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THE ISSUE OF CENTRAL EUROPE IN MAJOR CZECH AND SLOVAK SOCIOLOGY JOURNALS: *SOCIOLOGICKÝ ČASOPIS/CZECH SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW* AND *SOCIOLÓGIA/SLOVAK SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW* BETWEEN 1990 AND 2000[3]

ABSTRACT

The article deals with the issue of Central Europe in the two main Czech and Slovak Sociology journals, *Sociologický časopis/Czech Sociological Review* and *Sociológia/Slovak Sociological Review*, in the first decade after the political change in 1989 (specifically from 1990 to 2000). By using the method of content analysis, and comparing Czech and Slovak Sociology journals in their discursive contexts, we try to answer the following questions. What was the position of the issue of Central Europe in the context of other research problems that were discussed in the journals? Who dealt with the issue, and how? Which Central European sociologists from abroad were published in the journals and what did they focus on? Did Czech and Slovak journals share some common features in the questions mentioned above (topics, authors from abroad, etc.), or rather, did divergences prevail? The issue of Central Europe occupied a relatively prominent place in both journals, but the approach was somewhat different. While the Slovak journal was dominated by the issue of nation and ethnicity, the main topics of the Czech journal were transformation and the sociology of politics. Also, the composition of authors of both journals as a whole and within the topic of Central Europe was different. A significantly higher proportion of foreign authors can be found within the pages of *Sociologický časopis*. *Sociológia*, on the other hand, features more domestic authors, and the foreign ones are clearly dominated by Czechs.

Key words

Czech and Slovak sociology, content analysis, sociological journals, Central Europe

INTRODUCTION

The article deals with the issue of Central Europe in the two main Czech and Slovak Sociology journals *Sociologický časopis/Czech Sociological Review* and *Sociológia/Slovak Sociological Review* in the first decade after the political change in 1989 (specifically from 1990 to 2000). By using the method of content analysis, and comparing Czech and Slovak Sociology journals in their discursive contexts, we try to answer the following questions. What was the position of the issue of Central Europe in the context of other research problems that were discussed in the journals? Who dealt with the issue, and how? Which Central European sociologists from abroad were published in the journals and what did they focus on? Did Czech and Slovak journals share some common features in the questions mentioned above (topics, authors from abroad, etc.), or rather, did divergences prevail?

Since our focus is on Central Europe as an object of sociological research, we deem it necessary to firstly define what we mean by Central Europe, and how we study it as a variable in the surveyed journals. A number of social scientists, especially historians, but also political scientists and sociologists, tried to define precise boundaries of Central Europe. Most of them admit, or even emphasise, that the boundaries of Central Europe are variable, according to the principal criteria and the studied phenomenon. The prevailing opinion is that the boundaries of Central Europe are in a way arbitrary and changeable, but there still are good reasons for exploring Central Europe as a specific region, and pondering the question of its boundaries, though variability is one of their essential characteristics.

The Polish-American historian P. Wandycz (Wandycz 2011) limits his research to the "heartlands", i.e. Poland, the former Czechoslovakia, and Hungary. The British historian T. Garton Ash (1999) defines Central Europe similarly. The Czech historian Jan Křen, in his synthetic work on the history of Central Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries (Křen 2005), calls this narrow definition a presentism. He defines the area of Central Europe of the last two centuries as the living space of six nationalities: Austrians, Czechs, Slovenes, Slovaks, Hungarians, and Poles. He also emphasises the mobility of the boundaries of Central Europe. In the 19th century, according to Křen, the core was formed by the Habsburg monarchy, and in the interwar period, it was the successor states. After the war, the socialist bloc became the centre, and after 1989, this centre was formed by the countries awaiting entry into NATO and the European Union. According to Křen, the so called "wing states", i.e. Germany and Russia, cannot be omitted either. He considers the years 1948–1989 the period with the strongest Eastern influence. It was during this time that saw the coining of the term of East Central Europe (Ostmitteleuropa) (Křen 2005: 26–27). The broader concept is also favoured by the American historian L. R. Johnson, who, although he works in Vienna, actually represents a view "from outside" – like Garton Ash, who himself has travelled to Central Europe many times, but works in Britain (see also Garton Ash 2003). While Garton Ash, who focuses on modern or rather contemporary history, favours the concept of heartlands, Johnson's work seeks to provide a historical overview from the end of the first half of the first millennium, and naturally tends to a broader approach. To the heartlands, which according to him represent East Central Europe, he also adds West Central Europe consisting of Austria and Germany, and also Slovenia and Croatia – small nations and independent states that are located on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, and were part of Austria and Hungary before 1918 (Johnson 2011: 6).

The concept of heartlands overlaps with the political concept of the countries of the Visegrad Group, which was introduced in the early 1990s by the political representatives of Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary.[4] The Visegrad cooperation mainly covers politically supported cultural collaboration and student mobility, and is not just a matter of (since the division of Czechoslovakia) four countries anymore, but also focuses on other East European states.

The interest of sociologists and political scientists in contemporary processes (whether in terms of social transformation, modernisation, globalisation, capitalisation of the economy, participation of women in science, changes in political systems and party systems, political populism, nationalism, or the issue of minorities in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe) mostly focuses on specific countries within the former socialist bloc, whether it is the so-called heartlands (e.g. Adamski, Machonin, Zapf, 2001), or a wider block of post-socialist European countries, for the selection of which the post-communist experience is a key point. In this case, the focus in on the heartlands with the addition of a smaller (e.g. Hloušek, Kopeček (2004) added Slovenia) or larger number of other states. We often find not only the simple designation of "Central Europe", but various terminological variations that combine Central and Eastern Europe.[5]

Sociologists are also interested in the view of ordinary people on the boundaries of Central Europe. A representative survey carried out in the Czech Republic in the middle of the analysed period showed that the residents of the Czech Republic positively assign, apart from their own country (90%), also Poland (80%), and Hungary (77%) to Central Europe. Slovakia was assigned to Central Europe by 60% of respondents, Austria by 58%, and Slovenia by 50%. Other European countries were classified either as part of Eastern, or Western Europe by the majority of respondents (Nedomová, Kostelecký 1997: 87).

In view of the above concepts, we created two categories in our analysis: Central Europe and wider Central Europe. The former is based on the concept of heartlands, and is key to our text. In this category, we included texts that address social reality or sociological tradition in the V4 countries (except texts regarding the home country of the journal). We decided to also include texts about ethnic minorities of the V4 countries (i.e. Slovaks, Czechs, Poles, and Hungarians in other than the home country), and also about Germans and Roma because we consider these two minorities to be specifically relevant to Central Europe. The second category takes into account the overlaps outside the heartlands, but this text does not use it very much. The introduction of the key variable leads us to the methodology of our research.

METHOD

For the research, we selected the method of content analysis, and used the methodology that was developed and tested in the analysis of the interwar sociological journals (Janák 2011a, 2011b, Janák & Bereś 2011). The analysis of the journals was conducted in four phases. The first preparatory phase included a pilot study; the design of recording sheets for content analysis

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[4] The Visegrad Group was founded on 15 February 1991 at the international summit of Lech Walesa, president of Poland, Václav Havel, president of Czechoslovakia, and the Hungarian Prime Minister József Antall. The intention behind the summit in Visegrad, Hungary, was to symbolically build upon a similar meeting of medieval kings (Polish, Czech, and Hungarian) that took place in 1335 to support diverse cooperation of the three countries. By the dissolution of Czechoslovakia in 1993, the Visegrad Group changed from a trio to the so-called "Visegrad Four" (History of the Visegrad Group 2014)

[5] E.g. Keen and Mucha (2003), when examining post-communist Sociology, also add Russia, while Golenkova and Narbut (2003), when examining the origins of Sociology in Central and Eastern Europe, do not take Russia into account, and deal with Sociology in Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Yugoslavia, referring to them as "countries halfway between the West and Russia" (Golenkova, Narbut 2003)

and their adjustment after the pre-research; an intercoder reliability test, and subsequent modification of operational definitions. In the second phase, mainly formal requirements were measured (number of articles, their size, type of text, authorship, origin of author).

