

Abstract

This PhD thesis builds on the current trends in the research on entrepreneurship and gender, which pay attention to the fact that women are being excluded from or ignored by the entrepreneurship research and that female entrepreneurship is studied and assessed from a male perspective and no attention is paid to important contexts which affect the situation of entrepreneurs. With regard to this criticism, the focus is on the embeddedness of entrepreneurship in various contexts. In order to approach this issue I use the institutional perspective and I look for relations with formal and informal institutions in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The research deals with entrepreneurial couples as it is possible to look into their entrepreneurial embeddedness in the domestic context. The aim of the thesis is to provide a micro-insight into the construction of role distribution in the domestic and work area and show how these constructions are justified by cultural repertoires. I look into the negotiation of roles in heterosexual couples by the method of qualitative interviews which I carried out with each of the partners individually. Thanks to his method it is also possible to study the suppressed voices in the couple (more often female than male). I analysed the data using the social constructivist approach towards the grounded theory. The results of the study point out the basic issues which proved to be important for the domestic and work roles construction. These are gender inequalities in the role construction which depend on the institutional environment, ways of justifying gender inequalities and the seemingly obvious explanations of certain family and household arrangements. The study also highlights the specifics of entrepreneurial couples in the construction of domestic and work roles. The role of the family and children proved to be important. Some couples did not approach the construction of roles in a traditional way – they chose innovative approaches which are looked into in this study. Last but not least, in the thesis I identify the limits of the research which represent areas for further studies.