

Abstract

Late capitalist society is dominated by specific attributes of neoliberal ideology, which are inscribed in various ways in the politics of governance in the context of geographical location, political and social organization, economic situation, and other parameters. Discourse plays a specific role in the reproduction and legitimation processes of ideology. This thesis elaborates a theoretical approach to ideological dominance in the topic of urban development, specifically post-socialist Prague. The latter, as an urban space that has undergone major changes of post-revolutionary transformation, becomes a specific arena in which the discursive manifestations of various actors contribute to the production of theoretically identified (and also other yet unrecognized) patterns of dominant ideology. These, in turn, create a discursive field in which reproductive and legitimizing schemas are produced that contribute to the fact that the theme of urban development serves as one of the significant means that reinforce the global hegemonic position of neoliberal capitalism. The thesis builds on Pierre Bourdieu's theoretical approach to identify the actor field within which the processes of reproduction and legitimation occur, and works with Bourdieu's theory of ideological domination, which he developed with Luc Boltanski. In a further theoretical contextualization of post-socialist studies and critical urban theory, the thesis develops a discursive analysis of the identified field. It seeks answers to central research questions that aim to show the main discursive mechanisms that contribute to the production of domination and to demonstrate the specificities of the delineated field in the space of the post-socialist city. The analysis renders the theoretical premises in the practice of a specific discourse, while discovering some additional elements of hegemony formation within the topic. On the other hand, it notes borderline cases and counter-discursive manifestations that confront the dominant ideology and thus create a vibrant discursive field. In line with the theory, the research shows that the performativity of ideology in urban development and the path to dominance is a complex topic with a number of specific attributes that contribute to specific decisions and discursive practices that influence the shape of urban space and the actors' access to decision-making.