

TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE FAMILY OVER TIME: CULTURAL-HISTORICAL PARALLELS

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Mareková, H. (2019). *Premeny rodiny v čase: kultúrno-historické paralely* [Transformations of the Family over Time: Cultural-Historical Parallels]. Brno: MSD.

The scientific monograph by Hermína Mareková opens a discourse on a subject that affects us all. It is not a purely specialist, professional, expert subject matter. On the contrary. It is a practical, tangible matter; a reality we live constantly, albeit not always fully realizing what its essence and meaning for our lives is. The monograph written in Slovak and published by the MSD publishing house in Brno last year offers a presentation and interpretation of the topical phenomenon pertaining to various family issues and their contexts, from various perspectives. However, within the scheme of the book reviewed here, the author especially assesses cultural, historical and other associated perspectives. For instance, she mentions the social dimension where in their conception within the author's research activity and output, it is the relationship of human to human, and the individual's attitude to, opinion of and personal feelings about those who constitute the family, as well as about the family as a whole of the entire existential entity of our being, that become the dominant attributes.

The monograph is structured into six chapters. Their subject matter framework and chronological succession reflect the appropriate methodological standards of the corresponding type of publication output while fulfilling requirements implied in the definition of the form and nature of interconnected interdisciplinarity, which is expected, or even latently demanded, within the bases of current social sciences and humanities. The reviewed work documents the necessary formal and technical parameters clearly. Individual parts contribute by means of their topics to the solution of the issues of current socio-cultural changes which affect family systems and their patterns. This way, the author confronts the social reality within the context of tradition, archetypes and the present appropriately, employing also historical, legislative and social perspectives by means of which she documents the described reality on the examples of prototype and stereotyping. She further develops this reality by presentation of theoretical concepts, or extracts sociological, psychological or other concepts from other fields relevant to the topic.

Our critical view of this aspect of the work encourages the thought whether the text as a whole would not benefit from integration of chapters designated by numbers 3 and 4 and whether the text would not profit from an implication of a denser delimitation of the family context, or from establishing connections to the issues of family, as it features in the very title of the publication.

From the linguistic point of view, the work is of a readable nature and characterized by logically assembled dynamics both in its scope, and in its content. The constituent parts of individual chapters of the book introduce the reader through their delimitation into the solution of the issues at hand, providing room for own understanding of the context of the sub-topics delineated by the author which are in a complementary way connected to the discussed phenomenon that the author of the publication interprets in her conception and her interpretation of which she presents to the reader.

From the perspective of critical parameters and points of departure of scientific knowledge of the very methodology of humanities and social sciences, one may say that the reviewed work at its core does not include any presentation of a particular research design which would include a description of its implementation and empirical findings arising from it. Within its context, the work includes a presentation of research findings which the author has reached thanks to the implementation of a number of research projects implemented either by herself or through the significant contribution of her own professional activities.

As regards the subject matter plane, the monograph does not fail to include the aspects of interdisciplinary cooperation, and the principles of mutual transfer and its proper determination, which follows from the text presented and the language means used, including the appropriate way of interpreting knowledge, theoretical concepts and empirical findings employed by the author. She also reflects on current trends which characterize the relevant disciplines.

The resources, sources and facts interpreted by the author, which she references in her text, correspond both thematically and factually not only to the phenomenon of the family, but also to its delimited cultural-historical field. The works cited point to an implementation of real reflection, also documented by the text itself, which drew not only on knowledge of domestic origin, but also on foreign works, represented in the bibliography by publications written in English, German and French. The scientific monograph **is valued positively and I believe that it will find appropriate reception on the part of its readership.**

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