

RE-designing access to Cultural Heritage for a wider participation in preservation, (re)use and management of European culture



European Commission

### Resilience in the urban environment from the social-anthropological perspective

Zdeněk Uherek

Institute of Sociological Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

zdenek.uherek@fsv.cuni.cz



- The aim of this paper was to make a selection of approaches to the topic of resilience in anthropological environment and to show possible styles of work with this concept in anthropology in the Czech or more generally Central European environment.
- The paper could well follow Hana Červinková's speech. Her story studied with J. Golden is based on a typical Central European example, where the city was inhabited by many language and cultural groups, some of them no longer live and some do not want to remember the history of its former neighbors. Resilience here is the question of saving the heritage of one group from another.

# • Anthropology is currently highly individualized. It focuses on symbols and meanings that are individualized are unique. They are the legacy of small groups of people who communicate with greater or lesser success to larger groups of people. Sometimes the topic can be applied to the inhabitants of the city as a whole. This is how Karolina Koziur's cultural heritage communicates in an interesting way.

• They talk about the city of Chernivtsi in Ukraine and about neocolonialism. Karolina Koziura

- Colonial Factors Hidden in City Center Revitalization: Chernivtsi as an Imperial Formation.
- Many nationalities, histories, dominations.
- What is post-colonial:
- Colony metropolitan relation
- Two centres of power that shaped the public space in Chernivtsi.
- Marks of Sovietization versus Westernalization





#### Karolina Koziura

- Revitalization: Picking up patterns from different collonial pasts.
- Westernalization from outside:
- The city was called the Little Vienna in the past.

#### Peter Salner

- Premeny Bratislavy / Transformations of Bratislava 1939-1993: Ethnological Aspects of Social Processes in Urban Environment / Peter Salner. - Bratislava: Veda, 1998.
- Winners and inner city dwellers.
- Different kinds of inhabitants.
- Inner city dwellers defend their inner city against the winners. The winners at Bratislava Castle are changing - once they are the Nazis, then the Communists. The history of the city is discontinuous because the inhabitants have to adapt to the winners. Residents defend their own history, which is unofficial, private and have little opportunity to revitalize it.

## • However, it is often not possible to generalize the memories of the inhabitants of the city as a whole. Peter Salner shows in the stories of the Jewish inhabitants of the city a very personal heritage, such as the legacy of conversion to Christianity during World War II, which parents cannot share with their children.

- Jews in Slovakia: Between Tradition and Assimilation / Peter Salner. -Bratislava: Zing Print, 2000.
- Next year in Bratislava, or, Meeting Peter Salner. 1. vyd .. Bratislava: Marenčin PT, c2007.

- Anthropology very often focuses on poor and marginalized groups, while resilience refers to the cultural heritage that the majority society wants to eliminate.
- A typical example is that of Sven B. Ek Nöden i Lund. (1971)
- It is the story of a working class and later a poor neighborhood that was destined to be demolished but saturated with history and memories, and they eventually helped the district not be demolished but revitalized. However, the publication itself preceded the story rather than reflecting it.

• There are already dozens of anthropological works in the Czech environment that petrify the history of emergency workers' colonies and protect workers' settlements from the 1950s and 1960s or entire workers' cities, such as Havířov, from extinction.



• The example I am developing in this project is the example of the town of Český Krumlov, a UNESCOlisted city that is overloaded with tourism.





• The originally German-speaking city was displaced after World War II and the new population inherited historical monuments, which they renovated after 1989. The population is overcrowded, but the locals do not usually live in the central parts of the city. They have houses outside the center and tourists are in the center. There is an interesting situation where local residents often engage in an unequal struggle with the cultural heritage that prevents them from normal existence in the centre of the city. The sustainability of life and cultural monuments is at opposition here.



An interesting symbol of this struggle is the theater (established in 1958) with a revolving stage in the Baroque garden, which according to conservationists do not fit to it. But the locals do not want to give it up.







#### • From an anthropological point of view, everyone has their own history and heritage and strives to protect it. The harmonization of the external environment and the inner feelings of its user is beyond the scope of anthropological knowledge. The anthropologist can only draw attention to the tension between the physical environment and human identity.

 Resilience in this case is related to the ability to maintain its own integrity in various environments, the ability to adapt and incorporate its past, present and future into the environment of a changing world. Sometimes it can be a challenge to stability, sometimes to a dynamic transformation. • Thank you for your attention.