

Dr hab. Ewa Alicja Majewska
nr Orcid: 0000-0003-2653-1339

POPULAR SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

Public against their will. The production of subjects in the archives of "Hiacynt Action".

Between 1985-1987 several actions were conducted by the police and secret services of the state of Poland under the code name "Akcja Hiacynt" (Hiacynt Action) to examine, interrogate, infiltrate and analyze the gay persons and communities under the pretexts of the need to investigate their international connections, as well as the possible spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, as well as in order to close the unfinished investigations concerning crimes in which gay men were involved, often as main victims. Although planned as a "caring for the population", the "Hiacynt Action" often resulted in fear and trauma, allowing further criminalization of the already marginalized and discriminated LGBTQ+ communities.

The Action's scattered and dispersed, heterogeneous archives include the state archives of the IPN (Institute of National Remembrance), the National Library, state institutions (such as those belonging to the ministry of health and of internal affairs), the private archives of the men targeted by the actions, the artistic archives created based on said witnesses documents and testimonies, as well as media articles and scarce academic articles. Approaching the "Hiacynt Action" almost 40 years later means confronting scattered and chaotic archives of very different kinds – those created by various state agents as well as those produced by terrified individuals and groups, those of the media, public debate, and the artistic ones. In this project the focus is on the minoritarian subject formation in those perplexed and disintegrated archives, on the subjectivity (de)formed in the process of state intervention, criticized as a brutal one and defended as an example of the caring action of the state conducted to protect the supposedly vulnerable parts of the population.

The main academic gain of this research project lies in the comprehensive reconstruction of the "Hiacynt Action's" dispersed and heterogeneous archives, under the main denominator of the minoritarian subject formation in the confrontation of the state apparatus and individual/collective bodies of the non-heteronormative persons and communities in Poland of the late 1980s emerging 40 years later from the scattered documents and accounts. In a search for the minoritarian subject formation patterns, emerging on the intersection of the vulnerable ontologies and epistemologies of weak resistances and the biopolitical repressive state action, this project builds an interdisciplinary methodology of researching scattered, heterogeneous archives, it also reconstructs the patterns of state repressive biopolitical action, thus allowing in-depth study of the usually separated aspects of contemporary state surveillance apparatus, and reconstructs the subjectivity formed in such traumatizing conditions. The paradoxes of caring hands of the Leviathan will be discussed beyond the strict separation of repression and control.

The "Hiacynt Action" is an important case demonstrating the contradictions of subject formation in late modern state. The subject formation of the gay men targeted by the "Hiacynt Action" emerging from its individual, community, media and state archives, as well as from art and literary works, is one of many faces, one of trauma and recovery, of suppressed and overtly expressed affect. It is one abandoned because of the painful conditions it emerged in, but also because of the complexity of their ontology and production and the heterogeneity of its archives and traces. The "Hiacynt Action" does not have any general analysis or summary, archives are scattered and procedures of justice are still until now refused. This project offers such summary, to be published as articles and a monograph, as well as a methodology, which could be applied in other archive studies of similar complexity. The project's website and conference presentations will allow further dissemination of the project's findings.