

The thesis examines changes in sports participation in Czech society in last decades. Sports activities are conceptualized as a practice, routinized habit that is shared in a society's culture (Reckwitz 2002; Warde 2005). Bourdieu's (1984) also shows how different social positions generate different taste and preferences, which are simultaneously classified and base for symbolic borders between social classes. The empirical analysis focuses on sports participation during the last three decades and deeper understanding of differentiation and meanings of today's sports activity. The results clearly show profound increase in sports participation, from 25 % in 1984 to 67 % in 2009. The cohort analysis confirms that dynamics of sports practices' spread have roots in the socialization process and cohort exchange, because younger cohorts have a stable higher level of sports participation irrespective of their aging. Lasting impact of cultural capital on sports participation is particularly striking, especially in the light of the major change in society's regime in the 1989 and after. This brings attention to the question, how mechanisms of social inequalities – especially cultural capital – worked in a similar way across supposedly different social orders. Next chapter deals with patterns of participation in different types of sports activities. The most active sports participants consist of at least two very different groups – football enthusiasts and versatile participants. Both of these groups participate regularly in sports but differ widely in sociodemographic characteristics and relation to elite sports. Evidence thus suggests that overall measure of general sports participation confound rather different ways of practicing sport. Final analysis concerns the intergenerational reproduction of sports practice. It confirms the importance of family culture, reproducing sports habits from parents to their children. On the other hand, achieved accumulation of cultural capital has a similar independent impact upon sports participation at adulthood. Sports practices could be thus understood as relatively autonomous; partly dependent on social space, but also preserving autonomous field of their own.