



Peace Institute

Institute for Contemporary Social and Political Studies





BEYOND THE PINK CURTAIN

EVERYDAY LIFE OF LGBT PEOPLE
IN EASTERN EUROPE

Edited by Roman Kuhar and Judit Takács

BEYOND THE PINK CURTAIN:
EVERYDAY LIFE OF LGBT PEOPLE IN EASTERN EUROPE

FIRST EDITION

EDITED BY ROMAN KUCHAR AND JUDIT TAKÁCS

REVIEWERS: GERT HEKMA, UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM
METKA MENCIN ČEPLAK, UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA

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ALTERNATIVE SEXUALITIES AND SUBVERSION OF GENDER IDENTITIES ARE SO UNACCEPTABLE TO THE PREVAILING HETERONORMATIVE IDEOLOGY THAT IT AT BEST TOLERATES THEM OR PUSHES THEM INTO A "TRANSPARENT CLOSET": THROUGH THE SILENCE THAT IS OFTEN SEEN AS A POLITICALLY CORRECT RESPONSE TO THE ALTERNATIVE SEXUALITIES AND GENDER ISSUES, AND WITH AN OBSESSIVE INTERVENTION OF SIGNS DESIGNED TO ENSURE DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN "THEM" AND "US". THIS COLLECTION EFFECTIVELY PROBLEMATIZES THE IMPOSED HETEROSEXUALITY IN THE DICHOTOMIZED CONCEPTION OF SEXUALITY AND GENDER AND THE INEQUALITIES REINFORCED BY AN APPEAL TO THAT DICHOTOMY. AT THE SAME TIME - THE COLLECTION, WHICH FOCUSES ON THE ANALYSIS OF THE POSITION OF LGBT PEOPLE IN CERTAIN EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES - IMPLICITLY DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE HIERARCHICAL DIVISIONS OF EUROPE AND TO THE "OTHERNESS" OF EASTERN EUROPE.

Metka Mencin Čeplak, University of Ljubljana

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The initial urge of *looking behind* "the Iron Curtain" will ultimately lead us to *look beyond* – and challenge the existing frame-works. Considering that the social and cultural homophobia still seems to be a unifying experience for LGBT people, "the West" is not necessarily as far from "the East" as it is sometimes suggested ...



BEYOND THE PINK CURTAIN GATHERS PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR »INTIMATE/SEXUAL CITIZENSHIP« (14-15 OCTOBER 2005), ORGANIZED BY THE PEACE INSTITUTE (LJUBLJANA), AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (LJUBLJANA), ASSOCIATION FOR THE INTEGRATION OF HOMOSEXUALITY (LJUBLJANA) AND THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGY, HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (BUDAPEST). SCHOLARS AT THE SEMINAR, FOCUSING ON THE LIVES OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE IN POST-SOCIALIST EASTERN EUROPE, WERE GATHERED TO DISCUSS THE EVERYDAY LIFE EXPERIENCES OF LGBT PEOPLE REGARDING THE FUNCTIONING OF SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL BOUNDARIES THAT SEPARATE THE "GOOD HETEROSEXUAL CITIZEN" FROM THE REST. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE EAST EAST: PARTNERSHIP BEYOND BORDERS PROGRAM (OSI) AND THE EC PROGRAM PROMOTION OF ACTIVE EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP. THE BOOK ALSO INCLUDES STUDIES, WHICH WERE NOT PRESENTED AT THE SEMINAR.

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