A CULTURAL, HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT OF CZECHIA

A1 The Velvet Revolution and Beyond: A Story of De-Communization
RNDr. Alexandr Vondra
Wednesday, March 27th, 2 – 3.30 pm

The so-called Velvet Revolution is perceived as one of the most important milestones of the modern Czech history. The lecture presents not just the events happened in autumn 1989, but even its conditions, consequences and the complicated transformation processes in several realms that followed as well as todays’ reflection of the 1989 events.

A2 The Post-Communist Party Development in Czechia
RNDr. Tomáš Kostelecký, CSc.
Friday, March 29th, 2 – 3.30 pm

Lecture provides students with the basic information about the party development in the Czech Republic after the fall of the Communist regime in 1989. The key moments of party formation after 1989 are described. Ideological profiles and organizational structures of main parties are presented, special attention is paid to the political consequences of weak party membership. Main political cleavages in the Czech Republic are illustrated and position of main parties in political space is explained. The latest development towards presidentialism and towards restructuring of the party system is presented.
A3 Czechia: (Dis)continuities of the historical development

doc. RNDr. Pavel Chromý, Ph.D.

Monday, April 1st, 11 am – 12.30 pm

Historical geography discusses not only transformations of geographical environment in the past, their conditions, and consequences, but also the perception of the space and the meanings societies and individuals assign to space. It aims to understand historical roots of present conditions and character of the geographic milieu on various scale levels and in different types of landscapes. To explore the interaction between societies and environments is also essential for forecasting and future planning. It is impossible to explain current problems, actions, processes, and mechanisms without getting to know the history and development contexts. Similarly, it helps us to distinguish whether socio-spatial changes result from general dominant processes (industrialization, urbanization, suburbanization, etc.) or from temporarily and spatially restricted unique processes (in the Czech context e.g. the transfer of Czech Germans after WW II), whether they are an outcome of given structures or depending on key actors’ individual initiative.

In recent decades, the development of the world in general and Europe in particular, has been characterized by a series of opposing global and regional processes. On one hand, we are witnessing strengthening tendencies towards globalization, which supports or enforces processes of integration (especially at the supranational level). On the other hand, globalization carries with it a loss of orientation, insecurity, refusal to centralization, and therefore also an emphasis on the unique. Thus, it activates tendencies towards a fragmentation of territorial societies as well.

During the 1990s, in relation to the post-totalitarian transformation resulting from the fall of communism in the late 1980s, Czechia faced an escalation of vertical (societal) as well as horizontal (regional) differences. Geographers have attempted to identify key mechanisms contributing to the changes in regional differentiation as well as to evaluate the entire system of current processes and tendencies, often mutually opposing. This has been happening concurrently to changes of priorities in regional policy as well as changes in theoretical-methodological approaches to the study of regions. Increasing territorial differences affecting especially peripheral, and problematic regions has been accompanied by the revival of regionalism and the ideas of indigenous development. However, such movements often include provincialism and non-critical regional and local patriotism.

The lecture focuses on driving forces behind the formation of Czechia and the national identity of Czechs as well as the formation of regions and regional identity in Czechia. The following questions will be discussed: How the national/regional identity in Czechia can be defined? How is it manifested? How and why (under what conditions) does national/regional identity change? Is there a relationship between changes in the regional organization of society and changes in the residents’ relationship to the regions they live in? Is it possible to identify territories within Czechia where conflicts concerning territorial identity are still occurring? How does a struggle over territorial identity impact the future development of a certain region?

The lecture addresses following topics:

- Introduction: Political and geographical names of states and historical lands
- Czechia: “Big” or “small” country? (Czechia in the EU)
• Czechia: “Young” or “old” country? (Czechia as a bridge between the East and the West: Main phases of the Czech state forming)
• Czechia: “Open” or “closed” country? (Main processes forming the geographical image of Czechia)
• Czechia: Internally “homogeneous” or “heterogeneous” territory? (Differentiation of regional identity and identity of regions)

**A4 Culture adaptation strategies**

*Mgr. Dagmar Sieglová, Ph.D.*

Monday, April 1st, 2 – 3.30 pm

The workshop aims to guide students through a smooth orientation and adaptation within the Czech culture and society. It focuses on psychological processes related to a life abroad, explains strategies to tackle difficulties and gives many hints of an efficient adjustment. During the workshop, students get an abundance of practical advice about the complexities of the Czech cultures, such as cultural differences, communication specifics, behavioral norms, cultural values, conversation topics and taboos, formal procedures, and the like. Students get space for asking questions related to their life in Prague, Czech Republic, travel as well as their studies. Upon participation, students get ready to take the most of their experience abroad.

