
RNDr. Michal Pitoňák, Ph.D.



Contact and consultation hours

See [SIS](#) .

Courses taught

See [SIS](#) .

Professional focus

Queer and feminist geographies, geographies of sexualities, minority stress, heteronormativity, cisnormativity, mental and public health of LGBTQ+ people, sexual and gender diversity (SGD), LGBTQ+ identity, stigma, social/human geography, HIV/AIDS destigmatization, SGD public health, sociological and human rights issues in LGBTQ+ people and social status, discrimination, intersectionality, research methodology and ethics in SGD research.

Education

- (Ph.D.) Social Geography and Regional Development, 2011 - 2015. Dissertation: *Queer geographies of sexualities: sociocultural organization of sexualities in space and (de)construction of heteronormativity*.
- (RNDr.) Rigorous examination in Social Geography and Regional Development, 2013.
- (Mgr.) Master's degree in teaching biology and geography for secondary schools, 2011.
- (Bc.) Bachelor's degree in biology and geography with a focus on education, 2008.

Work experience

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH ([NIMH](#))

? researcher, (since 2015)

? head of the working group Mental and Public Health of Sexually and Gender Diverse People, (since 2023)

QUEER GEOGRAPHY, Z. S. ([QG](#))

? founder and chair of a science-popularization association focused on interdisciplinary dialogue, dissemination of evidence-based information (since 2017).

CHARLES UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF EDUCATION

? member of the research team of the research project *LGBT+ identity as a developmental challenge in school settings: individual, social and institutional perspectives* (since 2023)

CHARLES UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY

? external lecturer and guarantor of the course *Selected Topics in LGBTQ+ Psychology: communication and work with clients* (2021-2023)

CHARLES UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF SCIENCE

? external lecturer in the "American Term" study abroad programme (since 2016)

CHARLES UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

? external lecturer (2015-2018).

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

- PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE (SZÚ)
? member of the research team in the field of HIV epidemiology (2017, 2018).
- ONGOING COLLABORATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATIONS:
 - PRAGUE PRIDE
 - CZECH AIDS AID SOCIETY
 - PEOPLE IN NEED
- PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER AT HLOUBĚTÍNSKÁ PRIMARY SCHOOL
? teacher of geography and English language (2011-2012)

Organisational experience

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PSYCHOLOGY (ICP 2024)

? keynote speaker, member of the scientific committee, head of the thematic section Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

VII. EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON GEOGRAPHIES OF SEXUALITIES (EGSC 2024)

? Member of the Scientific Committee

VI. EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON GEOGRAPHIES OF SEXUALITIES (EGSC 2022)

? keynote speaker, member of the scientific committee

V. EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON GEOGRAPHIES OF SEXUALITIES (EGSC 2019)

? main organizer of the international conference, chair of the scientific and organizing committee

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PSYCHOLOGY (ICP 2020)

? member of the scientific committee, chair of the thematic section Sexual orientation and gender identity

Lead investigator of the community project Queer Geography: Stigma & HIV

? organization of an interdisciplinary workshop with invited experts (2019).

PUBLICATIONS

Selected journal articles

PITOŇÁK, M., ČIHÁK, M., & HORNE, S. G. (2024). LGBT+ people's vulnerability to suicide in Czechia: The role of minority stress-related factors in a high structural stigma context. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000785>

PITOŇÁK, M., POTOČÁR, L., & FORMÁNEK, T. (2024). Mental health and help-seeking in Czech sexual minorities: a nationally representative cross-sectional study. *Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences*, 33, e16. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S2045796024000210>

PITOŇÁK, M., ČIHÁK, M. (2024). Suicidální ideace LGBT+ osob: psychometrické vlastnosti Škály suicidální ideace (SIDAS) na českém LGBT+ vzorku. *E-psychologie* 18(1), 16-29. <https://doi.org/10.29364/epsy.492>

PITOŇÁK, M. (2023). Vývojové milníky neheterosexuální orientace a identit v Česku: revize tradičního modelu comingoutu. *Psychiatr. praxi* 24(3), 148-155. <https://doi.org/10.36290/psy.2023.028>

PITOŇÁK, M., CSAJBÓK, Z. (2022). Revisiting minority stress theory to understand psychological distress among Czech sexual minorities. *Studia Psychologica: Theoria et Praxis*, 22(1), 5–22. <https://doi.org/10.21697/sp.2022.22.1.01>

