

## **Abstract**

This rigorous thesis focusses on transgenerational transmission and the repeated themes of family memory from the perspective of middle-aged individuals. It is based on the master's thesis called Posttraumatic stress and growth in holocaust survivors and their families.

Firstly, the theoretical part defines the terms 'stress', 'trauma' and 'posttraumatic growth'. Afterwards, attention is brought to the historical perspective on traumatic events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century which deeply affected the lives of respondents (the Second World War, the period of communism) and the topic of transgenerational transmission in the family narrative.

The empirical component of the thesis is based on quantitative and qualitative research. The first part is dedicated to the mapping of specific aspects of posttraumatic stress and growth in Holocaust survivors and their offspring (N = 150, data collected by CEITEC). In accordance with other studies, the thesis concludes that Holocaust survivors and their offspring have higher levels of posttraumatic stress and growth and that linear dependence exists between these two phenomena. By contrast, the qualitative research (N = 21) was focused on the transgenerational transmission in the family memory: namely the topics of family roles and functioning as well as subjects such as traditions, spirituality and loyalty. The transgenerational transmission in the chosen respondents can be found for instance in the areas of: partnership problems, disturbed parent–child relationships, personality characteristics, attitudes and openness, family loyalty, secrets and traditions.

## **Key words:**

posttraumatic stress, posttraumatic growth, reactions to stress, Holocaust survivors, transgenerational transmission of trauma, family memory, family relationships, family functioning.