

Inspiration Forum

A platform for thinking about the contemporary world.



For more than fourteen years, the Inspiration Forum has created a space for thinking together about the contemporary world. We bring questions into the public space concerning the shape of our societies and look for ways to create a better and fairer world together.

Each year, the Forum presents four key topics that are discussed in panel debates and keynote lectures, experienced in workshops and openly discussed in participatory Inspirational Meetings. The programme also hosts some of the most widely followed Czech podcasts.

“I like to go to discussions with people whose lives are diametrically opposed to mine. The Inspiration Forum is a ‘reality check’ for me.

– IF visitor

inspirationforum.com

Opening a Dialogue

IF in numbers

4

topics

39

programme blocks

2 150

visitors and almost

3 000

views of the
online programme

3

Inspirational Meetings
in interactive Open Space
format

3

workshops and

9

Inspirational Yoga
sessions

29

students and **7** journalists
in the IF News workshop

73

speakers and **7** facilitators

18 647

visits to the website
during September
and October 2024

70

participants in
the Inspiration Meetings


Seeking Context

Topics


The topics of the Forum reflect the most pressing challenges of our time and inspire openness: to other people, to new perspectives, to unusual experiences and to new ways of living. From the impact of technology on everyday life to the transformation of natural ecosystems and global themes of war, peace and resilience, we respond to the critical issues of our time. We look for connections between seemingly separate issues and show their interconnectedness.




The Future of Procrastination: Technology and free time



Thanks to technological advances, humanity needs less human labour today than ever before. Yet we still spend a lot of time working. We suffer from the feeling that we are running out of free time, because after work there are more “shifts” to do – homework, cooking, cleaning, caring. Can new technologies rescue us from this trap, or will they drown us in it for good? And how would we even deal with a new portion of free time?



The Call of the Forest: Connecting with roots



Forests are living organisms. They embody the complexity and interconnectedness of natural ecosystems while covering more than a third of the Earth's landmass and playing a key role in biodiversity conservation and climate regulation. They absorb carbon dioxide, produce oxygen and provide homes for many species. Yet they are threatened by illegal logging, deforestation and fires. How can we ensure that forests remain healthy and thriving for future generations? And how can we contribute to their protection and restoration ourselves?

New Immunity: More than just a defence mechanism

Immunity is much more than just the body's defences – it's more like a “fantastic orchestra where we don't know all the members and instruments”. We can think about it at the level of individuals and their bodily mechanisms, but also at the level of society and the planet. Just as we look after our health, it's important to look for ways to protect relationships, communities and the environment.



The War of Today: New kinds of technologies, old kinds of dying

The methods of warfare change, but the human suffering remains. What new perspectives should we open up so that we don't lose the human dimension of the tragedy that each war represents? And how is the nature of war changing in a world of dramatic geopolitical change and the boom of new technologies?



Connecting Different Worlds

The audience is a partner in the discussion

Inspiri
fórum

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.

The Inspiration Forum is for all those who want to reflect on the key issues of the day and engage in dialogue. We create a space where people with different experiences and perspectives who might otherwise never meet can come together to discuss current issues.

The audience consists of

Festival-goers: directors, producers, distributors, sales-agents, film critics, representatives of film festivals and students of film schools.

The local population of Jihlava and its surroundings: people who have the opportunity to enter into discussions on topics that go beyond their everyday reality.

Film professionals from all over the world: directors, producers, distributors, sales-agents, film critics, representatives of film festivals and students of film schools.

The online audience: internet users who watch the forum content available on the website, such as videos and podcasts focused on current social issues.

We create a space for everyone



Connecting different voices: “It is unique that people who would not normally talk to each other have a space for dialogue here.”

Safe environment: “I’m not afraid to speak my mind here.”

Broadening perspectives: “I’m interested in the opinions of those who think differently than I do.”

Diversity and depth of programme: “I appreciate the varied programme, the diversity of topics and guests, and the effort to introduce often marginalized perspectives.”

Practical outcomes: “I would like to bring the formats from the forum to my work team.”


