

Summary

In the context of post-socialism and social transition, affected by various types of social actors, Croatia is, just like a lot of other transition countries, experiencing a number of changes in its social structure and its space. The book presents a critical analysis of theoretical concepts within contemporary urban sociology which help explain the process of urban renewal and its existing practices in the city of Zagreb. The main types of urban transformations (urban renewal, revitalization, regeneration, reconstruction and urban planning) and urban actors (professional, economic, political, civil) are conceptualized and operationalized. “Transitional“ aspects of urban renewal are analysed on the example of high business towers, shopping malls and underground garages. The research has been carried out using the method of semi-structured interviews with different professional actors: sociologists, architects, anthropologists, ethnologists, art historians, geographers, traffic engineers, economists and lawyers. The latest changes in the urban context of transitional Zagreb are examined in comparison with time periods in the past in terms of new actors, their dynamics, political and economic power and area of activity. Some guidelines for urban planning and renewal of Zagreb are pointed out which should be followed in the future. The hypothesis about the four main types of actors and their activities in Zagreb has been confirmed as well as the role of the individual building investor whose area or range of activity have not yet been completely defined and regulated. Research results indicate that there is no real urban renewal (regeneration, revitalization and reconstruction) in Zagreb. There is only random, incomplete and unplanned construction in certain parts of the city.

Key words: Croatia, urban actors, urban renewal, urban transformations, urban planning, business towers, shopping centres, Zagreb.