

inspiration forum

A place of mutual dialogue and dreaming.

www.inspirationforum.com

For the twelfth year already, the Inspiration Forum platform offered an opportunity to discover new perspectives, strengthen the dialogue and introduce new issues about our day-and-age. This year's edition took place from 25 to 30 October 2022 and focused on the events in Ukraine, the society moving online, the limits of economic growth and its alternatives, and the freedoms that are often still only on paper.



“To address the current crises, we need to change our view of the world – stop seeing it as a world of separate entities and start seeing it as a world where everything is interconnected. A part of this is also the integral connection of the present with the past and the future.”

Jennifer Hinton, *environmental economist*

“This year's Inspiration Forum made me think about things I had been completely rejecting before.”

Visitor

We open a dialogue

2 500

visitors

24

programme blocks

Nearly 13 000

online views

16 039

website views

1658

accredited visitors
of the Ji.hlava IDFF
attended at least one of the
Forum's programmes

78 guests from 15 countries

5 topics

1 workshop IF NEWS
with 15 students and
3 journalists, 2 podcasters,
1 TikToker, 1 writer, 1 Roma
scholar and 1 expert on
misinformation about climate



Seeking for new ways

Seeking.

The Forum's topics reflect on the most serious crises and key challenges of our day-and-age. They are formulated so that they encourage original thinking and the search for new ways to overcome crises. We pose questions about the possibilities of a livable future, a freer and fairer world. We ask how we can put this into practice – how we can effectively contribute to change on the personal, civic and political level.

(P)RESIDENT Inhabiting the state



The notion of home seems to be becoming very problematic, both in terms of access to housing and in the sense of inhabiting the state as such. A growing number of people are having difficulty finding economically sustainable housing, and on a more general level, more and more of us are finding it difficult to maintain dignity as citizens, be it in terms of inalienable social rights, the position on the labour market or face to face with state authorities. What can we do about this at the municipal level and how do those who would like to take residence at the Prague Castle for the next presidential term think about inhabiting the state?

ЛЮДИНА_HUMANS Ukrainian challenge for humanity

Against the backdrop of the current horrible war events and dark political analyses of the situation in Ukraine, we can also see a certain hope. We are witnessing something unexpected and truly unprecedented – tenacious resistance, solidarity and the ability to join forces. The post-war world can take on various forms. We will look for those in which Ukraine can inspire a revision of what humanity means to us and what specific and practical steps can be taken. It is clear that we have to expand the term's content.

E-PANOPTICON

Destined for the online world

The fascination with digital technologies leads to a gradual but pervasive change that might not be evident during their pioneering stage. The most earth-shattering developments are usually driven by powerful global corporations that can afford large investments. The multidimensional Internet 3.0 and the related technologies contain the promise of new forms of communication, but also the risk of drawing the human population into an online interface after which there may be no turning back. What are the risks associated with the latest technological developments and how should we approach them from the perspective of the community, the state and transnational political institutions?

STOP

What happens if we stop the growth?

Plants and animals inevitably grow. Is economic growth also an inevitable condition for good living? The idea of degrowth does not merely mean the opposite of growth. It highlights quality of life indicators other than the economic ones and points to the importance of social justice and environmental consequences. Unlimited economic growth has led the world into a climate crisis and is hitting planetary limits in terms of resources. We will explore growth from the perspective of ecology, economics and politics, but also in relation to our cultural practice and personal life. Is degrowth compatible with the business world and how can cultural institutions and the film industry operate using its principles? And what about capitalism?

NEW DEFINITIONS

Freedom is the real deal

The ideal of freedom is something that unites us all. Most political parties promise to defend or to expand our freedoms. Often, however, this key concept is void of content, or is seen only in a very minimalist way – as a freedom to think, to say or write anything, and possibly to cross the borders of our country. But what does it mean in terms of possibilities for self-fulfilment in today's world, equal opportunities, a life of dignity and meaningful participation in society? Nothing much usually. We also associate freedom with the absence of a totalitarian regime, although some of us are still living under economic pressure, in a deteriorated environment, with a poor labour market status or not being able to afford housing. Three decades after the revolution, it is high time to redefine the concept of freedom.

if

We connect different worlds

Together.

The audience is our partner. We place emphasis on the audience's engagement in the discussion and always provide sufficient space for them to interact with the Forum's speakers. We value feedback from our visitors and take it seriously.

"The forum's programme inspired me not to marginalize the issue of gender, to adopt (especially for myself) a non-violent argumentation."

