How are new diagnosis and social definitions “born” and the deviation from a norm is marked? What are the meanings attributed to the categories within the educational context? How do they shape the life stories and personal identities of their bearers? The proposed course will address these questions. We will investigate cultural, historical and political factors that influenced the appearance of various categories, such as learning disabilities, ADHD, anorexia, homosexuality and transgender. Based on analysis of the in-depth interviews with categorized individuals we will focus on the effects of the definitions on their identity and explore the relations between personal experience, professional discourses and cultural premises about self, normalcy and pathology, psychological well-being, good and evil, sexual identity, and beauty.


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