PITOŇÁK, M., & ČIHÁK, M. (2023). Understanding broader LGB+ identity from a post-socialist perspective: Assessment of validity of the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale (LGBIS) on a Czech sample. *Československá Psychologie*, 67(2), 121-140. <https://doi.org/10.51561/cspsych.67.2.121>

PITOŇÁK, M., KOŽENÝ, J. & ČIHÁK, M. (2023) Disparities in Psychological Distress between Czech General Population and LGB?+?Community Sample, *Journal of Bisexuality*, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15299716.2023.2191590>

PITOŇÁK, M. (2022). Menšinový stres v perspektivě zdravotních nerovností mezi heterosexuálními a neheterosexuálními lidmi. *Psychiatrie pro praxi*, 23(2), 100-104. DOI: [10.36290/psy.2022.022](https://doi.org/10.36290/psy.2022.022)

UHOLYEV X, PITOŇÁK M. (2022). Chemsex users in Czechia: EMIS survey. *Cent Eur J Public Health*, 30(2):86-92. https://cejph.szu.cz/artkey/cjp-202202-0004_chemsex-users-in-czechia-emis-survey.php

PACHANKIS, J. E., HATZENBUEHLER, M. L., BRÄNSTRÖM, R., SCHMIDT, A. J., BERG, R. C., JONAS, K., PITOŇÁK, M., BAROS, S., & WEATHERBURN, P. (2021). Structural stigma and sexual minority men's depression and suicidality: A multilevel examination of mechanisms and mobility across 48

countries. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 130(7), 713–726. <https://doi.org/10.1037/abn0000693>

PITOŇÁK, M. (2021). Sexuální orientace jako přehlížená proměnná: terminologická, metodologická a kontextuální úskalí v otázce měření sexuality v rámci „reprezentativních“ šetření. Platí stále 4 %?. *Československá Psychologie*, 65(5), 440-458. <https://doi.org/10.51561/cspsych.65.5.440>

PITOŇÁK, M. (2020). Praha posiluje v boji proti HIV: přistoupila k tzv. síti Fast-track-cities. *Psychiatrie* 24(1), 44-45.

PITOŇÁK, M., PROCHÁZKA, I., MIČULKOVÁ, V., MALÝ, M. (2019). Venturing beyond the Behavioural MSM: “Sex, Chems, & Satisfaction” in Their Syndemic Contexts. *Adiktologie*, 19(2), 75–83; <https://doi.org/10.35198/01-2019-002-0003>

ŠERÝ, O., & PITOŇÁK, M. (2019). „Queer podniky“ v Brně. *Sociální Studia*, 16(1), 79–102. Retrieved from https://journals.muni.cz/socialni_studia/article/view/12277

PITOŇÁK, M. (2019). Lessons from the "Periphery": Countering Anglo-Geographic Hegemony over geographies of sexuality and gender. *Documents d'An?lisi Geogr?fica*, 1573, 1. <https://doi.org/10.5565/rev/dag.573>

PITOŇÁK, M. KLINGOROVÁ, K. (2019) Development of Czech feminist and queer geographies: identifying barriers, seeking progress, *Gender, Place & Culture*, DOI: [10.1080/0966369X.2018.1563528](https://doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2018.1563528) .

PITOŇÁK, M. (2018): Rozostření příčin a následků: Syndemie HIV mezi ne-heterosexuálními muži. *Biograf*, 67-68: . Retrieved from: <http://www.biograf.org/clanek.html?id=1038>

MRAVČÍK, V., PITOŇÁK, M., HEJZÁK, R., JANÍKOVÁ, B., & PROCHÁZKA, I. (2018). HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the Czech Republic and Related Factors: Comparison of Key Populations of People who Inject Drugs and Men who Have Sex with Men. ([odkaz](#))

PITOŇÁK, M. (2017). Faktory ovlivňující šíření infekce HIV mezi ne-heterosexuálními muži: holistický přístup. Ročenka národního programu HIV/AIDS v České republice 2015–2016. Pp. 109-121.

