

Ritual Abuse: A Qualitative Investigation into the Particularities and Difficulties in Professional Work with Persons Affected

Abstract

This thesis is a qualitative investigation into the particularities and difficulties in professional work with persons affected by ritual abuse and the impacts on the professionals. Seven psychosocial specialists were interviewed about their work with affected people. One of the most important findings of the research was the persistent contact to the perpetrator, mind control as well as the time-consuming need for support of the affected clients. Furthermore, a lot of affected people are suffering from severe psychological and physical disorders as a result of ritual abuse. In addition, a number of professional's experience isolation. Also, there is a number of professionals who do not have the chance to continue their education concerning ritual abuse due to low training opportunities or face difficulties in financing therapies. The qualitative research also shows the impact of professional work on professionals, such as the experience of negative emotions, severe psychological stress and the risk of becoming the perpetrators' target. Besides these negative effects, there are positive effects as well, such as positive emotions, professional and personal growth and the signification of their own work.