Matěj Kubíček – Symbolic boundaries constructed by a group of stagehands

Abstract

The author analyzes the way a group of stagehands (manual workers in the preparation of cultural events) construct symbolic and social boundaries within and especially outside group, ie to other participants in the preparation and conduct of these events. Theoretical background of the thesis is the concept of symbolic and social boundaries by Michele Lamont and Virag Molnar and the theory of moral boundaries by Andrew Sayer. Sayer’s theory says that the moral boundaries of groups or societies are formed on the basis of the values shared by these groups and the moral condemnation of other groups or companies due to non-recognition of these values. Author’s field work confirms that this strategy of the creation of borders is present and shows the specific values it is based on. He finds that stagehands construct symbolic boundaries that are parallel to the formal boundaries, only with opposite direction of superiority.