

ABSTRACT

This research project explores the notion of spaces and place-making of expat women living in Prague. Using the metaphor of a “wall of Czechness”, this paper identifies why perceptions of living in a given space matter, as these perceptions affect how one interacts with the spaces around them. This metaphorical “wall” thus identifies why expat women find and create their own expat communities for socialization in Prague. As such, online platforms, such as Facebook, aid in creating designated women-only spaces, that facilitate both online and offline interactions. This helps in the creation of place-belongingness, especially for expat women who move to Prague on their own account. This work calls attention to the importance of various spaces associated with place-making in this context: safe spaces, private and public spaces, counter-public spaces and gendered spaces. It also highlights the importance of community-creation, and how communities can be understood and created for these expat women living abroad. The term “expat” itself has specific connotations, and whilst they fall under the category of migrants, the two terms hold very different meanings. This paper adds to existing research on expatriates, as a migrant group, to better understand how they create places, and places of belonging, in today’s globalized world.