**Tereza Hodúlová M.Sc.**

**Solidarita beyond transition: Identity of Post-socialist neighbourhood in Prague**

Using the anthropological concept of place identity and place attachment, I would like to discuss the transformation of the socio-spatial image of the first post-war housing estate in Prague, Czech Republic – Solidarita. Solidarita housing estate was built during the years 1946–1951 as the form of mixed housing with row family houses supplemented by four-storey apartment blocks with rich public facilities and services, unfenced gardens, huge central park and others well-planned public spaces. Architects of Solidarita Jech, Majer and Storch were inspired by international standards for housing based on Scandinavia. They advocated for housing reform in postwar Czechoslovakia and created self-sufficient space which was able to support recreational, social and community activities in the neighbourhood. As a product of these transitional years, the project carried with it a hopeful optimism about the future and the potential for a more collective approach to neighborhood life that was reflected in the spirit of the design and its name, Solidarita. The political transformation, commercialization, and privatization in the 1980s in former Czechoslovakia caused the gradual transition of the socio-spatial image of the neighborhood. Some elements of the housing complex started to lose their original function and the community character of Solidarita was jeopardized. Soon after privatization, large public gardens behind the row houses were fenced by some owner, so the wide-open garden was split into small, fenced parcels. The gradual process of individualization began to change the community character of Solidarita. Even the types of service facilities and retail stores changed. From the early 1990s, supermarkets and large shopping centers gradually developed in Prague and most of the original shops and services perished. According to my ethnographic research I will show how originally inscribed meanings are re-conceptualized during the gradual spatial transformation of the space (particularly, changes in the structure of public amenities and fences) and how residents of Solidarita housing estate react to these changes. I will demonstrate the resident’s place attachment processes based on everyday perspective of social activity in the space of Solidarita housing estate. According to my ethnographic research, my informants retain their links with the traditional past values of the neighbourhood, namely, participation and community, in a green and healthy self-sufficient neighbourhood. Through the use of public space, by knowing each other and sharing, they protect the neighbourhood values. Socio-spatial changes that could disrupt residents’ routines and everyday life, and thus their relationship to the place, in this case resulted in symbolical protest and actions, thus recontextualization and reinforcing resident´s attachment and identity of this neighbourhood.

**Bio**

M.Sc. Tereza Hodúlová graduated in Social and Cultural Ecology at Charles University Prague, Czech Republic. Tereza is currently a PhD student in General Anthropology of the Faculty of Humanities, Charles University. She completed two long-term study-abroad programs in Sweden and Denmark, where she studied urban anthropology. Tereza focuses on urban anthropology, analysis of place and home, DIY and material culture. She is mainly interested in the identity of housing estates with gardens and the resident's relationship to their home.

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