

**The announcement of the Jury's verdict in the Anselm Strauss's 2020 Competition
Section of Qualitative Sociology and Symbolic Interactionism
Polish Sociological Association**

The Jury decided by a majority verdict to award Katarzyna Kowal for the article entitled "Between Earth and Sky...Experience of Own Corporeality by People Practicing Body Suspension—Sociological Study." *Przegląd Socjologii Jakościowej*, vol. 14, no. 2, pp. 84-119. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.18778/1733-8069.14.2.04>

Available at:

http://www.qualitativesociologyreview.org/PL/Volume42/PSJ_14_2_Kowal_sp.pdf

Katarzyna Kalinowska earned an Honorable Mention for the book *Flirt and Pickup Practices. The Study of Microsociology of Emotions* (2018) Torun: The Nicolaus Copernicus University Press. ISBN 978-83-231-4089-4

Both publications are written in Polish.

**Between Earth and Sky...Experience of Own Corporeality by People Practicing Body
Suspension—Sociological Study**

ABSTRACT

The aim of the paper is to analyze the experience of the body of a person suspended by the skin from hooks, adopting the perspective of the subject as an embodied entity. The empirical basis for the paper is the author's own sociological research conducted in the group of 30 people practicing body suspension, the selection of whom had the character of purposive sampling, determined by at least two-time participation in this corporeal practice. Gathering and analyzing of the research material were subordinated to the procedures of grounded theory methodology, within the framework of which the technique of free-form guided interview was used. As the practice of body suspension takes place according to the specific order, the analysis of the empirical material has the form of discussion of the body experience at its six consecutive stages, four of which are strictly related to the act of body suspension itself, while the last two refer to body experience after the act of body suspension. In the practice of body suspension by the skin from hooks, the human body is experienced primarily as a source of pleasure, the achievement of which is determined by the prior experience of the body as a source of pain. Pain is an indispensable sensation here because it determines the dynamics of this corporeal practice. The suspended body is also regarded as an object of ownership, controlled by the subjects to a different extent, as a place of contact with one's own "ego," a tool of expression and communication, and, finally, as an object of aesthetic and hygienic care. In the analysis of the suspended body experience, consideration was given to the phenomenological perspective where the body is treated as a physical object, which is a body alive, sensitive, and emotional.

Keywords: body, corporeality, own body experience, phenomenology, body suspension, body modifications

Flirt and Pickup Practices. The Study of Microsociology of Emotions
(Praktyki flirtu i podryw. Studium z mikrosocjologii emocji)

SUMMARY

The book constitutes an explorative study of love emotions in the practice of flirts and *pick-ups*. The subject of analysis are affective phenomena in direct, intimate male-female interactions of romantic and erotic nature, taking place in social contexts. THE WORK'S EMPIRICAL OBJECTIVE was to characterize the emotional dimension of love-related practices which occur in the ludic environment of club parties and sanatoriums. The work's theoretical goal assumed a development of research on the basics of interaction in the humanistic paradigm of sociology, by including into the field of symbolic communication analysis – along with reflexive and routine processes – also actions resulting from bodily reactions, physiological excitations, and active mimicking. THE WORK'S METHODOLOGICAL GOAL was devising a research strategy which would define the rules of field conduct in socio-anthropological studies of emotions.

The work's empirical basis are field studies conducted in two types of social environments – in sanatoriums, among their patients, and during club parties, among the young people entertaining themselves. The study made use of such instruments as: ethnographic field stay, participant observation in the research model by shared experience, autoethnography, sociography, and a comprehensive interview with elements of a narrative thematic interview.

The part of the book which is devoted to methodological issues presents the research strategy which is sensitive to affection. It is profiled in a manner meant to grasp and define emotional phenomena in an ethical and effective way, grounding them in the theoretical language and describe in a form which would be close to everyday language. In the empirical field, the result of conducted studies is the description of constructing a framework and synchronizing flirting tactics in ludic contexts. The processes of synchronizing the subject's actions with the flirt's framework take place along four models. Two of them involve inclusion of practices into the climate of a club or a sanatorium. They are *pick-up strategies* and *affection transfer*. The two remaining ones – *untamed perception* and *“true” relations* – are based on balancing on the borders set by the framing process. The further part of the book presents the typology of emotional actions, which organizes various manners of emotions functioning in interactions. It entails four main ways of communicating by means of emotions: reactive behaviors, affective facts, emotional work, ritual behaviors.