The third phase focused on identifying the topic of the content, which is also the most sensitive part of the research. For these purposes, however, there is no topical typology of (not only the Czech or Slovak) Sociology applicable to the analysis of journals. Nor was it possible, especially given the different objectives of the research, but also for methodological reasons, to borrow the typology of the already conducted research of *Sociologický časopis* (Vohralíková, 2002), or typologies of journal content analyses from related disciplines (Holzer, Chytilek, Pšeja, Šindelář, 2009). In the third phase, variables were input in the recording sheets on the basis of a general topical typology (social reality, sociological tradition, sociological theory and epistemology, methodology of empirical research, other) that the authors had designed for texts identified in the previous phase as an article, essay, or longer text in the category "others";[6] the main topics of the texts were also recorded by capturing the content using a maximum of eight key words or phrases following a quick and systematic perusal of the entire text. In other words, the task was to assign codes to full articles.[7]

The final fourth phase of the research focused on the analysis of the codes assigned to the articles, and a deeper analysis of the arguments of some texts. Based on this, (by the encoding of codes) more general codes of a second order were inductively created, which we refer to in the text as the main subject areas. The variable "Central Europe" was indicated in this phase.

One of the main methodological problems of content analysis is the question of reliability of measurement. In the case of closed, dichotomous variables, and minimally varying variables, a simple calculation of Holsti's coefficient was used to determine the intercoder reliability: $R = 2S / (k_1 + k_2)$.

S is the number of identical selection of two coders in one variable. It is multiplied by two, and divided by the sum of selections (codes) of the first coder (k_1) and the second coder (k_2) (for details, see Scherer, 1998). Results may vary from 0 to 1, whereas according to Scherer (Scherer, 1998: 50), a satisfactory reliability is a value of 0.7 and above. None of the fundamental variables had a reliability lower than 0.85.

The methodological literature on content analysis provides a number of other more sophisticated methods of quantifying reliability (Titscher et al., 2003: 65; Bell, 2001: 22–24; Neuendorf, 2002: 141–165; Riffe, Lacy, Fico, 2005: 122–155; Scott, 2009: 347–349; Krippendorff, 2009: 350–357). In the present research, probably the most widely utilised "advanced" coefficient − Scott's π − was used especially in relation to the variables used to determine the topic (closed coding). Its value in determining the type of topic was 0.8.[8]

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[6] This category included, for example, open letters, editors' policy statements, reprints of speeches, correspondence, reprints of newspapers, etc.

[7] For the encryption key, see the Annex.

[8] All of them are based on the fact that they correct the above calculation with the value of an incidental match of coders. They then differ in the methods of calculating this incidental match, and its incorporation into the equation. Scott's π , Krippendorff's α, and Cohen's κ are used most often. But their use, or rather their interpretation to dichotomous, and minimally varying variables is problematic. All of these

Open coding defies simple quantification. Independent encoding with two coders, and a repeated joint discussion of the assigned codes led us to believe that the semantic variations of codes used to express the main subject of articles of similarly (i.e. sociologically) educated and adequately trained authors would be minimal. Differences in interpretation of what an article discusses are negligible at such a general level.

Codes of greater generality (i.e. names for the main subjects areas such as "Central Europe, "social transformation and modernization", "spatial sociology", "gender", "family", "culture" etc.) were created inductively by the authors of the essay. However, the assignment of individual cases (i.e. units, cells) to these codes was, again, exposed to a retrospective intersubjective reliability test, which produced values varying from 0.75 to 0.95.[9] The used codes of greater generality, and operational definitions of key variables are listed in the Annex to the article.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE JOURNAL *SOCIOLOGICKÝ ČASOPIS*:

Sociologický časopis was created as a bimonthly in 1965. From the beginning to the present, the journal has been published by the Academy of Sciences, most of the time by its Institute of Sociology. The journal publishes studies of Sociology and related Social Science disciplines following a standard opponent peer-review process. Throughout its existence, *Sociologický časopis* has been the main periodical in the field of Sociology, although there have also been other sociological journals in the Czech Republic or Czech part of Czechoslovakia. In the 1980s, it was the journal *S-obzor*, which was unique in that it was probably the only underground sociological journal in the world; from the 1990s, it was especially the journal *Biograf*, which focuses on the qualitative research paradigm and the journal *Sociální studia* which is focused on monothematic issues. After 1989, the "management institutions" of the journal largely changed, and changes in the editorial institutions and their composition were actually taking place throughout the first half of the 1990s. In the first year of the examined period, the journal did not have an official editor-in-chief, but it was led by an editorial team headed by Jiří Musil (who later worked together with E. Gellner at the Central European University). In 1991, Jiří Večerník became the journal's editor-in-chief. After 1991, the journal was managed by a smaller executive board and a wider editorial team. In 1993, that dualism ended, and was replaced by a smaller executive editorial team and an editorial board (Večerník 1993). In 1992, the first special issue in English was published and in 1993, the journal started to regularly publish two English issues and four Czech ones, or rather a temporary division into two journals took place – a Czech one and an English one. Jiří Večerník became the editor-in-chief of the English version and was succeeded by his earlier deputy Miloš Havelka (after 1994). In 2002, Prof. Havelka was relieved from his post of chief editor by Marek Skovajsa, and the journal was united again under the title *Sociologický časopis/Czech Sociological Review*, with two chief editors for the two different language versions. The practice of two English and four Czech issues, which had started in 1993, remained unchanged.

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advanced coefficients are constructed to eliminate identical selection caused by chance. We used Scott's π for measuring topic typology. We have not tested the reliability of simple variables such as "name", "number of pages", "type of the text".

[9] A single article could be assigned multiple codes, and so the question is what can be considered a match of coders. When a match was defined as a majority match (e.g. when coder A assigned only two codes to the article, and coder B assigned the same two codes plus another code), the value of reliability was very high (0.95). In the opposite case, i.e. when only an identical code combination of an article within the scope of 30 categories was considered a match, the reliability was lower but satisfactory (0.75). An adequate degree of reliability is to be found between those extremes (0.85).