"I always broaden my horizons a little bit and I can put some things in context better. Another reason to attend the Forum is to get arguments for discussions, but also to form an opinion on some things."

"In general, in the few years I've been coming to the Inspiration Forum, I feel that discussing various topics somewhat 'sensitises' me to people whose shoes I haven't walked in and to situations I've never been in."

The **visitors** of the Inspiration Forum recruit from those who attend the **Ji.hlava IDFF** (people of all ages, with higher education and interest in social topics and culture), **film professionals** from all over the world (directors, producers, distributors, sales agents, film critics, film festival representatives, film school students), **local Jihlava audiences** and internet users interested in social issues.

Global thinkers, scientists, important local actors, artists, people who do not usually receive media attention, women and men, and representatives of all generations are included in the programme.

We get inspired

Guests

Giorgos Kallis (Greece)

Ecological economist, researcher and proponent and theorist of degrowth. In his research he analyses the reasons for the hegemonic position of the idea of growth, its limits and possible alternatives. In *The Case for Degrowth*, he offers both a vision and concrete strategies to stop the endless drive for growth in global production and consumption and instead ensure conditions that support a life of value for all.

Dorottya Rédei (Hungary)

Hungarian gender studies theorist and activist. She coordinated the publication of the story collection *Wonderland Is for Everyone*, a children's book containing adapted versions of classic fairy tales as well as original stories featuring characters belonging not only to sexual, ethnic or religious minorities but also to other discriminated or excluded groups. The book sparked a wave of backlash from Hungary's conservative right wing representatives, with Viktor Orbán describing it as "homosexual propaganda".

Kiri Dalena (Philippines)

Filipina artist, documentary filmmaker and human rights activist. Her work is deeply marked by her experience of injustice, political and military brutality and violence. Not only as an artist, Dalena is primarily concerned with issues of unfreedom and social injustice in the Philippines.

Jennifer Hinton (Sweden)

A green economy advocating an economic model based on "not-for-profit" enterprises – i.e. companies whose primary goal is social benefit, not profit. Hinton hopes the "not-for-profit" model will lead to greater equality, a decline in consumerism and a weakening of the link between business and politics, but also, naturally, offer the chance to live with dignity and sustainability on our planet.

Total Refusal (Austria)

A pseudo-Marxist media guerrilla whose members work in subversive ways with mainstream video games. They invade the games and appropriate them by rejecting their rules – they do not respect the goals or the paths that are presented to them as necessary and self-evident. The digital space in which they intervene is thus being reinvented and explored in ways that can be used for other purposes than for combat.

Alisa Kovalenko (Ukraine)

Ukrainian filmmaker, who put down her camera and signed up to fight for Ukraine driven by the outrage over Russia's invasion of her home and memories of a sexual assault she survived during fighting with Moscow-backed separatists eight years ago.

Patricia Churchland (Canada)

Canadian philosopher, a pioneer in the field of neurophilosophy – a discipline that reflects on philosophical problems in the light of scientific knowledge about the functioning of the human brain. In her most recent book, *Conscience: the Origins of Moral Intuition*, she concludes that conscience is also a product of the evolutionary development of the brain, and that some moral intuition is thus possessed not only by humans but also by other mammals.

Kateřina Nekolová (CZ) member of participatory housing social cooperative, **Anna Ackermann (UA)** political analyst and energy security expert, **Illia Ponomarenko (UA)**, Kyiv Independent reporter, **Petra Procházková (CZ)**, journalist, **Oksana Stomina (UA)**, poet and writer, **Aaron Benanav (USA)**, economic historian and social theorist, **András Cséfalvay (SK)**, visual artist, **Leonhard Müllner (AUT)**, visual artist and game theorist, **Ben Tarnoff (USA)**, writer and journalist, **Eva Fraňková (CZ)**, researcher and environmentalist, **Shaun Chamberlin (UK)**, writer and degrowth advocate, **Miki Kashtan (USA)**, lecturer in non-violent communication, **Max Koch (SE)**, social scientist, **Daniel Bunda (SK)**, counsellor for adopted Romani children growing up in a non-Romani environment, **Jan Drtina (CZ)**, professional advisor in a non-profit organisation RUBIKON Centrum, **Eliška Koldová (CZ)**, feminist and publicist, **Dominika Lasota (PL)**, climate justice activist, **Matthias Oaks (CZ)**, student of University of Chemistry and Technology focusing on wellbeing of LGBTQI+ students, **Sara Polak (CZ)**, anthropologist and archaeologist of artificial intelligence, and others.

