Abstract

Nowadays, the majority of the world's population lives in cities and the visual perception of cities is an essential part of our daily lives. This thesis expands on theories of the visual representation of a city by Kevin Lynch, Michel de Certeau, or Henri Lefebvre, who explore how inhabitants experience and shape the environment they live in. The thesis explores the visual representation of Prague on the example of five people with professional or lived experience of the Czech capital and compares how their views differ. The informants directly enter the research through the use of visual sociology methods, as they themselves create the photographic material that is analysed. The thesis thus enables a more comprehensive and accurate view of the Czech metropolis. Furthermore, the thesis builds on memory studies in public space, mainly on Pierre Nora's concept of the sites of memory. Nora explains that people have a need to commemorate history and therefore create commemorative places in physical space, such as statues, monuments, cathedrals or palaces. These places are used to commemorate history together. For this reason, the thesis analyses three specific sites of memory in Prague - Old Town Square, Národní třída and the main railway station. As a result, the thesis presents a professional and lived view of the three sites of memory, thus linking the visual representation of a city and memory studies. It outlines how we can use visual studies and sociology in city planning and highlights the importance of memory for today's society.