

Abstract

This qualitative research focuses on the decision to stay childfree as a specific individual strategy for coping with the effects of climate crisis. The purpose of this study is to show ways in which the climate crisis is internalized and stressed within the decision to stay childfree. Data for this research were created through semi-structured interviews with 12 informants coming from all around the world. These informants were divided into two different categories. First of them, the *kinnovators*, perceive their decision to stay childfree as a way to erase the boundary between human and non-human worlds and therefore, similarly to Donna J. Haraway (2016), they perceive their childfreeness as an alternative to the popularly held belief of genalogical view on human kinship. These informants experience a great amount of environmental grief (Kevorkian, 2004) based on the values of antispeciesism and they see the main causes of climate crisis in the epoch of Anthropocene and therefore in the problems connected to human society – such as overpopulation (e.g. Ehrlich, 1986, compared to Haraway, 2016) or consumerism (Bell, 2004). Kinnoators perceive their decision to stay childfree as their individual responsibility and as a way to mitigate climate crisis, as well as a means to maintain their integrity. *Environmental antinatalists* perceive their decision to stay childfree as a kind of adaptation to the climate crisis. These informants feel strong individual responsibility for the wellbeing of future generations and their environmental grief mingles with their personal grief. Environmental antinatalists highlight systemic nature of climate crisis and they see individual responsibility (Maniates, 2002) as an ineffective way for solving climate crisis. Childfreeness is for them therefore also an individual way to cope with the feelings of helplessness.

Informants from both categories perceive reasons concerning climate crisis as playing a very important role in their decision to stay childfree, however they also mention other significant reasons, such as absence of positive relationship towards children, fear of labour or fear of loosing one's individual freedom. Furthermore, stigma connected to childfreeness and gendered perception of parenthood (Park, 2005) impacts mainly female informants.

Key words: antispeciesism, Anthropocene, apocalypticism, childfreeness, Chthulucene, climate crisis, environmental antinatalism, environmental grief, individualized society