

## COMMENTARY TO HABILITATION THESIS<sup>1</sup>

### Name of the habilitation thesis

Crip Cities: Nonlinear temporalities of Post-socialist Cities

### Name and surname of the applicant

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This habilitation thesis embarks on a journey that reimagines the post-socialist city – from merely a spatial category to a temporal phenomenon, a specific time of the city, shaped by the interplay of diverse and overlapping “durations”. It is very much an imaginative journey from space to time, from one time to many times, from many attributes of one conception of time to many conceptions of time, from equivalent times to non-equivalent times, and from apolitical time to the politics of time. This is not to suggest that the post-socialist city *is* time, or that it should be conceptualized solely through a temporal lens. Rather, my aim is to highlight that the post-socialist city, as a theoretical construct, tends to be spatialized and largely de-temporalized. Or perhaps more precisely, that even when it is temporalized, it is done so only through spatialized time. The objective here, therefore, is to foreground the role of time in how we understand what is considered a post-socialist city.

A key argument of this thesis is that the time of the post-socialist city should not be interpreted through the logic of linear, chronically spatialized time. Instead, we should consider it as a distinct mode of emergence, with its own historical trajectories, potentialities, and aspirations. At the same time, we must resist framing it through the lens of a single modern temporality and allow it to assert its temporal otherness. In other words, we should conceptualize the time of the post-socialist city as different, and idiosyncratic. This temporal difference should not be viewed as delay or backwardness – a deficiency to be corrected – but as a source of inspiration for imagining new responses to global contemporary challenges.

The habilitation thesis consists of ten articles, which are accompanied by a joint introduction. The thematic diversity of the included articles might initially suggest a disparate collection with little in common. However, despite this thematic heterogeneity, the articles share a deeper underlying coherence. Their common objective is to explore the post-socialist city as a space-time – an intersection of multiple temporalities within a shared spatial framework. To

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<sup>1</sup> The commentary must correspond to standard expectations in the field and must include a brief characteristic of the investigated matter, objectives of the work, employed methodologies, obtained results and, in case of co-authored works, a passage characterising the applicant’s contribution in terms of both quality and content.

theoretically anchor this perspective, I have interwoven several theoretical traditions that are not commonly combined, which I collectively refer to as inspirations. These inspirations include (i) post-socialist city theory, (ii) post-colonialism, and (iii) crip temporalities. By drawing on these sources, I construct a framework that helps illuminate the otherwise difficult-to-identify connections between the varied articles.

The ten articles are divided into two sections. The first one groups four articles that represent introductions to the topic. The post-socialist city topic is more prevalent in them than the space-time imagination, and they focus on the following questions: how to conceive of the time of the city, of the plurality or heterogeneity of the city's times, or the encounter of different temporalities in the city. The four selected articles present different approaches, thus pointing to distinct processes of searching for theoretical perspectives and concepts suitable for this purpose. Successively, they apply terms such as rhythm, pacemaker, rhythmanalysis, chronotope, chronopolis, heterotopia, heterochronotopia, heteroglossia and dialogical landscape. I included them in this thesis to gradually open the imagination about how to think of time and space of the city as symmetrically as possible, that is, as the space-time of the city. Besides, these articles show a certain opening process in our questioning and our spatio-temporal imagination, which eventually led us to question the specificities of time in the post-socialist city.

The second part consists of six articles, which already focus on the nature of time in post-socialist cities and can be considered the core of this thesis. From different angles they choose to analyze the question of what times are encountered in the negotiation of post-socialist cities, or what durations emerge in the study of post-socialist cities. Despite being empirically oriented case studies, they all try in different ways to view the post-socialist city as a space where multiple different times or different durations meet. In this, one can see their unifying principle as well as a more general desire to seek inspiration for thinking non-linear temporalities, while also seeking to contribute to the temporal decolonization of the theoretical tradition of the post-socialist city.

List of publications with author's contributions to experimental work, supervision, manuscript preparation and research direction:

**[1]**<sup>2</sup> Mulíček, O., Osman, R., & Seidenglanz, D. (2016). Time-space rhythms of the city – The industrial and postindustrial Brno. *Environment and Planning A*, 48(1), 115-131.  
**According to AIS GEOGRAPHY – SSCI Q1**

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
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<sup>2</sup> Bibliographic record of a published scientific result, which is part of the habilitation thesis.

45	40	35	35
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**[2] Osman, R., Mulíček, O., & Seidenglanz, D. (2019).** Regional heteroglossia: the metropolitan region as a dialogical landscape. *European Planning Studies*, 27(11), 2079-2098.

**According to AIS GEOGRAPHY – SSCI Q3**

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
50	50	40	60

**[3] Osman, R., & Mulíček, O. (2017).** Urban chronopolis: Ensemble of rhythmized dislocated places. *Geoforum*, 85, 46-57.

**According to AIS GEOGRAPHY – SSCI Q1**

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
70	50	50	60

**[4] Osman, R., Seidenglanz, D., & Mulíček, O. (2016).** Urban Place as a Heterochronotopia: A Case Study of a Brno Locality. *Czech Sociological Review*, 52(6), 927-962.

**According to AIS SOCIOLOGY – SSCI Q4**

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
70	40	40	60

**[5] Osman, R., Šerý, O., Alexandrescu, F., Malý, J., & Mulíček, O. (2020).** The establishment of inter-municipal cooperation: the case of a polycentric post-socialist region. *Geografisk Tidsskrift-Danish Journal of Geography*, 120(1), 2-18.

**According to AIS GEOGRAPHY – SSCI Q4**

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
50	70	30	50

**[6] Osman, R., Klusáček, P., Malý, J., & Alexandrescu, F. M. (2023).** Rhythmanalysis and reproduction of space in a brownfield regeneration process: the case of Ústí nad Orlicí, Czech Republic. *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 64(6), 705-731.

**According to AIS GEOGRAPHY – SSCI Q1**

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
100	50	60	50

**[7] Alexandrescu, F., Osman, R., Klusáček, P., & Malý, J. (2020).** Taming the genius loci? Contesting post-socialist creative industries in the case of Brno's former prison. *Cities*, 98, 102578.

**According to AIS URBAN STUDIES – SSCI Q2**

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
40	35	35	30

**[8]** Osman, R., & Porkertová, H. (2023). The social stone: a story of transformation from ableist to accessible topology. *Social & Cultural Geography*, 24(9), 1598-1615.

**According to AIS GEOGRAPHY – SSCI Q1**

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
100	50	50	70

**[9]** Seidenglanz, D., Osman, R., & Malý, J. (2024). Intentional Automobility: Mobility Choice Between Socialist and Postsocialist Chrononormativity. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 114(1), 255-275.

**According to AIS GEOGRAPHY – SSCI Q1**

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
50	70	50	70

**[10]** Doboš, P., & Osman, R. (2025). Making an Accessible City: A Critique of Cartographic Reason through Emphasis on Corpography. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*.

**According to AIS GEOGRAPHY – SSCI Q1**

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
90	40	50	40