

Title:

Forgetting traditional agricultural knowledge in modernization. Interdisciplinary historical reconstruction of Czech agroforestry.

Abstract:

Corresponding with the tradition of current ecological and historical anthropology the study concentrated on reconstruction of transformation of one of the key complex human ecological relationships – modernization of agriculture. The roots of the changes are placed into 17th century Britain yet during the last centuries they spread over the globe and in some cases are still spreading. The process of agriculture modernization was enlightened with analysis of its local progression in the Czech Republic and in the light of mechanisms of cultural memory..

The establishment of modern industrial agriculture was described as forgetting of contemporary used agricultural knowledge during the application of new ideal agriculture form on the contemporary agricultural ecosystem. The new form was derived from the principles of modern economy, sciences and the availability of new technologies and was pushed forward by expert and economic elites and state. The form was applied on the biocultural system-landscape cultivated in majority of cases by thousand years present locals. The dialectical relationship between the new form, its application and the „material“ contemporary agricultural ecosystem its inhabitants included, as was shown was asymmetrical and lead to the forgetting or overwriting of certain forms of agricultural knowledge.

The aforementioned principles were in the concrete shown on the fate of one type of premodern agricultural system – ancient and diverse agroforestry, which was as a management, ekosystém type and ecological relationship forgotten in the Czech republic in the last 150 years. The study analysed sources of various kinds and with them also of an interdisciplinary methodological framework. In particular the record of agroforestry in the contemporary agricultural literature, land tax records and the current landscape was examined and compared.

That allowed the pointing out on the information that these memory media transfer about the premodern and new agriculture, how we are able to respond to the information transferred and also shed light on the process of modern forgetting of knowledge used since time immemorial and inventing of new traditions. At the end a concept of ecological memory is introduced.

Key words:

Modernization of agriculture, ecological knowledge, cultural memory, ecological memory, taskscape, agroforestry, 19th century