



We cordially invite you to the Aperitív seminar organized by the Institute of History, SAV, v.v.i.

on Thursday, **May 22, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.**
in the study room of the Central Library of the SAS,
Klemensova 19 (ground floor)

The presentation will be given by

Richard Vahrenkamp

on the topic

Czech and Austrian Modernity. Engineers and Industrialists in the Innovation Network Austria - Czechoslovakia - Germany 1900 to 1938

The countries of Central Europe cannot simply be understood as catching up with Western modernization. Rather, the article shows how technical developments proceeded in the car factories Lohner in Vienna and Austro-Daimler in Wiener Neustadt, and how the light and powerful gasoline engine drove aircraft construction (the Taube by Etrich) and airship construction. Austria was the leader in aircraft construction around 1910. The innovation scene shifted in the 1920s to the newly founded state of Czechoslovakia. The lecture touches on the Tatra 87 automobile (exhibited in the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich) from the Tatra factories in Kopřivnice and the innovative production concepts of the Bata shoe factory in Zlín, which went far beyond Fordism. These contributions to Czech modernism were forgotten due to 6 years of German occupation from 1939 to 1945 and subsequent 40 years of communist rule.

We look forward to meeting you!