

Posudek oponenta habilitační práce

Masarykova univerzita	
Fakulta	sociálních studií
Obor řízení	Sociologie
Uchazeč	Mgr. Slavomíra Ferenčuhová, Ph.D.
Pracoviště uchazeče	Masarykova univerzita, Fakulta sociálních studií
Habilitační práce (název)	Sociologie města 20. a 21. století
Oponent	doc. PhDr. Alexandra Bitušíková, CSc.
Pracoviště oponenta	Univerzita Mateja Bela v Banskej Bystrici

Text posudku

Slavomíra Ferenčuhová has presented a habilitation publication in a form of a printed monograph titled *Sociology of the city in the 20th and 21st centuries*. By presenting this publication she fills a rather empty space in Czech (and also Slovak) urban sociology. The study of the city has been in a centre of attention for social scientists (mainly sociologists and anthropologists) since the 1920s (at least in the U.S. and partly Europe). However, in the regional context of former Czechoslovakia (now Czech Republic and Slovak Republic) not many significant contributions have been made. This publication aims to fill this gap. It brings a very broad and detailed overview of the history and development of urban sociology worldwide with a special focus on the Czech Republic (Czechoslovakia before 1993).

In the introduction, the author Slavomíra Ferenčuhová clearly states that the publication is primarily about urban sociology – sociology of the city seen from an international as well as a Czech perspective. First chapter of the publication deals with the „pre-history“ of urban sociology: the author introduces key ideological and theoretical framework for the establishment of urban sociology and analyses mainly work of Friedrich Engels and Charles Booth. This part is followed by the history of European roots of urban sociology that include the presentation of urban theories developed by Ferdinand Tönnies, Georg Simmel and Max Weber. The Chicago School of Sociology is the focus of next chapters. They brings an overview of theoretical perspectives towards the study of the city at the beginning of the 20th century, giving a special attention to Louis Wirth and demonstrating also the close relation of the Chicago urban sociology to other disciplines, mainly anthropology and human ecology. The author also presents a number of critical views, voices

and opinions against the school, brought by the school's opponents such as Castells, Sjoberg, Firey or Gans, later also Fisher or Pahl. She demonstrates various approaches towards the study of the city in an informative overview with critical statements, thus showing deep knowledge of the history, development and also critique of the Chicago urban sociology.

The next chapters are devoted to the development of urban studies across Europe/worldwide after the 1970s. All significant urban development theories and trends have been covered and described in good detail: new paradigms, new theories, new comparative perspectives, new concepts and questions. The author goes beyond pure descriptions and demonstrates her erudite views of the topic. She also opens the question of a debate about the development from urban sociology to more open and interdisciplinary urban studies.

The last part of the monograph is devoted to urban sociology in Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic in the period since the „state socialism“ to the present. The author presents critical sociological views of urban research during socialism and after, focusing mainly on works by Jiří Musil and some other Czech scholars. It is a pity that she does not mention any Slovak sociologists who carried out research in Slovak cities in the pre-1989 period, such as Peter Gajdoš or Ján Pašiak. She introduces and describes new post-1989 phenomena in changing cities (revitalisation of city centres, suburbanisation or gentification, to name a few) as emerging research themes. She also discusses interdisciplinary attempts in urban research in the region although they are still rather rare. The author finishes the publication with her reflections on further developments of urban sociology and urban studies in the Czech Republic.

The habilitation work written by Slavomíra Frenčuhová fulfills all criteria required by the Czech legislation and the Masaryk University regulations. Her synthesis is an excellent attempt to interpret most significant urban sociological works of the 19th and 20th centuries, to summarise key urban theories and concepts and to present trends in Czech urban sociological research with a critical perspective. The author demonstrated deep understanding of urban theories, based on her knowledge of a broad range of scientific literature. It is obvious that in this kind of publication it is impossible to cover all existing literature, but the author managed to present and critically analyse all most important urban sociological theories and trends that appear in literature from the 19th to the 21st centuries. I appreciate that the publication does not provide only answers, but it also poses important questions about the future of urban sociology.

Dotazy oponenta k obhajobě habilitační práce:

1. In your view, what are the most important methodological trends and approaches in urban sociological research of today worldwide?
2. Can you identify some specificities of Czech urban sociological research compared to international research (related to theoretical and methodological approaches, research topics, etc.)?
3. What is your opinion about the application of research-based evidence in contemporary urban planning (e.g. on the example of Brno)?

Závěr

Habilitační práce Slavomíry Ferenčuhové “**Sociologie města 20. a 21. století**“ *splňuje* požadavky standardně kladené na habilitační práce v oboru Sociologie.

V Brně dne 16. 11. 2017

doc. PhDr. Alexandra Bitušíková, CSc.



podpis