

Totalitarian, but not total power? Reflections on Milan Kundera's novel

"The Joke" and its film adaptation

Totalitarianism. Total institution. Homo sovieticus. Milan Kundera. Jaromil Jireš.

The aim of the piece is to characterize the ways in which the novel *The Joke* (1967) by Milan Kundera and its film adaptation (directed by Jaromil Jireš, 1968) show the relationship between man and totalitarian power. The study depicts the means by which the communist society used mechanisms of re-education of the individual. The key concepts applied for this analysis are *homo sovieticus* (Józef Tischner) and total institution (Erving Goffman). The goal of the study is to broaden the understanding of totalitarianism from a narrow political concept to philosophical and sociological meaning.

Dr. hab. PhDr. Agnieszka Janiec-Nyitrai, Ph.D.,
Ústav slavistiky a baltistiky
Filozofická fakulta
Univerzita Loránda Eötvöse
Múzeum krt. 4/D
1088 Budapešť
Maďarsko
janiec.nyitrai@gmail.com