

This master's thesis deals with the question of combining family and working life from a gender perspective. The main focal point of the thesis is a discursive analysis of interviews with women/mothers, who returned to their places of employment either after or during their maternity leave. The analysis deals with the two levels, on which the narratives of the respondents move: discursive (using interpretive sources and a discursive framework) and practical (concrete practices). It's main area of interest is the method with which the respondents construct their presence within the question of combining family life with their employment, i.e., which discourses do they use in their narratives, and conversely, in what way do these discourses limit and co-create their rhetorical and social practices. The analysis of the interviews develops into a simplification of a schematicization of relationships between individual discourses, while at the same time indicating the consequences of those relationships for some concrete practices of the women themselves. In an important conclusion, the thesis reveals the lack of presence of a discourse on the positioning of the male in the private sphere (e.g., man-father) as a prerequisite for the women's engagement in their employment. Finally, the thesis compares the results of the analysis of the interviews with the effects of public discourse and suggests both practical and theoretical conclusions.