

English Summary

The book *Sociální prostředí Prahy: město na prahu 21. století* (*The Social Environment of Prague: A City on the Threshold of the 21st Century*) is the next in a series of publications focusing on the Czech capital from the point of view of social geography. All the books have emerged from research work by the team at the Urban and Regional Laboratory of the Department of Social Geography and Regional Development at the Faculty of Science of Charles University. The first in this series was *The Social Geography of the Prague Metropolitan Area* (Ouředníček, 2006), the major part of which deals primarily with the initial consequences of suburban development of settlements in the immediate hinterland of the city. The second in the series was *Social Changes of Prague Neighbourhoods* (Ouředníček, Temelová, 2012), which had already been published in the Urbanism series of Academia Publishing. Here the main focus was on the various types of neighbourhoods and how they were changing dynamically as a consequence of post-socialist transformation processes. Further chapters on the metropolitan hinterland of Prague development are included in the second book in the same edition, entitled *SubUrbs: Country, Settlements and People* (Ouředníček, Špačková, Novák, 2013). Together with journal articles, the books thus offer an opportunity to present the results of the research in a form that makes it possible to set them in a wider context and to consider the links between the phenomena and processes that shape contemporary cities. In this respect Prague is possibly the only environment in Czechia with a sufficient population to register certain global or continental processes in full force and so it could be compared to other European cities. A comparative approach is the dominant tendency in urban studies today and Prague is one of the most often cited examples of a city from Central and East Europe, whether in research into segregation (Ouředníček et al., 2016) or gentrification (Kährlik et al., 2015), suburbanization (Ouředníček, 2007), socio-spatial differentiation (Špačková, Pospíšilová, Ouředníček, 2016), housing estates (Temelová et al., 2011), or theoretical approaches to research into cities (Ouředníček, 2016).

This publication is aimed primarily at the Czech professional audience, colleagues and students from related fields as well as a wider audience with an interest in the issues of Prague. The core of the publication is an evaluation of the city's social environment, i.e. to an extent an invisible phenomenon which could

be partly described through the social structure of the population. However, a substantial element of the social environment is also created by the social climate, which is shaped not only by residents but also by users of the urban environment. Similarly, to our previous publications, all the chapters are based on empirical work with various types of data and employ a combination of statistical data analysis with a more deep-reaching view of specific areas in the form of case studies. Key themes are demographic ageing, social polarization, the crime rate, international migration, and changes in the location of employment or commercial suburbanization. In many aspects, this is no longer a description of post-socialist transformation processes but rather an evaluation of the city after the transformation. The subtitle of the book thus refers to the time when our capital could be finally viewed not as a city recovering from the socialist era but as a metropolis which has been shaped recently in a similar way to other European cities.

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Structure and Content of Chapters

The book consists of an Introduction and seven chapters which are based on empirical work and case studies from various localities (neighbourhoods) in the city and its immediate hinterland. The emphasis on empirical work, the combination of various methods of analysis and the portrayal of results on various geographical benchmarks are the main feature of our methodological approach in research into cities (Ouředníček et al., 2009). The order of the chapters emerged from the most common model in urban studies, i.e. the concentric perception of inner city structure (Boháč, 1923, Burgess, 1925, Ouředníček et al., 2012). Two introductory chapters deal with analyses of the whole territory of Prague, followed by chapters focusing on inner city neighbourhoods and housing estates, and finally by three contributions looking at Prague's surrounding suburbs. The following is a brief introduction to the separate chapters and their relation to other recently published essays.

The chapter *Spatial Differentiation of the Age Structure of Prague's Population* reflects two important demographic processes contributing to the transformation of Prague's social environment: demographic ageing and the reproductive behaviour of young adults. In this chapter Nina Dvořáková focuses on two age groups which have different migratory behaviours: seniors who tend towards residential stability and young adults, who are the migratory most active

segment of the population in the longer term. The author evaluates the transformation of Prague's age structure on various measurement levels, comparing it to developments in Czechia, at levels of concentric zones of Prague and subsequently also including types of Prague urban districts. Based on data and spatial analyses she then identifies areas with specific population structures, particularly those with a significant representation of older or younger people. The empirical section concludes with a case study of the Novodvorská housing estate which is currently characterised by a high proportion of older residents. A detailed evaluation of the transformation of the age structure of this locality is accompanied by an explanation of the related transformation of the various facilities of the housing estate. The contribution thus offers not only a detailed view of the residential structure of Prague at various measurement levels, but at the same time it documents wider interdependencies and consequences of age structure development using the example of a specific locality and thus it confirms the substantial diversity of housing estate development in the post-transformation era in Prague (Temelová et al., 2011).

The following chapter is focused on a specific topic of urban studies, i.e. crime in cities. In the chapter *Crime in Prague: Measure Differentiation and Possibilities of Measurement* Jana Jíchová refers to a recent work by Temelová, Čermák and Jíchová (2012) and she documents the development of registered criminality in Prague after 2010. However, she focuses in detail on the application of various measurement levels (administrative districts) and various data sources (particularly those relating to population) and shows how their choice can influence results and subsequent interpretations. One example is the use of data on the number of residents taken from the census and from records of mobile phone operators, where their differing spread gives very different spatial patterns of crime rates in Prague. The focus here is on property crimes and specifically to theft from cars, because detailed data is available not only for police districts, but also for GPS coordinates and the time an offence was committed. The work shows how the application of different data sources and their interpretation with the use of diverse methodological techniques can provide differing results.

