



**Joanna Mizielińska. *Different or regular? Families of choice in Poland.* Warsaw 2017: Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN S.A. Pp. 416.**

Reviewed publication focuses on a question which is highly researched these days—contemporary understanding of the family term. It is obvious that mentioned construct yields to socio-cultural changes by widening its limits. The paper I present touches on a problem of functioning of families of choice in Poland. As it is in the title it asks if these families are different or the same as heteronormative ones.

Undertaking such a delicate social problem requires extraordinary interpersonal and scientific competences. The author of the book has both—Joanna Mizielińska is an experienced researcher who should not be introduced among those interested in the topic. She is an associate professor in the Institute of Psychology of Polish Academy of Sciences and was a manager of a project called *Families of choice in Poland* (2013–2016)—presented paper is one of many effects of that project and also not the first gender-connected work written by the scientist.

The publication consists of an introduction, seven chapters, a conclusion, a dictionary of notions' definitions, a surnames' index and a wide bibliography. Each chapter is built gradually, titled main ideas are also divided into smaller sections which ease the reader perception of the content.

At the very beginning of the work it is stressed that the paper's approach is inspired by New Family Studies. Such solution let the author consider collected data multidimensionally as mentioned approach enables heterogeneous methodological and theoretical applications.

First chapter contains a review of the most important changes of the family term and theories on which the researcher was basing while interpreting the empirical material. Joanna Mizielińska underlines that those notions were not preconceived—they appeared during the whole process (e.g. theory of displaying families, family closet, transparent closet, kin work). It is worth to stress that information in that chapter is concise but not laconic; such display is helping for those not proficient in the subject.

The methodology was described in the second chapter. This section is very important not only because it explains methods of collecting and analyzing data, but also because it can be an inspiration for other researchers due to its wide range of applied approaches. For example, besides rather common methods

(biographic interview, narrative interview, in-depth interview, participant observation) less conventional ones were used: photo-elicitation interview, Irene Levin's family map, significant places cartography.

What is more, Joanna Mizielińska also stresses that at first she wanted to rely on grounded theory while analytic process, but as her work proceeded she decided that existing literature and theories are important in understanding researched questions.

Five following chapters relate to findings. Each of them ends with a summary where the author presents the most significant conclusions.

'Course of life' is the title of section number three. Data that is shown there focuses on important moments in experience of being a homosexual family and it also places a history of a specific couple in the context of its members' individual lives. Content responded to the course of life was organised into two sub-chapters—formative phase and stabilization phase. Within which the trajectories of respondents' relationships were described; applied order provides clear image of researched aspect.

Section four is called 'Family definitions'. Analysis and interpretation enclosed there base mainly on Irene Levin's family maps. The author shows multitude of definitions of family term that occur in families of choice. She also describes mechanisms of managing this notion on the way to find affiliation and exclusion criteria of its members.

The following chapter —'Everyday life organization'—concerns two questions: a division of household chores and financial issues. It is underlined that in a scientific literature these practises are not recognised to a great extent. In the study, Joanna Mizielińska notices some patterns connected to them; members of homosexual families function in accordance with three models that she widely describes, those are: traditional model, partnership model and gender model.

Relationships with families of origin are shown in section number six. The scientist focuses on strategies of coping with nonheteronormativity which are used by interlocutors' family members. The act, or more often acts, of coming out start the process of changes in relationships of homosexuals and their families of origin. From rejection to acclaim—the whole course is depicted. Furthermore, it is portrayed how interlocutors and their relatives solve such questions as e.g. the way of naming homosexual partners or supporting each other mentally or materially.

Last chapter describes parenthood of the study group. It is stressed that researched homosexuals formed families that could be assign to three groups: their parenthood can be determined as 'unsuccessful mutual project' (homosexual partners and their children from previous relationships cannot function as a family because of a lack of rapport), they create a quasi-mutual parenthood (reconstructed families of choice) or they decide to form a new family with each other e.g. by insemination. Mentioned types of parenthood are presented i.a.

with: characteristics of families, education practises, openness strategies, visions of families, parenthood identities and children's perspective.

The conclusion starts with an attempt of specifying if the families of choice in their members' opinions differ from heterosexual ones. Reflections that are contained in this part of the work create a characteristic framing device with the question that was asked in the title of the publication.

Joanna Mizielińska's paper makes a valuable position for those interested in the subject of functioning of homosexuals. Apart from publication's significant data and its interpretation it is also a work that offers a wide gender literature review of Polish and foreign researchers. Ordering elements in a very similar way in each chapter provides the receivers with the comfort of reading the book and with an ease of connecting facts and searching for interesting information. What is more, the content is abound in quotation—such solution portrays the readers the whole process of analysing and interpreting empirical data. It also gives an opportunity to 'feel' the real emotions of interlocutors thanks to what their life situation can be understood deeper. Presented book should be taken into consideration while designing anti-discrimination actions because of its information richness related to socio-cultural situation of homosexuals.

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**Katarzyna Segiet, Kamila Słupska (eds.). *A book in human life—in search of lost(ing) value*. Poznań 2017: Adam Mickiewicz University Press. Pp. 360.**

The contemporary, fragmented reality in which we live is subject to a permanent change. This state of affairs implies the need to construct many issues on a current basis so that they meet modern requirements. In such a world, it is essential that some elements (having their long tradition) do not lose their value, constituting a certain aspect of our lives. Such a value is a contact with the book. Pedagogues play a role in shaping a proper relationship between the individual and the text. In this context, Zbyszko Melosik (2014) presents pedagogical proposals that are a constructive response to the ambiguity of this world, and thus, within them, there is "a pedagogy of respect for (reading and collecting) books and libraries". The recommended proposal is a peculiar acknowledgment to the place of the book in society. Virtualization of ways of gaining knowledge and information caused that the book is in the social defense. The present book, titled *Książka w życiu człowieka—w poszukiwaniu (u)traconej wartości* [*A book in human life—in search of lost(ing) value*] is a collection of