

European Research Institute in Social Work (ERIS)

Research / dissertation project	
Name: Gabriela Nytra e-mail: gabriela.nytra@osu.cz Years of study: 2011 – 2014	University of Ostrava PhD project <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Master's project <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject / title of the project THE LIVING SITUATION OF WIDOWED SENIORS	
Scientific importance View of widowhood through the concept of the life situation and the social functioning. The main objective of my dissertation is: To understand the living situation of widowed seniors, the attention to the social problems of widowed seniors, to identify specific ways of coping with the social effects of the widowhood.	
Practical relevance Widowhood, and especially in old age, means the change of social roles from husband or wife to widow or widower and the impact of widowhood on the social life of the surviving. Therefore, research results may be useful for organizations that provide social services to the elderly and survivors.	
Main thesis I would like to point to the problem: coping with life situations widowed seniors. Old age is a human developmental stage, which brings a number of changes that reduce the integrity and autonomy of a man. One part of this change is the death of a spouse and then widowhood.	
Research methodology I want to understand the life situation of widowed seniors, that is why I have chosen the interpretive theoretical framework and in it a paradigm of social constructivism. I choose qualitative research strategy, to get deeper insight into social reality of widowed seniors.	
Key words Widowhood, old age, living situation, social functioning,	
Most relevant literature Ben-Zur, Hasida, and Keren Michael. Social comparisons and well-being following widowhood and divorce. <i>Death studies</i> 33, March 2009, 220-38. Bennett, K M, P T Smith, and G M Hughes. Coping, depressive feelings and gender differences in late life widowhood. <i>Aging & mental health</i> 9, July 2005, 348-53. Carr, Deborah S., Randolph M. Nesse, and Camille B. Wortman. <i>Spousal bereavement in late life</i> . Springer Publishing Company, 2006 Houck, Maurcia DeLean. <i>Living Life After Divorce & Widowhood: Financial Planning, Skills, and Strategies for When the Unthinkable Happens</i> . Atlantic Publishing Company,	

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Lopata, H. Widower, widow: How same? How different? *The Gerontologist* 42, 2002, 564–566.

Rock, Janice, and Michael Rock. *Widowhood: The Death of a Spouse*. Trafford Publishing, December 2004

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Key finding (if already existing)