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**Between Public and Private: utilizing ethnography to study the 'Prague Spring' 50 years on**

Recent scholarship claims that the experience of the communistic past still affects national self-identity construction. Just like the trauma constitutes the neurotic's Self, the post-socialist identities draw from the 'traumatizing' experience of communistic oppression. The stereotype prevalent in current scholarship on post-communistic Czechoslovakia says that it is the negotiation of the 'Prague Spring' that triggers the mechanism of national self-identification. In contrast to such stereotype the field data hint that Czechs do not generally build up their identity through the re-experience of the historical past. Since the post-world-war history of Europe is generally omitted in school curriculum, Czechs do not have any certain conception on how to re-interpret the communistic past. The younger interlocutors unconsciously avoid to discuss the 'traumatizing' experience of communism. Such pattern might derive from the transition that the 'communistic' experience underwent. As soon as it was forced out of the public space of school to the private space of family, the legacy of communism transforms from a shared cultural memory to a 'private' trauma. This paper explores the re-contextualization of the 1968 in contemporary Czech cultural space, the way how the post-socialist generation re-conceptualize the 'Prague Spring' as it becomes triggered by the discussion of their experience of 'national' self. A Series of in-depth unstructured interviews, collected during fieldwork in the Czech Republic in March of 2018, was studied by the means of discourse analysis in order to locate cultural and psychic roots such patterns derive from.