

Abstract

This paper aims to capture the dominant representations of the homelessness in the recent socio-political discourse. It is based on the examination of the transformations of the way this phenomenon is perceived within communal politics of Prague. Subsequently it attempts to consider the identified representations in the light of chosen theoretical concepts with a special emphasis on the role that the public space in the process of transformation plays in the construction of these representations.

The core of the empirical section of the paper consists of the qualitative analysis of the chosen political texts and electoral campaign in Prague in 2010. The analysis itself is preceded by a brief outline of the representation of the homelessness in the pre-revolution era and in the following two decades of the post-revolution development. Following theoretical section of the paper is an attempt to consider the recent representations of the homelessness, emerging from the analysis of the socio-political discourse, in the broader socio-cultural context. At the same time the situation in the Czech Republic is compared to the other western countries based on the foreign researches. The outcome of the paper consists of situating of the empirical analysis based on the theoretical texts in the reality of recent metropolis public space and of the critical evaluation of the transformations of this public space in connection with the efforts to cleanse the streets of the homelessness

Key words:

Homelessness, city, politics, political discourse, public space