

## **Abstract**

This thesis deals with everyday life in major cities during the post-socialist transformation in the Czech Republic. It aims to contribute to our understanding of the everyday life of the inhabitants of Brno and Ostrava during the period and to explain the impact of the post-socialist transformation on their lives and social relations.

The results are based on extensive fieldwork (i.e., a questionnaire survey and structured interviews of the inhabitants of the inner cities) conducted in Brno and Ostrava in 2007–2009. The fieldwork was based on ethnographic work describing the sociability and social relations of the inhabitants of the inner cities, with an emphasis on kinship and neighbourly relations.

During the post-socialist transformation, Brno and Ostrava underwent a variety of significant changes, ranging from industrial transformation to lifestyle adjustments. They had developed differently both during and prior to socialism. For example, Ostrava became focused mainly on heavy industry, while Brno had a more varied economic structure. Since 1989, these cities have continued to diverge.

As for the attitudes of informants toward their lives in the inner cities, they varied greatly. As for sociability, both neighbourly relations and kinship form a mosaic of features, some of which were characteristic of the previous period, and some of which are new responses to the post-socialistic situation.

The ethnographic focus of my work helped to uncover details and concrete characteristics of the sociability of the inhabitants of the inner cities of Brno and Ostrava and to reveal their interconnection with residential changes.