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Masterstudium Soziologie

Forschungsprojekt Netzwerkanalyse

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Social network structures of drug addicts

Currently, 1.8 million people in Germany are addicted to alcohol and 600.000 people exhibit a critical use of illegal drugs.

This high number of drug-dependent people shows that these are not just a socially marginalized group.

Addiction often results in personal tragedies, which not only affect the individual but also the partner, children and other relatives.

This research project aims to investigate whether and to what extent an addiction disorder causes a change in the personal social network structure in the course of the addict's biography.

The current state of research answers this question only inadequately; for example, only cross-sectional surveys or quantitative procedures have been carried out to this point.

Social network analysis is a suitable method to capture the social embedding of people. In this work, the changes of the network structures are to be surveyed retrospectively by problem-centred narrative interviews, which are supplemented by network maps and name interpreters.

The research project is limited to addictions for substances such as alcohol and illegal psychotropic drugs. For every substance category, 2-3 persons from the Frankfurt / Mainz area are interviewed, finally these interviews are evaluated with the help of the Grounded Theory.