

Abstract

The goal of the thesis is analysis of the zero tolerance policy in the Czech context based on the example of the cities of Slaný, Litvínov and Duchcov. The thesis describes zero tolerance policy as a set of repressive measures harshly punishing minor offences which should lead to reduction of crime. Theoretically, zero tolerance is based on the broken windows theory which sees cause of the crime in minor offences in the public space. The set of measures based on zero tolerance and broken windows theory was labelled as New York Miracle during which the crime in the city decreased and for that reason zero tolerance policies spread across the world. For the analysis of the Czech context it is appropriate to connect zero tolerance measures with the concept of moral panics which we can consider as starter for the public discussion about the breaking the social order. In such moments, it is useful for politicians to use rhetoric which applies increased social control offered by the zero tolerance policies. In Czech Republic is the zero tolerance policy connected with the regulations of the public space and with the residents of the localities which we define as excluded however they are not considered ghettos. Through discursive analysis the thesis examines three cases of zero tolerance policies application in Czech Republic within which defines individual actor – „unconforming ones“, „a decent citizen“, politicians introducing the measures and activists on the side of the discriminated ones. In Slaný, Litvínov and Duchcov were repressive measures of zero tolerance policies applied mostly on the poor Romas, who are considered to be the main part of the category of the „unconforming ones“. Zero tolerance discourse of the analyzed cities deepened the stigma over the residents of the marginalized zones but the cities considered it as successful solution against the crime anyway. After the moral panic has disappeared extensive social control is still ongoing. Cities are currently using the amendment of the Material Need Act to limit the payment of social benefits.