The next two chapters use the concept of the social environment (Ouředníček, 2002) which is described using socio-spatial structure analysis but also the analysis of the social climate. Both chapters also provide evidence of the importance of studying the second of these elements of the social environment, which does not always correspond to the results of statistical data analysis and allows a deeper understanding of a given issue. It was no accident that Jan Sýkora and Petra Špačková chose Holešovice in the chapter *Contrasts of Social Worlds*

in *Lower Holešovice*. It is a rapidly developing neighbourhood characterised by a great diversity of both social and physical environments and it is those distinct contrasts that the authors focus on in this chapter. First, they assess the socio-spatial structure on micro-levels of statistical districts and then on this basis they identify localities with residents with a wide diversity of social and demographic statuses. Within the bounds of field research, they use evaluations of daily rhythms previously introduced for the inner city of Prague in work by Lucie Pospíšilová (2012). In particular, they study individual interactions, description of persons and the social climate of selected public spaces situated on the borders of localities with very dissimilar residents. The results of their research show that despite substantial polarization of inhabitants residing in Lower Holešovice there is no certainty that interactions will lead to any kind of dispute. Rather they observe passing of people corresponding to the transitory nature of selected places. The chapter uses a study of Lower Holešovice to demonstrate the importance of including an evaluation of the social climate in research of a social environment.

In the chapter *Strangers and the Local Social Environment: A Case Study of Hůrka* Ivana Přidalová focuses on the role of international migration in the formation of a local social environment. She uses a concept of dynamic heterolocalism referring to the possibility of not perceiving home as a single place. In the case of foreigners, their home can be in various places. A case study documents the transformation of the social structure of the population and the local social climate of the Hůrka area in the Nové Butovice housing estate, which is an example of an area with a high number of foreigner residents. The research is based on a combination of various methods of data collection: statistical data analysis, structured interviews with local participants and research surveys among inhabitants. The information thus gained is then used to answer questions about relations between inhabitants of different nationalities, their participation in the social life of the area, and the reaction of local residents and institutions to the growing ethnic heterogeneity. The research shows that the social climate is negatively influenced by less than friendly relations to incoming foreigners and this fact is also demonstrated by a deeper study of a Russian-speaking minority. Respondents' attitudes towards foreigners are, however, based more on their fear of the unknown than on negative personal experience. The chapter emphasizes the importance of research into the influence of foreign immigration on contemporary socio-spatial differentiation in Prague and unlike earlier studies (Valenta, 2012, Špačková, Pospíšilová, Ouředníček, 2016, Přidalová, Ouředníček, 2017) it provides important information on a micro-level of monitoring.

The final three chapters are dedicated to the process of commercial suburbanization from various points of view. However, each of them approaches the subject in a different way, focusing on different aspects. In *Changes in the Localization of Work in the Prague Metropolitan Area*, Peter Svoboda deals not only with Prague but also its hinterland. He takes a developmental approach to the evaluation of changes in the localization and sectoral structure of work, focusing on time horizons reflecting the late stage of socialism, the transformational decade and the post-transformational era. Using data about commuting to work from the last four censuses he examines not only the above, but also changes in how work is organised, changes in the spatial configuration of relations between a place of residence and a workplace and the phenomenon of flexible, spatially unanchored work. He emphasises the localization of areas with a high concentration of work opportunities and looks at the differences between the capital and its hinterland. Thus, the chapter not only provides a self-contained view of development and changes in the localization of work in the Prague metropolitan area in the long term, reflecting the wider interdependencies of this development, but at the same time it links the spatial flexibility of work with commercial suburbanization.

The chapter *New (De)Concentrations of Commercial Activities in the Prague Metropolitan Area* deals with the process of commercial suburbanization which significantly influences the physical and social structure of settlements in the hinterlands of Czech cities. Petr Koloušek and Peter Svoboda first consider overall developments in the use of sites for commercial purposes in the Prague metropolitan area and then map out particular trends in commercial constructions using case studies of three selected settlements in Prague's hinterland. The research carried out in the settlements of Nupaky, Vestec and Dolní Břežany documents diverse development of commercial suburbanization, which is influenced not only by the specific features of the different municipalities but also by their approach, particularly in terms of urban planning. The authors suggest their own methodological techniques and supplement the data available on a local level with their own field research. The chapter not only depicts the distribution of commercial activities themselves and changes in these, but at the same time it reflects the role of municipalities or other institutions in local development.

Jiří Nemeškal's chapter also focuses on the subject of commercial suburbanization, but it takes a closer look at the concept of the edge city. The main purpose of the chapter entitled *Commercial Suburbanization in the Vicinity of Prague Airport in Ruzyně* is to evaluate whether the concept of the edge city is also relevant in the Central European context. The author chose as his model area

a north-western area of Prague, around the airport in Ruzyně. This area is – precisely because of the rapidly developing airport – a developing one with the potential of an important junction interconnecting various commercial activities concentrated in a relatively small space. Having evaluated the structure and arrangement of various types of commercial activities in the area, the author then focuses on a detailed analysis of commuting to work, assessing its volume, directions, source and target places and the structure of commuters themselves, particularly in terms of their level of education. The results bear out the importance of the airport area for the job market in Prague and its hinterland. Although the locality probably does not meet the conditions to be considered an edge city, a number of other similarities to the development of analogous localities elsewhere in the world could be identified.

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