

Abstract

Drawing on rigorous foreign, both Western and non-Western, literature, this thesis introduces sexuality and its connected spatial conceptualizations to Czech geography. In the beginning of the theoretical part, I discuss the framework under which geography studies sexuality. Then, I discuss the crucial terminology while pointing out at some changes in it. After understanding some of the major terminological issues, I delve into a description of the multiple and diverse development of sexuality related geographies. Focusing on queer geography, I delineate the queer standpoint and concentrate on understanding the spatial construction of sexuality in space while unveiling the heteronormativity of space. Using the queer approach, I implicitly deconstruct the binary of public and private space by pointing out at its spuriousness regarding the sexuality. I present a queer bar as a typical queer space while revealing the sexual closetedness of LGBTIQ people. Then I introduce the school environment as, for the time being, a typical heteronormative space and institution. In the end of the theoretical part, I discuss the queer practices of destabilizing heteronormativity both at school and in public space. In the empirical part of the thesis, I discuss the methodology of my internet based chain-referral snowball sampling and display the results of an on-line based questionnaire with the final sample of N=1589 LGBTIQ respondents. First, I aimed to explore the basic characteristics of the LGBTIQ sample. Second, I was interested in LGBTIQ people's perceptions of the heteronormativity and experimentally tried to measure it in different places and spaces. Third, the issue of heteronormativity was connected with asking about experiences with discrimination. And lastly, I queried about the closetedness of Czech and Slovak respondents, probed LGBTIQ people's attitudes towards gay/lesbian spaces, cyber-socialization and tried to answer the elusive question of whether there is an LGBTIQ community in Czechia or not. I proved the importance of cities for the queer space development, and spatial inequality regarding the people's sexuality.

Keywords: queer geography, heteronormativity, closet, queer space, sexuality, LGBTIQ, school, snowball sampling.