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Title: *The Empty Space at the Victory Square. Symbolic Preconditions of the Public Space Management in the Post-socialist Town of Radom*

Key words: management, public space, post-socialist city

Abstract: The research problem of this PhD dissertation is an analysis of symbolic preconditions in the process of managing public space in a post-socialist city. The public space in afore mentioned cities undergoes metamorphosis connected with the change of the political and economic system of the country. The undertaken empiric research exposes (on the example of Radom) the decision-making process regarding repurposing of the considered public parcels, in perspective of the symbolic meaning of such decisions. In simultaneous consideration of the process of embedding a new interpretation of the representative part of town which should reinforce the new identity of the old community. The research of symbolic conditions of administering public space is concentrated around socialist symbols and the effort to replace them.

The research was conducted with the basis of the qualitative, interpretive paradigm (as defined by G. Burrell and G. Morgan), assuming instability and the relativity of the social reality , which is constructed by its participants and open to the researchers interpretation. The qualitative research methodology was used. The work had two equally important research aims – the cognitive one and the practical verification of one of the research methods. The cognitive goal of the work was to establish whether or not symbolic precondition (connected with socialist symbols) of some places in the public space influences the managing decisions concerning that space in a post-socialist town and how such symbolic preconditions might influence the process of decision-making. In effect the target was to broaden the understanding of symbolic preconditions in managing public space during their social and even more so political changes. Whereas the practical verification of the research method concerned *arts based research* and was supposed to prove in what degree the use of this research tool helps understand the surrounding reality and the symbolic preconditions of managing a post-socialist city.

In the work a series of photos of the public space in Radom has been shown. These photographs/images are an integral and essential element of the work, in context of the *visual turn*, that was observed in the world at the end of the 20th century.

29.11.2016