PITOŇÁK, M. (2017). Rozdíly v duševním zdraví mezi ne-heterosexuály a heterosexuály: přehledová studie. *Ceskoslovenska Psychologie*, 61, 6, pp. 575-592. ([odkaz](#))

PITOŇÁK, M. (2017). Mental health in non-heterosexuals: Minority stress theory and related explanation frameworks review. *Mental Health & Prevention*, 5, 63-73. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mhp.2016.10.002>

PITOŇÁK, M., SPILKOVÁ, J. (2016): Homophobic prejudice in Czech youth: a socio-demographic analysis of young people's opinions on homosexuality. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*, 13, 3, pp. 215-229 ISSN 1868-9884. DOI: [10.1007/s13178-015-0215-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s13178-015-0215-8) .

SPILKOVÁ, J., DZÚROVÁ, D., PITOŇÁK, M. (2014): Perception of neighborhood environment and health risk behaviors in Prague's teenagers: a pilot study in a post-communist city. *International Journal of Health Geographics* 2014, 13, n.41.

GABIAM, K., PITOŇÁK, M. (2014): Economic, cultural and social factors influencing the development of gay businesses and places: Evidence from the European Union. *Moravian Geographical Reports*, 22, č. 3, s. 2–17. ([odkaz](#))

PITOŇÁK, M. (2014): Urban spatiality in the context of (homo/hetero)sexuality: Introduction to a theoretical debate in geographies of sexualities. *Geogra?e*, 119, No. 2, pp. 179–198. ([odkaz](#))

PITOŇÁK, M. (2013): Spatiality, institutionalization and contextuality of heteronormativity: Study of non-heterosexual identity negotiation in Czechia. *Gender, Equal Opportunities, Research*, 14, 2, pp. 27-40. ([odkaz](#))

Book chapters

PITOŇÁK, M. (2023). „5: LGBT+ Activism and Morality Politics in Central and Eastern Europe: Understanding the Dynamic Equilibrium in Czechia from a Broader Transnational Perspective“. In *Activist Feminist Geographies*. Bristol, UK: Bristol University Press. Retrieved Sep 7, 2023, from <https://doi.org/10.51952/9781529225129.ch005>

PITOŇÁK, M. (2022). A Decade of Prague Pride: Mapping Origins, Seeking Meanings, Understanding Effects. In: Blidon, M., Brunn, S.D. (eds) *Mapping LGBTQ Spaces and Places*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-03792-4_25

PITOŇÁK, M. (2020). Strukturální základ menšinového stresu v Česku: Vztah mezi diskriminací, stigmatizací a zdravím neheterosexuálních a genderově rozmanitých lidí. In M. Šmíd (Ed.), *Právo na rovné zacházení: Deset let antidiskriminačního zákona* (pp. 263–282). Praha: Wolters Kluwer.

PITOŇÁK, M. (2020). Menšinový stres a duševní zdraví ne-heterosexuálních lidí. In K. Pavlica (Ed.), *Duhové rodiny v systému náhradní rodinné péče: Příručka pro pracovníky*pracovnice v oblasti sociálně-právní ochrany dětí* (pp. 29–43). Praha: Prague Pride.

PITOŇÁK, M. (2019). V sexuálním closetu / Geografie „ne-heterosexuálních lidí“. In R. Osman & L. Pospíšilová (Eds.), *Geografie „okrajem“: Každodenní časoprostorové zkušenosti* (pp. 147–182). Praha: Univerzita Karlova.

SPILKOVÁ, J., DZÚROVÁ, D., PITOŇÁK, M. (2015): Fyzické prostředí domova a školy: případová studie – Praha. In: Dzúrová, D., Csémy, L., Spilková, J., Lustigová, M., ed. *Zdravotně rizikové chování mládeže v Česku*. Praha: Státní zdravotní ústav, 2015, s. 72-84. ISBN: 978-80-7071-343-3.

PITOŇÁK, M. (2014): Queer space(s). In: MATOUŠEK, R. and OSMAN, R. (eds.): *Prostor(y) geografie*. Karolinum 123-146. ISBN: 978-80-246-2733-5.

Grants and research

CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC GRANT AGENCY PROJECT

? Project "LGBT+ identity as a developmental challenge in school settings: individual, social and institutional perspectives" (GAČR: 23-07934S; 2023 - 2025)

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR OF THE PROJECT EC JUSTICE JUST

? Rise up against anti-LGBTI hate crimes (RISE UP) project (2021-2022).

