

Abstract

Subject of the presented paper is press image of murderous mothers in Czech press of the 2nd half of the 19th century through early 20th century. Industrial revolution contributed to several changes in central European society, for example higher mobility of the population, including young unmarried women, who hereby became separated from their relatives. There is a fear of moral corruption in the society, a fear related to unrestricted sexuality and extramarital pregnancy, which could lead to the murder of the unwanted child. Contemporary press largely contributed to form a stereotypical image of murderous mothers. Press articles also served as moral stories, which could normatively influence the readers.