

Abstract

Many asylum jurisdictions throughout the world now recognize persecution on the basis of sexual orientation as a ground for granting asylum. While seen as a positive development for LGBT people fleeing violence, the inclusion of 'LGBT' people in asylum discourse does not automatically imply the full consideration of all people ostensibly covered by this term, as the structure of asylum systems relies on the categorization of 'recognizable' sexuality. Research from a number of countries indicates that bisexual asylum seekers may be less likely to be granted international protection than gay or lesbian applicants, in part because bisexuality itself destabilizes and resists such neat categorization. In this thesis, I seek to 'map' the construction of bisexuality in the asylum system of the Czech Republic through the analysis of relevant governmental, legislative and court documents in conjunction with expert interviews. Drawing on critical migration theory and bisexual legal theory, I argue that in the Czech asylum system, bisexuality is constructed as a concept which is superficially acknowledged, but positioned as suspect because it evades easy categorization and destabilizes administrative procedures of 'proving' 'credibility' while also being absent from consideration in some parts of the procedure due to wider patterns of erasure and invisibility. The purpose of this research is not only to discover where and how bisexuality is present, but also to name what is missing.

Keywords: bisexuality, asylum, Czech Republic