**Readings:**

Any tourist guide for the Czech Republic (Lonely Planet or other).


**Further resources:**


B ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, RURAL GEOGRAPHY, AGRICULTURE & TOURISM

B1 Floods and environmental management

*prof. RNDr. Jakub Langhammer, Ph.D. & RNDr. Jan Daňhelka, Ph.D.*

Tuesday, April 4th, 11 am – 12.30 pm

**PART 1: prof. RNDr. Jakub Langhammer, Ph.D.**

*Extreme flood 2002 and Prague – lessons learned*

The lecture presents the extreme floods that occurred in Prague in the context of historical floods in Prague and Czech Republic.

The catastrophic flood in August 2002, that significantly damaged Prague city belonged to the most extreme flood events in Central Europe over the past centuries. The flood was resulting in extensive damage to the landscape, city and infrastructure of Prague, including subway system.

The lecture will give an overview of historical floods in the region of Central Europe and Czech Republic to give the context to the flood event of 2002. There will be discussed the meteorological situation, hydrological course and types of flood damage in different environments, ranging from montane headwaters to the cities and industrial complexes in lowland floodplains.

Special focus will be paid to the effect of landscape modification on magnitude and extent of flooding and on the lessons learned in improvements of the flood warning, rescue and prevention system.

**PART 2: RNDr. Jan Daňhelka, Ph.D.**

B2 Rural space and agriculture in the transition process in Czechia

*doc. RNDr. Ivan Bičík, CSc.*

Tuesday, May 23rd, 1.30 – 3 pm

Lesson is based on the three main topics and discussion.

1. **Period 1948–1990**
   - main changes of traditional agriculture on the beginning of this period;
   - development of cooperatives and state farm from point of view economy and regional differentiation;
   - what is agro-complex;
   - creation of socialist agro-complex; structural changes and nonagricultural activities;
   - system of state support of agriculture, use of intensification tools for regional consequences;
   - main characteristics and problems of socialist agriculture 1989;
   - 1st part of discussion;

2. **Period 1990–2015**
• restitution and privatization as first step of changes, political and economic consequences;
• process of change: from socialist cooperatives into cooperatives of owners;
• loss of socialist state support of agriculture, loss of soviet market, change of products prices;
• land use changes and their regional impact;
• external and internal driving forces for rural space and agriculture;
• waiting and joining the EU;
• support and consequences of EU open space for Czech agriculture;
• 2nd part of discussion;

3. Land use changes in Czechia

• special investigation of geography directed from particular topics back to landscape and Nature-Society interaction;
• main results from this long land use long term development;
• some examples of methods and their expression in cartograms;
• 3rd part of discussion.

B3 Recent state of environment in Czechia

Mgr. Václav Treml, Ph.D.

Tuesday, April 23rd, 2 – 3.30 pm

Lecture provides a comprehensive overview of the recent state of Czech environment. First, the physical conditions (bedrock, soils, climatic settings etc.) influencing environment will be reviewed. Then, we will briefly discuss settlement history and development of agriculture and industry and show how was the Czech environment affected by human activities in the past. The most important recent environmental threads will be explained emphasizing their reasons, trends and management schemes. Specifically, we will talk about air pollution (acid rains, tropospheric ozone, aerosols) and water pollution (eutrophication due to high nitrogen and phosphorus loads).

B4 Tourism and Second Homes

RNDr. Jiří Vágner, Ph.D.

