

Abstract

This thesis deals with visual representations of queer people and queer topics in the Czech media from the perspective of queer gaze theory. It aims to describe what themes and narratives are present in illustrative photographs depicting queer people and queer themes in selected Czech media. It is equally important for the author to describe the signs through which these narratives are constructed. A selection of the analysed images is then used as material for photoelicitation interviews with professionals active in Czech photojournalism. These interviews aim to show how image producers themselves think about queer representation. In the analytical part, the author evaluates whether hegemonic practices (i.e. mainly communicative strategies of stereotyping) or counter-hegemonic practices (queer gaze) resonate in these practices. Theoretically, the work draws on the theories of ideology, hegemony, representation, gaze, queer theory, and also queer gaze. Presented research found that the photographs examined present a partially diversified picture of queer people and issues. However, stereotypical depictions still predominate. The respondents themselves are also aware of this. Although they often try to define themselves against stereotypes, they also admit that they sometimes reproduce the stereotypes and that it is difficult, for example because of the production conditions in the Czech media, to break out of them. However, reflection is an important step in creating fair representations. This is also why this thesis provides important insights that can help to open and shift the debate about the portrayal not only of queer people, but of marginalized groups in general.