

Dr. Marek Špinka was elected an Honorary Fellow of the ISAE in 2019 and granted a lifetime membership to the Society.

Dr. Špinka is a longstanding member of ISAE and was the Society's President from 2005-2007. He has been and still is a very active and successful scientist and group leader, with many collaborative projects with other ISAE members. His research has focused on empirical research in social behaviour, communication and welfare in pigs and cattle, as well as on theoretical work on behavioural synchrony, animal emotions, and animal agency. His work on maternal behaviour in pigs and play behaviour in farm animals has had a great influence on the field and he is still considered one of our experts in these important fields today.

He started his career after studying Zoology with a PhD at the Czech Agricultural University with a thesis on sexual behaviour in laboratory rats. After that he gathered experience in applied ethology during research stays at SLU in Sweden, Wageningen University in the Netherlands, Universities of Guelph, Saskatchewan and British Columbia in Canada, as well as at Washington State University and the University of Colorado in the USA. After working at the Institute of Animal Science in Prague for three decades, he is currently affiliated with the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague. He has been vital for developing applied ethology in East-Central Europe, for instance through leading the EU-project AWARE to support animal welfare education, research, and implementation across Europe, and that has led to many collaborations between scientists in West and East-Central Europe that are still thriving today.

Besides being an outstanding scientist dedicated to the aims of the ISAE, he is an extremely friendly, open person and an excellent and never-tired, energetic dancer. After being regional ISAE secretary for East-Central Europe and organizing the 31st ISAE Congress in Prague in 1997, he served in the roles of ISAE Junior Vice-President, President, and Senior Vice-President from 2003-2009. He has also participated in ISAE activities that promote applied ethology in developing countries across the world.

Speaking in the words of the nominator: "This impressive list of activities clearly qualifies Dr. Marek Špinka for ISAE's Hall of Fame!" More information about Špinka's work can be found [online](#).