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR OF A RESEARCH PROJECT OF THE GRANT AGENCY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

? project "Minority stress of non-heterosexual people in the Czech Republic" (GAČR: 19-14801S; 2019 - 2022).

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT OF THE GRANT AGENCY OF THE CHARLES UNIVERSITY

? project "Queer geography: commodification, segregation and globalization of sexual identities in cities?"(2014 - 2015).

7th EU FRAMEWORK PROJECT SOPHIE? Research Associate and Associate Financial Project Administrator of the 7th Framework Project SOPHIE (Evaluating the Impact of Structural Policies on Health Inequalities and their Social Determinants, and Fostering Change) (2012 - 2015)

Selected lectures

Invited symposia / Invited symposia

- **International Congress of Psychology (ICP 2024)** - SOGIE Psychology in Central and Eastern Europe: From Marginalization to Resilience, Prague 2024.
- **International Congress of Psychology (ICP 2020)** - LGBTQ+ Psychology in Central and Eastern Europe

Keynote addresses / Keynote lectures

- **32nd Congress on Sexuality Education** - Mental Health of LGBTQ+ People in Czech and European Contexts
- **International Congress of Psychology (ICP 2024)** - Navigating LGBTQ+ mental health research in post-socialist contexts in Central and Eastern Europe, Prague 2024.
- **Support Networks** - Pride Business Forum Annual Conference, Prague 2024
- **University of Colorado at Boulder** - Queer Geographies: International Scholarship & Activism, presentation Contours of Resistance: LGBT+ Activism Amid Populism and Moral Politics in Central and Eastern Europe, Boulder, USA, March 2024
- **Taste of Equality - The Right Taste of Equality** - Pride Business Forum Annual Conference, lecture Is equality for LGBT+ in the Czech Republic a reality?, Prague 2023
- **G-VERSITY Summer School Prague** - Keynote address "The Intersectionality of Minority Stress, Health, and Well-being in Sexual and Gender Diverse PEOPLE" Prague 2023
- **VI. European Geographies of Sexuality Conference** - Dynamic Equilibrium of LGBT+ Activism in Central and Eastern Europe.

Invited presentations / Invited lectures

- **Central European Masculinities in Comparative Perspective: International Symposium** - Contours of Resistance: LGBT+ Activism, Masculinities and Moral Politics in Central and Eastern Europe, CEFRES Prague.
- **Rethinking Sexuality in Nordic and Post-Soviet Contexts.**

Foreign experience

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

- Short-term visit, guest lecturer, March 2024

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

- ERASMUS work placement, visiting researcher. Sheffield, UK, January - May, 2014.

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

- Short-term internship. Hanover, New Hampshire, USA, 2014.

STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY.

- ERASMUS study placement at master's level. Stockholm, January-June 2010.

Membership, voluntary positions

- Member of the Government Committee on the Rights of LGBTI+ People
- Member of the inter-ministerial Coordination Working Group of the National HIV/AIDS Programme for the National Programme to Address HIV/AIDS in the Czech Republic (since 2016)
- Member of the HIV/FTC expert group for HIV/AIDS prevention in the capital city of Prague
- Member of the Czech-Moravian Psychological Society, Founder and Head of the Section of Psychology of Gender, Sexual and Relationship Diversity (since 2018, 2023)
- Member of the international network The European MSM Internet Survey - EMIS network (since 2016)
- Representative of the Czech Republic for the Czech MSMPS The International Psychology Network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Issues (IPsyNet) (from 2023)
- Member of the Czech Geographical Society
- Member of the Global Pride Project - an international research network led from the University of Washington
- Member and Chair of Queer Geography
- Member of the EUPHA section on sexual and gender minority health (since 2018)

Awards

- The National Psychiatric Award of Professor Vladimír Vondráček in the category of science and research for a study on suicidal ideation among LGBT+ people in the Czech Republic (2024).
- Prof. Václav Příhoda Award for the best graduates of Charles University (2012)
- EUPHA (European Public Health Association) award for young scientists focused on sexual and gender minority health research.

Popularization

Contributions to [Seznam Medium](#)

Posts on [blog.respekt.cz](#)

Some texts on the [Queer Geography](#)