

Abstract:

This thesis explores the regional differentiation of electoral behaviour and other topics in electoral geography in the Czech Republic. Electoral geography, which studies the geographic aspects of the organisation, process, and results of elections, for a long time developed mainly in Western societies given the absence of free elections in other countries. It began to develop in the Czech Republic in the 1990s and its goal was to explore the process of the transformation of society and the stabilisation of democracy, to compare electoral patterns observed in conditions of stable liberal democracies with the patterns found in transforming states, and to adapt them to the specific conditions of transition countries. Electoral geography focuses mainly on the spatial variations of electoral behaviour. It seeks to determine whether different patterns of electoral behaviour are based on the social structure of the population in the region, whether they are influenced by contextual factors, or whether it is a combination of both. Another important subject studied by electoral geography is the spatial patterns of representation, which however are usually studied in majoritarian electoral systems.

The thesis is composed of two basic sections. The first section offers a broader theoretical and methodological introduction to the research topic. It begins with a brief introduction to the history of electoral geography and the most important works and figures in the field of electoral geography in the Czech Republic. Electoral geography has no comprehensive theory of its own and instead draws on theoretical concepts from other disciplines and primarily from political science. This section then goes on to outline the theoretical concepts that have been used in electoral geography, with special consideration given to works relating to elections in the Czech Republic. Particular attention is paid to theoretical approaches explaining the regional differentiation of electoral behaviour. The second section of the thesis is made up of the author's published work. The publications attached here include two articles published in journals with an impact factor, one article published in the ERIH database journal, one chapter in a monograph, and one article that was sent to a journal with an impact factor for review. Brief outlines are provided of the basic characteristics of all of these works, the original versions of which are then attached. The published texts deal with different topics in electoral geography and use various quantitative and qualitative methods.