

**15.00 – 15.30**

**Anna Moudrá:** *PATH – Image Schema in Czech Sign Language*

Image schemas such as PATH, VESSEL or CONNECTION accompany us throughout our lives and, as indicated by the title of Johnson and Lakoff's book, metaphors are something we even live by. As a Czech native speaker, I know and use regularly metaphorical expressions such as *have one's life ahead of one* or *shared life's journey*. How we create metaphorical expressions in spoken languages on the basis of our own physical experience projected into the image schemas is thus a theme that has been extensively covered. I, however, asked myself the following question: Do image schemas work in sign languages and, if so, how? Based on my own command of the Czech Sign Language and native speaker's reflections, I resolved to examine and describe the manner in which the schema PATH, one that is very rich in linguistic material, operates in the Czech Sign Language. In the paper, several semantic fields of the Czech Sign Language featuring the image schema PATH shall thus (based precisely on the findings in the spoken languages) be presented. Hopefully, the research results will aid e.g. hearing students to comprehend better the Czech Sign Language structure.