

## **Abstract**

The thesis *Gender, identity, body* attempts to set out a method suitable for historical description and analysis of representations of *bodily identities*, such as old age, childhood, race etc. The conceptualization of gender identities presents our starting point, the very capacity of the term of gender is examined through the reading of the works of Joan W. Scott and Judith Butler. In respect to our final purpose, the term appears convenient only partially, for it balances between two extremes: it is either overly dependent on gender binarism or it utterly ceases to represent bodily identities. This paper brings an alternative concept: *corpus*. Combining the concept of gender and the phenomenology of body, it conceives bodily identity as a type of Paul Ricoeur's narrative identity. Composing different bodily parts and behaviour stereotypes, this kind of identity creates a distinctive collective identity: *corpus*. In its next part, the thesis follows the construction of representations of old age and adolescence in the field of Czechoslovakian 20<sup>th</sup> century developmental psychology. It appears that both old age and youth are disqualified in the name of a symbolic adult-centrism.

**Keywords:** *gender studies – identity – phenomenology of body – marginal groups in the 20<sup>th</sup> century*