



## Conference Abstracts

### Symposia

#### 1st International Conference on LGBT Psychology and Related Fields – Coming out for LGBT Psychology in the current international scenario (Lisbon, Portugal, 20-22 June 2013)

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## Abstracts

Symposium:

### **Attitudes Towards Homosexuals, Their Romantic Relationships and Views on Same-sex Parenting**

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Like in many other European countries, Portugal is no exception regarding the common practice of expressing prejudiced attitudes and discriminatory behaviours towards homosexuals. Recent studies with Portuguese samples show high levels of negative attitudes towards LG people, a situation that calls the attention of politicians, decision makers, and practitioners, but also of the scientific and academic world. It is within this spirit of concern and scientific questioning and researching of this particular phenomenon that this symposium is anchored. In this sense, in the present symposium we aim at providing a general view about homophobia, same-sex romantic relationships and parenting in Portugal. In talk 1, Correia and Costa will focus on the variables pointed as predictors of attitudes towards homosexuals, and the role that beliefs play in constructing such attitudes. In talk 2, Lopes and Oliveira will focus more specifically on the prejudice against homosexuals, analysing the predictors of homophobia. This will provide a basis to understand the expected marginalization of homosexuals' romantic relationships, and the need to understand societal variables when analysing such relationships. Indeed, in talk 3 Rodrigues, Lopes, and Prada will focus on the comparison between co-habiting and non-cohabiting heterosexual and homosexual romantic relationships, in order to better understand their differences and overlaps. Still in this topic, in talk 4 Costa, Pereira, and Leal will focus on parenting and the similarities/differences regarding the variables that predict heterosexuals' and homosexuals' views on same-sex parenting. A general discussion will be carried out in order to open future avenues of research, and inform practitioners about efficacious practices that might help reduce this kind of prejudice.

## Attitudes Toward LGBT Persons: An Overview of the Main Attitudinal Predictors

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The aim of this presentation is to provide an overview of the research on psycho-socio-demographic predictors of prejudicial attitudes toward LGBT persons. Several psycho-socio-demographic predictors have been highlighted as having a strong influence in the way people think about and act toward LGBT persons. Being male, older, less educated, religious, and politically conservative, living in poorer countries or rural areas, and not having contact with LGBT persons were the strongest predictors. Moreover, believing that homosexuality has a social basis, or is a mental illness, also appears to be amongst the strongest predictors. Gender-roles and sex-roles beliefs seem to mediate the relationship between psycho-socio-demographic variables and negative attitudes.

## Determinants of Prejudice Against Homosexuals in Portugal: Homophobia, Polymorphous Prejudice and its Predictors

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A recent study showed that 70% of the Portuguese consider same-sex relationships condemnable. We analysed heterosexual Portuguese individuals' homophobia (N = 1220) and its predictors using Massey's polymorphous prejudice scale (PPS) and different sociodemographic, ideological and societal variables. Results from different hierarchical regressions show that ideological and societal level measures are better predictors of global polymorphous prejudice than sociodemographic measures. However, dimensions underlying the PPS are predicted by different arrangements of these same variables. Results are discussed in light of old and new models of prejudice against LGBT individuals.

## Investment Model in Single Homosexual and Heterosexual Romantic Relationships

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Homosexual romantic relationships tend to be socially and legally marginalized, and characterized by lower investments and commitment. As Portugal legally recognizes homosexual civil unions and marriage, we conducted a

correlational study and analysed this further. Results showed that, for homosexual relationships, co-habitation increased the experienced commitment, satisfaction and investments towards one's romantic partner and relationship, while no differences emerged in heterosexuals. Homosexuals also expressed higher quality among their potential alternatives. These results are analysed considering the Investment Model predictions and suggest the need to understand the specific norms associated with different types of romantic relationships.

### Funding

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## Heterosexuals' and Homosexuals' Views of Gay and Lesbian Parenting

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The purpose of this presentation is to compare two studies of attitudes toward gay and lesbian parenting, through structural equation modelling of attitudinal predictors. Results showed that heterosexual and homosexual people are looking through the same lenses, as the main predictors of attitudes toward gay and lesbian parenting were similar among heterosexuals and LGB people. However, some differences were found in that internalized homonegativity was one of the strongest predictors for LGB people. In contrast, contact with LGBT persons was one of the strongest predictors for heterosexuals. Implications of these findings will be discussed.