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE JOURNAL *SOCIOLÓGIA*

The journal *Sociológia* was established in 1969 as a quarterly. Since 1972 to the present, it has been published as a bimonthly. Throughout its existence, it has been the only scientific sociological journal in Slovakia (contrary to the Czech Republic, there have been no specifically profiled sociological scientific journals in Slovakia). The journal *Sociológia* is published by the Institute of Sociology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. The journal publishes studies of Sociology and related Social Science disciplines following a standard opponent peer-review process. During the examined period (the 1990s), the journal had three chief editors (Vlastimil Bauch until February 1990, Ján Pašiak from March 1990 to February 1995, Ladislav Macháček from March 1995 to June 2004). After decommunification, which came about with a new editorial board and the chief editor Ján Pašiak in 1990, the journal was gradually changed and internationalised. After 1991, the journal started publishing extensive abstracts, a kind of a digest of the journal, in English. In 1995 and 1996, separate English issues were published, and since 1997, each issue no. 3 and no. 6 has been published in English under the title *Slovak Sociological Review*. In 1994, the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) included the journal in the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI). Since issue no. 6 in 2007, it has been registered in the database ISI Current Contents.
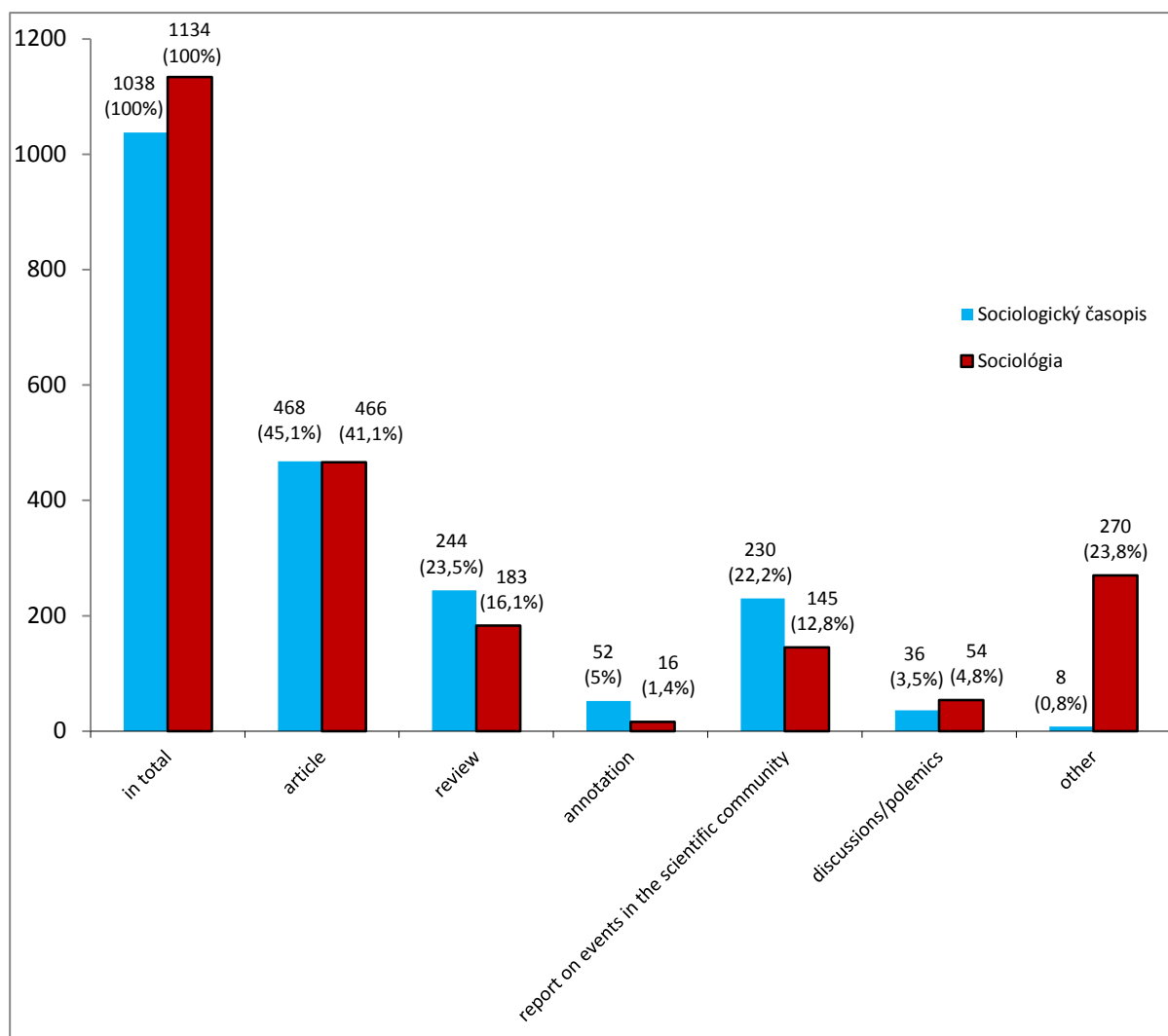
In the former Czechoslovakia (which in 1993 split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia), both journals were especially a professional platform for domestic sociologists. Czech and Slovak sociologists published less frequently in their colleagues' journal, but their authorship share was still significant (due to the similarity of the Czech and Slovak language, articles of Czech sociologists have been to this day published in *Sociológia* in the Czech language and vice versa). Prior to 1990, the journals contained only minimum contributions from foreign authors (and those were particularly contributions by authors from socialist countries). In the surveyed decade, the journals were trying to open up to Western Sociology, which was achieved especially by the Czech journal. The opening-up of the journals to foreign influence, however, can also be illustrated by reference to the gradual introduction of English issues, which, as was later shown in connection with the development of the internet, made the journal available to the international public too.

OVERALL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SET

From 1990 to 2000, the Slovak journal *Sociológia* published a total of 1,134 various texts stretching over about 9,593 standard pages. In the same period, the Czech journal *Sociologický časopis* published a total of 1,038 articles amounting to 16,738 standard pages. The above data shows that *Sociologický časopis* was significantly larger in scope (almost double) than *Sociológia*, while having fewer texts than *Sociológia*.

More interesting, however, is a comparison of the structure of the articles in the journals. As illustrated in Chart 1, both journals published about the same number of articles. *Sociologický časopis* published somewhat more reviews, annotations, and reports of events taking place in the scientific community, while *Sociológia* published more debates and texts included in the category "others". The different numbers in that category can be explained by the fact that the mentioned extensive abstracts of articles in English published in the years 1991–1994 were included in the category "others".
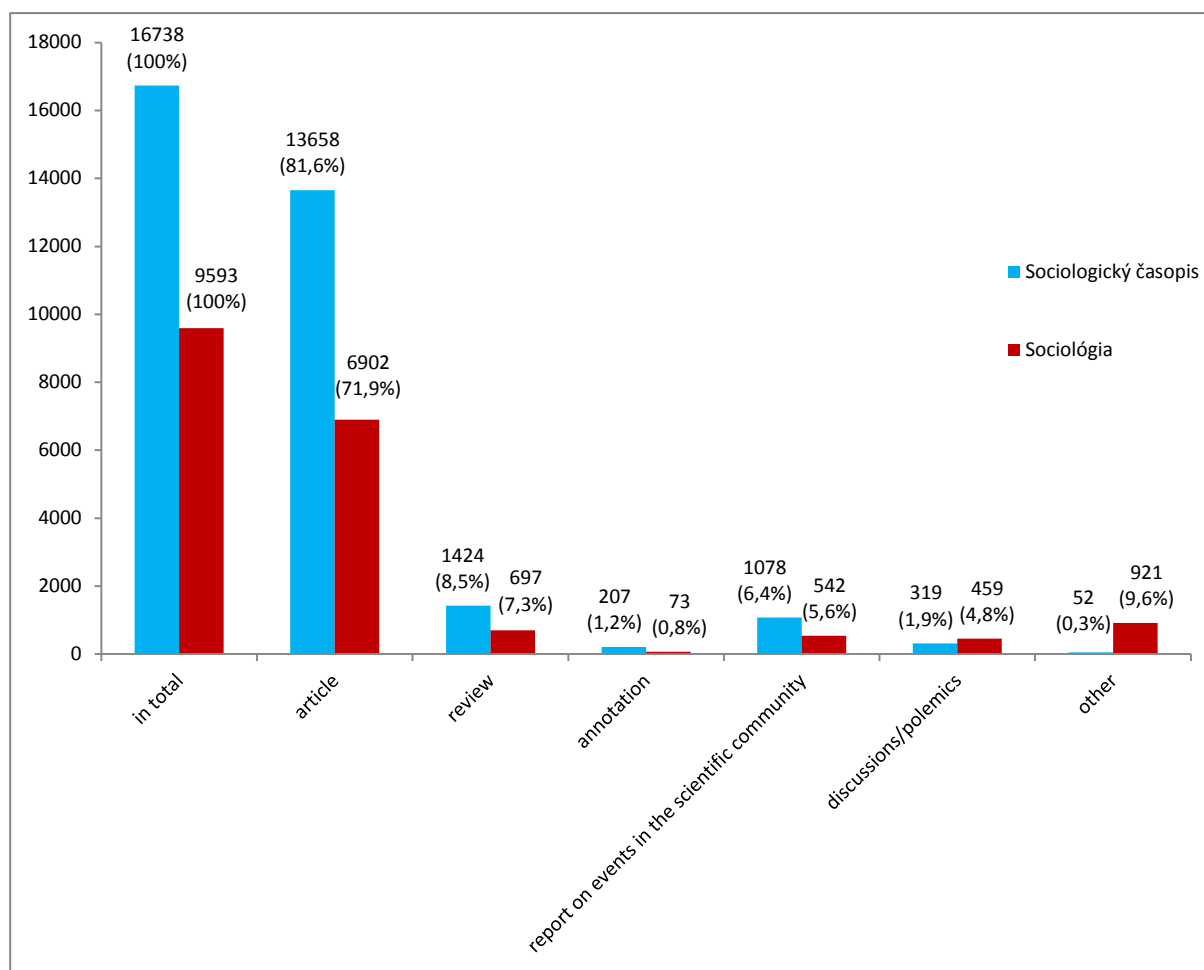
Chart 1: Overall structure of articles in Sociologický časopis and Sociológia in the years 1990–2000 based on quantity.
Proportion of the total of articles noted in brackets as a percentage. Total number of observations = 2,558.