Inspiration for everyday life: “I take away tips on how to relate to nature in everyday life, how to connect with it, how to protect it.”

A reflection of my own beliefs: “My conviction about the need for empathy in the representation of military conflicts was confirmed.”

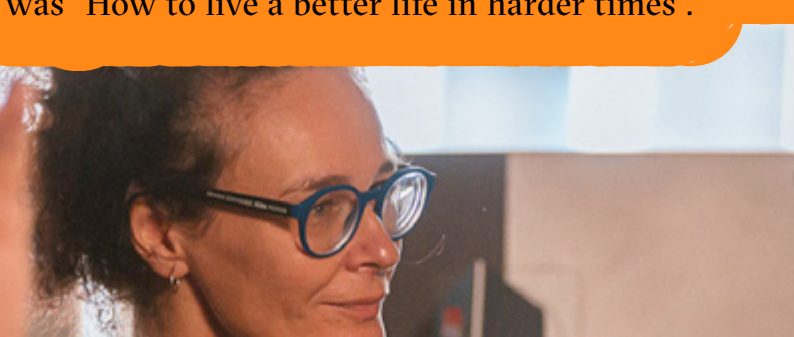
New perspectives on gender issues: “I was intrigued by the inclusion of women’s voices in political debates only ‘for show’ and also the exploitability of the topic of feminism. It will be enriching for me to look at social debates with this perspective.”

Putting Our Heads Together

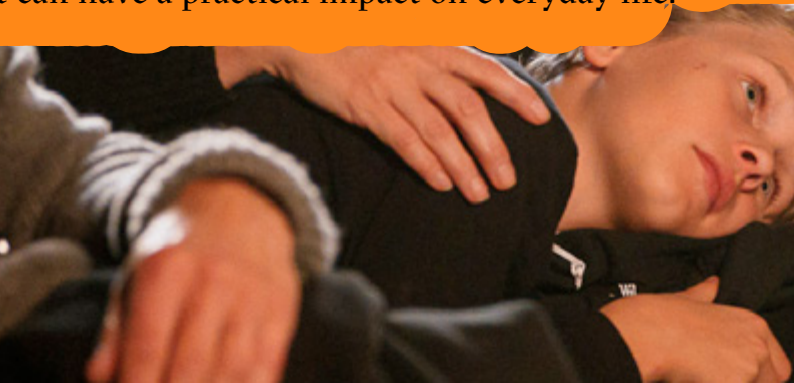
Participatory Assemblies



Three Inspiration Sessions held in an open space format again offered a space for participatory audience engagement. The facilitation was undertaken by lecturers from the NaZemi, allowing participants to share experiences, reflections and ideas. The common theme of the meeting was “How to live a better life in harder times”.



The topics discussed were self-designed by the participants according to their interests and priorities. Debates focused on topics such as how to find a balance between productivity and relaxation, how to accept things that cannot be changed, or how to better handle discussions with people who have different opinions. On other days, the role of culture in inter-generational dialogue was discussed, and finally we looked at resilience to crises or the question of what housing as a human right would mean. Each topic offered space not only for reflection but also for finding concrete solutions that can have a practical impact on everyday life.



Discovering New Perspectives

Speakers

We try to be as diverse as possible in our selection of guests and seek the perspectives of experts, thinkers, scientists, activists and people with concrete experience. Just like every year, the Forum welcomed dozens of speakers from the Czech Republic and around the world.



Nick Srnicek (Canada/United Kingdom)
Philosopher and economist

Lecturer in Digital Economy at King's College London. His work also has a significant focus on the long tradition of anti-labour politics. He seeks to extend anti-labour politics into the realm of social reproduction.