### Funding

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Symposium:

## Current Research on LGBT Bullying

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The schools are finally paying attention to children who are subjected to persistent bullying and harassment by their peers. Research from many countries demonstrates the effect of bullying upon children. It points to the effects of a rigid definition of masculinity as the standard upon which LGBT youth are punished. They are subjected to direct aggression such as beatings and/or humiliation on school property, or the subtler, but just as harmful effects of indirect bullying, such as spreading rumours or social isolation. Social networking sites and other forms of electronic communications now allow for “cyberbullying” and have changed the face of the bullying problem considerably. The boundary between school and home, so clear in previous generations has dissolved, so that the home is no longer a place of safety from harassment for LGBT youth, and with the aid of new electronic means, can be followed from school to home by their tormentors. There have been many studies that point to the physical and psychological harmfulness of these forms of bullying. Suicide is clearly the most pernicious, and sadly, middle-school children appear to be the most susceptible to suicidal ideation, followed by high school students. Depression and low self-esteem are the leading sequelae of persistent harassment of LGBT youth, in addition to poor academic performance and other negative psychological outcomes. Many of the new electronic systems that have created this fertile soil for harassing LGBT youth can also be used to help them. New techniques of telemental health can also be used to ameliorate the damage through counselling and aiding these children. This symposium aims to inform the attendees about the frequency of LGBT bullying, its causes, its short and long-term effects upon victims and bullies alike, and to suggest a means of dealing with victimization.

## Bullying, LGBT Youth and the Schools

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Recent research has distinguished between direct and indirect aggression in bullying school children. We already know that persistent bullying causes short and long-term psychological harm. A further question is whether bullying during the school years leads to violence in adulthood against both men and women. These problems have led to the formulation of new laws to protect children in the United States and hence, to considerable litigation against school systems that do not do so. Undetermined at this time is the extent to which the schools have liability for the off campus behaviours of its students.

## Cyberbullying in the Schools

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Over 81% of LGBT youth have been physically or verbally bullied. The digital age has provided a new manner in which bullying is enacted. Cyberbullying - sending threatening email or text messages, posting disparaging comments, videos, or photos about someone on a social networking site, webpage, or blog - has significant psychosocial sequelae. Victims can suffer anxiety, depression, chronic illness, eating disorders, violence toward others, and suicidal ideation. This threatening behaviour has led to violations of federal and state regulations and police involvement for the perpetrators. This presentation synthesizes academic findings on the risk factors, outcomes, and gender differences in cyberbullying.

## Bullying, Mental Health Issues, and Suicide Among LGBT Youth

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"Bullycide" describes a youth who dies by suicide related to bullying. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among teens; bully victims are 2-9 times more likely to consider suicide than non-victims. The second reason youth report being bullied is their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender expression. Bullying causes LGBT youth to live in fear of being the victims of rumours, insults, terror, and abuse; the only way they can escape them is by taking their lives. This presentation will focus the links between bullying and suicide, understanding the warning signs of bullycide, and its prevention.

## Telemental Health and Bullying

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Organizations in the United States such as the Trevor Project, Born This Way Foundation, and the Institute for Human Identity are rising to meet the needs of LGBT digital natives who are experiencing bullying. Video chat, online communities, and avatar-based environments provide unprecedented access to support. They remove barriers such as distance, restrictive therapy times, and limited LGBT cultural competence. However, when providing psychological services through electronic means, legal and ethical issues must be considered. The

present discussion will cover licensing implications for providers; how to verify age and identity and obtain consent remotely; and emergency/crisis intervention.

Symposium:

## Health and Rehabilitation Issues in LGBTI Psychology

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Lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual, and Intersex (LGBTI) individuals have special health and rehabilitation needs. Research in this area suggests that compared to heterosexuals, LGBTI individuals are more exposed to stigma, have higher risk to develop psychoactive substance consumption, and show elevated risk of suicide. While mental health organizations agree that lesbian, gay, and bisexual orientations are normal trajectories of human sexual development, ethical guidelines have been developed against “therapies attempting to change sexual orientation”, also known as reparative or conversion therapies. In this world scenario, sexuality and its place in health and rehabilitation in LGBTI individuals deserves further consideration. The development of public policies based on empirical findings obtained from LGBTI populations, taking into account cultural, geographical, and economic aspects, must also include training and sensitization of health and rehabilitation professionals. To address health and rehabilitation issues in LGBTI psychology, the three papers of this symposium present different situations in which health and well-being can be affected: (1) sexual orientation and disclosure in relation to biopsychosocial stress, (2) the narratives of men who have sex with men (MSM) and its relationship with the problematic use of psychoactive substances, and finally (3) the role of sexual rehabilitation in LGBTI survivors of traumatic brain injury.

## Sexual Orientation and Disclosure in Relation to Biopsychosocial Stress

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Coming out of the closet is one of the most significant stressors in the lives of lesbians, gays, and bisexuals (LGBs). This interdisciplinary study assessed whether psychiatric symptoms, stress hormone profiles, and physiological dysregulations would differ for a) LGBs versus heterosexuals and b) disclosed LGBs versus nondisclosed LGBs. Among 87 participants, LGBs did not manifest more stress-related problems than did heterosexuals. Disclosing to one's family and friends was protective against psychopathologies and hyperactive stress hormone profiles. By contrast, maladaptive coping strategies adversely affected biopsychosocial distress. Our novel findings underline the roles disclosure processes have on positive health and well-being.

## Funding

Grant (222055) from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to S.J.L. who holds a Senior Investigator Chair on Gender and Mental Health from the Canadian Institute of Gender and Health (GSC 91039). P.J. held a Doctoral scholarship from the Institute of Aging of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (SIA 95402).

