



We would be happy to get to know something about your academic career and it would be nice if you could describe your academic work in a few words.

I have MA degree in sociology and philosophy and a Ph.D. degree in philosophy from the Palacký University in Olomouc in the Czech Republic. In my Ph.D. thesis, I investigated the relation between hermeneutics and phenomenology in the broader perspective of modern German philosophy. In the present, I work as researcher at the Institute of Sociology at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in Prague. I focus on theoretical studies at the boundary between philosophy and sociology with special interests in the theory of understanding, the theory of action and the methodology of the social sciences and humanities. Besides my theoretical activities, I am also engaged in empirical research work in the field of sociology. I participate in implementing of regular public opinion surveys and other empirical researches. My main empirical research topic is related to the social dimension of the process of siting the deep geological radioactive waste repository in the Czech Republic. Since 2013, I teach the subject Methodology of Science at the Department of Sociology at the Charles University in Prague. I was the editor of the Czech translation of H.-G. Gadamer's treatise *Wahrheit und Methode* (two volumes).

How do you see yourself in your role as a citizen of the EU?

I appreciate very much the possibilities that the EU opens to its citizens as regards traveling, working, living or studying abroad in other member states. I appreciate very much all the advantages that European integration initiated in the areas of politics, economy, law and culture. I support the process of the EU integration and I occasionally defend some of its principles against sceptical objections that are not so uncommon in the Czech Republic. Together with attendance of the European Parliament elections, I currently perceive this defence as my main role as a citizen of the EU. On the other hand, I think that the idea of European citizenship might be presented more intensively. In comparison with national political bodies, politicians in Brussel still seem to be remarkably more distant and unknown to the ordinary people of member states. In the Czech Republic, people benefit from the membership in the EU, but they largely see only their own national government – and Brussel is only a remote blinking lighthouse at the horizon.

What is your personal opinion regarding the most important challenges and reasons regarding a participation in the European Union as a nation?

In the light of the on-going economic crisis in Europe and in response to new global challenges, I think that it is crucial to enhance integration in taxing of big corporations and regulation of financial markets within the EU states.

This the main reason, why I consider the deepening of European integration to be a more suitable road to take than other alternatives. I would like to have Europe with less winner takes all politics and with more responsibility of corporations and companies to the national and local environment and infrastructure they use for their development.

What do you think about the importance of Alumni in terms of the cultural, academic and economical exchange?

It is nice to stay in touch with your past somehow and to keep the cultural and intellectual exchange with your foreign fellows. It is even more important for me personally, as I still belong to the academic world ...