's theoretical framework. One of the most critical activity has been my participation at the Summer school of political ecology organized by Prof. Brand and Prof. Dr. Christoph Görg at the Institute of Social Ecology (SEC) at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences in Vienna where we have read relevant papers and discussed many topics that helped me to understand the theoretical background of political ecology better.

Moreover, I have discussed my dissertation project's issue and structure with several researchers in the field of social-ecological transformation of industrial production, focusing on the automotive industry. The most relevant feedback and insights have been given by Danyal Maneka and Nora Krenmayr, who have worked together with Prof. Brand on the research project called Social-Ecological Transformation: Industrial Conversion and the Role of Labour (CON-LABOUR). Another valuable source of feedback came from the presentation

### **Semester grant and grant for short-term stays of the "Aktion" Austria-Czech Republic**

of my project at the Department of Political Science on the so-called "Brown Bag Lunch" which is room for discussion, in which one person discusses a topic from her/his field of research. In general, I have established contacts with several Austrian researchers and gained more know-how in the field of socio-ecological transformation, and I believe that I will build on these contacts in future academic cooperation. Last but not least, I have collected and transcribed part of the interviews with relevant stakeholders in the automotive industry in the Czech and Slovak republic using online tools (Zoom calls).

In conclusion, the inspiring time spent with Austrian researchers in the chosen institute and with others with whom I have been in contact so far will make an essential contribution towards the completion of my research project and dissertation thesis. I am grateful for this opportunity that helped me deepen my involvement in the Viennese research community and direct my professional career development. Moreover, my research stay will continue at SEC during the next semester; therefore, my Vienna presence and involvement in the local area will develop further.