## Why not Build on Personal Experiences for the Development of Harm-Reduction Programs for MSM?

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Our objective was to describe the links between psychoactive substance (PS) use and sexuality among gay/bisexual men and to identify prevention methods they use. A qualitative study was carried out. We conducted in-depth interviews with 16 gay/bisexual men reporting problematic PS use. A thematic analysis was conducted. All participants described periods of compulsive and heavy PS use in the context of sexuality. Most have taken steps to reduce the risks associated with these practices: 1) to obtain information in order to avoid/reduce PS misuse consequences 2) to modify/adapt their sexual practices; 3) to adopt rules to control PS use.

## Funding

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (doctoral scholarship)

## A Biopsychosocial Model of Sexuality After Traumatic Brain Injury: Disability and Sexual Diversity Considerations in Rehabilitation

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Sexuality is often neglected in the rehabilitation process in patients with chronic disease or physical handicaps. Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is an example of disability associated with cognitive, emotional, and functional sequelae that impact sexuality. For health care providers, lack of training on sexuality, disability, TBI, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) issues constitute part of the gap leading to incomplete assessment, education, examination or treatment. Stigma, sexual prejudice, and homonegativity are still present in many cultures and environments, including healthcare. A biopsychosocial approach to address sexuality in TBI survivors is proposed, including sexual diversity considerations.

Symposium:

## **Lesbian and Gay Parent Families Navigating Heteronormativity: International, Interdisciplinary and Multimethodological Approaches**

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Comparative research has mainly provided evidence of similarities between heterosexual and lesbian and gay parent families. However, the latter face specific challenges as they must contend with heteronormativity. Prejudice and discrimination remain in the general population, as well as in sectors that are supposed to promote the welfare of children, youth, and adults. This symposium aims to analyse how prejudice towards lesbian and gay parent families is still apparent in different social domains, which factors underlie this type of prejudice, and how social and legal changes can promote these families' wellbeing. This theme will be explored using different perspectives (academia and activism), theoretical frameworks (psychology and anthropology), and research methodologies (quantitative and qualitative). The responsibility of institutions and professionals in promoting the wellbeing and eliminating discrimination against LGBT-headed families is highlighted. Results of a quantitative study about attitudes towards lesbian and gay headed families, evidenced in a sample of Portuguese future professionals of the social network will be presented. In the same line, a qualitative study conducted in Mexico will depict a group of psychologists' negative assumptions about homosexuality and lesbian and gay parents. The positive effect of legislative changes (same-sex-marriage) on lesbian and gay headed families' wellbeing will be evidenced by a quantitative research conducted in Spain. A Portuguese LGBT rights organization will highlight the beneficial role of diversity ethics in schools. Finally, individual contributions will be integrated by the discussant.

## **What Matters to Attitudes Towards Lesbian and Gay Parenting?**

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Using a quasi-experiment, factors underlying negative attitudes towards the parental competence of lesbians and gay men and the development of their children were explored in a Portuguese sample of future professionals from areas such as psychology, medicine or teaching ( $n = 1,288$ ). The role of negative attitudes towards lesbians and gay men was especially evident. A consensus regarding the possibility of social discrimination of a child adopted by non-heterosexual parents was also apparent. These results contributed to a better understanding of the factors underlying prejudice and discrimination still observed against lesbians and gay men, particularly with respect to their parental rights.

## Psychologists in Mexico Working with GL People and Families

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We will show the results of the qualitative analysis of ten interviews with psychologists in Mexico who have worked with gay or lesbian families and couples. We wanted to know what are the current assumptions held by psychologists in their professional work with GL people or families in clinics, schools or adoption agencies. Psychologists are still linking homosexuality to different kinds of pathology such as perversion, promiscuity, identity problems or the strong belief that gay men and lesbians shouldn't have children. These assumptions do not enhance the health of these families and represent our major challenge as psychology professionals.

## Legislative Changes, Social Acceptance and Psychological Wellbeing in Lesbian and Gay Families in Spain

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In Spain, same-sex marriage was passed in 2005. To analyse the influence of the law in Spanish families, we interviewed 66 families headed by lesbian (48) and gay couples (18), who had been together since at least 2004, and had minor children in common. Perceived family wellbeing, degree of outing, and perceived social acceptance before and after the approval of marriage were evaluated. Results indicated that the three measures showed a significant increase after the legislative change, and that they were significantly correlated. These data are consistent with those obtained in other countries where same-sex couples have different legal status.

## Schools can be Rainbows too: Education and Family Diversity as we see it

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Despite the fact that many years of scientific research showed that it is families' dynamics - not their structure - that determines children's well-being, prejudice towards rainbow families is still strong. As an LGBT association with a deep commitment towards equality, ILGA Portugal contributes to end discrimination in our society. Prejudice hurts children, families and entire school communities. How to increase openness and trust rather than ignorance and suspicion? How to ensure that our children are safe at schools? The answers to these questions have been guiding our action. Why? Because a rainbow school is a better school for every child.

