

Society and space of an 18th century town exemplified by Krakow

Social history of Krakow in the 18th century is rather an unknown and not very popular subject for researchers. Historians would rather focus on the fast development of the city in late Middle Ages or in the 16th century than analyse the period rather known as a time of decline. The aim of this project is to create the social topography of the 18th century Krakow and to investigate the relations between urban space and the society. The research has an interdisciplinary character, with elements of historical geography, social and economic history as well as geoinformatics. One of the objects of interest is the distribution of social and occupational groups, centres of craftsmanship and trade in urban space. In this way, it will be possible to analyse the structure of ownership, social and economic relations in the 18th century town and to answer research questions about the prosperity of Krakow's burghers in 1720–1795, almost at the end of the Great Northern War until the Third Partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. This type of research creates an opportunity for comparison between Krakow and other towns in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and in Europe, but also Krakow from previous and later centuries (mid-19th century). Thus, the research would fill the void in Polish historiography while the value of collected material may be useful in further research in the field of historical demography, historical geography or social history.