

Narrating Cultural Otherness: The Authorial Subject and Narrative Identity in Eda Kriseová's Travel Writing

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Travel writing has accompanied Eda Kriseová throughout her literary career. During the 1960s, she published travel reportage in the Czech journals *Mladý svět* and, subsequently, *Listy*. Her journey to Japan in 1968 culminated in the publication of the travelogue *Já&ponsko*. During the period of Normalisation, however, both her opportunities to travel abroad and her access to official publishing channels were severely restricted. As a samizdat writer, she re-entered the public literary sphere only after 1989, when renewed opportunities for travel – including journeys to sub-Saharan Africa and India – resulted in the travel narratives *Necestou slečny H. a dnešní Afrikou* and *Čísi svět*. The contribution examines the relationship between the authorial subject and represented reality in Kriseová's travel writing. From her earliest journalistic texts onwards, Kriseová foregrounded the role of the authorial subject, who seeks to understand an unfamiliar culture through engagement with the observed world. In *Já&ponsko*, reality is presented partly through brief personal narratives. In the post-1989 narratives *Necestou slečny H. a dnešní Afrikou* and *Čísi svět*, however, the narrative function of the authorial subject becomes markedly more prominent. The text thus acknowledges the narrative nature of the facts, and the authorial subject presented becomes a narrator. Kriseová's travel writing thus invites readers both to reflect on the construction of the authorial subject's personal identity and to engage with the author's attempts to understand other cultures, while remaining aware that the represented world is fundamentally shaped through the author's narrative mediation.

