

Abstract

This bachelor thesis focuses on the life course of music conservatory students. Its aim is to find out how their educational and professional ambitions are formed in a field that is perceived to be at the intersection of hobby, profession and art. It follows existing research in sociology of education and music and is generally based on the life course theory, which links themes from the mentioned sub-disciplines. It explores the phenomena using qualitative methods. Based on biographical semi-structured interviews with students of the Jaroslav Ježek Conservatory and subsequent narrative analysis, it observes how students construct their life course depending on their relationship and approach to music. It also explores the influence of their vicinity, the environment of music school, and overall societal perceptions of the music field on the formation of their visions of employment. The social context of this thesis is the orientation on performance which nowadays affects various aspects of professional identities. This thesis therefore focuses on how pressure on performance, success, employment, and income manifest in the music field.