

ABSTRACT

This diploma thesis deals with the effects of parents' divorce or separation on their subsequent career paths in connection with the care of joint minors and the gender differences of this situation. Using qualitative research, I am looking for an answer to my research question: *What is the perception of career changes after divorce/separation from the point of view of mothers and fathers?* The work is divided into a theoretical and an empirical part. In the theoretical part, I focus on the principles of the functioning of the current social order from the gender point of view and how it shapes the behavior of individual actors and actresses. Using the concepts of somatization of domination, cultural optical glasses or hegemonic masculinity, I draw the attention to the invisible mechanisms that influence the actions of every member of society. This social order frames the situation of parents after separation/divorce, when women and men are in a different social position and therefore have to choose different strategies. Parents who do not live in the same household must find new ways to satisfy their own and their children's material, emotional and practical needs. Both have to decide whether to go to work for economic earnings or to stay at least partially at home and take care of their child/children, which often has a significant impact on their standard of living. This work is focused on parents with a higher education, who in this context do not often face existential problems, and apparently therefore are not in the focus of sociological research. However, they cannot fully develop their potentials and the trajectory of their working career is strongly influenced by parental responsibilities. The society thus unnecessarily loses intellectual resources that could be of public benefit under better structural conditions. In the empirical part of the work, I focus on the perception of this social reality. Through semi-structured interviews with parents, I reveal differences in the effects of divorce/separation on mothers and fathers.

Key words: Divorce, children, labor market, gender differences, female graduates of universities, career