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論 文 の 要 旨

This thesis focuses on investigating the actors and processes that contribute to the formation of transgender subjectivities among transgender individuals in Kazakhstan as they seek legal affirmation. This research shows that the range of actors, including activists and institutional actors, their relationships, and the consultation and affirmation practices that bound the “subjectivity” of the reality of transgender individuals, are more complex than originally perceived. Previous research involving transgender studies has tended to focus singularly on the experiences of individuals, as well as activist, medical practitioner, legal, and institutional practices; few studies have sought to examine the interplay of these actors and factors as the subjective experience of individuals seeking gender transformation. To address the research gap in this area, the author delves into the main processes influencing transgender subjectivities in Kazakhstan, identifying the main actors and their roles, and examining the narratives that these actors (including the individuals themselves) employ in the process of shaping transgender subjectivities.

The author employs multiple theoretical and methodological approaches to address the research questions posed in this study, combining theoretical constructs involving gender and transgender theory, and tracing how the dominant focus on the medical profession (mainly in terms of psychiatry and surgical reconstruction) has shaped social attitudes. This is further supported by drawing on the history of dominant medical frameworks during the Soviet and post-Soviet eras to illustrate social construction and subjective understanding in the negotiation of gender norms. Incorporating a social constructivist approach emphasizing social relationships with an ethnomethodological approach entailing queer theory and collective identity, the author shows how previous theoretical approaches have been inadequate in explaining the situation of transgender individuals. The author conducted 46 individual interviews with transgender individuals, activists, and members of the medical profession, and obtained responses from three major ministries concerning transgender affirmation practices.

The thesis is structured as follows. Chapter 1 introduces the study, laying the groundwork and

providing background information concerning transsexuality in Kazakhstan. The author identifies the gaps in the current literature that the research questions address and describes the theoretical streams that support this research. Definitions and limitations are also presented. Chapter 2 delves into the history of transsexuality as a medical diagnosis on the global level, drawing on interpretations initially involving psychological diagnoses. The combined theoretical frameworks used in this thesis, blending transgender, feminist, and constructivist approaches, are described and applied to the research topic. Chapter 3 situates the topic of global transgender issues historically and then focuses on such issues geographically in the Central Asian context. In particular, the author demonstrates how the involvement of relevant actors and procedures for legal gender recognition, as well as genesis and continuation of current processes in Kazakhstan, have been influenced by Kazakhstan's historical relationship with the former Soviet Union.

Chapter 4 describes the methods employed by the author in answering the three research questions involving the processes, actors, and narratives employed to shape transgender subjectivities in Kazakhstan. The author discusses the relationship between the research questions and the interview questions posed to 46 transgender individuals, activists, and medical specialists who participated in the study. Ethical considerations involving informed consent are also discussed.

Chapter 5 provides the results from the participant interviews in responding to the three research questions. First, in responding to the first research question, the author clarifies the processes that influence transgender shaping by explicating the procedures for legal gender recognition (identified by individuals as the most critical issue), as well as insights on medical and social transitions, and the multiple participatory roles of trans activists. The diagnosis revision and medical practitioners' involvement are also detailed through interview narratives. Second, by analyzing interview narratives, the author shows the perspectives of medical specialists, trans individuals, and activists, and documents their relationships as legal actors. The role of the state in administering gender identity is also explicated, drawing on an analysis of written documentation obtained from three national ministries. Finally, the third research question is addressed through a deeper analysis of the interview narratives. The author discovered that most medical specialists indicated a lack of information about transgender issues, and trans interviewees spoke of the challenges in navigating their experiences through the medical and legal systems.

Chapter 6 contains an analysis of the interview results in terms of theoretical constructs including legal gatekeeping, the "activist bubble," and the doctor-patient-activist triad. The author found that rather than medical specialists being the gatekeepers, a nuanced legal actor hierarchy of state institutions' legal interpretations for individual identification posed difficulties for transgender individuals. The "activist bubble" appears to prevent a broad range of interaction among possible allied actors and, furthermore, influenced access to transgender health-specific information in Kazakhstan.

The final chapter of the thesis reviews the purpose and findings. The author revisits the research questions and shows that the interplay of actor relationships, as well as institutional structures, have a major impact on constructing transgender subjectivities in Kazakhstan.

審査の要旨

Previous research in the broad area of transgender studies has tended to focus on narrow viewpoints from gender, transgender, and queer theories, or concentrate on medical specialists. These studies have been invaluable in providing key theoretical bases, laying the foundations for expanded theoretical and practical approaches. The within thesis is the first study to clarify the processes through a thorough investigation of the social and legal system in which transgender individuals shape their subjective identities, identify the key actors and their roles, and emphasize their narratives and perspectives. As such, the within study advances our theoretical and practical understanding of the interplay of these factors, laying new groundwork for future research trajectories.

This thesis has distinct strengths in its overall approach and research design. First, in terms of theory, it is the first study to incorporate broad theoretical constructs in explaining the contributing factors to the shaping of transgender experiences and subjectivity. This dissertation's approach seeks to situate the phenomenon within the larger social and institutional fabric, and succeeds in this objective. Second, the author has performed a thorough analysis of the interview data; such data is organized and organized well. This rich data source, and the methods utilized to obtain such data, provides an invaluable basis for future research. This research advances theoretical and practical approaches to the topic of transgender studies in general.

However, this thesis also has some minor weaknesses. First, although described as a "case study" in terms of its overall approach, the broader, global implications of these findings were not addressed in detail in the discussion or conclusion chapters. Expanding on the trends in the findings from this research and applying them to different nation-based experiences from historical, institutional, and systemic perspectives is one promising area for future research. Second, deeper investigation into the institutional perspective of recognizing and addressing the challenges faced by transgender individuals in terms of legal strictures would provide balanced actor insights. Combining this aspect with the author's strengths in attention to detail and drawing out the implications of the study has great promise for future research endeavors.

2 最終試験

The final examination committee conducted a final examination on July 10, 2020. The applicant provided an overview of the dissertation, and addressed questions and comments raised during the Question-and-Answer session. All committee members reached a final decision that the applicant passed the final examination.

3 結論

Therefore, the final examination committee approved that the applicant is qualified to be awarded a Doctor of Philosophy in Social Sciences.