Symposium:

## **LGBT Rights in Russia: Recent Activism and Current Backlash**

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The symposium will address post-perestroika research with interviews of individual LGBTs in Russia; there will be a report on the Moscow LGBT Archives, its work, activism and current status. A discussion will be led on the current status of LGBT rights. The Russian government has passed a law, additionally passed in several cities. A federal law in Russia has made it illegal to “promote homosexuality among minors” and therefore any kind of LGBT “propaganda.” This law can be interpreted loosely, of course, and used for severe repression of rights. This governmental onslaught on the LGBT population is very connected with the recent imprisonment of feminist activists Pussy Riot. This backlash in human rights deeply affects LGBT rights in other countries as well, such as the Ukraine. The symposium will show that the gains of LGBT rights during the 1990s and early 2000s are suffering a backlash today, and that this is a human rights issue. Presentations will include reports, research, and video interviews.

## **Overview and Recent History of Queer Rights and Activism in Russia**

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Along with the tremendous surge of connection with the West after Perestroika, LGBTs in Russia experienced hope and openness that there may be a place for their struggles with sexual identity. The interviews and activism during the 90s showed a growing confidence and development of LGBT culture. The recent backlash is very much connected with a general attack on human rights in Russia: the rights of immigrants, minorities, and women. A new law has been instated outlawing “gay propaganda,” which can be interpreted loosely.



## Moscow LGBT Archives and Human Rights in Russia

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The Moscow LGBT Archive has been in existence since the late 1990s. Accessible on a regular basis and also by appointment, the Archives have been a source of important research on the history and current problems of the LGBT community in Russia. It is also a centre for discussion and activism. The current situation will be discussed.

## Interviews With Russian LGBT Activists

*Annica Karlsson Rixon*<sup>a</sup>, *Anna Viola Hallberg*<sup>a</sup>, *Sonja Franeta*<sup>b</sup>

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Karlsson Rixon & Hallberg are based in Sweden and collaborate as artists and curators. In addition, they both have independent careers as artists, curators, educators and lecturers. Issues of community and group identity are central in their projects. With Franeta, they wish to continue to work with the archive to bring out more of the LGBTQ history of Russia. Together about 50 film and audio interviews are from different cities: Moscow, St. Petersburg, Tomsk, Krasnoyarsk, Novosibirsk, and others. Excerpts of interviews will be shown and activism discussed.

Symposium:

## **“Que Sombras Esconde (Ainda) o Arco-Íris?": Identidades LGBT e Interseccionalidade**

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A intenção histórica de atenção plural às identidades LGBT que pauta a psicologia afirmativa permanece merecedora da reivindicação de ampliar e inscrever mais radicalmente essa pluralização. Se os estudos dedicados à análise dos processos de construção psicológica das identidades sexuais e de género não heteronormativas permanecem como referência fundamental para a compreensão das expressões identitárias abrangidas pela designação “LGBT”, é também verdade que formas mais complexas de construção identitária devem ser alvo de compromisso heurístico e metodológico presente e futuro por parte daqueles estudos. Partindo de uma vontade de contemplação de ontologias outras, que não as que têm sido encerradas numa conceção linear e unívoca (e por isso ingénua) das identidades que se furtam às normas sexuais e de género, este simpósio explora diferentes modos de subjetivação e diferentes arenas de experiência destas identidades. Assim, as comunicações aqui apresentadas, unidas pelos contributos da teoria da interseccionalidade, tematizam as “sombras” que o metafórico arco-íris ainda esconde, explorando formas sobrepostas de exclusão que recaem sobre as “diferenças na diferença”. Corpos, sexualidades, trabalho sexual, trajetos transexuais ou atitudes preconceituosas face à adoção por pessoas não heterossexuais dão mote aos trabalhos apresentados e à discussão que os mesmos visam promover. Em jeito integrativo, é apresentada uma proposta sinóptica sobre as promessas da teoria da interseccionalidade para “retirar da sombra” identidades ainda olhadas como “outras”, no esforço de estreitamento das distâncias entre a investigação psicológica e os sujeitos que lhe dão corpo, com o intuito de contribuir para uma redução das formas de invisibilização das realidades LGBTQ.

### **Funding**

FCT (referência: SFRH / BPD / 68661 / 2010).

## **Transexualidades: Corpos em Crise**

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Esta comunicação terá como objetivo analisar os Trajetos de Vida Transexuais que estão relacionados com processos de mudança física de sexo, e conhecer as respostas clínicas da Psicologia e a sua relação com o

enquadramento legal da transexualidade. Para além disso, pretende-se discutir a partir da teoria da interseccionalidade, o impacto da classe social nas condições de vida dos/as transexuais. Esta comunicação contribuirá para ampliar a discussão sobre transexualidades, promovendo abordagens comprometidas com os valores de justiça social, de igualdade e de inclusão dos/as transexuais, nomeadamente, o acesso efetivo aos cuidados de saúde e a não discriminação da sua condição.

### Funding

FCT (referência: SFRH / BD / 79764/2011).