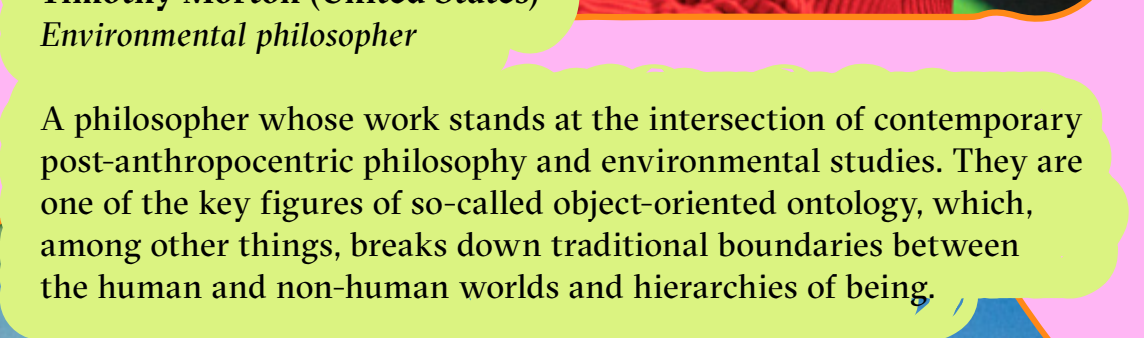
Helen Hester (United Kingdom)
Feminist theorist

Professor of Gender, Technology and Cultural Politics at the University of West London. Her research interests include technofeminism, issues of sexuality and theories of social reproduction. In her work she explores the possibilities of recognising, redistributing and restricting often unpaid work such as cleaning, cooking and caring for the family.

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a red ribbed top, is speaking into a black microphone. She is gesturing with her hands. The background is a bright green wall.

Julie Dobrovolná (Czech Republic)
Stress researcher

Scientist and university lecturer who focuses on stress research. Her research focuses mainly on the physiology and pathophysiology of stress and adaptation and on various stress measurement technologies, including the development of new ones.

A man with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a brown jacket, is speaking into a microphone. He is gesturing with his hands. The background is a bright blue wall.

Timothy Morton (United States)
Environmental philosopher

A philosopher whose work stands at the intersection of contemporary post-anthropocentric philosophy and environmental studies. They are one of the key figures of so-called object-oriented ontology, which, among other things, breaks down traditional boundaries between the human and non-human worlds and hierarchies of being.

A man with a white beard and glasses, wearing a dark shirt, is speaking into a microphone. He is gesturing with his hands. The background is a bright blue wall.

Thorsten Peetz (Germany)
Sociologist

Sociologist working on valuation processes, sociology of organisations, culture and media. He is currently a temporary professor of sociological theory at the University of Bamberg, Germany. His current empirical research focuses on the digitization of intimate valuation in online dating and on processes of canonization in the Roman Catholic Church.

Kirthi Jayakumar (India)

Researcher, lawyer and foreign policy activist

Kirthi Jayakumar is a feminist researcher and conflict resolution expert. Her work in feminist foreign policy and women's peace and security politics highlights the efforts of women and non-binary people in resisting colonialism, casteism, racism and militarism. She founded and leads the GenderSecurity Project, which works on gender, peace, security, feminist foreign policy, and decolonial justice.



Cheryl Maloney (Canada)

Activist and Aboriginal law expert

Activist from the Mikmak indigenous group. The Mikmak people are First Nations and have a sovereign right to use natural resources in designated areas in Canada. Maloney has been involved in a number of struggles for Mikmak self-determination, including opposition to the Alton Gas Project and for the right to self-sustaining fishing.



Ruwaida Kamal Amer (Palestine)

Journalist, producer and filmmaker

She previously worked as a science teacher. After the outbreak of the war, she stayed with her family in Gaza, from where she reports on the ongoing conflict and its devastating impact on the civilian population. Her work has been published by a number of international media outlets such as Al Jazeera English, Euronews and ABC News. She writes regularly for +972 Magazine about the daily realities of life in besieged Gaza and the humanitarian crisis, and she often highlights stories that are often ignored by the mainstream media.



