

Summary of thesis The subjective experience of HIV/AIDS in the context of homophobia in Czech Republic

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The dissertation analyzes the insufficiently explored topic in Czech society - the topic of subjective experience of HIV/AIDS in the context of homophobia - using the optics of critical medical anthropology. The aim of the work is to show the importance of structural violence in relation to the subjective experience of HIV/AIDS. The work focuses on the subjective experiences of people living with HIV/AIDS, their experiences with homophobia and institutional discrimination. Along with the description of clinical symptoms, the work presents adverse social situations associated with HIV/AIDS, including social exclusion, discrimination and violation of human rights. These phenomena, which have a significant impact on the lives of many people with HIV/AIDS, are not the result of the disease itself, but are a reaction to the way HIV/AIDS is interpreted in society. The work asks what the subjective experience of HIV/AIDS says about how our society works.

I approached the study of subjective experience through a mixed method of data collection. Based on quantitative and qualitative data analysis, I describe the life experiences of people with HIV/AIDS. Using the concept of structural violence and subjectivity, I point out the social and institutional processes that systematically prevent individuals from fulfilling basic needs or achieving the full potential of these needs.

This dissertation proves that Czech society operates under ubiquitous structural power relations that affect the lives of everyone and also affect the subjective experience of HIV/AIDS. The results of the study show how institutions and their representatives commit violence in the name of health and well-being. Based on narratives, I argue that structural violence affects the subjective experience of people with HIV/AIDS by limiting their access to health care, influencing their network of friends, the quality of these relationships, the quality of family relationships, the quality of economic relationships, as well as the preference of place of residence. The research showed that structural violence in Czech society has a negative impact on people with HIV/AIDS and shapes their social networks by creating a subjective experience of discrimination, social isolation and exclusion. Although the majority society tries to distance itself from HIV/AIDS, the opposite is true. HIV/AIDS affects the whole society and not just the people who live with HIV/AIDS.