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**Abstract**

Competitive and performance-based funding has been identified by international scholars as a powerful trigger of neoliberalization in public higher education (HE) worldwide. In the Czech Republic, competitive funding has been recently introduced as a surrogate for the failed large-scale neoliberal reforms in HE. This chapter analyzes antagonist responses to this strategy in the departments of philosophy at two well-established Czech public universities. The first department has adopted competitive funding within its collegial spirit of self-governance and employed its symbolic capital to contest creeping neoliberalization in the university while the second one has adjusted indiscriminately. Based on empirical research, this chapter explores how students and academics from both departments responded to neoliberal norms being introduced at university, national and international governance levels. This chapter is based on fieldwork conducted from November 2013 to June 2014 as a part of the author's PhD research project. I would like to thank Daniel Sitera,

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