We are building a community



“I really appreciated the effort to make these issues accessible to a diverse audience. I felt that it worked and that I could learn something from it myself.”

Josef Patočka, *researcher and journalist on political ecology*



“The audience was active and asked great questions to think about.”

Dorottya Redai, *gender studies theorist and activist*

“Thank you very much for inviting me. I really liked the interview with Silvie [Lauder], she asked great questions. The questions from the audience were also excellent and provoked me to think about many things.”

Patricia Churchland, *neurophilosopher*

“The discussion panels were very well put together – a good mix of guests who were able to provide different perspectives and at the same time react to each other [...] I also admire the technical implementation (interpretation, combination of online and live guests, etc.), the accompanying set of texts, recordings of debates and other accompanying ‘gadgets’. Hats off!”

Eva Fraňková, *environmentalist*



“It was a great pleasure to join the conversation and create a bridge between the social justice movement and the climate/anti-war movement that is growing in our region. I congratulate you for bringing together such different perspectives in one place.”

Dominika Lasota, *climate and anti-war activist*



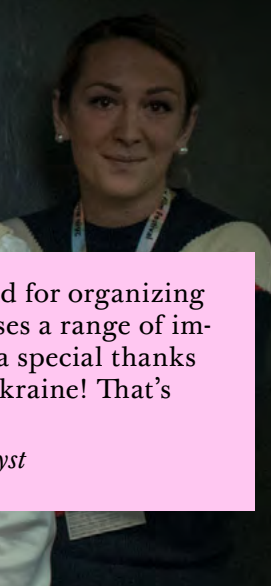
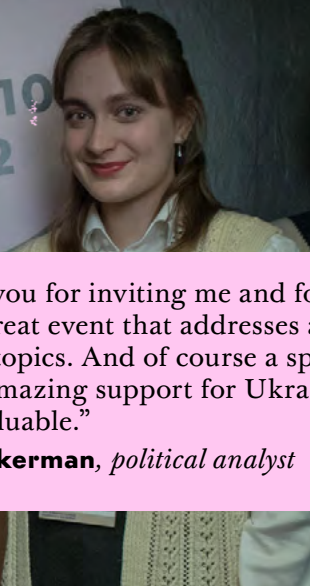
“Thank you for inviting me and for organizing such a great event that addresses a range of important topics. And of course a special thanks for the amazing support for Ukraine! That’s really valuable.”

Anna Ackerman, *political analyst*



“The two days I spent in Jihlava energized me, dazzled me with inspiring conversations and gave me courage for my next steps in my professional life. It was a privilege to debate with people who have the courage to talk about important social issues without unnecessary sauce.”

Daniel Bunda, *counsellor for adopted Roma children*



Seeking new language

Imagination.

The interdisciplinary research programme **Inspiration Forum LAB** organized every two years, creates a space for dialogue between science and art.

During the first edition of 2021/22, three teams of Fellows from the arts and sciences (from biodesign through philosophy to social and environmental anthropology) searched for “Limits to Growth”. The results of their research have given rise to interdisciplinary projects combining art and design research. The works focus on the transformation of Ostrava over the last decades, the toxic relationship between phosphate fertilizers and agricultural plants, and possible scenarios of climate change in the Guadiana River basin between Spain and Portugal.



MUTUAL CORE: A case study of a transformation
Giulia Faccin, Ján Skaličan, Jitka Králová and Jaroslav Michl



GUADIANA IN FOUR MOVEMENTS

Pedro F. Neto and Burak Korkmaz
guadiana4movements.eu

IF LAB in media and in the world

Artyčok.tv: [Reportage on a collective exhibition of projects in the Display Gallery](#)

Information is Beautiful Award:
[Guadiana in Four Movement was shortlisted](#)

Ji.hlava IDFF: [Presentation of Guadiana in Four Movements in competition section Short Joy](#)

Planet B: [Presentation of the Mutual Core and Fertiliser Rehab projects at the Toxic Futures and the Creative Process symposium](#)

Radio Wave: [We will soon run out of phosphorus. Inspiration forum LAB looks back at the limits of growth not only in agriculture, 13 September 2022, Šimon Holý](#)



FERTILISER REHAB: Speculative research on plant rehabilitation in times without fertilisers

Hana Komanová and Karolína Žižková
fertiliser.rehab

Current world through students' eyes



Change.