Leona Masare, *innovation designer*, **Matthias Sinnemann**, *economist*, **Jan Vobořil**, *attorney at law*, **Nina Fárová**, *sociologist*, **Ondřej Kolínský**, *economist*, **Václav Janoščík**, *theorist*, **Juraj Lukáč**, *conservationist*, **Jakub Hruška**, *natural scientist*, **Monika Michaelová**, *lecturer on indigenous practices*, **Jaromír Bláha**, *conservationist*, **Jan Sovák**, *forest management councillor*, **Klára Zahrádková**, *illustrator*, **Darjan Hardi**, *artist*, **Lukáš Senft**, *anthropologist*, **Monika Cahová**, *microbiologist*, **Hana Pololaniková**, *photographer*, **Adam Hrubý**, *designer*, **Silvia Dobrodenková**, *doctor*, **Klára Laurenčíková**, *commissioner for human rights*, **Rebeka Veselá**, *journalist*, **Lukáš Likavčan**, *philosopher*, **Martin Zach**, *philosopher*, **Pavla Hubálková**, *science journalist*, **Rufina Bazlova**, *artist*, **Pavel Barša**, *political scientist and philosopher*, **Jan Mazal**, *colonel in the Czech Army*, **Eva Kušíková**, *anesthesiologist*, **Siri Aas Rustad**, *conflict researcher*, **Jakub Můčka**, *expert on Eastern Europe*, **Fatma Mohamed**, *doctor and human rights activist*, **Bohumil Melichar**, *historian*, and others.



Inspiration Forum Lab* 2023/24

Bodies of Water

Every two years, the Inspiration Forum organises the Inspiration Forum Lab, an interdisciplinary research program designed to provide a space where artists and scientists can meet and collaborate to create research-based multimedia art projects. The aim is to combine scientific and artistic language and find ways of expression that can communicate with audiences beyond the boundaries of either of these two worlds. The theme of the second edition is Bodies of Water, and the programme asked how water can guide us in finding solutions to pressing environmental problems through its ability to connect the human dimension of existence with other forms of life.

The programme produced three works based on artistic research, which were presented in the Bodies of Water group exhibition at the Display Gallery in Prague. Together, they encourage us to approach water not only as a physical substance, but as a means of making connections, preserving memory and shaping meaning.






Giving Space To Young Voices

IF News

The IF News workshop offered 29 aspiring journalists the opportunity to join in the media production of the festival and practice writing about key issues of the contemporary world. Under the guidance of mentors such as **Michal Kašpárek**, **Vítek Svoboda** and **Petr Bittner**, the participants worked on interviews, commentaries and essays focused on global issues.



In the morning *IF Morning Session*, students engaged in a discussion with leading Czech journalists such as **Saša Uhlová**, **Josef Pazderka** and **Jana Podskalská**. Topics included writing about culture, reflecting on social challenges and journalism focused on marginalized voices

“When I applied for IF News, I didn’t know exactly what to expect, but I saw it as a great opportunity to experience something new and gain valuable experience. That’s exactly what came true for me. I got to experience a completely different type of journalism, meet a lot of inspiring people and see interesting documentaries.”

Connecting With Film

Inspiration Forum Matchmaking



Why do we do matchmaking?

Matchmaking within the Inspiration Forum was created as a natural connection between the festival part of Ji.hlava and the discussion platform of the Inspiration Forum. Our goal is to connect the Inspiration Forum performers with female filmmakers. We believe that mutual collaboration between these communities brings new perspectives, innovative approaches and opportunities for the creation of documentary projects with a deep social impact.

How did the matchmaking go this year?

In 2024, we organised 36 meetings between Inspiration Forum speakers mainly from the science sector and female documentary filmmakers. These meetings allowed the participants to present their projects and topics, share ideas, discuss documentary potential and network. More than 15 pairs decided to work together to develop joint projects such as documentary film topics, series or podcasts.



Matchmaking objective

By connecting these two communities, we want to bring inspiring topics and approaches to documentary filmmaking. Moreover, matchmaking allows both parties to look for ways to bridge the gap between academic and public discourse and reach a wider audience.

The Best of The Forum In a Podcast

SCREEN
SHOT

if

The Inspiration Forum podcast series of the Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival brings you the most interesting aspects of thought from around the world. Screenshot's fifth series with columnist and newsletter editor **Matouš Hrdina** explores the search for the principles of life, colonialism in space exploration, the inflated bubble around AI, and how authoritarian populism is linked to the breakdown of communities. The previous series presents the themes of the past editions of the forum through the eyes of writer, screenwriter and publicist **Klára Vlasáková**, anthropologist **Lukáš Senft**, political scientist **Kateřina Smejkalová** and documentary filmmaker **Ivo Bystřičan**. All episodes can also be found on the Apple Podcast, Google Podcast and Spotify podcast platforms and on Deník Referendum.



