ABSTRACT

WOMEN ACADEMICS AND PUBLISHING DURING NORMALISATION (1968-1989) IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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The proposed paper is a research in progress on publishing and writing mechanisms in the Czech Republic during the so-called Normalisation period, that is, from the suppression of the Prague Spring, a result of which was the abolition of the official censoring authority, to the fall of state socialism. The main source of data for the research are qualitative interviews with women academics who published in humanities and social sciences at the time. The objectives are to explore censoring and self-censoring strategies, and the authors’ strategies to overcome publication restrictions and ideological barriers. Some of the themes which came out of the interviews in the preliminary stage are: resorting to an alternative field/topic than the one that might seem ideologically sensitive; ‘dressing’ sensitive issues into a more acceptable ‘coat’ (such as writing about women’s social issues under the guise of popular women’s interests); and delicate sensitivity to language (choosing a neutral, personally acceptable word or phrase over an ideologically laden one).