Edited by Victoria Shmidt

The Politics of Disability in Interwar and Socialist Czechoslovakia

Segregating in the Name of the Nation

By focusing on the politics of disability as a pillar of Czechoslovak identity, The Politics of Disability in Interwar and Socialist Czechoslovakia: Segregating in the Name of the Nation reflects upon the vicissitudes of nation building over the twentieth century that led to extreme forms of institutional violence against minorities, mainly the Roma, such as forced sterilization. The authors trace the intersectionality of ethnicity and disability, which proliferated across diverse realms of public life, positioning the continuities and ruptures of interrogating propaganda and racial science during the interwar and post-war periods as establishing and reinforcing the border between a healthy Czech majority and a disabled Roma minority. The book critically revises this border that remains observable but unapproachable until it operates as a part of constructing the authenticity of a nation.

"The combination of study the politics of disability in past, the geographical placement with actual topic on mechanisms of producing inequalities has resulted in an excellent book. It has both academic and societal relevance."

Prof. Elena Marushiakova, School of History, University of St Andrews, Scotland

"This remarkable volume analyses almost a century of Czechoslovakian eugenics which emerged in the 1920s. Its objects were disabled people as well as ethnic minorities considered to be ‘inferior’ or ‘asocial’, in particular the ‘Gypsies’. One of the great merits of this important and exciting book is its focus on a gender perspective."

Gisela Bock, Freie Universität Berlin

Victoria Shmidt has a PhD in Social Work (2012, Masaryk University). Since 2011, she has been working on the issue of the policies concerning ethnic minorities in the Czech lands.

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