

Abstract

Diploma thesis analyses gendered dimensions pervading diagnostic process of multiple sclerosis based on semi structured interviews with women targeting their own lived experience and perspective.

Theoretical part of this work introduces basic concepts and groundwork arising from previous research including the main and following topics. Starting with medical discourse and continuing with gender bias in medicine, which is amongst others represented by medicalisation of the female body. I also touched upon the topic of delayed diagnosis and introduced basic information about multiple sclerosis.

Empirical part describes the goal of this work through qualitative research which was chosen with the vision of analysing specific female experience. Through interviews I had the opportunity to hear a real world stories about lives of women living with multiple sclerosis. Those stories lead me to possibly new findings about the diagnostic process. With this work I would like to bring some improvements to the complex diagnostic process.

Key words

Gender bias, medicine, diagnostic process, multiple sclerosis, gender stereotypes, semi structured interviews