

## Abstract

In this thesis, the author raises the following question: What is the nature of the efforts of Romani elites at political participation in the Czech Republic and what is their potential? He presupposes that those currents of the Roma ethno-emancipation movement that are not defined sharply against the surrounding society are in a better position. He summarizes the basic facts from the history of the Roma in the Czech Republic with an overlap into the Central European context. He monitors the factors relevant to the examination of political acts of the Roma and subsequently characterizes their own understanding of ethnicity, showing that kinship and sub-ethnic groups are more important for the collective identification of most of the Roma. The theoretical part deals with selected authors who participated in the discussions on multiculturalism, both on the general, international, and on the national level, with special focus on Roma issues. In the final chapter the author tries to apply all the described knowledge to the three most significant projects of the Roma, through which the Romani elites engage in public affairs in the Czech Republic. They are the *Union of Gypsies-Roma* from the break of 1960s and 1970s, the *Roma Civic Initiative*, a party active in the 90s, and a civic association called *Association of Roma in Moravia*, active since the 90s until today.