

Abstract

Master thesis Questioning youth: Strategies and support of youth development in the context of the Czech educational system analyses the system of prevention of homophobia and transphobia as well as possibilities of supporting questioning youth – adolescents who question their sexuality or gender identity. This master thesis provides an analysis of theoretical concepts regarding LGBTQ* adolescents, gender socialisation and institutional education. I followed three main research questions: It attempts to find answers to the following research questions: 1) How do people who are working at school counselling centres perceive questioning youth or LGBTQ* adolescents? 2) Which tools of prevention do the schools have in the areas of sexual and gender identity based discrimination or bullying and which ones do they actually use? 3) What does the systemic support of schools in the field of homophobia and transphobia prevention look like? Semi-structured interviews conducted with school counsellor and school psychologists have been chosen as a main research method. The selection of communication partners is limited to Prague and the surrounding area and includes both public and private schools. The empirical chapter establishes that the main influence on the approach of the communication partners to questioning youth are the attitudes of the actors themselves, the terminology they use, their uncertainties and lack of information regarding LGBTQ* topics and actual possibilities of intervention towards questioning youth. Among other important topics that emerged from the analysis are for example the impact of online technologies on the formation and communication of gender identity and sexuality, and the mental health of students.