## Trabalho Sexual, Sexo, Orientação Sexual e Identidade de Género: Sistemas de Opressão Entrecruzados

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O trabalho sexual e as pessoas que o praticam têm sido alvo de estigmatização, exclusão e discriminação. Se, além de trabalhadoras do sexo, estas pessoas forem simultaneamente homens ou transexuais e homossexuais os mecanismos opressivos multiplicam-se e reforçam-se. Assim, ser homem ou transexual e homossexual prostituto(a) acarreta uma dupla ou tripla estigmatização acentuando os mecanismos de exclusão e discriminação. Nesta comunicação, discutiremos estes entrecruzamentos das pertenças identitárias e das diferentes opressões de que são alvo os trabalhadores do sexo masculinos ou transexuais e apresentaremos alguns dados de uma investigação efetuada com prostitutas de apartamento em Lisboa.

## Atitudes Face à Adoção por Pessoas não Heterossexuais: Uma Abordagem Interseccional

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Analisa-se em que medida as atitudes face à homoparentalidade, de um conjunto de futuros profissionais da rede social ( $n = 1,288$ ), variam em função: (1) da orientação sexual e (2) do estatuto conjugal dos/as adotantes, e (3) do género da criança adotada. Esta abordagem interseccional do preconceito é particularmente relevante no contexto português, no qual pessoas solteiras se podem apresentar como candidatas à adoção (independentemente da sua orientação sexual), mas não os casais de pessoas do mesmo sexo. Dadas as representações preconceituosas que associam, por exemplo, a homossexualidade masculina à pedofilia, a influência do género da criança é também analisada.

## Psicologia LGBT e (re)Conhecimento das Intersecções Identitárias

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A noção de cidadania sexual tem sido alvo de contestações teóricas que versam o carácter normalizador que frequentemente a caracteriza (também) a respeito das identidades LGBTQ. Esta comunicação reclama o repensar de possibilidades de construção dos trajetos coletivos e subjetivos das identidades sexuais e de género marcadas como não normativas, sob a ótica da teoria da interseccionalidade. Clarificando algumas das implicações conceituais desta teoria para a ampliação dos intuitos emancipatórios da psicologia LGBT, serão também propostas reflexões sobre as potencialidades das abordagens interseccionais para o entrave à perpetuação do silenciamento das diferenças no campo da diversidade humana.

Symposium:

## Queering Psychology

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By no means is queer theory an all-encompassing notion covering whatever can seek shelter under the rainbow-colored umbrella of LGBT issues. Rather than being a synonym of LGBT, queer theory has been providing extremely insightful approaches of such issues, which have expanded to all fields of the social and human sciences and particularly to psychology. However, its scope and productiveness has yet to be fully understood in academe. The “Queering Psychology” Symposium purports to shed a critical light on commonly unexamined (in scholarship as well as in LGBT politics) notions concerning the contemporary social experience of sexual diversity, sexual subjectivities, sexual orientation, same-sex marriage. A critically queer approach of the gap between progressive legislation advances (such as same-sex marriage laws) and prevailing social practices that are not countered either by active anti-discriminatory policies or effective cultural and social change, is capable of yielding a foresight on the present and future evolution of LGBT communities and associations. At a more theoretical level, a critically queer approach provides an insightful scrutiny of the unnoticed indebtedness, to the essentialist and binarist construction of homosexuality, of widely prevailing notions and categories in LGBT studies, as well as in the social and human sciences, psychology included, in their “irritable encounter” with sexuality. Categories and notions such as sexual orientation, psychosexual development, sexual identity and sexual subjectivity, homophobia, heteronormativity, are often used in psychological analysis and research without a thorough scrutiny of their epistemic function in both academic and political discourse that might prevent them from leading to equivocal and self-defeating conclusions.

## Queering Sexual Orientation, or: What Does it Mean to Orient Oneself in Sexuality?

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From a critically queer standpoint, the forging of the category of “sexual orientation”, in spite of its non-discriminatory aims, did not succeed in overcoming the binary, hierarchical opposition between homosexuality and heterosexuality. The psychological approach to sexual orientation did not break away with the etiological quest for the origins or the causes of same-sex drive that is foundational in the biomedical construction of homosexuality. In

fact, the category of orientation ultimately rests on a subtle essentializing of the object of sexual drive that cannot avoid evolving inside the circular ruins of the freedom-determinism dialectics.

## Between Laws and Social Practices: Que(e)rying Same-sex Marriage in Portugal

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Recent research has highlighted the gap between progressive legislation advances and social practices, in the case of the LGBT population. Although such gaps are not surprising, they constitute a first step of a critique to the belief on social change based only in laws in liberal democracies with neoliberal economics, such as Portugal. Using the concept of homonormativity, we will extend this critique to the: a) lack of recognition of intersectionality and inequalities within this population, b) absence of public policies against heterosexism and discrimination, c) disavowal of subject formation processes and d) violence of gender norms.

