

Jan Drahokoupil  
Central European University, Budapest  
jan.drahokoupil@gmail.com

## **GARNET junior mobility grant at the Amsterdam School for Social Science Research, Universiteit van Amsterdam**

### **Outline of the research project**

*Transnationalization of the state in the Czech Republic after 1989: Actors, Strategies, and Struggles around foreign direct investment*

After a period of inward oriented policy configuration, focusing on promotion of local capital and largely driven by economic nationalism, the Czech Republic introduced a policy of investment attracting by providing subsidies to investors in 1998. My research focuses on and tries to explain the emergence of the policy of investment attracting in the Czech Republic. This policy turn indicates a sea change in dominant economic-policy thinking, transformation of the hegemonic accumulation strategy and state project. I have described these transformations in terms of the shift from the Klausian welfare national state towards the Porterian workfare postnational regime (PWPR).

The emergence of the PWPR is not a matter of an automatic steering; on the contrary, it must be perceived as one of the possible and contingent outcomes of the search for a solution to the crisis of the so-called Czech capitalism. Thus, the PWPR is a political project with social forces behind it and institutional selectivities underpinning it. My research project aims at accounting for the politics of this project and tries to identify the respective social forces and its structural support.

In order to do so, I employ an explanatory framework that draws primarily on the strategic-relational approach and other neo-Gramscian approaches. My research design integrates qualitative interviews with policy makers and economic agents on local, national, and European levels, textual analyses and archival research, case studies of 'contentious' cases of investment attracting, and Regulationist and state-theoretical analysis of the respective regulatory framework and accumulation regime.

This project is interesting not just because it reveals the idiosyncrasies of the recent history of the Czech Republic. It also investigates the uneven process of what has been called the transnationalization of the state. It shows that some of the globalization processes are product of local projects and strategies in their articulation with constraints of the wider environment and agency of transnational forces. Moreover, it analyses emerging regulatory framework in East Central Europe and considers its implications for the European regulatory model.