Wednesday, April 24th, 11 am – 12.30 pm

• Incoming tourism – image of Czechia (quiz – most frequent associations), development with the focus on the transition period, importance for national economy, flows of foreign tourists (individual students’ work with map), specifics of nationalities
• Outgoing tourism – historical development, prevailing flows (individual students’ work with map)
• Regional aspects – concentration and regional differentiation; major forms, regions, destinations, UNESCO World Heritage, Nature conservation aspects, role of domestic tourism
• SWOT analysis
• Tourism management – institutional aspects, challenges for future
• Second homes – general features, historical development *(key specifics of Czechia – explanation with the help of students’ questions and discussion inspired by Readings)*
• Statistics, international comparison
• Regional distribution *(group students’ work with map)*, concentrations (focused on regions visited during the excursion)
• Our research, sources, methods
• Characteristics of second homes and their owners – questionnaire survey results in model regions
• Contemporary trends (conversion to residential function, internationalization and commercialization, (holiday resorts, „Dutch villages“, recreational apartments, identity of regions)
• Perspectives (demographical changes, tax system)

C THE POSTSOCIALIST CITY AND URBAN GEOGRAPHY

C1 Urban Transformations: Postsocialist City in the Context of Planetary Urbanization  
*prof. RNDr. Luděk Sýkora, Ph.D.*

Thursday, April 4th, 11 am – 12.30 pm
• neoliberal capitalism and planetary urbanization
• multiple transformations in the postsocialist city
• processes and localities of urban change

C2 Challenges of Contemporary Urban Development: the Second Round of Transitions  
*prof. RNDr. Luděk Sýkora, Ph.D.*

Friday, April 5th, 11 am – 12.30 pm
• contemporary urban challenges: residential segregation and suburban sprawl
• risks of new path dependencies and lock-ins
• the second round of transition: legitimacy crisis and seeking alternatives in urban development

Readings (C1, C2):

C3 Temporality of urban space: everyday lives and daily rhythms on the example of Prague
RNDr. Lucie Pospíšilová, Ph.D. & RNDr. Petra Špačková, Ph.D.

Monday, April 8th, 11 am – 12.30 pm

Daily mobility and variations of population within the city are of growing interest in urban studies. By adding the temporal dimension to the evaluation of a rather static socio-spatial patterns of residential population, this approach enhances our understanding of cities as dynamic and constantly changing. The lecture is focused on temporality of urban space from two mutually constituted perspectives: perspective of urban inhabitants and perspective of urban localities. It is divided into three interconnected parts. At the beginning, we discuss theoretical concepts related to spatiotemporal aspects of city: urban rhythms and pacemakers, chronotope, everyday life contexts and spatiotemporal constraints. Afterwards we move to specific area of Prague metropolitan region and focus on particular empirical results assessing and explaining: (1) everyday life of various groups of urban inhabitants and spatiotemporal barriers in organization of their daily mobility and (2) diurnal variations of population and functional specialization in different parts of metropolitan region. Each section contains interactive activity which enables students to build new knowledge based on their own experience.

C4 Socio-spatial differentiation of contemporary Czechia
doc. RNDr. Martin Ouředníček, Ph.D.

Tuesday, April 9th, 11 am – 12.30 pm

The lecture explains the main features and processes of the socio-spatial differentiation in Czechia during the transformation period 1989-2016. It starts with the results of Delphi survey on social differentiation and problems in post-socialist Czechia. Then spatial patterns of social, demographic and economic indicators are introduced using maps from the Atlas of Socio-spatial Differentiation of the Czech Republic (2011). The maps focus on the level of 6250 Czech municipalities and the long-term historical comparison between pre-war, socialist and contemporary development. Students will guess particular characteristics on several projected maps and discuss factors of spatial differentiation. Internet project www.atlasobyvatelstva.cz serves as interactive tool for an exploration of various aspects of spatial differentiation. The second part of the lecture deals with processes of urban development, especially suburbanization and segregation using case study of Prague Metropolitan Area. We will compare spatial patterns of occupational structure and foreigners in Prague using
specific statistical measures (indices of segregation and dissimilarity) and comparison with other 13 European capital cities. Moreover, location of Americans in Prague and the reason for specific spatial behavior of them (separation) will be discussed with the students. Excursion to gentrified neighborhood of Karlin will follow the presentation.

