

The thesis attempts to capture the establishment and development of the field of Indonesian Studies at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University between 1953–1974. The aim is to present the history of the field and the fate of the actors of this department within the broader historical context and time. Due to the absence of secondary literature, the thesis has relied on archival and oral history research. The field was established at the Faculty of Arts in the early 1950s and three groups of graduates completed the course between the years mentioned above. However, the history of the field is fundamentally linked to the Faculty of Arts of Charles University, another crucial institution, where some Indonesianists at the Oriental Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. Similarly, the above-mentioned time frame is approximate; the thesis focuses on some overlaps to the interwar and wartime periods, when the first speakers of Malay, the language that was adopted as the language of Indonesian national unity, wandered through Prague. The year 1974, when the possibility of studying Indonesian Studies was discontinued, may not have marked a major disciplinary turning point; further research will probably show that the history of the field up to the 1990s needs to be considered in this context. The thesis is framed by chapters of a more general nature (e.g., the changes and dynamics of Czechoslovakia's domestic and mainly foreign policy, some critical milestones in Indonesian history, and the history of Czechoslovak–Indonesian relations, all against the backdrop of the Cold War).