

## 1.5 Methods of Contextualising - Part 1 - Individual Statement (Translated to a letter medium to reflect the idea of our project)

Working on our set of stamps, we first started exploring the topic of queerness in the context of our own opinions and positions. Having an interesting discussion over the Tom Of Finland set of Finnish stamps from 2014 we inclined from our own personal positions to positions coming from our countries and cultures. Czech Republic, Thailand and China. Interestingly, there were distinct differences coming from the first discussion, talking about an amount of “progressiveness” (related to liberal opinions of young people in the 21st century) we were able to define three different levels. Czech Republic, Thailand in the middle and China on the opposite side. Interestingly, even though we are talking about two different continents, I can see China’s position reflected in the Communist era in my own country happening for fifty years in the last century with the censorship and limitation happening during these times.

To take our knowledge and positions further, and to be able to compare bits of history too, we have decided to work with archives and materials such as magazines, publications, photographs, articles, and movies to create a set of designs using stamps as a medium of authorised communication...Digging deeper through the Czech materials, I found myself comparing my general knowledge of Czech history to the lenses of queer communities. The way there were arising in the 30s, the way they were censored and punished during the war and communism era, and the way they have been raising again in the 90s and progressing with the beginning of the new century. Each article and photograph created a new thread getting connected the newly gained insights to my knowledge of the golden era, war, communism, freeing of our country, digitalisation...

Creating the stamp sheets, looking further through the materials from the first half of the last century until now is Interestingly raising a question of national narratives and individual narratives of a person coming from that nation. I appreciate my country in many ways, however, I am not a reflection of its general and represented positions.

