

## CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	9
INTRODUCTION .....	11
1. WHY GENDER MATTERS IN DRUG USE .....	14
1.1 A Postmodern Feminist Perspective .....	14
1.2 The Victim – Rebel Dichotomy in Research on Women's Drug Use .....	16
1.2.1 Emphasis on Structural Constraints .....	16
1.2.2 Emphasis on Individual Agency .....	18
1.2.3 The Victim – Rebel Dichotomy .....	19
1.3 Conclusion .....	21
2. THE INTERACTION OF AGENCY AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE .....	23
2.1 Agency .....	23
2.2 Social Structure .....	25
2.2.1 Social Structure and Intersectionality .....	26
2.2.2 Subjects in the Social Environment .....	28
2.3 Interaction .....	29
3. METHODOLOGY .....	32
3.1 Research Techniques .....	33
3.1.1 Interviews .....	34
3.1.2 Focus groups .....	35
3.1.3 Informed Consent and Confidentiality .....	35
3.2 Target Group: Women Who Have Experience with Long-term Drug Use .....	36
3.2.1 Sample selection .....	38

3.3 Main Research Question and Partial Research Questions .....	41
3.4 Narrative Approach to Data Analysis .....	42
3.4.1 Agency and Narrative Discourse .....	43
3.4.2 Narratives as Data .....	45
3.4.3 Approaches to Narrative Analysis .....	46
3.4.4 Validity .....	49
3.4.5 Reflection on the Research Context .....	51
<b>4. AGENCY IN NARRATIVES OF WOMEN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH DRUG USE.....</b>	<b>60</b>
4.1 Context of the Research Environment .....	61
4.1.1 Methamphetamine / Pervitin .....	61
4.1.2 The Czech Welfare System and Services for Drug Users ..	62
4.2 Drug Use .....	64
4.2.1 Reasons for Drug Use .....	64
4.2.2 Reasons for Abstinence .....	89
4.2.3 Health Care and Harm Reduction Strategies .....	93
4.2.4 The Complexity of the Drug Economy .....	101
4.3 Motherhood .....	114
4.3.1 Unplanned Pregnancy .....	116
4.3.2 Negotiating 'Normal' and 'Good Enough' Motherhood ..	123
4.3.3 Kindergarten and School as Support in Parental Roles ..	149
4.4 Housing .....	153
4.4.1 Insecure Housing Conditions and Exposure to Violence ..	155
4.4.2 Drifting between Asylum Homes and Hostels .....	166
4.4.3 Family as a Support in Housing Trajectories .....	181
4.5 Experiences with Violence .....	186
4.5.1 Domestic Violence and the Failure of Professional Support .....	186
4.5.2 Relation between Violence and Homelessness .....	193
4.5.3 Aggression and Resistance towards Violence .....	196

<b>5. DISCUSSION .....</b>	200
<b>5.1 Important Subjects in the Social Environment .....</b>	201
<b>5.2 Forms of Agency.....</b>	201
<b>5.2.1 Use of Resources to Overcome Constraints.....</b>	202
<b>5.2.2 Use of Resources to the Benefit of Self and/or Others .....</b>	204
<b>5.2.3 Resistance to Expectations .....</b>	205
<b>5.2.4 Withdrawing from Interaction .....</b>	207
<b>5.2.5 Exercising Control .....</b>	207
<b>5.2.6 Exercise of Power over Other People / Revenge .....</b>	208
<b>5.3 Narrative Discourses and Interdiscursivity .....</b>	209
<b>6. IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL WORK .....</b>	215
<b>6.1 Definitions of Social Work .....</b>	216
<b>6.1.1 The Crisis of Knowledge and Crisis of Identity .....</b>	218
<b>6.1.2 Different Views on Social Work .....</b>	219
<b>6.2 Critical Social Work.....</b>	221
<b>6.2.1 Empowerment and Critical Reflection .....</b>	222
<b>6.3 Research Findings and their Implications         for Social Work .....</b>	225
<b>6.3.1 Sources of Knowledge and Power Relations.....</b>	225
<b>6.3.2 Empowering Social Work Practice .....</b>	229
<b>CONCLUSION .....</b>	232
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	234