

# Klinika: Struggle for autonomous space in Prague

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## Abstract:

At the end of November 2014 squatters occupied a building of a former clinic in Prague (Czech republic) that belongs to the state and which had been empty for more than six years and open an autonomous social center Klinika. After ten day they were evicted by riot police but during the functioning they gained wide support. After two month of demonstrations, happenings, culture events, direct actions and negotiations they temporarily won a contract for one year.

Paper presents ongoing research of an autonomous activism that seeks to break away from the logic of neoliberal capital and prefigure different social relations based on self-management, solidarity and mutual aid. The struggle for autonomous center Klinika is important in Czech context.

Czech republic is a country of „political stability“. In despite of general disillusionment in capitalism no social movements have emerged yet. Whereas in other countries social protests and demonstrations are underway at least, in the Czech republic demonstrations against neoliberal austerity can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Moreover even the radical left, anarchist and anti-authoritarian activities were in decline after anti-IMF and anti-NATO summit protests at the beginning of 2000´s and squatting practically disappeared.

The struggle for Klinika is important because it transgress the dominant norms of status quo and open new perspectives and foster a political imagination. Klinika is the most visible example of intentional prefigurative politics and transgressive utopianism in the Czech republic. Even repressive authorities have recognized it. At the end of April the police launched the operation against left terrorism with big media publicity. According to police alleged threat of the left terrorism is due to contention about social center Klinika. Klinika has inspired and mobilised a lot of people to Czech standards. Political squatting is currently enjoying an unprecedented attention of the society and has become a hot topic.

Paper based on ethnographic research presents these struggle for social center but also internal struggles to be someone else than neoliberal „entrepreneur of the self“.

Arnošt Novák has been involved in autonomous activism since 1990´s and he is member of Autonomous social center Klinika.