

Summary

In the 18th century, for Immanuel Kant the faculty of philosophy had the role of stirring the consciences of the other three fundamental faculties of the university of the Enlightenment: theology, law and medicine. Each of them is founded on philosophy, which shapes their theoretical and moral premises. In Slovenia too, the humanities formed the basis of higher education, initially in the Jesuit College which in 1704 began to run a three-year course in logic, physics, metaphysics and mathematics, as was common also at faculties of philosophy elsewhere. After the dissolution of the Jesuit order in the Habsburg Monarchy in 1773, Jesuit schools were taken over by the state. This was the period of a semi-university called *K. K. Lyceum zu Laibach*, which lasted no more than a decade. At the time of French hegemony, when part of the Slovene ethnic territory was incorporated into the Illyrian provinces, the *Écoles centrales* were founded in Ljubljana, in which, however, philosophy was not offered as an autonomous course of studies. After 1813, when the French Illyrian provinces ceased to exist, the lyceum reopened. After finishing the course at the lyceum, the students of philosophy could continue their studies at other universities. After the March Revolution in 1848, the courses at the lyceum were abolished with the exception of theology. Unsurprisingly, the struggle for the creation of a Slovene university began, which became particularly strong in 1898, although the project was only realized after the collapse of the Habsburg Monarchy and the establishment of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. A committee was founded which began to pave the way for the creation of the first Slovene university officially founded on 23 July 1919. The first courses started in the autumn.

The academic year 1919/20 opened with a lecture by Fran Ramovš, who was one of first four full professors of the Faculty of Arts, which consisted of a humanities and a sciences sections. By mid-20s, another thirteen chairs were appointed. The development of the Faculty came to a halt at the beginning of World War II, when the Italians, who occupied central Slovenia, began to introduce lectures in Italian history and literature. In the summer of 1941, the Faculty moved into the newly built University library, where three years later a number of books and materials related to the Faculty of Arts were destroyed in a fire. In 1944, Fran Šturm, dean of the Faculty, was killed, and Anton Ocvirk, who led the Liberation Front university committee, was sent to Dachau. In the summer of 1945, under the new regime, some professors were sacked or forced to retire. Further political interventions took place in the 1950s when the Faculty was managed by a council consisting mainly of external members, which took decisions about the reappointment of the teachers. In that period some assistants were sacked and Professor Anton Slodnjak had to leave due to political pressure after the publication of his volume *Geschichte der slowenischen Literatur*.

In 1961 the Faculty moved into its new premises in Aškerčeva Road, which ten years later were occupied by the students for the first time. In the period following the students' rebellions the Faculty underwent two major reforms. The first one sought to adapt its functioning in the spirit of self-management so that it became a Basic Organization of Associated Labour just like any other institution or enterprise in the country. The second reform was consistent with the Career-Oriented Education Act

and implied changes in the study programmes. In the second half of the 1980s, the Faculty and its agents became involved in the process of democratization, while the students occupied it again in 1989 to show their support for the teaching staff who had gone on strike. In the 1990s, the Faculty began the process of adapting to the new social system and also had to deal with financial problems and with a lack of space, both of which still continue to be formidable challenges. Insufficient financial and spatial resources became even more of a problem after the introduction of new courses and/or departments such as Library Science, African and Asian Studies, and Translation Studies. The number of students constantly rose as well; in the academic year 2001/02 there were over 6,500. In those years the preparations necessary for the introduction of Bologna programmes were underway and new undergraduate courses began to be offered in the academic year 2006/07. At the close of the 2010s, the financial crisis was acutely felt as funding diminished. In a reflection of general social dissatisfaction, the Faculty was occupied by students for the third time in its history. In time the economic recession passed, but the Faculty still did not receive sufficient financing to fund its regular activities.

A partial solution was found in the funds obtained through various projects. Already in the late 1970s, the Research Institute of the Faculty of Arts was established with which one of the largest bodies of researchers in Slovenia is now associated. Some other centres were founded at the Faculty as well: first the Centre for Slovene as a Second and Foreign language and later, at the beginning of the 1980s, the Centre for Pedagogical Education as well as the Work and Study Centre, which however was soon closed down. The Work and Study Programme has evolved into a Part-Time Study Programme, which continues to be offered. The Faculty of Arts has a Central Humanities Library, which is the second largest library in the country and is organized by subject area.