

Abstract (in English):

This paper is concerned with the interrelation among social structures and individual agency in the migration process. Aim of the thesis is to contextually explain motivations and strategies of two Czech generations who migrated to Berlin. It focuses on generation of Czechs who left homeland between 1968-1989 and migration generation who moved after the accession of The Czech Republic to the European Union. The accent put on the time(s) and place(s) in the migration process enables to compare generations, and is the key to understanding interaction of structures and agency.

Theoretical and methodological framework is formed by the concept of the theory of practices from Karen O'Reilly (2012), to interpret the meaning of the time(s) the life course perspective was used, the meaning of place(s) was interpreted by the concept of migration networks and transnationalism. The core of the empirical part is analysis of ethnographic material concerning notes from participant observation and narrative in-depth interviews with biographical elements (micro-level). The interpretation of motivations and strategies of the migration as well as social ties and practice is set in broader structures and events context i.e. historical and geographic relationship between the countries and the political and legal conditions for migration (macro-level), as well as considering the timing of migration as events in individual and institutional life (meso-level).

While for older generation broader structures defined migration in terms of time and the meaning of places (through social ties in places) determined migration according to the rights of migrant for younger generation the opposite is true: the structures (timing) define migration legally hence the causes and significance of place determine the nature of migration in terms of time.