

## SEX, VIOLENCE, AND SOCIETY. CONSENSUAL SADOMASOCHISM AS PART OF CULTURE

**Kamil Janiš**

Špráchalová Skřivánková, L. (2021). *Sex, násilí a společnost. Konsenzuální sadomasochismus jako součást kultury* [Sex, violence, and society. Consensual sadomasochism as part of culture. Plzeň: Aleš Čeněk.

The title of the book can provoke a number of debatable associations, especially in relation to sadism and masochism, which evoke aggression and violence in many people. In practice, this is one of the extreme limits of sexual behavior, which in selected individuals plays a role in mutual communication, although not mass. The author deals with the question of the extent to which consensual sexual violence becomes part of our culture, not only in the environment of partnerships, but also communities and the Internet.

It is somewhat unusual, apart from the chosen and in many respects controversial topic, that in the introduction to the publication the author presented a dictionary of frequented expressions, which may not be sufficiently understandable for some readers.

The chosen topic introduces those interested to the area of somewhat not quite common sexual practices, sexual deviations, especially to the area of sadism, masochism, but also to the issue of Queer, media „popular“ polyamory, vanilla sex, etc.

The whole publication is divided into 6 sub-chapters, of which the first chapter deals with the issue of sadism and masochism as a subject of human interest. Special attention is paid to BDSM, i.e. practices such as bondage, submission, sadism, masochism, sadomasochism, and various combinations thereof.

The second chapter deals with sadomasochism in diagnosis and law. It is clear that these activities have a legal dimension that may not be obvious to all actors. These may be, for example, private law relationships, circumstances which preclude illegality, but also concepts such as „circumstances precluding illegality,“ violence, etc.

The next part of the publication focuses on BDSM as a community. The author very often emphasizes the rules of safe behavior in the BDSM world, as well as the online community, etc. In addition to the perception of BDSM as a community, it discusses the possibility of perceiving actors as a subculture or lifestyle, leisure activities sought after for entertainment? ” (p. 71).

One of the most interesting chapters is the final chapter, which includes the results of research focused on Czech university students and BDSM, tolerance and personal experience. The study involved 379 university students, of whom 74% clearly prefer heterosexual activities. Although the results of the research suggest that Czech society

is opposed to sex violence (p. 226), the research also showed that the Czech online BDSM community is growing significantly in number of its users.

The author also presents an interesting opinion, which may differ from the general opinion of the wider society, where almost 78% of respondents said that in the case of BDSM, it is definitely not violence in a negative sense (p. 205).

The acquired knowledge can be used successfully in the study of social pathology and prevention. In any case, it will contribute to a broader and more comprehensive view of the image of selected sexual deviations, which from time to time fill the front pages of the tabloids. On the other hand, the research points to the fact that petty violence in sexual communication is not condemned by the respondents.

Overall, it can be stated that the issue of BDSM is an interesting topic, especially due to the still relative lack in professional resources of domestic production. The described publication can make a small contribution to improving the orientation of the issue itself.

### Author

doc. PhDr., PaedDr. Kamil Janiš, CSc.  
Faculty of Public Policies in Opava,  
Silesian University in Opava  
Institute of Pedagogical and Psychological Sciences  
Bezručovo nám. 885/14,  
746 01 Opava, Czech Republic  
doc.kamil.janis@fvp.slu.cz