Readings (C4):


Bilingual maps and texts are available at:
http://www.atlasobyvatelstva.cz/cs/atlas-diferenciace
http://www.atlasobyvatelstva.cz/cs/historie

D DEMOGRAPHY AND HEALTH GEOGRAPHY, MIGRATION AND SOCIAL MINORITIES

D1 Queer geography, sexualities, Czechia, progress?

RNDr. Michal Pitoňák, Ph.D.

Monday, April 8th, 2 – 3.30 pm

Geographies of sexualities are usually not one of those most tangible geographical subject matters. However, at the same time, quickly changing societal norms, legislations, and other rapid developments make it almost possible to grasp these changes in the real time. Similarly, many regions have passed their progressive liberal legislations and codified sexual equality and aim to achieve equity, and yet, many regions oppose these developments, or even reverse them. This lecture will focus on two aspects. First, it will discuss necessary theory and open questions such as: what is heteronormativity; what is sexual citizenship; can we learn from experiences beyond “the West” or apply the experience of the “West” locally? Second, it will address the Czech context of geographies of sexualities. The lecture is followed by a subsequent excursion allowing for a transition from the space of classroom to the diverse cityscape of Prague.
D2 Health Geography of Czechia

prof. RNDr. Dagmar Dzúrová, CSc.

Wednesday, April 10th, 11 am – 12.30 pm

Motto: “Health is not everything, but without health, everything else is worthless.” (Director-General of the World Health Organization Dr. Halfdan Mahler)

1. Background – health geography, global goals

2. Atlas of population health in European Union regions

3. Health geography of Czechia

4. Results, conclusion

1. Background

Health geography is a subdiscipline of human geography, which deals with the interaction between people and the environment. Health geography recognizes the importance of context, setting and spatial scale — from global to local — in determining health outcomes.

Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity (WHO, 1948).

The Millennium Development Goals - 17 new Sustainable Development Goals balance the three dimensions of sustainable development – environmental, social and economic – covering areas such as poverty, inequality, health etc.

2. Atlas of population health in European Union regions (for 269 NUTS 2 regions) – health of the European population over multiple dimensions and geographical levels

- Health inequities have been increasing in Europe, particularly in a context of an ageing society and economic and social crisis. Differences between and within countries have widened. The west – east gap in e0, socioeconomic gradients in mortality have increased in many countries.

3. Health geography of Czechia

- Health differences - disadvantaged groups benefit later from improvements in health determinants. They are also the most vulnerable when unexpected societal changes occur.
• Unhealthy behavior/Preventable risk factors - Alcohol and tobacco are the major health problems across all of Europe – but the Czechia looks worse than many other countries.

4. Results, conclusion

Recent favorable health development has currently brought the Czechia:

A little closer to the European average

A widening gap in social variations

References:

https://digitalis.uc.pt/en/livro/atlas_population_health_european_union_regions

and technological platform Geoportal (web-based geographic information system):

D3 Comparison of population dynamics between the European Union and the United States

doc. RNDr. Jiřina Kocourková, Ph.D.

Wednesday, April 10th, 2 – 3.30 pm

The aim is to ascertain which components of population change are primarily responsible for the different population dynamics and development in the EU and the US, especially for the slowdown in growth and the expected shrinking of the EU population. This will help inform discussions on population policies if the European Union and its Member States seek to tackle the somewhat unfavorable population development. Since the UN population projections reflect the current population structure and the nature of demographic behavior determined by the path of population development of past decades, the aim is to investigate the character and trajectories of population dynamics in the EU and the US since 1960. Analyzes of the total population change including natural change and migration will be presented including the major discrepancies between the rates of natural change with focusing specifically on fertility and mortality. Particular attention will be devoted to structural dimensions in differences in fertility and mortality, referring to the demographic behavior of population groups (namely ethnic groups in the US) and regional disparities in demographic performance (especially resulting from political, economic and cultural divisions within Europe). With the aid of this detailed analytical comparison of the EU and the US and using references to secondary sources, the conditions and factors that lie behind the different population dynamics of these two world macro-regions will be discussed.
D4 International Migration in Czechia in a Broader European Context

prof. RNDr. Dušan Drbohlav, CSc.

