

**Migration movements within the Russian federation and changes in the distribution of its city population**

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The contribution looks at migration movements within the Russian Federation and changes in the distribution of its city population since 1989 from the view of New Economic Geography. Applying a n-region-model with a linear spatial structure, our theoretical predictions are that population tends to concentrate in the metropolitan areas of the capitals of the federation and of its regions. At the same time a process of depletion of the peripheral regions particularly in the North and Far East takes place. Our thesis is that the increase of real costs of freight traffic that has been occurred during the price liberalization in the early 90ies has a long term influence on the regional supply of goods and its prices, and therefore welfare, that causes regional utility differentials and, hence, migration.

The empirical part of the paper describes population changes in the Russian Regions and its components (natural growth, administratively-territorially changes, and migration components) on the level of federation, federal districts, and federal subjects. A first regression analysis on the cross section of Russian federal subjects shows the effects of migration on population concentration. After that we look to the dependence of population growth of Russian cities and urban settlements on its size at the beginning of the transformation process and other regressors.

## **In Search of Counterurbanization: Some Evidence from the Czech Republic**

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This paper focuses on population *deconcentration* in the Czech Republic during the post-socialist transformation period. The shift in migration flows from rural-to-urban to urban-to-rural, which has been important feature of settlement systems in the West since 1970s, became evident in many post-socialist countries during the last 20 years. The differences in development of CEE countries showed us that there have been many different paths (dependencies) of post-socialist transformation after 1989 which have of course also certain commonalities.

The population deconcentration in the Czech Republic is mainly described as suburbanization, suburban development or formation of metropolitan areas. Some theoretical consideration and also empirical investigation suggested that newly established post-socialist migration patterns in the Czech Republic (and other CEE countries) are much more complex and cannot be appropriately grasped with simple labels as we know from urban life-cycle theory. Although suburbanisation is the major process in the post-socialist urban Europe, we argue that there is „more than suburbanization“ in the Czech settlement system. The paper deals with the process of counter-urbanization and recognizes two types of this process: western counterurbanisation and its post-socialist counterpart. Different ways of studying and approaching to the phenomenon will be provided. In the final part we attempt to present empirical evidence of counter-urbanization in the Czech Republic. The possible relations to other CEE countries could be regarded as inspirational for further research.

## **Urbanization, suburbanization or/and desurbanization? Current trajectories in the Czech settlement system**

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Many recent writings state that suburbanization is the dominant process that is reshaping post-communist cities and their city regions. This view is based on individual case studies of particular usually largest cities and urban regions. Such studies also use different concepts of suburbanization and methodologies of its study. There is missing such an account of urbanization processes that would be based in a single methodology and reflect the state of development across all cities in an urban system. In the paper, we (1) conceptualize suburbanization leading to definition used in empirical study, (2) present method of analysis of an urban system, (3) provide and interpret results of the analysis. The results confirm that suburbanization is indeed the major trend within Czech settlement system. However, it also presents evidence of multiple other trajectories of urban development.

## **The social geographical study of gated communities in some cities located outside the agglomeration of Budapest in Hungary**

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Gated communities and gated community-like developments are one of the faster spreading closed global private housing forms of the end of 20th century and of nowadays. They have appeared in Central-East and in East-Europe after the downfall of state socialist systems. Wealth–income differences have multiplied during the era of the transition to market economy. Residential segregation characterized by the wealthier’s moving into gated communities and segregation of deprived people has been primarily influenced by these processes. The phrase ‘gated community’ is applied as a buzzword in Hungary without consideration of the respective professional term of developed countries. For instance, most of the Hungarian ‘gated communities’ are not fenced and guarded and they do not deliver any kind of special service to their residents. Gated communities have become a brand established to satisfy global consuming patterns in Hungary, as well.

The aim of our study is to answer that how they are distributed spatially and what kind of effects they have on their surroundings. The scenes of our research are some selected cities located outside the agglomeration of Budapest. We have obtained the data needed by several quantitative and qualitative research methods. According to our results, we can reveal significant differences relating to the number and spatial position of gated communities amongst the analyzed cities. These settlement sections have typical distribution and they are transforming the previous city structure.