

DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Eating disorders and diseases related to them are included among modern global medical conditions. Anorexia has been construed as the main and most dangerous of eating disorders. However – since 1970's – when it gained popularity (Bruch 1973) – studies on anorexia has concerned almost exclusively female context and population. Male patients diagnosed with symptoms of anorexia has been conceived as rarity which established a belief that anorexia is a female disorder. In global and polish academic discourse research on male anorexia has been overlooked. Consequently, there are no studies on how male anorexia has appeared as a diagnostic category.

My project concentrates on addressing the question of factors which contributed to emergence of male anorexia as a diagnostic category. To answer the posed question, I am going to analyze 172 academic articles which has been generated my initial bibliometric study through the use of Scopus engine. It enabled me to identify three main discourses where male anorexia is categorized as a disorder: psychological, psychiatric and biomedical. An analysis of contexts, where male anorexia has been approached as a disorder will allow me to make one step further and investigate how classifications of male anorexia – formulated in those three discourses – are used and implemented in medical practices by medical professionals. To do so I will carry out between 15 to 20 individual, in depth interviews with psychiatrists, psychologists and other medical professionals working in the field of male anorexia.

My research will draw a public attention to the problem of male anorexia and also verify how standardizations and classifications are present in practices of medical care. In the long run, this study will lay ground for designing institutional structures to support patients impacted by male anorexia.