Source: authors

Comparison of the overall article structure in the journals according to their extent in standard pages is indicated in Chart 2. Comparison with the preceding chart shows that the average article in *Sociologický časopis* is nearly twice as long as in *Sociológia*, whereas differences in the number of standard pages in other categories approximately correspond to the quantities of published articles.

Chart 2: Overall structure of articles in Sociologický časopis and Sociológia in the years 1990–2000 according to standard pages. Proportion of the total of standard pages noted in brackets as a percentage. Total number of standard pages = 26,331.

Source: authors
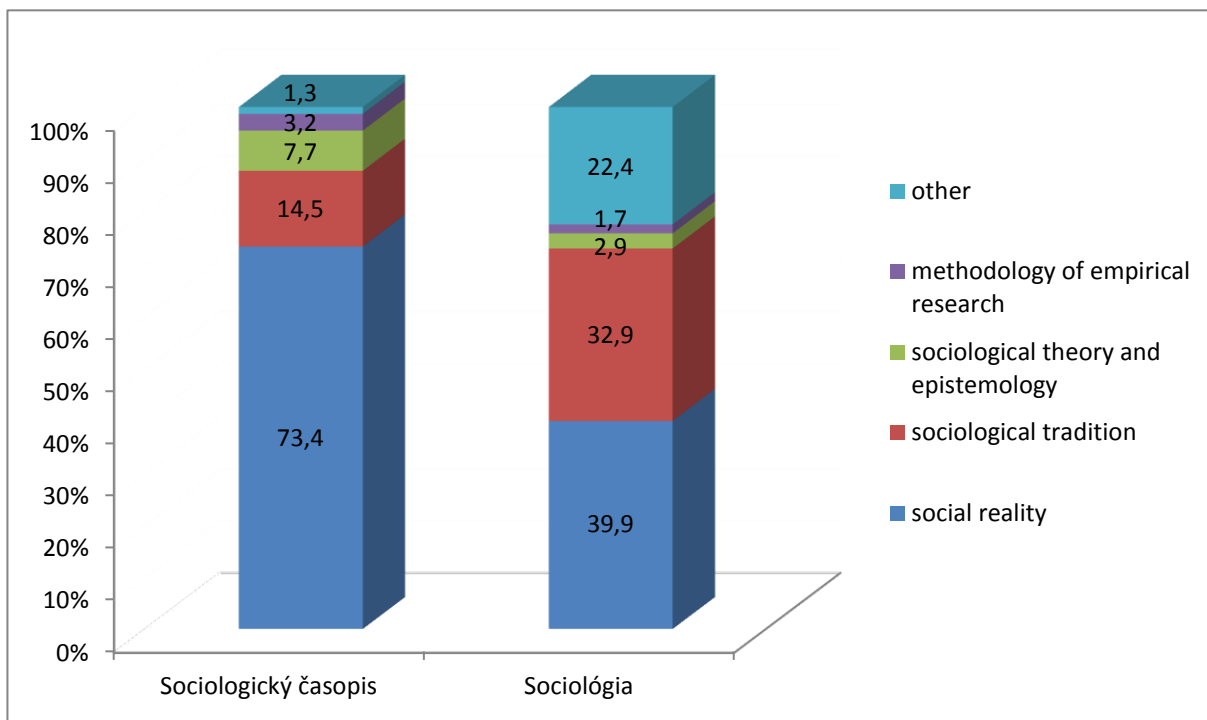
TOPIC STRUCTURE OF THE JOURNALS

Also interesting is a comparison of the proportion of major types of topics (social reality, sociological tradition, sociological theory and epistemology, methodology of empirical research, other) in the analysed journal articles. Chart 3 shows that the Slovak journal *Sociológia* had a significantly higher proportion of articles categorised as "others" than the Czech journal *Sociologický časopis*. This difference can be explained by the editorial policy of *Sociológia*, which led to the publication of many shorter archived texts (whether documentary or commemorative ones) of older Slovak sociological authors. In 1994, for example, a monothematic issue of the journal (comprising nos. 1–2) was published, which contained 37 short archived texts by Anton Štefánek. Those texts are perhaps intuitively close to the category "sociological tradition", but based on the definition of this category (see coding book in Annex), it is obvious that they cannot be included here.

Nonetheless, the comparison of the proportion of the articles' main types of topics shows that *Sociológia* published significantly more texts on a sociological tradition than *Sociologický časopis*. In *Sociologický časopis*, on the other hand, the topic

of social reality was significantly more prevalent. The preference of primarily Slovak sociological tradition on the pages of the *Sociológia* can be explained mainly by the fact that up to that period, very little attention had been paid to the topic of history of Slovak Sociology. It was because history of Sociology in Czechoslovakia mainly focused on the Czech sociological tradition.

Equally of interest is the relatively small representation of purely theoretical and methodological articles in both journals. After the previous communist period that was dominated by sterile, official Marxist theory, one could expect an increase in the number of texts that responded to contemporary Western sociological theory. Instead, examination of social reality and the quest for sociological traditions prevailed.

Chart 3: Proportion of major subject types of articles (in %)
(Total of 468 articles in Sociologický časopis and 466 articles in Sociológia)

Source: authors

A basic overview of the frequency of articles according to the most frequent topics in *Sociologický časopis* and *Sociológia* is shown in Chart 4. This chart shows the main subject areas that were defined inductively by the authors of this study on the basis of already encoded texts. Using this coding, the most frequent topic in *Sociologický časopis* was social transformation (18.5%) followed by the sociology of politics (17.9%).
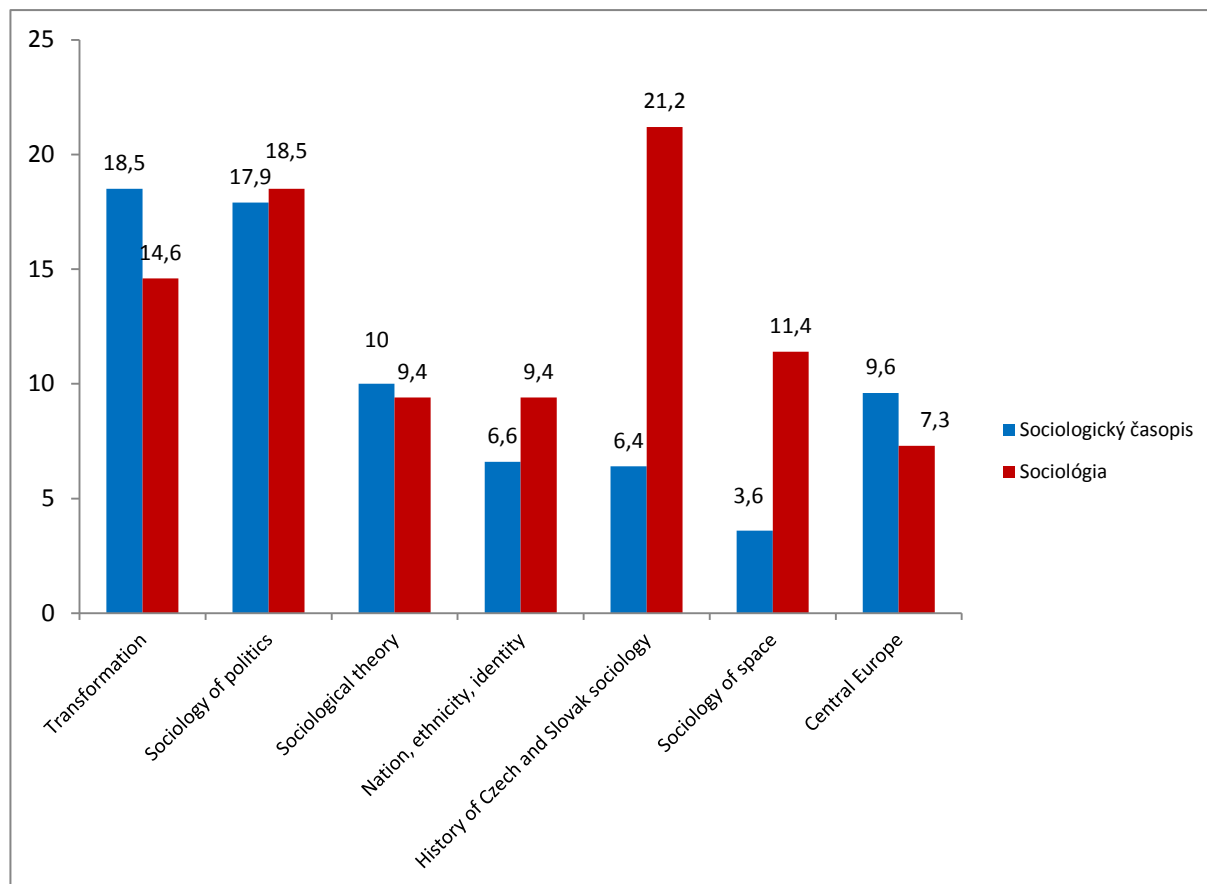
When looking on Chart 4, it might appear that a significant difference between *Sociológia* and *Sociologický časopis* is the great share of articles on the history of Czechoslovak sociology (21.2%). That is true, but not as strikingly as the chart indicates, since many texts on the history of the Czechoslovak Sociology in *Sociológia* were archived and thus had a very small extent. When looking at the most popular topics in *Sociológia* according to standard pages, the history of Czechoslovak Sociology ends up in third place (behind the sociology of politics, and transformation).

