

The role of sociocultural influences in the development of eating disorders:
With particular emphasis on the detailed analysis of women's exposure to media ideal body images. The theoretical part of the study examines eating disorders in relation to sociocultural factors, with additional consideration of developmental, personal and familial factors. The prior theoretical concepts as well as the latter empirical findings are introduced consistently with a conceptualization of eating disorders as a predominantly socially and culturally determined phenomenon. For the empirical section, the connection between symptoms of eating disorders and interpersonal attraction to idealized images of thinness are evaluated, based on a sample of 525 women from the internet community. Additional factors such as age and BMI are also taken into account.