

Abstract

The dissertation deals with cross-border contacts and transfers between South Moravia and Lower Austria in the field of environment. The thesis traces this topic from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s. During this time, the global de-escalation of tensions between East and West enabled the development of cross-border contacts already in the era of the closed border and subsequently after the fall of the Iron Curtain. Thus, the thesis draws on the transnational history of late socialism and the transition period and extends this research to include a regional perspective. The aim of the thesis is to show which role the environment played in cross-border contacts between the examined border regions. The thesis follows this aim in three levels of research. Firstly, it addresses the question of whether 1989 was a significant turning point in cross-border contacts, or whether there was continuity between developments in the 1980s and 1990s. Secondly, it examines the relationship between central and local developments and how they affect each other. Thirdly, the thesis focuses on cross-border transfers and the question to what extent asymmetry and different living standards discouraged or created opportunities for these transfers. The thesis answers these research questions in three thematic chapters - the first deals with cross-border cooperation in the process of village renewal, the second focuses on nature conservation, and the third addresses the issue of cross-border pollution.