PART OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK?
Planning Scientific and Technological Progress in Czechoslovakia from Sovietization to the First Attempts at Integration in the Socialist Bloc
Doubravka Olšáková

The present study traces gestation, development, and implementation of the concept of planning science from the 1950s to the beginnings of perestroika in the 1980s. A technocratic bias notwithstanding, research and planning had some tendencies at globalization. They manifested themselves in a turning away from purely national frameworks and in adapting to, even taking over international standards that finally defeated the Iron Curtain, mainly because infrastructure in itself had a marked globalizing effect. The Council of Mutual Economic Assistance, in its own agenda, adopted many elements of this global programme, however, they were never completely realized. The greatest obstacle was the hybrid space that was generated because project-related cooperation in the Eastern Bloc was always bilateral, whereas coordination and decision-making among East European partners took place multilaterally.

FROM SOCIALIST POST-INDUSTRIALISM TO MARKET ECONOMY: FUTUROLOGY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA (1960s-1980s)
Vítězslav Sommer

This study deals with the changing patterns of futurology in Czechoslovakia from the 1960s throughout the 1980s, with the development of state socialist rule setting the stage. Part One is devoted to the scholarly work of Radovan Richta, a researcher who created an independent concept for a socialist post-industrialism: the so-called “scientific-technical revolution”. Part two looks at prognostics as the scientific discipline that united all attempts at using scientific methods in order to forecast future developments undertaken in Czechoslovakia during the final two decades of late socialism. The analysis focuses on expert findings about the future as representing an intellectual reflection of the rationality of modern government. The author traces the changes from post-industrial socialism, with its ideas aiming at communism reformed, through to the noticeable economization during the era of “consolidation” from 1968 until way into the 1980s, when efforts at organizing and controlling modern society were increasingly determined by market considerations.