## An Irritable Encounter: Psychology and Sexual Diversity in Contemporary Societies

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Psychology and sexuality are two important discourses that have had an important relation. This became an irritable encounter since the contemporary queer perspective of sexuality and bodies started questioning the main principle of the scientific discourse of psychology about sexuality and “normality” essentialism. One can look back at the history of this irritable encounter to understand how the contemporary social experience of sexual diversity as a legitimate experience can question and interpolate psychology as a science. Such encounter can change psychological knowledge from its mainstream postulates about sexuality and normality to a new understanding about subjects, sexuality and norms.

## Against Theisms in LGBT Psychology: For a Queerization of Developmental Imaginaries

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Queer theory represents a privileged epistemic alternative to developmental perspectives in the field of LGBT studies. Nevertheless, and in virtue of “fears of queer planets” (namely, by some self-denominated queer researchers), the deconstruction of an essentialist and lineal ontology of sexual subjectivities is still incipient. In this paper, we address the “developmentalisms”, the “orientationalisms” and the “closeted epistemologies” in psychology as dangerous obstacles to the emancipation of LGBTQ self-fashioned ways of living. In so doing, we claim for a necessary dissemination of academics’ coming out from its own closets as the unique way to actually understand and celebrate human diversity.

Symposium:

## **Sexualidade, Política e Psicologia: Debates Atuais no Enfrentamento às Hierarquias Sexuais no Brasil**

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Na última década observou-se no Brasil um debate significativo demandando políticas públicas voltadas para o acolhimento da população LGBT (Lésbicas, Gays, Bissexuais, Travestis e Transexuais), associadas principalmente à saúde, à assistência social, à educação e aos direitos humanos. A organização da sociedade civil em torno das questões da sexualidade tem promovido uma relação complexa e paradoxal com a política. Se por um lado essa relação tem efetivado algumas políticas públicas e promovido direitos para a população LGBT, por outro, tem promovido a assimilação de forças políticas por parte do Estado, provocando uma baixa densidade democrática e neutralização de conflitos. A participação da psicologia tem sido bastante efetiva nesse debate, mesmo que cerceada por questões como: a desfasagem da formação dos profissionais psi em relação aos estudos sobre a diversidade sexual, as visões restritivas e acríticas sobre as subjetividades, a visão psicologizante para as questões de gênero/sexualidade, dentre outros. Esta mesa, partindo de diferentes olhares, discutirá atravessamentos entre sexualidade e política a partir de diferentes experiências e contextos de pesquisa. Tomaremos como objeto de reflexão as formas de sociabilidades cotidianas que interpelam marcadores políticos identitários, a organização de políticas públicas e o papel da psicologia nesse cenário, além da dinâmica política da relação entre a população LGBT com o Estado nacional na contemporaneidade. Os paradoxos da relação intrínseca entre sexualidade, política e psicologia serão tomados como eixos articuladores para pensar os dilemas atuais dos embates políticos no campo das hierarquias sexuais no Brasil.

## **Entre Sussurros e Gemidos: Transando Reflexões Sobre Epistemologia e Psicologia Entre Corpos, Sexualidades, Gêneros, Etnias, Gerações...**

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A Psicologia vem sendo interpelada a revisões éticas sobre a sua constituição e participação na produção das epistemologias do mundo contemporâneo. Enquanto campo de saber Moderno, signatária da biopolítica e amante do dispositivo da sexualidade, suas concepções e práticas agonizam na emergência política e cultural da democracia sexual. Este trabalho é baseado numa sistematização de elementos sobre as emergências políticas



envolvendo o trabalho psicológico na produção de respostas às violações de direitos nas tramas do heteros/ex-ismo, bem como sobre práticas contestatórias na experimentação da sexualidade. Inspirado em posições discursivo-desconstrucionistas e desde a articulação dos saberes-práticas produzidas na experiência das minorias sexuais e de gênero, conjecturamos análises contexto-dependentes sobre os desafios para a/s Psicologia/s brasileira/s.

## **Igualdade e Diferença: Gestão de Identidades e Constituição de Fronteiras Políticas**

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Serão abordados alguns usos que são feitos das diferenças identitárias que marcam as interações sociais entre atores situados nas fronteiras que separam Estado e sociedade civil. Analisamos entrevistas com militantes LGBT que ocuparam cargos públicos em órgãos governamentais. Nomeamos de diferencialismo identitário o discurso sobre as diferenças presente no campo de identificações que posiciona os atores na arena política, engendrando determinadas negociações e estratégias políticas. A mecânica deste discurso ofereceu instrumentos para a análise das interações sociais dos atores coletivos nos espaços institucionais de participação e as formas que o político vem imprimindo no fazer coletivo dos movimentos LGBT.