Another significant difference between *Sociológia* and *Sociologický časopis* concerns the fairly large share of articles in the field of Spatial Sociology. This area of sociological research has long-term significant representation in Slovakia. The founder of Slovak Sociology, Anton Štefánek, was one of the major representatives of sociology of the village, and also later, the research of settlements became a permanent significant part of this area of study.

In both examined journals, the issue of societal transformation was a frequent topic, which is understandable due to the major social changes which occurred . On the other hand, some later criticised that the articles on transformation from that period were often apologetic rather than critical and analytical (see Kusá, Búzik, Turčan & Klobucký, 2002; Búzik, 2005). This is related to the relatively low proportion of articles from the field of Social Pathology (*Sociológia* 8.2%, *Sociologický časopis* 2.8%). The exploration of numerous negative phenomena accompanying the transformation period, such as unemployment, poverty, crime, drugs, Roma settlements, corruption, and anomia, was not very prevalent. Czech and Slovak Sociology in the 1990s focused particularly on macrosociological problems associated with transformation and democratisation, and on new interpretative schemes from the field of Political Sociology. Frequent topics were citizenship and civil society, and the basic principle of democracy – free elections – was addressed quite frequently. In the post-revolutionary enthusiasm, it appeared to be necessary to defend democracy, and negative social phenomena quite understandably escaped greater attention of the Czech and Slovak sociological community.

Attentive readers may discover certain inconsistency of the data: Chart 3 shows a much lower proportion of the main subject type "sociological theory and epistemology" than the proportion of the main subject area "sociological theory" in Chart 4. The difference can be mainly explained by the methodology. While in the category of the main subject types (Chart 3), one article could be assigned only to one type, in the category of the main subject areas (Chart 4), multiple assignment of one article was possible, and texts that did not primarily deal with sociological theory were also included here. Our results, which suggest a relatively low share of primarily theoretical articles, are confirmed in the analyses of other authors (see Sopóci, 1995; Búzik, 1995; Kusá, 1997; Sopóci, 1997; Búzik, 1997).

Chart 4: Comparison of the frequency of articles in selected main subject areas in Sociologický časopis and Sociológia (in %)
(Total 468 articles in Sociologický časopis and 466 articles in Sociológia)
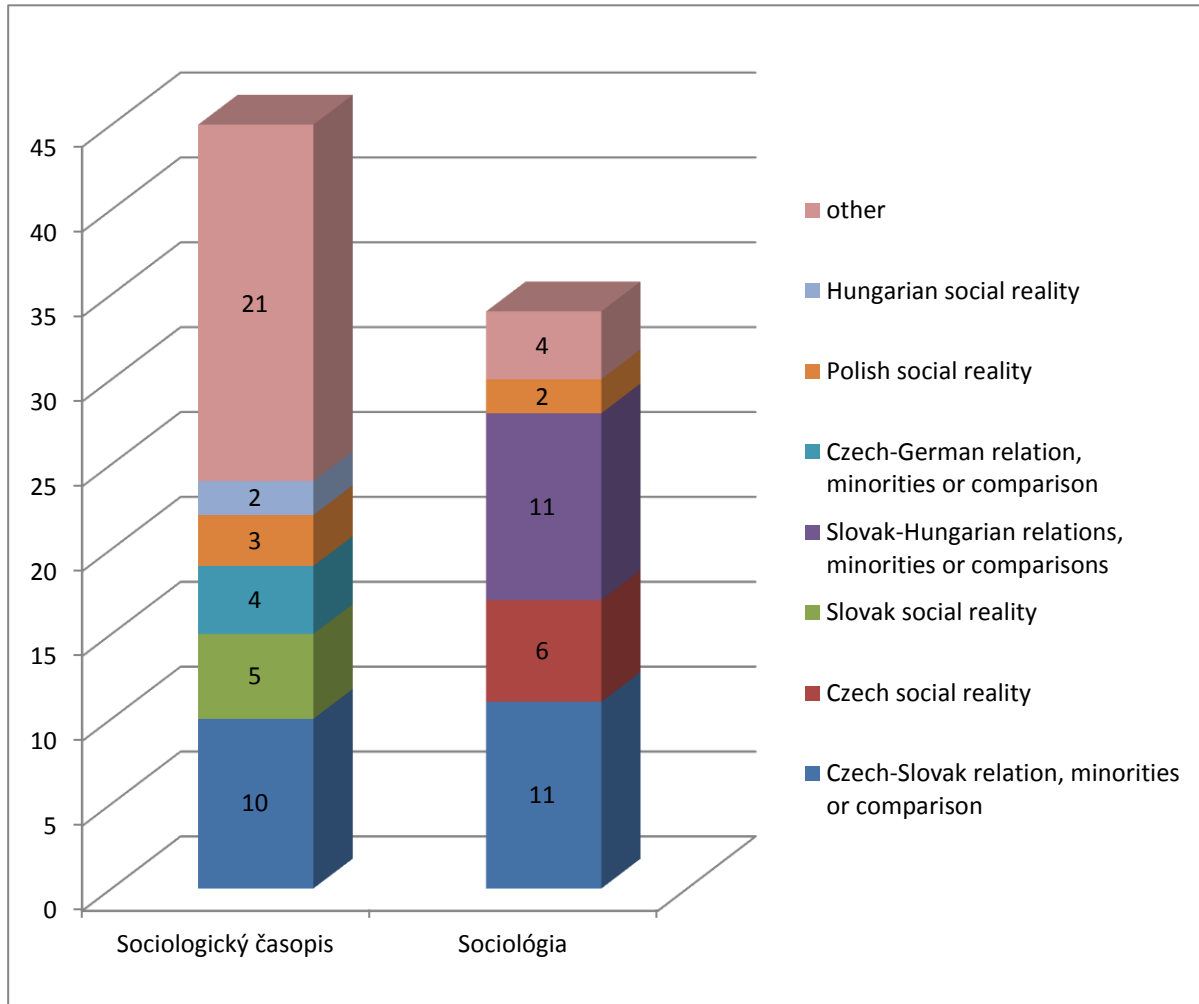

Source: authors

THE ISSUE OF CENTRAL EUROPE IN THE CONTEXT OF OTHER SUBJECT AREAS OF BOTH JOURNALS

In the examined period, the journal *Sociológia* published a total of 34 articles on the countries of Central Europe (V4 countries), which is 7.3% of the total number of articles. In the Czech journal, it was about 45 articles (9.6%). Eleven articles in the Slovak journal were devoted to comparison of the Czech and Slovak societies, or Czech-Slovak relations, and six articles addressed the Czech social reality (Chart 5). The issue of Hungarian-Slovak relations, minorities, and comparisons was also contained in 11 articles, and two articles compared the Polish social reality with other countries. Other texts in this category focused rather generally on the area of Central Europe, or national minorities.