We're Bringing Our Topics Into The Media Space

Media coverage

Media impact and online reach: the Forum attracted attention not only in the Czech Republic but also abroad. Media coverage, including articles and interviews in reputable media such as Deník N, Vogue, Cineuropa, and others, ensured that the topics of the Forum reached a wide audience. Recordings of the discussions were watched by thousands of viewers, demonstrating the Forum's global reach and influence.

*Alarm

ROZHOVOR MEZINÁRODNÍ POLITIKA

„Současné války mají jen poražené,“ říká politolog Pavel Barša

K čemu může vést izraelský útok na Gazu? Nahradil studenou válku horký mír? kdo usiluje, aby se ze zakládajících dokumentů OSN staly jen cáry papíru? O nových podobách války, ale i o proměnách geopolitického uspořádání se Petr Bittner bavil s politologem Pavlem Baršou.

Petr Bittner 14. 10. 2024

KAVÉRNA SPICERKA 23. 9. 2024

Odbornice na domorodé právo o odkazu předků i síle budoucích generací

Zatímco pro nás to může být třeba recept na bábovku od babičky, pro členy domorodého kmene Mikmaků to jsou posvátné stromy i zápletky o léčivých bylinách. Aktivistka a odbornice na domorodé právo Cheryl Maloney v rozhovoru pro Vogue CS mluví o významu odkazu předků, ale i proč jej musí znát také budoucí generace.



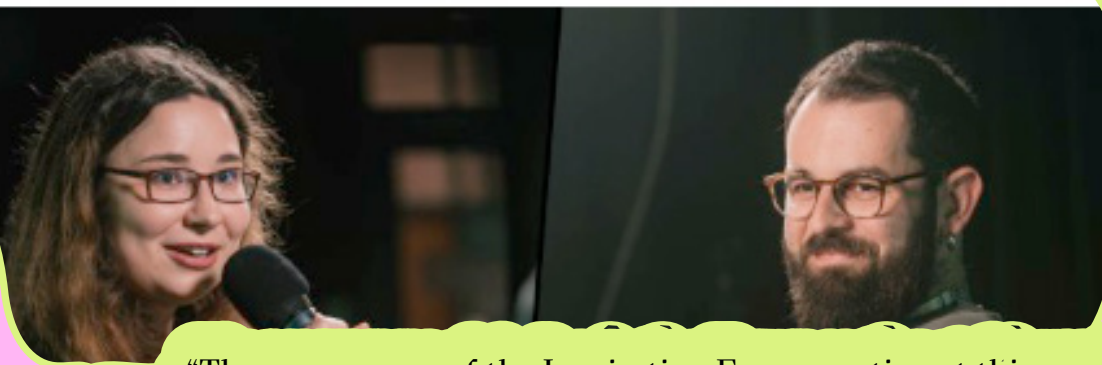
Studio N: Odpočívát můžete i u Instagramu, má to ale háček. Jak v dnešní době vypnout hlavu?



FILIP TITLBACH



Odebírat e-mailem



“The programme of the Inspiration Forum section at this year’s autumn meeting of documentary filmmakers will be concentrated in the Horácké Theatre into four thematic days and three collective assemblies. Several dozens of guests – participants from home and abroad – are expected to come to Jihlava.”

— **Jihlavské listy: Debates open the topics of war, immunity, forest or technology,**
7 Sep 2024, Jiří Varhaník

“We try to look at things from new angles and, above all, to think about what we can do to make a difference. When selecting guests, we strive for as much diversity as possible and seek the perspectives of experts, thinkers, scientists, activists and people with concrete experience.”