Fifteen aspiring journalists engaged in the production of media outputs for the festival as part of the IF NEWS workshop. The aim is to introduce students to the basics of festival journalism, to introduce them to key issues dominating the contemporary media space, to guide them to a reflection on current IF topics and to give them the opportunity to meet and talk to the most prominent personalities of the Czech media scene.

This year, the students met with **Apolena Rychlíková**, with whom they discussed the operation of the editorial office of Alarm online daily and the ethical dilemmas of journalistic work, with **Linda Bartošová**, who shared the experience of a young journalist employed with public television and who also talked about wellbeing and the ever-present pressure on performance in the media, and with **Tereza Domínová**, who outlined the specifics of working with social networks, **Štěpánka Cimlová**, who discussed the potential hidden in the social network TikTok and the problems of Czech education, and podcasters **Zuzana Kašparová** and **Terézia Ferjančeková**, who talked about the ways into the Czech podcast market, the early days of their Vyhonit ďábla podcast and the functioning of individual platforms, the possibilities of earning money by creating a podcast and the feelings of uncertainty that can occur upon entering the public space.

In two thematic sessions, the students became better acquainted with topics that represent major challenges for Czech journalism. They spoke with sociologist **Vojtěch Pecka** about misinformation about the climate and with Romani scholar **Jan Dužda** and writer **Iveta Kokyová** about the stereotyping of Romani people in the media.

Ukrainian folklore in the arms

Esther Hyhlíková

“Animal symbols are most often present in the viral image of war. The Ukrainian Ministry of Defence publishes footage of Ukrainian soldiers taking care of abandoned animals and feeding them. According to Ilyashenko, kittens are most associated with the Ukrainian army. Kotyky or murichky, the Ukrainian word for kittens, is what soldiers have been called in national news since 2014. What is noticeable about this “cute” discourse is the retreat from the traditional construction of toxic heroism in relation to the war effort and the move away from classical verbal masculine categories. The army is not trying to frighten.”

On degrowth: New story

Karolína Kupková

“Growth rejects the idea of people as selfish individualists in pursuit of profit. According to its advocates, happiness in life is not based on productivity, but on functioning interpersonal relationships, mutual care and self-realization. The world of degrowth implies a decline in material wealth, but not in the sense of forced restrictions as the concept tends to be presented. This decline, on the other hand, happens naturally, along with the realization that things don’t make us happy. This is also confirmed by studies linking GDP, as the main economic indicator of prosperity, to life satisfaction. The phenomenon known as the Easterlin paradox shows that from a certain wealth level, a further increase does not imply a happier life.”

Metaverse versus Society:

On Opportunities and Risks

Magdaléna Čevelová

“While there is scepticism about the development of the Metaverse, which was confirmed by voices across the Inspiration Forum debate, it is also clear that Mark Zuckerberg – one of the richest people in the world – will accelerate the development of virtual reality by several years, perhaps a decade. Although Meta’s profits have declined, it is still one of the most profitable companies in the world. It is a fact that Zuckerberg’s word has great weight and a huge global impact. For example, when Facebook sets new rules, it affects elections not only in the US, but also around the world. In the course of 18 years, Facebook has transformed from a network used by a few thousand students to a global multimedia environment that is part of each of us.”

We are interested in the views of those who own the future

Discussion.

In cooperation with the Centre for Documentary Film, which is behind the Jihlava for Children programme, in previous years we prepared Tales of the Contemporary World, which introduced the Forum's topics to children. This year we prepared the Inspiration Forum Vibes programme, in which we opened the topics together with teenage participants of the festival.

Vojtěch Boháč introduced the topic of the war in Ukraine to the young audience, **Tereza Bartoníčková** spoke about the pitfalls of digital technologies and the Internet, **Tadeáš Žďárský** introduced the idea of degrowth and **Daniel Bunda** presented various forms of freedom. The programme was moderated by performer, actor and student of the Jihlava Grammar School **Šimon Škrdla**.

Thoughts of our guests put in context

Context.

The second series of **Inspiration Forum's Screenshot** podcast dished out the highlights of the 2021 Inspiration Forum debates and discussions. This year's series was moderated by columnist and anthropologist **Lukáš Senft**, who in each episode presented the work and ideas of people who bring a new perspective on the concept of personal freedom and gender-based inequality, economic solutions that seek a balance between the use of natural resources and a good life, and change the view of the world of work, the intelligence of plants, our relationship with digital corporations or our role on our planet. In six episodes dedicated to six personalities (**Judith Butler, David Abram, Nick Srnicek** and others), their Czech and Slovak counterparts also speak, putting the ideas into our context. Special episodes of the third series brought recordings of the discussions in the original version.