The Czech journal published ten articles addressing Czech-Slovak relations and comparisons, and the two countries were included in several broader comparisons. Five articles addressed the Slovak social reality. Therefore, in relative numbers, the Czech journal was a little less interested in the Slovak reality, but this is not so much due to a smaller interest of Czech sociologists in Slovak society, but rather by a smaller interest of Slovak authors in publications in the Czech journal (see below for the composition of authors). The proportionally smaller interest in the Hungarian minority in Slovakia was reflected in the Czech Republic by the issue of Germans and Czech-German relations (four texts). Aside from broader comparisons, issues of

Polish society were addressed in three texts, and two texts dealt with the Hungarian social reality. The proverb "near is my shirt but nearer is my skin" is typical for both journals, and topics regarding direct neighbours naturally take up more space than those regarding more distant countries.

Chart 5: Frequency of various national issues of Central Europe in Sociologický časopis and Sociológia.
A total of 45 articles about Central Europe in Sociologický časopis and 34 in Sociológia.

Source: authors

In terms of time development, the subject of Central Europe was most prevalent in the pages of the Czech journal *Sociologický časopis* in 1993, due to the dissolution of Czechoslovakia, and in 1992, when more general topics of transformation were in demand. Otherwise, an approximately equal number of variously oriented texts can be found here. The Slovak journal contained the largest number of articles dealing with the topic area of Central Europe in 1992 and 1999. In the first case, the subject of ethnicity, nation, and relations between nations was addressed, especially from the Czech-Slovak area. In the second case, it was rather an increased publishing activity of Czech authors about Czech realia in the Slovak journal (four of six articles).

The subject areas specified in the previous chapter (i.e. social transformation and modernisation, sociology of politics) were relatively closely associated with the issue of Central Europe (Chart 6). In the Czech journal *Sociologický časopis*, 14 articles from a total of 45 on the main subject area of Central Europe were dedicated to social transformation and modernisation. Given

the historical context of the analysed period, this is nothing surprising. Perhaps more interesting is the fact that only three articles from this subset were from authors of Czech origin; the same number were from Poland, two from Hungary, and one from Slovakia. Two articles came from authors from Western Europe (France, Norway), and two from the USA.

Another distinct subarea with a combination of two main subject areas was sociology of politics. Also in this case, almost one third (three articles) were Czech authors, Slovak authors sent two articles, one article was from Hungary, and the rest from Western Europe (Italy, Belgium, Norway, Great Britain). Those texts mostly dealt with political partisanship and elections. Paradoxically, the only explicit comparison of the V4 countries came from Belgium (Fitzmaurice, 2000).
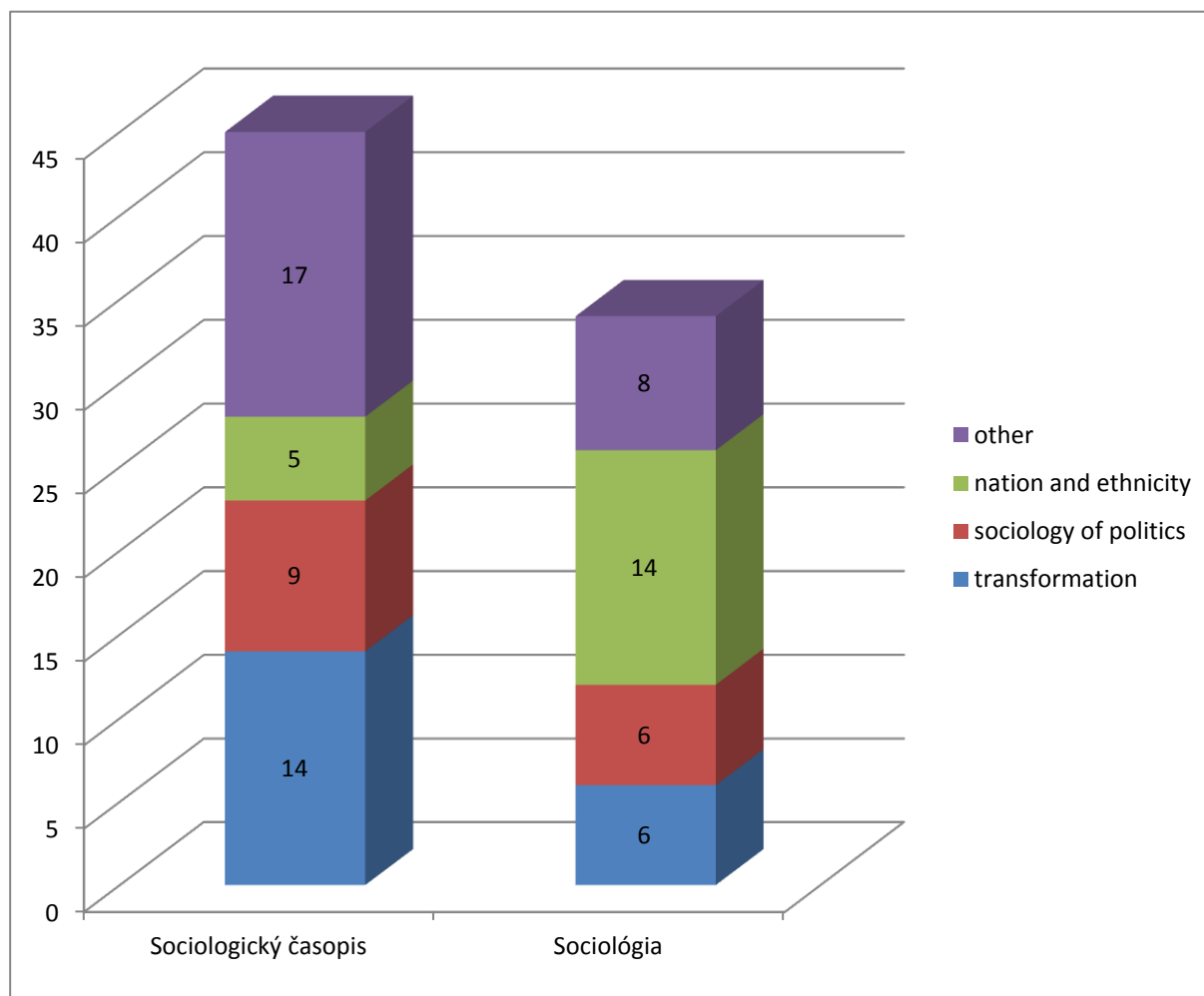
Another subarea of interest in Central Europe was social policy (seven out of 45 texts). To a certain extent (in three texts), this overlapping "mini area" was intersected with the main subject area of transformation and modernisation. However, this subarea is a little strange because there was no Czech author in *Sociologický časopis*, but contributions from other Central European countries (Slovakia, Hungary, Poland) and Western scholars (USA, Switzerland (in this case, it was the Czech emigrant V. Rys)) were gathered here.

Paradoxically, practically the smallest area of interest in the area of Central Europe on the pages of the Czech journal was formed by issues associated with nation and ethnicity (only five texts), whereas three articles were devoted to Czech-German relations, one to Czech identity, and one to Slovak identity in the context of Central Europe. With one exception of a British-Czech team, all authors were Czech.

In contrast, in the Slovak journal *Sociológia*, nation and ethnicity were the most common topic of articles on Central Europe, (14 out of a total of 34). Of those 14 articles, 11 were published in a relatively short period from 1992 to 1995, i.e. in the period when Czechoslovakia was dissolving, and nationalism was more pronounced in Slovakia. The monothematic issue of the journal 1992/1-2 certainly contributed to the relatively large number of articles on nation and ethnicity. Out of the articles on nation and ethnicity, four were devoted primarily to Czech-Slovak relations, four to Slovakian-Hungarian relations, and five articles addressed ethnic minorities in Slovakia (four) and the Czech Republic (one) more generally. The frequent presence of the issue of nation in the Slovak journal *Sociológia* can be explained not only by historical tradition (being the subject on which Slovak Sociology was established in the first half of the 20th century), but also by the current social situation. Apart from the above mentioned dissolution of Czechoslovakia, the increase in nationalism was also reflected by the deterioration of Slovak-Hungarian relations. However, what is also of interest in the examined period is that only a minimum degree of attention was paid to the Roma minority. A growing interest in this issue did not appear until the next decade.

