

Abstract

This dissertation is based on three case studies of selected families of the original Romani inhabitants of the Czech Republic who were affected by the Roma Holocaust. It contributes to the detection of ethically sensitive aspects in the background of the coexistence of Roma with non-Roma environments in the Czech lands and at the same time to capture the risks associated with this research. The main tool of thinking is the concept of human dignity. The work pursues the two following main goals.

Firstly, through historical-genealogical research, the project resulted in the reconstruction of the history of these families since their arrival in the territory of Moravia, through the process of their settlement and the gradual transformation of their ways of life, especially in the interwar period. The research easily maps the post-war period as well. Despite their gradual involvement in the life of society, there is a visible continuity in viewing these families from the point of view of local and central authorities as "gypsies" – their secondary status. The central period, which is more elaborately discussed, is the Second World War, the work is focused on the impact of the Roma Holocaust on these three families, and subsequently the efforts of the survivors to cope with the war traumas are mapped.

The central concept through which the case studies are viewed is human dignity. The aim of the work is, on one hand, to document how the continuous and repeated denial of human dignity (with a border location – during the Roma Holocaust, when the members of these families were denied the right to live based only on their origin and were sent to concentration and extermination camps) affected the post-war lives of the survivors. The Roma Holocaust documented by three family histories is set in the widest possible time frame. With such complex research, the author tries to touch on the diverse range of factors that influenced specific families on their way to more dignified position in society.

After first goal, secondly, the work tests the possibilities of connecting different methods for researching the Holocaust of Roma, especially the use of cooperation with second- and third-generation from Holocaust survivors for research, and at the same time the work reveals the risks associated with this type of research.