

Abstract

This thesis is an attempt to provide an account of the late socialist discipline of Czechoslovak ethnography and folklore studies and provide a basis for understanding of ethnography's post socialist transformation into anthropology and ethnology. The main theoretical framework of the thesis is the critical sociology of science of Pierre Bourdieu. The thesis focuses especially on two ethnography institutions – the Department of Ethnography and Folklore Studies at Charles University in Prague and the Prague branch of the Institute for Ethnography and Folklore Studies of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in the late socialist period, which covers the 1970s and 1980s. Apart from providing some intellectual dimension of ethnography, the thesis aims to uncover other dimensions of ethnographers' practices such as research methods, language competences, writing habits, academic hierarchies or attitudes to mutual criticism. The thesis argues that whereas ethnography as a label disappeared in the 1990s, ethnographers' practices continued to shape the nascent Czech anthropology and ethnology. The thesis makes an intensive use of ethnographers' scholarly writings, interviews with former ethnographers and also uses some documentary evidence and secondary literature as its sources.

Keywords: history of ethnography and folklore studies, history of Czech anthropology, history of anthropology, postsocialism, culture of contention, scholarly history, critical sociology, oral history