

Abstract

The thesis "Ethnography of the current protest movement in Belarus" puts results of field research of opposition activists and civil society in Belarus into context of contemporary protest movement theories. The thesis deals with the regime of dominance in Belarus and some features of the current Belarusian political system that depoliticizes society and pushes the opposition to the edges of social and political life. The thesis aims to follow the main concepts of Pierre Bourdieu's sociology and their application to protest movement research in Nick Crossley's interpretation. The thesis deals with problems of activism under conditions of an authoritarian regime of power and of how individuals get involved with protest movements, as well as captures some of the features of activist lifestyle in Belarus. The thesis attempts to reconstruct the activist habitus, which is associated with individual life trajectories of individuals (education, family, acquaintances, significant others, etc.), and is closely linked to certain historical events that have taken place in Belarus, as well as in wider social and political context, during the last 25 years.

Keywords: Belarus, protest movement, activists, opposition