Friday, April 12th, 11 am – 12.30 pm

First of all, Czechia and its migratory parameters will be introduced and juxtaposed to other Central/Eastern European countries. Some important historical patterns will be mentioned and pinpointed. Then, main migratory features of the country will be presented while some selected characteristics will be compared over time, too. Important milestones of the Czech integration will follow while stressing the current development. Selected impacts of the migration reality and integration outcomes will supplement the overall picture.

D5 SEMINAR: Levels of Integration of immigrants in Czechia

doc. RNDr. Eva Janská, Ph.D. & prof. RNDr. Dušan Drbohlav, CSc.

Friday, April 12th, 2 – 3.30 pm

The aim of this seminar is to assist students in better understanding the problem of integration/assimilation of immigrants into a majority society. At the beginning, we will briefly introduce definition and various concepts of immigrants’ integration as they have been and are practiced, on one hand, by states (in general, and by Czechia, in particular), and on the other hand, by migrants themselves.

Then, we will invite 2 – 3 immigrants who have been already settled in Czechia for some time. Each of these immigrants will introduce himself/herself including their life in Czechia (migratory history, work, leisure time, hobbies, social contacts, identity, contacts to compatriots and their mother country). After that a discussion will start. At the end, we will try to summarize how successful/unsuccessful the Czech integration/migration policy is and how successfully/unsuccessfully our immigrants have been integrated into Czech society.

D6: Geopolitical Changes and Challenges in the Central and Eastern Europe

RNDr. Libor Jelen, Ph.D.

Thursday, April 11th, 11 am – 12.30 pm

The aim of the lesson is to present the region of Central and Eastern Europe in a geopolitical context. The theoretical framework of geopolitical analysis will be introduced in the first part of the lesson, then we will focus on the political and geopolitical processes in the region since the end of the Cold War and finally we will discuss the current political situation in the Western part of the former Soviet Union and its geopolitical conditionality.

Structure:

1. Understanding Geopolitics: Conceptualization and approaches

2. Redrawing political maps: Reterritorialization and political changes in the Central and Eastern Europe
3. The Eastern Europe as a geopolitical „hot spot“: The context and challenges

**E REGIONAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL GEOGRAPHY**

**E1 Automotive Industry in Central and East-central Europe**

*prof. RNDr. Petr Pavlínek, Ph.D.*

Monday, April 15th, 11 am – 12.30 pm

The lecture will be introduced by an overview of the East Central Europe (ECE) automotive industry including the current production and FDI trends and their geographical context. Further, it will move on with a specific focus on the Czech automotive industry discussing its position in Europe. Specific emphasis will be put on upgrading processes in the ECE automotive industry, on R&D, and on the role of the state in the development of automotive industry in ECE.

**E2 Regional development in Czechia in European context**

*doc. RNDr. Jiří Blažek, Ph.D.*

Tuesday, April 16th, 11 am – 12.30 pm

The lecture starts with an overview of evolution of regional disparities in Czechia, then moves on to elaborate upon regional impacts of global economic crisis upon Central East European regions. Finally, the state-of-the-art regional development theories (theory of regional innovation systems and theory of global production networks) will be explained and their potential implications outlined. By doing this, the question whether the contemporary economic geography can be useful will be answered.

Lastly, the regional development context for excursion to Český Krumlov (UNESCO) will be shortly introduced.

**E3 Energetics**

*RNDr. Ludvík Kopačka, CSc.*

Tuesday, April 16th, 2 – 3.30 pm

**Main aims of lecture:**

1. *History of energy industry in Czechia in brief:*
   - long-term development, basic changes in the course of two transformations:
     - socialist (1948-1989)
     - and post-socialist (since 1989)
2. *Primary energy sources:*
   - solid, liquid, gaseous, primary electricity
   - domestic, import, export, consumption

3. *Czech coal industry:*
   - brown coal mining with special attention to production of electricity (EXCURSION)
   - hard coal

4. *Power industry - changes of structure and geographical distribution with respect to:*
   - individual energy sources
   - non-renewable and renewable (especially solar energy) sources
   - environment