Out of six articles of the Slovak journal *Sociológia* that dealt with transformation in relation to Central Europe, four compared different aspects of the transformation process in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, one compared the Slovak and Hungarian situation, and one addressed transformation in Central Europe more generally. Similarly significant (three texts of six) was the focus of *Sociológia* on the comparison of the Czech Republic and Slovakia in the field of sociology of politics.

Chart 6: Frequency of various subject areas of Central Europe in Sociologický časopis and Sociológia. A total of 45 articles about Central Europe in Sociologický časopis and 34 in Sociológia.

Source: authors

Composition of the articles' authors

The overall structure of the authors of articles in *Sociológia* is shown in Chart 7. In the examined period, in terms of authors' background, *Sociologický časopis* was significantly more international, with almost a quarter (24.3%) of authors stating other than a Czech workplace, while *Sociológia* had only 16.5% of foreign authors.[10] Significantly more Czech authors (8.2%) published in *Sociológia* than Slovak authors in *Sociologický časopis* (2.8%). This data confirms the long-term trend in which Slovak Sociology was more influenced by Czech Sociology than vice versa, and it appears that this condition persists even after the split of Czechoslovakia.
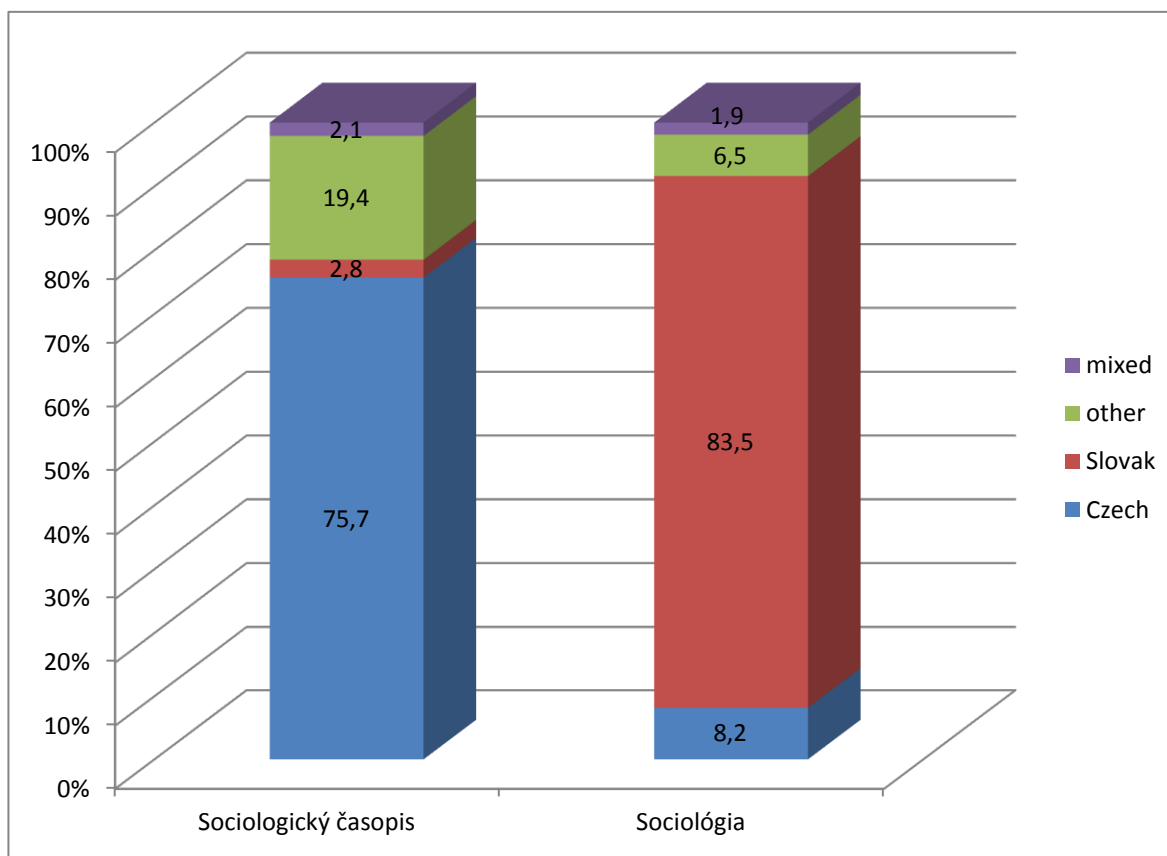
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[10] Authors' affiliation was determined by the institutional affiliation specified in the article. E.g. Czech emigrants living in Germany and working at German universities were encoded as German (i.e. foreign) authors.

A more detailed analysis of the origin of other than Czech and Slovak authors shows that the most frequent authors in *Sociologický časopis* were German[11] (4.5%), American (4.3%), and British authors (2.1%). In *Sociológia*, it was American (1.3%), Polish (1.3%) and French authors (0.9%).

The publication of sociologists from the other V4 countries (Poland, Hungary) was not very frequent in the examined journals. *Sociologický časopis* published nine (1.9%) articles by Polish authors and five (1.1%) articles by Hungarians. *Sociológia* published six articles by Polish sociologists (1.3%), and only two articles in which Hungarian authors participated within international author teams.

We also specifically studied collaborations on articles of authors from different countries of Central Europe. In the case of *Sociológia*, we recorded three Slovak-Czech, two Slovak-Hungarian collaborations, and one Slovak-Bulgarian-Hungarian-Polish-British collaboration. In the examined period, there was only one Polish-Czech and one Czech-Slovak article (always with the same Czech author) in the Czech journal.

Chart 7: Origin of authors of articles in Sociologický časopis and Sociológia (in %)
(A total of 468 articles in Sociologický časopis and 466 articles in Sociológia)

Source: authors

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[11] German authors were often Czech political emigrants.

The main subject area of Central Europe in *Sociologický časopis* was strongly international in regard to authors. More than half of the articles in this main subject area were written by foreign authors (or co-authors): 27 out of 45 articles in total. The vast majority of authors adhered to a strategy of "one article on Central Europe in the journal is enough", with the exception of three authors (Slovakia, Germany, Switzerland). Among all foreign authors, the strategy was similar: only ten of them published more than one text in the Czech journal, whereas in half of the cases, it was Czech emigrants.

In *Sociológia*, mostly Slovak and Czech authors were interested in Central Europe. Of the 34 articles in total, 15 were written by Slovak and 12 by Czech authors, and two articles were written by an international Slovak-Czech team of authors. Primarily members of international teams of authors were from other than Slovak or Czech origin – two Poles and one Hungarian. The publication strategy of *Sociológia* and *Sociologický časopis* in this area was similar: none of the authors had more than two articles here.

CONCLUSION

The performed analysis clearly shows that the issue of Central Europe (within the meaning defined by the operational definition in the introduction) belonged to relatively important subject areas in both journals; in the Czech journal *Sociologický časopis*, it was one of the top five main subject areas, and in the Slovak journal *Sociológia*, it was a bit lower (seventh place). However, the approach to the issue was not identical. While the interest in Central Europe in *Sociologický časopis* was dominated by issues of social transformation, sociology of politics, and social policy, in *Sociológia*, these areas were prevailed by a typical Central European topic – nation and ethnicity – which clearly dominates the Central European main subject area in the Slovak journal, while being rather marginal in the Czech journal. One explanation of the interest of Slovak Sociology in this issue is the increase in nationalistic tendencies and ethnic tensions in Slovak society in the 1990s and the related effort by Slovak sociologists to examine that phenomenon.