## **A Psicologia e as Travestilidades: Entre o Desconhecido e uma Racionalidade Normativa**

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A psicologia estabeleceu-se como uma das ciências e especificidades sobre as sexualidades. No século XX institucionaliza-se um conhecimento psicológico normativo sobre as condutas sexuais e as ideologias de gênero. O conhecimento da experiência das travestilidades por parte da Psicologia produziu um conteúdo axiológico e patológico das fronteiras normativas em relação às posições de gênero e sexuais. A partir de dados da realidade brasileira e do conceito de normas sociais pretende-se abordar a relação do conhecimento psicológico com as travestilidades evidenciando o paradoxo em que nos encontramos entre uma experiência desconhecida e uma racionalidade normativa e patológica que podem ser elementos fundantes de uma psicologia crítica e democrática das experiências das fronteiras de gênero e sexualidades.

# Para Além da “Cidadania Cirúrgica”: Psicologia e Política nas Regulações das Experiências Trans

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Atualmente no Brasil, duas das principais demandas do movimento de travestis e transexuais (alteração de nome e sexo no registro civil e o acesso ao processo transexualizador no SUS) são mediadas por profissionais da psicologia. Ao mesmo tempo, presenciamos uma cena política na qual a campanha pela despatologização das identidades trans é protagonizada por instituições e profissionais da psicologia brasileira e praticamente negligenciada por grande parte do movimento de travestis e transexuais. A partir de observações tanto do ativismo de psicólogos/as quanto de pessoas trans, analiso os paradoxos e potencialidades de cidadania e acesso a direitos em um processo marcado por entraves relacionados com autonomia, emancipação e tutelas de sujeitos subalternizados.

Symposium:

## **Simposio Identidades e Afetos I**

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Neste simpósio pretendemos refletir sobre o género, o seu desenvolvimento e as novas questões e referências que hoje se colocam do ponto de vista psicodinâmico. Sabemos que inicialmente a anatomia era a referência príncipe em torno da qual decorria a organização do género, da identidade e da escolha do objeto amoroso. Hoje, a maioria dos autores de orientação psicodinâmica defendem que o género se organiza exclusivamente a partir do cultural e independentemente da anatomia. Na evolução que entretanto se verificou tiveram uma grande importância os movimentos feministas e principalmente as psicanalistas que encararam a mulher e a sua anatomia diferentemente. Longe vão os tempos em que a mulher era o continente negro e insondável o seu desejo. Hoje sabemos que insondável é o ser humano, que não pára de nos questionar e surpreender na sua evolução permanente, que envereda por caminhos que anteriormente não prevíamos. Mulheres e homens assumem hoje diferentes papéis relativos, a família e a dinâmica familiar alteraram-se e a permanente interação entre o sujeito psicológico e o contexto social, assim como entre o contexto social e o sujeito psicológico mudaram e com isso também as representações e a organização dinâmica do género. A influência do discurso etnológico e das suas metodologias, assim como a própria evolução da teoria e da clínica psicanalítica, conduziram a novos modos de olhar, ouvir, e de questionar o género, sempre com a preocupação da compreensão em profundidade. Refletiremos sobre estas teorias e questões nunca perdendo de vista o sujeito da escuta clínica que vive, evolui e se transforma no seu contexto de vida.

## **Teorias Actuais sobre o Género**

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É nosso objetivo mostrar e refletir sobre as mais recentes concepções psicodinâmicas relativas ao género. Tem havido uma grande mudança nos conceitos teóricos, partindo normalmente do estudo de material clínico e evidenciando uma procura de compreensão em profundidade. O trabalho realizado com homens e mulheres, em diversos contextos sociais e de vida, tende a partir das suas próprias circunstâncias. Salienta-se que os atuais paradigmas a partir dos quais se olha o género são mais abertos e questionantes.

## Quando me Senti Homossexual

*Alexandra Silvestre Coimbra<sup>a</sup>, Elisabete Miranda<sup>a</sup>, Ângela Vila-Real<sup>a</sup>*

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No âmbito de um estudo qualitativo, explorámos a percepção da orientação sexual em cinco mulheres, com idades compreendidas entre os 37 e os 44 anos. A realização de entrevistas semi-diretivas, permitiu-nos obter narrativas de vida e aceder às vivências do ponto de vista do sujeito. A análise das entrevistas, baseada na "Free Association Narrative Interview, de inspiração psicodinâmica, teve o objetivo de aceder ao seu significado latente e compreender o posicionamento subjetivo em cada narrativa individual. Constatámos haver uma diversidade de percursos e dinâmicas psíquicas, não havendo uma única via reconhecível ou consistente que tenha levado à orientação homossexual.

## Clandestinidade: Às Vezes Mentir é Chorar ao Contrário

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Pretendemos refletir acerca das implicações da clandestinidade no desenvolvimento psicológico e na vivência relacional de quem, de alguma forma, se sente ou é forçado a praticá-la. Referimo-nos àquela a que, por vezes (interna ou externamente) a homossexualidade obriga. Falamos na existência de um mundo apenas vivido em "silêncio" e na relação interna desse silêncio consigo mesmo e com os outros. Na dinâmica intra e intersubjetiva que se joga a cada momento, mentir/ocultar surge como capa protetora, real ou imaginária, para subsistir no mundo que se conhece.

