

Abstract:

This Master thesis examines Czech literary fiction as a historical source, which can be used as a teaching instrument for understanding the normalisation era.

In its theoretical part, the thesis summarizes contemporary Czech historical discourse about the normalisation era. It analyzes the influence of culture and memory on historical consciousness, and the goals and methods of contemporary history teaching. More specifically, it investigates how primary sources can be used in teaching and how cultural historical sources—and fiction literature in particular—can be analyzed. It utilizes constructivist teaching methods with the goal of achieving historical competence.

In its practical part, the thesis describes five history lessons that apply findings from the theoretical part. In the lessons, pupils first have the opportunity to explore a wide range of sources, and consequently to research, analyze and interpret them. Later, they work with film excerpts, historical documents and literary fiction. In a final section, the thesis connects the theoretical and practical findings in a reflection of the history lessons.