The podcast is available on our [website](#) and in podcast apps.



Our presence in the media space



Lidové noviny: Ukrainian writer: Russia is a country of tame people and Putin is a psychopath with signs of sadism, 19 October 2022, *Radim Kopáč*

Respekt: Songs instead of violence, 23 October 2022, *Martin Uhlíř*

Jihlavské listy: War reflections, the Philippines, virtual reality and a debate on ethics: the 26th Ji.hlava is starting, 24 October 2022, *Jiří Varhaník*

Whatnews.cz: Marek Hovorka turned Jihlava into a film city. He has been organizing the documentary film festival since he was seventeen, 24 October 2022, *Alena Gurin Stará*

Česká televize: Ji.hlava IDFF is starting, Studio ČT 24, 25 October 2022, *Kristýna Posekaná*

A2larm: Dorottya Rédei: How should we reshape our relationships in the future? And what can each of us do about it?, 25 October 2022, *Dorottya Rédei*

Universitas: Dorottya Rédei: My activism and academic work support each other, 25 October 2022, *Kristýna Veitová*

Parlamentnilisty.cz: Karel Janeček encountered other candidates. His intentions are now clear, 26 October 2022

Seznam Zprávy: Babiš for president? I don't see the story yet, says his former adviser, Vlevo dole, 28 October 2022, *Lucie Stuchlíková, Václav Dolejší*

FullMoon: Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival, 27 October 2022, 28 October 2022, *Jakub Koumar*

A2larm: Our book was made most famous by a far-right politician, says Hungarian LGBTQ+ activist Dorottya Rédei, 29 October 2022, *Kristína Němcová*

Aktuálně.cz: Ukrainian director went to fight on the front: I can't shake the thought of my friends dying, 29 October 2022, *Jana Václavíková*

Variety: Russia Wants to Beat Us into Submission': Ukrainian Director-Turned-Soldier Alisa Kovalenko Unveils First-Look Footage of 'Frontline', 29 October 2022, *Marta Balaga*

Film a doba: Overview of Ji.hlava 2022. Winners KaprKód and 07:15 – Kos, Czech Joy, key films, discussions and topics, 31 October 2022, *Pavel Sladký*

Fullmoon: Memories of Ji.hlava, 2 November 2022, *Štěpán Nezbeda*

A2larm: Degrowth business? Why and how the oxymoron should become commonplace, 4 November 2022, *Eva Fraňková*

Ohmy News: 가족 위해 총을 든 우크라 여성 감독의 이야기 [The story of a Ukrainian director who took a gun to defend her family], 22 November 2022, *Claire Ham*

Deník N: My son must understand that I am fighting so that he does not have to go to war in a few years, says the Ukrainian woman from the trenches, December 5 2022, *Petra Procházková*



“Thirty-five-year-old Kovalenko knows Russian aggression well. Eight years ago, when the war in the Donbas started, she joined the soldiers as a documentary film student and filmed their everyday life for many months. ‘We had no help from abroad, everything was provided by amateur soldiers who volunteered to fight. We didn’t even have enough shoes,’ he recalls.”

Aktuálně.cz: Ukrainian director went to fight on the front: I can’t shake the thought of my friends dying, 29 October 2022, Jana Václavíková

“If I want to convince readers of anything, it is ‘only’ that there are other ways of organizing the economy and society than the one we are used to living in at the moment. From the current interest in the topic of degrowth, it seems that this topic is attracting more and more attention – in the near future, for example during the day dedicated to discussing degrowth at the Ji.hlava Documentary Film Festival, where the aforementioned Jennifer Hinton and the topic of degrowth entrepreneurship will also be featured during the Inspiration Forum.”