But in general, in the decade after the fall of the communist regime, most space both in *Sociológia* and *Sociologický časopis* was, unsurprisingly, occupied by the main subject areas of transformation and sociology of politics. These topics, which tried to capture the major social changes, had appeared in the Czech and Slovak Sociology before 1989, especially in texts opposing the regime. After the revolution, they became a dominant part of the Czech and Slovak Sociology. Later, however, texts on the transformation and modernisation of society from the 1990s were criticised because they insufficiently addressed the social basis of transformation, but also in general the "uncertainties, pathologies, tensions, and crises" produced by modernisation (Búzik, 2005: 11), and also because of "the lack of discussion and the fact that the texts primarily dealt with obstacles of transformation, and not its carriers [...] encouraged naturalisation of transformation to the notion of 'historical necessity'" (Kusá, Búzik, Turčan & Klobucký, 2002: 525).

Also surprising is the fact that the subject of social deviancy and social problems did not appear in either journal more often, and certainly not in the context of Central Europe. It seems that sociologists succumbed to the illusion of the "transformation idyll", and were not very interested in negative social pathologies. Whether any disillusionment, or shifts and changes of the Central European reality on the pages of sociological journals in the following decade took place, that is a question for another essay.

A particularity of the Slovak journal is the relatively large space that is dedicated to the history of Slovak Sociology. The popularity of this main subject area is explainable by the fact that it had been a relatively rare subject, and also by the need for the creation of an historical identity of independent Slovak Sociology, which was no longer regarded as part of the Czech, or Czechoslovak Sociology.

For obvious reasons of linguistic, cultural, economic, spatial, and historically political proximity, both journals devoted quite a lot of space to Czech-Slovak relations and the social phenomena of the neighbouring country. Relatively more space was devoted to this area in *Sociológia*, but rather due to an increased publishing activity of Czech sociologists in Slovakia than Slovak sociologists in the Czech journal. This brings us to the question of the composition of authors in the journals.

A greater number of foreign contributions in absolute and relative terms can be found in the Czech journal *Sociologický časopis*. Regarding Central European issues in both journals, the topical subareas of Central European social and political transformation, policy, and social policy were very internationalist (i.e. with a large contribution from foreign authors). However, while in the Czech journal *Sociologický časopis*, contributions by foreign authors made up a dominant part of the main subject area of Central Europe as a whole, the Slovak journal *Sociológia* was dominated by domestic authors and also a high number of Czech authors. This data suggests that the internationalisation of *Sociologický časopis* happened more quickly than with *Sociológia*. Whether the results of such a comparison are also valid in the entire scientific discipline in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, should be subject to further analysis. The relationship between Czech and Slovak Sociology, which can be primarily described as a relationship of a donor and a recipient for most of the 20th century, explains the larger publishing activity of Czech sociologists in the Slovak journal.

Regarding the cooperation of authors within Central Europe, there are very few joint texts by authors from various Central European countries. In the examined period, the Czech and Slovak journals were characterised by a strong affinity towards the West. It turns out that the opening up of Czech and Slovak Sociology after the fall of the communist regime was focused primarily on the sociological powers of the Western world, and cooperation with the Central European neighbours was less developed. Due to the synchronous transformation processes and underutilised possibilities of comparative analysis in the area of Central Europe, we can also talk about a historically squandered chance.

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APPENDIX – CODE BOOK

Analytic units

The analytic unit was defined as any text that has an identifiable beginning and end. A unit was any article, review, summary, report, announcement, or appeal to readers. If a longer article or treatise was published in installments, each part was treated as a separate unit with its own number. Bibliographic summaries or special columns devoted to reviewing foreign academic journals were treated as one unit, even if more than one author usually worked on them. Not treated as units were advertisements, tables of contents, title page, descriptions of a technical nature (such as who designed the cover or printed the journal, or who is a member of board of editors). Also not regarded as a unit were general introductory paragraphs describing the nature of the section to follow. A foreign-language abstract, summary, or translation of a printed text attached to the text was not regarded as an independent unit, but as part of the text of the article.

Size (cardinal variable)

Operational definition: The coder counts the number of pages the text takes up in the journal. Pages not fully covered with text are quantified into three approximate categories (using simple paper measurers):

up to 0.3 (less than 1/3); not converted to standard pages (or coefficient 1)

roughly 0.5 (more than 1/3 and less than 2/3); not converted to standard pages (or coefficient 1)

0.7 (over 2/3); coefficient of conversion to standard pages depending on print type and page format.

Type of text (nominal variable)

Values of variables: 1=article; 2=review; 3= summary; 4= report on events in academic community, 5= discussion/polemic; 6=other

Operational definition: Sorting of units into categories should take place on the basis of quick skimming of the contents of the individual issues and possible skimming. Most of the journals are similarly organized into sections, and questionable cases can easily be identified and classified.

- Category 1 – article: includes not only standard research treatise, but also significant anniversary profiles longer than two pages, as well as published research projects and summaries of original research.
- Category 2 – reviews: includes not only the standard reviews, but more extensive discussions – reports on a periodical or research report, or a multiple review of more than one book.
- Category 3 – summaries: brief reports on academic literature shorter than one third of a page. Also, bibliographical summaries of literature (defined by topic, language, or otherwise) in which the discussion of an individual item is less than a third of the page. If a bibliographical overview takes the form of a single block (for example several pages of references to sources on American Rural Sociology), then it can be regarded as a single unit which is a summary of over three pages.

- Category 4 – reports on events within the academic community, including reports of an institutional character such as information on conferences, seminars, the opening of research institutions, the starting of a research project (provided the report does not go deep into the content or discuss results, and anniversary profiles shorter than two pages).

- Category 5 – discussion/polemic: a text, the main purpose of which is to critically react (either positively or negatively) to the opinion of another contemporary researcher, and is not a review; a text published under the heading of discussion/polemic, or one that explicitly calls for discussion on some then-current topic in the academic community

- Category 6 – other: a text that does not fit into any of the above categories, for example official announcements, open letters, short interviews, etc.

Subject type (nominal variable)

Values of variable:1 = social reality; 2 = sociological tradition (sociology); 3 = sociological theory and epistemology; 4 = methodology of empirical research; 5 = other

Operational definition: The procedure in determining the subject of an article begins with analysis of the article's title and reading the summary, if there is one. Every article is analysed using the method of systematic speed-reading, consisting of reading the beginning and end of every paragraph. The first and last paragraphs are read in their entirety. In case of doubt, the coder repeats the entire process in more detail. Determining the subject type of a standard article should take about five minutes.

- Category 1 – social reality: The category of social reality includes every article related to some empirically defined or definable social phenomenon (for example "Family and the Syndicate", "Research in the Village of Velká nad Veličkou", "Primitivism and Criminality from a General Standpoint". The category of social reality includes all articles about empirical research, but also more generally handled topics (theoretical treatises) referring to an empirically-defined topic.

- Category 2 – sociological tradition (Sociology): This category covers all texts about sociologists or various schools or currents of sociological thought, or discussion of some domestic or foreign academic issue.

- Category 3 – sociological theory and epistemology: Sociological theory means non-empirical topics, conceptual analysis (for example, "On the Dispute over Social Phenomena"), general sociological theory, epistemological essays of a speculative nature.

- Category 4 – methodology of empirical research: This category includes texts on sociological method and methodological problems of empirical research (for example, "Experimental Method in Social Sciences"). These are not publications of research results.

- Category 5 – other: this category takes in thematically unclassifiable texts.

Topic (string variable)

Value of variable: verbal label consisting of up to eight words/word combinations

Operational definition: the task of the coder is to create a label that captures the topic and content of the article. The goal of further analysis will be an attempt to create broader categories (combining them into thematic blocks). The procedure in determining the theme of the text begins with analyzing the title of the article and reading the summary if there is one. The

article is always gone over using the system of speed-reading, consisting of reading the beginning and end of a paragraph and seeking key points in the text. The first and last paragraph of the article will be read in their entirety, as well as the key passages. If the nature of the text cannot be clearly determined, key passages must be identified by repeated speed readings, which should result in a definitive labelling of the content. The resulting label should be a kind of key word or word combination for the article that accurately captures its contents. The time necessary to determine a standard article should be about 10 minutes.