

Abstract

"Sport is everywhere and we are in it." These words are the leitmotif of Jiří Černý's book *Fotbal je hra. Pokus o fenomenologii fotbalu*. In this text, Černý points out the significance of sports and sports games in modern culture. At present, we are witnessing an ever-growing interest in sport from the perspective of various scientific disciplines. This dissertation thesis deals with the phenomenon of mega-events, large-scale (not only) sporting events that have broad, society-wide impacts, from a sociological, qualitative perspective. In the Czech context, these are primarily sports competitions of a smaller scale than, for example, the Olympic Games, but which can nevertheless have profound social impacts. Such sports events, which took place in the Czech Republic and Czechoslovakia, undoubtedly became ice-hockey world championships. This dissertation thesis describes the Ice Hockey World Championship, uncharacteristically, through semi-structured interviews with the organizers of the championship from 2004 and 2015. This study is primarily about personal motivations, emotional connections, and personal interpretation of participation in the organization of the hockey championship. This qualitative approach to mega-events brings a very specific organizational perspective. At the same time, this dissertation considers mega-events as modern phenomena and thus promotes broader sociological discussions about modernity.