

Visualisation of crime in the Normalization cinema

Abstract

The thesis deals with the question to what extent and in what way the Czechoslovak Normalisation through state-controlled cinema influenced the portrayal of crime/criminality in crime and detective films. The present work attempts to capture the schemes and boundaries within which the dramaturgy of Czech film genre production moved during the so-called Normalisation. The work is based on comparing available data and studies on real crime with its filmic portrayal. The thesis includes a chapter devoted to interdisciplinary, especially sociological, contexts of researching crime and its reflection in society. Another part of the text includes the historical and legal-historical context of the topic under study and the transformations of criminal law. Together with a description of some selected motifs of the film narratives and with an assessment of the extent to which and in what ways selected criminological topics (e.g. recidivism, the problem of social pathologies) are reflected in contemporary professional literature (or statistics) and film, the thesis illustrates with specific examples the ways in which the ideology of Normalization may manifested itself in film productions primarily for the entertainment of the audience (the public). The thesis also assesses other possibilities for the analysis of such a media content, including outlining some of the limitations inherent in the analytical process.

Key words: crime, Czechoslovak Normalization, cinema