

PRESS RELEASE  
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**Inspiration Forum 2020: We are entering a new world**

**What will be the source of this year's inspiration and which issues will be discussed at Ji.hlava? The potential of Africa, feeding the humankind, influence of intelligent technology, and the position of women in religion. What will happen if we stop using the "crisis narrative"? The 10th Inspiration Forum will take place as part of the 24th Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival on October 27 – November 1.**

The Inspiration Forum will celebrate 10 years since its first edition. Six major topics will be presented and discussed over the course of six festival days. *"The Inspiration Forum as well as the whole Ji.hlava Festival is getting ready for its upcoming edition that will happen physically on-site. Personal meetings are irreplaceable as an inspiration, and films are primarily made for the big screen. However, this can only happen if safe environment is guaranteed by the festival organizers,"* says Marek Hovorka, the Director of Ji.hlava IDFF, who continues: *"Digital technology will connect the audience and guests of the Inspiration Forum with speakers who cannot join the discussions directly in Czechia due the pandemic. Of course, we expect fewer visitors, but the situation can also be seen from a different angle: this year, Ji.hlava will offer enough seats to watch films and enjoy discussions which were too packed in the previous years. Consequently, visitors can look forward to a unique and concentrated experience, pure inspiration."*

And what are this year's topics of the "festival of thought"? The first is **Women and Religion**. *"We will follow up on last year's Inspiration Forum that focused on the role of women. Our question is - how do women perceive inequality in the Church and how does Church see women?"* says Tereza Swadoschová, the programmer of the Inspiration Forum. *"And by the way: women and men will be equally represented throughout the Inspiration Forum,"* she adds.

The second festival week will revolve under the motto **Agri-Culture**. Another major topic for discussion will be the challenge of feeding the humankind without destroying the planet. *"We will be asking how to use technology to enhance the effectiveness of our economy, how to be more considerate and efficient in the management of our resources and how to cut down on the consumption of water and meat and stop wasting food,"* describes Tereza Swadoschová. These possibilities will be explored for example by American professor Jessica Fanzo, who is an expert on nutrition and immunology and has for 20 years been researching the ways of reducing hunger in developing countries. Among the guests will be biologist and ecologist, former Czech Minister and European diplomat Ladislav Miko and organic farmer Jan Štefl.

Day three will be dedicated to **"Cool Africa"**. Although the continent is still in thrall of (post)colonialism, it is a progressive and changeable region. *"We will talk about Africa's ability to deal with the climatic crisis and its search for new technologies,"* says Tereza Swadoschová.

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**Ji.hlava**

27.10. — 1.11.2020  
[www.ji-hlava.com](http://www.ji-hlava.com)

24th Ji.hlava International  
Documentary Film Festival

The Forum's guests will feature technology visionary Jonathan Ledgard, the author of the concept of cargo drones fit for humanitarian purposes, and African philosopher Ndoni Mccunu, director of NGO Black Women in Science that supports African scientists. *"I am trying to understand the African landscape from the perspective of farmers, climate change and food production,"* says Mccunu. American journalist Peter Tinti, who focuses on human rights and organized crime, will talk about the issue of migration. *"We are witnessing a concerning trend of governments using the corona virus crisis as a pretext for criminalising asylum seekers. This means that in the name of 'national safety' or 'public health' they ban asylum seekers from entering their territory or deport them before starting the approval process,"* says Tinti.

Intelligent technology will be the theme of the fourth day of the event. **In the Rhythm of Algorithms** will explore the influence of abstract algorithms on our decisions, and the interests behind the development of algorithms and what types of behaviour they stimulate. The guest speakers will include Austrian social scientist and management philosopher Harald Katzmaier who is a prominent expert in applied analysis of social networks. *"Social media affect and activate our limbic system, we are controlled by anger and fear and we are tossed between what we like and what we dislike. The feedback loop in the form of social validation undermines the basic premise of healthy and developing democracy: responsibility and opinion exchange – instead, it only overstimulates our emotions."* The topic of digital capitalism will be discussed by German social scientist Philipp Staab.

The fifth day's topic is **Time Out** and the "crisis narratives". The overuse of the term 'crisis' in media and in politics evokes the feeling that we are moving from one crisis to another. *"It also prompts the necessity to take non-standard, quick and forceful measures introduced by the state, allowing minimum space for civic and individual activities,"* says Tereza Swadoschová. And who will be the debaters? Norwegian philosopher of education, Ingerid S. Straume, among others. *"I mainly deal with 'activist' topics such as environmentalism, ecopedagogy, radical democracy and social movements. I am concerned with tendencies towards anti-politics and depoliticization that are evident in the public sphere today, both in the West and elsewhere in the world,"* says Straume.

And the last day? **GPS at the Crossroads**. *"We will hear stories of those who have found themselves at the crossroads and decided to take a unique direction,"* says Tereza Swadoschová about the topic. The guests will include psychiatrist Le Hong Thai. *"As a doctor at psychiatric emergency I try to contribute to the ongoing reform of psychiatric care and destigmatization of the mentally handicapped,"* says Le Hong Thai.

The connecting element of all six days of the Inspiration Forum according to Tereza Swadoschová is the "faith in the power of imagination that can help revive the world and open the door to geopolitically, socially and environmentally more responsible future".

**Inspiration Forum will take place as part of 24th Ji.hlava IDFF on October 27–November 1. The venue of the event is Horácké Theatre in Jihlava, admission is free.**

<http://www.ji-hlava.com/inspiracni-forum>

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