

I (don't) see gender

How German social workers reflect upon the influence of gender on their professional behaviour

An Abstract of Thesis by Schramm, Lea Raphaela

While the influence of gender on the development of children and young people in an educational setting has become widely recognised, it has hardly been addressed the context of social work. Using an interpretative qualitative approach, the following thesis explores, to what extent German social workers working with transgender or non-binary children and young people reflect upon the influence of gender on professional behaviour and what support and training on gender these social workers would like to see. The present study shows that although social workers reflected on the influence of gender on their professional actions to very different degrees, working with a client who identifies as non-binary or transgender led to increased reflection for all of them. Within their professional training, the interviewed social workers perceived the topic of gender as a marginal topic and, in retrospect, would have preferred to address it in more depth.