

ABSTRACT:

Intersectionality is a topic that resonates with feminist activist collectives in the Czech Republic. Half of the collectives included in this research publicly identify as intersectional, while most of the remaining collectives identify with intersectionality at least to some extent. However, intersectionality is a complex theoretical concept, and one can ask how the collectives understand intersectionality and how they translate it into their practice.

Much of the interviews revealed that discursive approaches to intersectionality are driven by an ethos of social justice, i.e. a better world *for all*. This implies an appeal to inclusivity, which was differentiated in several interviews between inward and outward inclusivity. Outward inclusivity was manifested by including *more areas of social justice* in the discourse and actions of the collective. At the discursive and practical level, I identified other, equally important, approaches to intersectionality, which I describe in this thesis.

Intersectionality, in relation to the actual self-identification of collectives, also expresses an effort to distance oneself from exclusionary strands of feminism or activism in general, and in this respect intersectionality can also take on a normative character. Despite the research participants' largely (but not exclusively) positive perceptions of intersectionality, neoliberal, individualizing and essentializing influences that are perceived as coming from "the West" can lead to negative attitudes and experiences of intersectionality. Moreover, despite a more or less shared ethos of social justice, the way in which some collectives imagine achieving it may differ. These potentially conflicting aspects of intersectionality would deserve more research attention in the Czech scholarly environment.

Keywords:

Intersectionality, feminism, waves of feminism, social justice, difference and sameness, discourse, theory and practice, system of power, relations of power, social categories, identity, identity politics, essentialisation, individualisation, collective consciousness, normativity, ethos.