

The thesis deals with the stigmatization and securitization of (illicit) drugs in Slovakia and its impact on drug users. Currently, drugs are seen as a threat to the security of society, and users are considered reprehensible non-members of society. The theory of securitization is expanded with a critical dimension that allows it not only to describe and evaluate the state of affairs, but possibly to contribute to the improvement of the situation through emancipation. Stigmatization helps to complement securitization, as it allows to show concrete effects on individuals. The thesis also elaborates on the evolution of attitudes towards drugs and drug users both in the international environment and Slovakia, as there have been major changes at the global level over the past century, often motivated by the interests of powerful states. In the Slovak environment, however, there was a sharp change of perspective only after 1989, and the thesis analyses this development in more detail up to the current day, in which stigmatization and securitization of drugs and users still persists. This perspective remains unchanged, despite statistics showing a decline in the number of illegal drug users. However, alcohol and cigarettes have seen an increase in users, also among young people. These findings are complemented by the views and attitudes of the users themselves, who comment on the issues of stigma and securitisation, as well as on possible improvements. Together with a summary of the findings, the thesis elaborates on these recommendations in its conclusion.