

Abstract:

This thesis is based upon the phenomenon known as urban community gardening, and examines it with regards to conflicts within an intended environment.

The theoretical section is based on a school of thought that holds nature as something that exists in both science and humanities, and which can be observed within the social world. As opposed to nature and society being divided, this part will address the term 'socionature', which comprises a current post-anthropocentric stream of humanities and social sciences. Essentially it stays on the theory of conflicts.

The research posits answers to the question of how gardeners justify and reasonably support their activities at an urban community garden called “Smetanka garden” in Vinohrady, Prague. Two of the outcomes were: the cultivation of strong neighbourly relations; and encouragement of recreational family outings.

The Smetanka garden was closed in 2017. The thesis sees the conflict that occurred around the closure as a socionatural conflict. One question is, what were the arguments for closing the garden? The main argument stated that the land should be used for construction of sports facilities to serve the schools nearby. Furthermore, the community garden was only meant to be temporarily from the beginning.

Proponents maintained that the garden should stay, as it is unique in the context of that part of the city. They also claimed that the new construction project is just a pretext, used simply in order that city hall has an excuse to shut down the community garden project.

This study is based on qualitative research and uses emic data, whereby it is shown mostly from the perspective of the gardeners involved.