A2larm: Degrowth business? Why and how the oxymoron should become commonplace, 4 November 2022, Eva Fraňková

„The writer Oksana Stomina comes from Mariupol, Ukraine. She was forced to leave the city looted by Russian aggression in March. Her husband, one of the defenders of the Azovstal steelworks, is still in Russian captivity. Oksana writes poetry and prose, mixing fiction with documentary. And she is committed to the Ukrainian cause. On October 26th, she will talk at the Inspiration Forum at the Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival.“

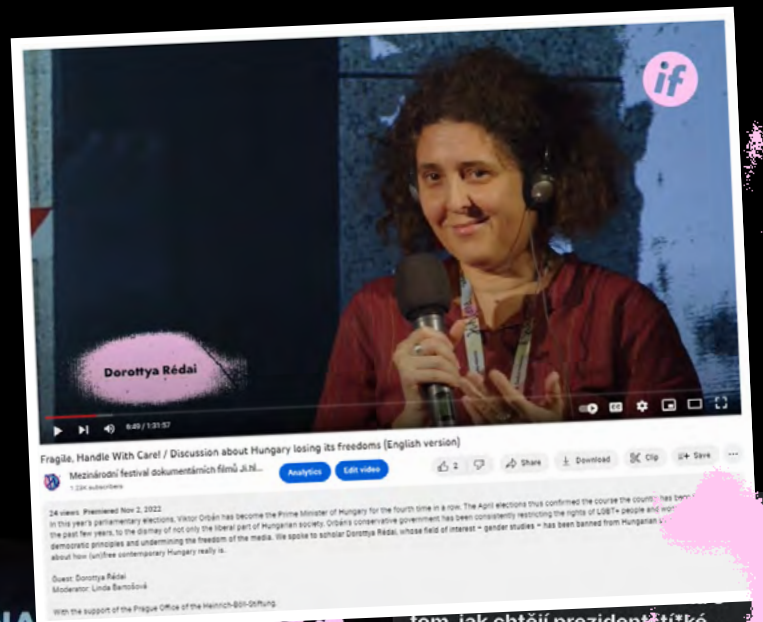
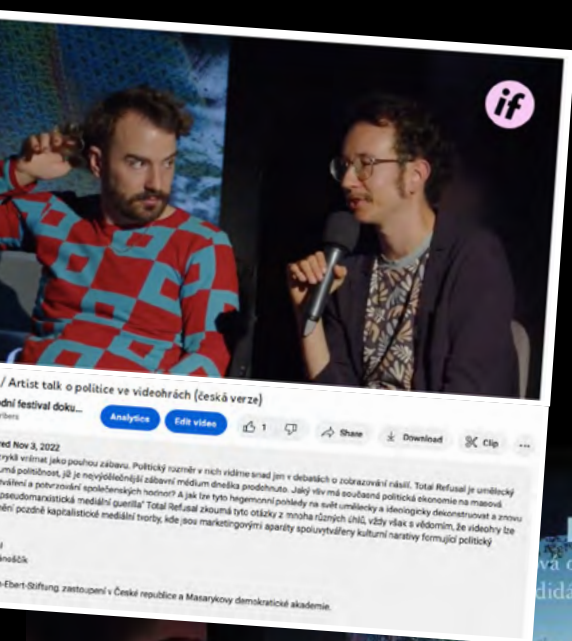
Lidové noviny: Ukrainian writer: ‘Russia is a country of tame people’ and Putin is a psychopath with sadistic traits, 19 October 2022, Radim Kopáč

“In climatically, economically and socially exacerbated times, this is no time for a decorative role of the highest state function. The President has the power to influence the social atmosphere and the nature of governance in the country. How do the selected candidates approach the challenges of the near future? How do they intend to approach the pressing problems of poverty and inequality, the collapsing environment, the growing social conflict in a hopefully soon-to-be post-war Europe? What will they do to make the Czech Republic a good place to live? The guests of the Inspiration Forum were Pavel Fischer, Marek Hilšer, Karel Janeček, Danuše Nerudová and Josef Středula.”

Parlamentnilisty.cz: Karel Janeček encountered other candidates. His intentions are now clear, October 26 2022

Beyond the boundaries of disciplines and imagination

We bring a selection of the best discussion, interviews and lectures of this year's forum to our viewers through live online streams or during the online part of the festival. This year we live-streamed the presidential candidates' debate and an interview with Canadian neurophilosopher Patricia Churchland. Another fourteen selected programmes across various topics and forum formats were presented as part of Ji.hlava Online, which follows the six-day festival and brings a selection of films and debates from the Inspiration Forum for two weeks. This year's Ji.hlava Online had almost 50 thousand viewers and thus became an integral part of the documentary autumn.



Inspiration Forum's 2022 partners

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Iveta Černá – IF's Coordinator

Karolína Žižková – IF's Production

Šárka Hučíková – IF's Programme Assistant

Lenka Janíčková – IF's Intern

Terezie Hrušková – IF's Guest Service