

Abstract

The bachelor thesis deals with foster care and its position on the boundary of care and work. The term care is understood as “care from love” in the family, which according to societal ideas should be provided regardless of the existence of financial rewards. The term work is used in the sense of paid employment. The boundary is examined on a general and gender level. The core of the bachelor thesis is qualitative research which is based on the analysis of semi-structured interviews with eight foster carers, namely with four long-term male foster carers and four long-term female foster carers in pairs. The thesis concludes that foster care reflects the established gender order, within which care is an activity that is inseparably linked to the identity of women. However, this identity is also professional in nature and penetrates the field of paid work. Nevertheless only women construct their professional identity in the context of foster care and the boundary of foster care between care and work is therefore gendered. In addition the thesis shows through the analysis of the perception of financial rewards by foster carers that “care from love” and the money provided for it are not in conflict, but on the contrary can provide a symbolic expression of the value of care itself. The perspective of foster carers goes beyond the dichotomy of paid employment and family care which in the common understanding establishes the impossibility of valuing this care with money.