

**Economic History of Authors' Rights and Creative Industries
in Czechoslovakia
Hana Moravcová
Dissertation thesis**

Abstract

The thesis analyzes the impact of cultural policy on creative industries in Czechoslovakia. The first chapter is devoted to economics of authors' rights. It identifies inconsistencies in its three main assumptions, that undermine proper understanding of the effects of copyright and authors' rights. It provides a framework for optimization behavior of authors, that respects that market transactions between authors, users and consumers take place not on one, but on many markets where a work is spread.

The second chapter reveals that the emergence of the Authors' Rights Act in interwar Czechoslovakia was the result of the influence of particular interest groups. The most important organizations are identified. Their mutual interconnection and linkage to the state facilitated their ability to directly influence the wording of the new law and its practical application. They used favorable conditions, like interventionist thinking of the society. Moreover, Czechoslovakia had to implement an international copyright treaty, part of the peace treaty signed by Czechoslovakia after the Great War.

The third chapter consists of two case studies about creative industries in Czechoslovakia. The first case study proves the volatility of art markets using the development of the performance of creative industries in the interwar Czechoslovakia. It illustrates high degree of uncertainty that authors faced. The second case study analyzes the impact of state interventions on the film industry between 1932 and 1945. It shows that there is no relationship of real costs and the popularity of films. OLS reveals that the level of subsidies is positively associated with the popularity of films from thirties of the 20th century on the 0.01 confidence level for modern viewers. The popularity is measured by the proxy using rating of users of csfd.cz (a fan platform).