

IV International Gender Workshop

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Gender Equality and Sex Education

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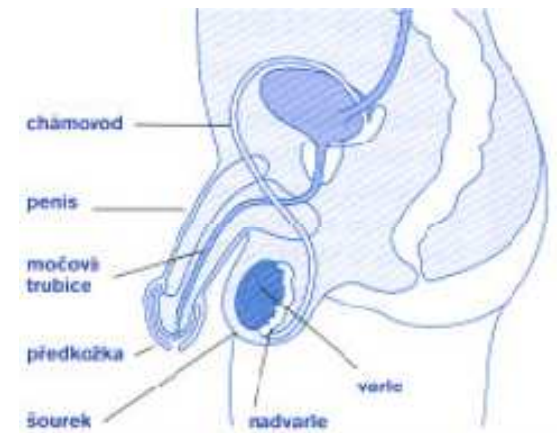
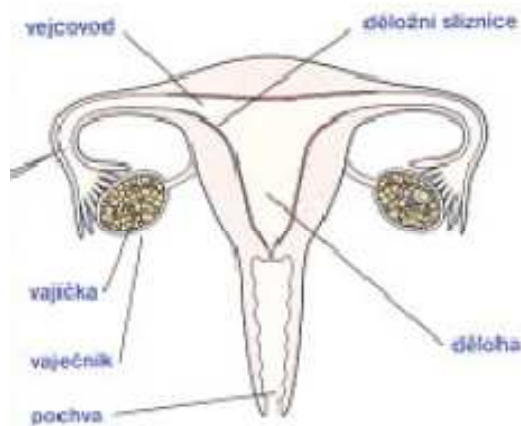
Sex education strategies

- Abstinence before marriage
- Evidence based
- Holistic approach

- Compulsory
- Voluntary
- Scattered into different school subjects and projects

Values in sex education

- Abstinence – conservative
- Evidence based – believed to be valueless, but is not
- Holistic – liberal, including questions of human rights, exclusion/inclusion, diversity



(Traditional) Battles over Sex Education

- Sex education:
YES or NO
- When
- How much
- What content

Questions of values,
political orientation,
health concerns, religious
beliefs (Irvine 2002)



What is good for children?

- Common grounds: We want „good for children and youth“ & eliminate risks
- Sexual risks are not perceived the same way universally, they have a political dimension

Example

- liberals calm down the panics over pedophilia, stress the sex education importance and protection of the child before sex abuse in family (proliferation of children´s rights)
- Conservatives and especially religious parties are very cautious about sex education

“To protect (our) children” formula is used to reinforce regulation whenever the boundaries of what is perceived to be ‘appropriate’ are transgressed. Robinson (2012) argues that childhood and innocence are utilized as a means through which the ‘good’ heteronormative adult citizenship subject is constituted and governed.

Children and sexuality in central Europe now

- Used as an argument in direct attack on LGBT rights
- Connected with other agendas:
 - anti-gender movement
 - nationalism
 - anti-European integration
 - anti-human rights proliferation

Slovak referendum (February 2015) on protection of the family/on LGBT rights and sex education

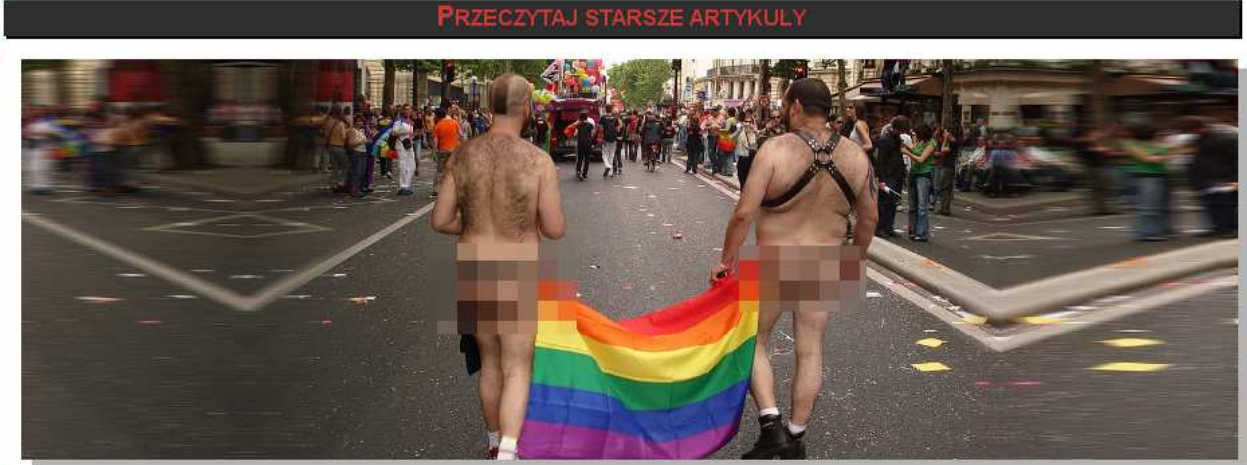
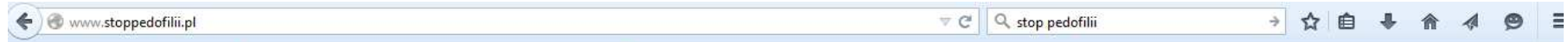
Child protection – a core argument



Archetype of a an outcast who steals children (Gipsy, Jew, homosexual)



Stop pedophilia! They go for your kids! Stop them! (Poland)



ZALOGUJ

**ONI IDĄ
PO TWOJE DZIECI** | **POWSTRZYMAJ
ICH!**

In September 2014 polish Sejm delt with a proposal about changes in Criminal law, that would ban „promotion or approval of sex activity in front of minors or would encourage such aktivity in minors under 15.“

Secular Czech Republic

How these ideas travel/change in a society with weaker position of Church and with declared liberal attitudes toward homosexuality?

Let's defend ourselves against rainbow totality

The Czech Republic is considered to be one of the most secular countries in the world and liberal in attitudes toward sexuality. However the conservative ideas travel across the boundaries of the countries and the main aim of my analysis is to focus on how they twist and change accents in different social and political context.



I argue that on one hand the conservative ideas concerning childhood and sexuality do not have such a strong base in Catholic church in the Czech Republic as they have in Poland and Slovakia, but on the other they lose the notion of a conservative religious argument and appear to public more universal.

Norway

- An icon of gender equality, sexuality freedom, human right paradise....
- The case of Michalak brothers who were taken by office for protection of children
- Norway = totalitarian state intervening into private lives



Stop theft of children in Norway (Czech Republic)



Incidents as Slovak referendum or Polish stop pedophilia petition do not have an equivalent in the Czech case, but what has traveled is the idea of Juvenil justice that takes children in Western Europe. The argument of a stolen child, the heartbreaking stories of children forced apart from their mother is understandable for public and actors as DOST, originally perceived as political extrem appear more legitimate. The topics of gender equity or LGBT rights is not their main agenda, but they smuggle into the mainstream as a fringe of this hunt against thefts of children.

- **Slovakia, Poland** – homophobia and anti gender equality have a huge political potential and it is possible to mobilize public around them. Part of the propaganda is the archetype of theft of children.
- **Czech Republic** – homophobia does not have such a political potential, but the image of the stolen child mobilizes society and the extremist actors use it to promote their agenda and present it as a universal. By doing, so they smuggle in other topics as protest against gender equality and LGBT