— **New space: It is important to surprise people,**
14 Oct 2024, Monika Dvořáková

“The Inspiration Forum is open to anyone who wants to think about the world around them and be inspired. We want to create a space where people can meet, discuss and share opinions on current social, environmental or technological issues. It’s not just about listening to experts and pundits – we want everyone to engage in dialogue and inspire each other. The topics we choose are directly related to what is moving the world today, what interests and affects us all.”

— **Kultino: How to make the world a better place?
The Inspiration Forum is for those who are not afraid to think,**
7 Oct 2024

“While for us it might be a recipe for a cake from our grandmother, for members of the indigenous Mi'kmaq tribe it's sacred trees and writings about medicinal herbs. In an interview with Vogue CS, activist and indigenous law expert Cheryl Maloney talks about the importance of the ancestral legacy, but also why future generations need to know it too.”

— **Vogue: Aboriginal law expert on the legacy of ancestors and the power of future generations**

23 Sep 2024, Kateřina Špičáková

“Post-work is not about refusing work. Such an idea would of course stem from a privileged position. The only people who could afford this are the independently wealthy. Post-work doesn't say anything like: Let's all stop working, we'll all stay in bed today. In fact, it's a constructive project.”

— **Alarm: “Sometimes there are bigger things at stake than work.”**
With Helen Hester on post-work and academic activism,

9 Oct 2024, Magdalena Michlová



“Being born as a result of sexual violence is very traumatic. I can give an example from Norway after the Second World War, where there was a great stigma attached to the descendants of German soldiers – other children were ridiculed and not accepted by society. And although there are no statistics on this, we can also assume that children who have experienced conflict are more adapted to violence.”

— **Voxpot: Disinterest when non-whites suffer. Where is the attention and aid missing?,**

30 Oct 2024, Filip Brychta

“How to learn to relax properly? Will artificial intelligence one day handle personalised psychological help? And how do influencers both help and harm the mental health debate? Listen to more than an hour of Studio N live footage about digital technology and well-being, which we filmed with the audience at the Inspiration Forum of the Jihlava Documentary Festival.”

— **Studio N: You can also relax on Instagram, but there's a catch. How to switch your brain off in today's world,**

31 Oct 2024, Filip Titlbach



Inspiration All The Way To Your Home

We bring a selection of the best debates, interviews and lectures of this year's Forum to the audience via live online streams or as part of the online segment of the festival. This year we live streamed the Untreated debate on long covid. We presented twelve more programmes across a range of topics as part of [Ji.hlava Online](#), which is a follow-up to the ten-day festival and brings a selection of films and debates from the Inspiration Forum for two weeks. This year's Ji.hlava Online had over 60,000 viewers.



IF: Home and the Fight for Free Time / Can we finally reclaim it? (eng)

Home and the Fight for Free Time

Can we finally reclaim it?



Partnership

The Inspiration Forum deeply values long-term partnerships that help create an agenda that changes society and the planet for the better. Our platform offers a unique space to share innovative ideas, promote sustainability and dialogue on the key issues of the day. Together with our partners, we create projects that inspire and make a real positive impact on the world around us. Join us and be part of a community that has a real impact on the future.

Why become a partner of the Inspiration Forum?

The Inspiration Forum is not just an event, it's an opportunity to be part of a wider movement that strives for a better and more sustainable future. Join us as a partner and take advantage of these unique opportunities:

Global visibility: you will gain access to a wide audience - from experts and activists to the public and media.

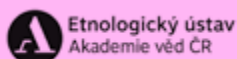
Building strong relationships.

Fostering innovation: you will support the creation of new projects and initiatives with the potential to positively impact the world.

Social impact: As a partner, you will support not only cultural and scientific dialogue, but also concrete changes in the fields of ecology, technology and human rights.



The Inspiration Forum in 2024 was supported by



Programme Partners



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IF Partners

IF Matchmaking Partner



IF Lab Partners

IF News Partner

IF team



Tereza Swadoschová – programme, strategy and management

Iveta Černá – programme coordination and IF Lab

Eliška Brožová – production and partnership

Petr Bittner – editor

Aneta Černíková, Kristýna Oubrechtová, Eliška Vizingrová – internship