

erational relations is tackled. This points to the necessity of seeking other contexts and issues in the discussed problems.

The publication brings many precious and fresh stipulations and thematic threads. Part of them constitutes valuable knowledge, which should reach a wider circle of recipients. It deals with important topics, which are, indeed, important and pressing problems requiring quick swift reaction and a search for solutions.

The above monograph is worth recommending as a lecture for parents, teachers, social workers, therapists, educators in educational care facilities, coaches and all those who work with youth in an institutional form, or other. The undertaken analyses, might contribute to a better understanding of the teenagers' world, huge importance of puberty, rebellion, emerging autonomy and identity, as well as understanding how it all affects further life, not only in personal and family life but also social and professional context.

Marlena Kaźmierska

Joanna Mizielińska, Justyna Struzik, Agnieszka Król, *Różnym głosem. Rodziny z wyboru w Polsce*, Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN SA, Warsaw 2017, 378 pages.

Social and cultural changes to the way we function across all aspects of life call for redefinition of terms such as family, motherhood and fatherhood. The study by Joanna Mizielińska, Justyna Struzik and Agnieszka Król is an important contribution to redefining the above-mentioned terms as it provides a detailed description and interpretation of living conditions in non-heteronormative families ("families of choice"), which do not fit in the current social order.

*Różnym głosem. Rodziny z wyboru w Polsce* is an innovative piece of research for the Polish research scene due to the scarcity of studies that explore family relationships in gay people. The available studies are based on quantitative data whereas the book in question uses qualitative input. Authors' extensive theoretical knowledge of the subject and object of their research as well as their research and interpersonal skills have all resulted in a project that is consistent and methodologically well structured. The quality of organization and execution owes much to the researchers' many years of experience in the field of gender and queer studies. The study is the fruit of a project entitled *Rodziny z wyboru w Polsce*, funded from public funds for research 2013-2016 and was developed under dr hab. Joanna Mizielińska at the Institute of Psychology of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

The researchers provide readers with 7 chapters sub-divided into individual themes, as well as several pages of thematically organized conclusions and a glossary of essential terms.

The theoretical aspect of the research problem and methodological foundations are defined in the first chapter, where the researchers briefly summarize available scientific output dedicated to lives of same-sex families and their closest environment (families of origin), these being mostly produced by Western researchers. The methodological dimension of the project has been covered much more extensively, and apart from methodological characteristics (focus groups), this part of the chapter reports on the recruitment of the research sample, with particular emphasis on obstacles and ethical issues in working with a group seen as vulnerable and hard to access due to the social stigma it is affected with.

The second part of the book looks into motherhood in homosexual women. The researchers start with the ways the interviewed women became mothers and go on to describe their parental practices. Further on, this section investigates individual dimensions of homosexual women's lives, including the roles of biological mothers and social mothers, the strategies and circumstances of coming-out to families of origin, contacts with public institutions and the position of a father in a female family of origin. With the analysis and interpretation of those aspects, the authors were able to classify certain models of conduct based on psychological, pedagogical and sociological literature and their research results.

Chapter 3 is entitled *Nieheteroseksualni ojcowie* and devoted to the particularly difficult topic of parenting by homosexual men, an issue even more tabooed than homosexual motherhood. The authors stress that, as they had expected, it was more difficult to access this group, which in turn affected the analysis. This section of the study accounts merely for 1/4 of the volume of the previous chapter. Nevertheless, the quality of research and related interpretation is on par with that of the previous chapter. The authors touch upon strategies of becoming and playing a role of a father in non-heteronormative men. Hopefully, the scarcity of respondents will inspire others to conduct research projects with a more extensive sample to verify and enrich the content of the book in question.

Another chapter of the book is dedicated to children in the families of choice. Related interviews were adapted for children's age, with the younger groups also having been asked to carry out an extra task of describing and interpreting photographs furnished by the researchers and making collages that represent their family relationships. This solution undoubtedly provides a valuable insight into the lives of same-sex families. The research results have been analysed and interpreted with a breakdown into younger and older children, including adults. This division made it possible for the authors to map the trend of changes in the perception of families of choice, something that is exclusively positive in younger children and comes with a stigma in the older ones.

Chapters 5 and 6 explore relationships between families of choice and their closest relatives: parents and siblings. For homosexual individuals, the families of origin are frequently subject to scientific inquiry, yet their siblings are mostly omitted. Following the interviews conducted with the two groups, the researchers characterized coming-out processes and ensuing responses. Their research sheds some light on the attitudes of current and potential grandparents, uncles and aunts with respect to children growing up under same-sex relationships and with respect to the same-sex partner and their family of origin. Importantly, these chapters point to the change that the respondents' relatives need to make in their own homophobic attitudes. Most of them gradually come to accept their relatives' sexual orientation and the fact they have children, and voice concerns about discrimination that affects families of choice on a daily basis.

The final chapter touches upon an issue rarely investigated in studies on LGB individuals: elderly homosexuals. The authors stress that it was very difficult to reach out to this group as it seems to be socially transparent, or non-existing. The chapter initially presents respondents' life trajectories, paying much attention to the social and cultural background of their youth, when non-heteronormativity was heavily tabooed. Then, the authors point to the seniors' self-representation as they cannot freely refer to themselves as gay/lesbian people but use terms suggestive of their sexual identity, instead. Elderly gay people are also affected with social stigma and feel the need for changes, many being anxious to be lonely while getting old.

The summary consists of conclusions divided into several themes, very helpful for the reader to organize all of the knowledge gained. The study also provides a glossary of essential terms, a useful addition for those who are not that familiar with the issues of non-heteronormativity.

The study *Różnym głosem. Rodziny z wyboru w Polsce* is a rich source of knowledge on lives of same-sex families with children and their relationships with families of origin. The book examines themes that have been previously disregarded, including homosexuals' relationships with their siblings and the problems of elderly LGB people, which further adds to the great value of this scientific contribution. Additionally, each issue covered in the book is illustrated with respondents' statements, a solution that elicits emotions typical of an interview. The value of this book also stems from its methodological assumptions that any researcher who would like to investigate the lives of LGB people will find inspiring. The book in question shall be of particular interest to psychologists and sociologists as the knowledge of the life in marginalised groups is conducive to designing proper anti-discrimination measures that can improve the quality of life in those communities.

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