

This thesis raises the question to what extent remains lesbian identity relevant as a stigma in the Czech Republic. The theoretical part shows how sexuality and homosexuality in particular is influenced and shaped by society. I draw predominantly from scientific texts of foreign origin and for information relating to the Czech Republic I draw from Czech resources. My approach to the study of sexuality is constructivist. The research part of my study I drew from the analysis of semi-structured interviews with lesbian women. Initially, I offered an insight on what it means to be lesbian by the bearers of lesbian identities themselves. In the central part of my study, I explained in what context and why are the lesbian identities usually experienced as a stigma. As part of everyday life lesbian identity manifests itself as a stigma especially when a lesbian did not come out and treats her own identity as a stigma herself. By doing so she brings tension into interactions, especially with people who she is closer with, because she constantly deals with the control of information about her lesbian identity. Dissimulation of lesbian identity gets even harder in case that she is in relationship with a woman. Such a thing is necessarily connected with closeting the relationship, which makes it difficult for the development of the relationship. In opposite, if a lesbian does not hide her lesbian identity and does not make it an issue, it appears as stigma rather exceptionally, and discrediting by others occurs rarely.