

Abstract

The aim of the diploma thesis is to find answers to questions connected to the symbolic construction of collective identity of the initial drug community in communist Czechoslovakia. This discourse creation of collective identity is analyzed on the basis of biographical interviews with outliving members of the then drug subculture. In the course of the terrain investigation there has been recorded a total of 34 narratives of the representatives of the two successive generations of this drug community by using the unstructured and semi-structured interview technique. For the purposes of this research, there has been analyzed 7 interviews closely connected to the beginning and the initial process of formation of drug community.

By means of analysis and interpretation of the content of these biographical materials there are primarily captured the collectively shared interpretative frames of values and important identification attributes by which protagonists of the oldest generation of this community form their former collective identity. In this way is clarified how the narrators themselves re-construct and re-interpret their subjectively experienced “we” and at the same time using the symbolic resources to define borders against the non-members of this collectivity. The biographies of the protagonists of the second generation also became the subject of analysis and interpretation to meet this aim. Investigating of these relations between generations shows how and by using which particular means the narrators create their own symbolic construction of the community.

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Keywords

Symbolic construction of collective identity, using drugs, grounded theory