

Abstract

The dissertation focuses on the analysis of the media perception of possession in the periodical press in the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. It analyzes various discourses appearing in newspaper articles informing about cases of alleged possession in the context of modernity and social changes in the observed period. It examines and compares the approach how newspapers, regarding their focus and ideological affiliation, have perceived individual cases of alleged possession and what purposes such articles can serve. The work places cases of alleged possession cases published in newspapers in relation to the creation of modern medicine and psychiatry. The dissertation also describes the approach how the newspaper articles informed about possession cases in a wider context using other relevant sources within the analysis of two case studies. Newspapers with different focus and political or ideological affiliations were used in this thesis. The dissertation also shows the conflicts between newspapers based on articles about alleged possession and analyzes their reasons and results. The analyzed articles were published in periodicals of the territory of Cisleithania.