Symposium:

## **Simposio Identidades e Afetos II**

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Neste simpósio pretendemos refletir em torno do género e do modo como ele evolui ao longo da vida. Algumas destas questões são já antigas e foram abordadas no primeiro simpósio por nós organizado. Sublinhámos como as anteriores teorias se organizavam a partir do corpo como elemento fundador do género, da identidade e da escolha do objeto amoroso. No homem era sobretudo salientada a organização fálica como símbolo sexual e de poder, mas também de constrangimento. Recentemente, a maioria dos autores de orientação psicodinâmica considera o género como sendo determinado culturalmente. A centralidade da anatomia, parecendo ter perdido a importância que anteriormente tinha, voltou a recolocar-se. Nos trabalhos que se apresentam a este simpósio, vemos que esta questão não está encerrada e que pode ser importante como organizadora ou como fonte de angústia e perturbação.

## **Masculinidades: Psicanálise e Homossexualidade Masculina**

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A homossexualidade é uma expressão verdadeira da sexualidade humana e não do amor dos corpos sexuais em exclusividade. Sabemos pouco sobre a origem e desenvolvimento da orientação sexual, pelo que necessitamos de novas teorias. É útil considerar que a orientação sexual e a saúde mental são dimensões independentes. A orientação sexual nada nos diz sobre a saúde psicológica, maturidade, carácter, conflitos internos, relações de objeto e integridade de uma pessoa. As técnicas psicoterapêuticas não podem ter como propósito “converter” a orientação sexual numa pessoa e muitas vezes resultam numa dor psicológica por reforçarem a internalização perniciosa das atitudes homofóbicas.

## Perceção da Orientação Sexual: Que Implicações?

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O presente trabalho enquadra-se numa investigação qualitativa que tem como principal objetivo, através de uma análise de sete entrevistas semi-diretivas de sujeitos homossexuais do sexo masculino, com idades compreendidas entre os 20 e os 30 anos de idade, perceber como estes percecionam a própria orientação sexual. Analisando as narrativas de cada um, tentamos compreender o trabalho psíquico dos sujeitos na (re)construção da sua própria identidade a par com a perceção da orientação sexual. A análise das entrevistas foi baseada na “Free Association Narrative Interview”, de inspiração psicanalítica. Concluímos poder distinguir vários tipos de dinâmicas na homossexualidade masculina.

## Travesti: A Construção do ser...

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O nosso estudo pretende contribuir para a compreensão do que é ser travesti prostituta, enquanto indivíduos pertencentes ao grupo dos transgéneros que opera no mercado do sexo. O nosso objeto foi de um grupo de 20 travestis que se prostituem em Lisboa. A investigação consistiu em tentar demonstrar que as travestis apresentam características de género próprias e as representam nas suas subjetividades. Optámos por uma orientação etno-metodológica, onde o investigador é o principal instrumento de trabalho através da observação participante e não participante, dando oportunidade aos atores sociais de determinarem o desenrolar da ação.

Symposium:

## **Social Prejudice, Homonegativity, and Exclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean**

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Homonegativity and sexual prejudice are terms commonly used in the literature regarding negative attitudes towards lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual, and Intersex (LGBTI) individuals. Homonegativity is a term used to describe negative cognitive, affective, and behavioural reactions to homosexuality. In addition, sexual prejudice includes damaging attitudes toward LGBTI individuals. Although mental health professional organizations worldwide conclude that lesbian, gay and bisexual orientations are normal manifestations and variants of human sexuality, negative attitudes toward LGBTI individuals are still prevalent in many countries and cultures. In Latin America, ignoring LGBTI's needs in public policies targeting specific groups (e.g. internally displaced individuals) can lead to social exclusion of highly vulnerable people, and place them at risk of negative health and psychosocial outcomes. Research has identified religiousness, conservativeness, and lack of past experience of interpersonal contact with gays and lesbians as important variables associated with homonegativity. The three of them are present in Latino culture and it may explain that, to a certain extent, homonegativity is expected in this context. Then, identifying negative attitudes and obstacles to social integration of LGBTI individuals into the general community, and promoting inclusion are key issues to reduce homonegativity in Latin America. To capture the spectrum of homonegativity, social/sexual prejudice, and exclusion, the three papers of this symposium present the trajectories of internally displaced gay, bisexual, and transgender Colombian individuals, report events of discrimination in the context of the request of services from government agencies in Puerto Rico, and the psychometric properties of a Spanish version of a widely used homonegativity scale in Colombia.

## **Internally Displaced Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals in Colombia: Invisibility and Social Exclusion**

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This presentation reports findings from a study that examined trajectories of internally displaced gay, bisexual, and transgender Colombian individuals. We conducted 19 key informant interviews and 42 life history interviews of displaced GBT people living in Bogotá. Data were transcribed, coded, and analysed using NVivo software. In-

ternally displaced gay and bisexual men were largely invisible from efforts targeting the general population. Transgender individuals were easier to identify by key informants. Internal conflict, poverty, and homonegativity were largely responsible for internal displacement. Both sexual orientation and displaced status are stigmatizing and increase social exclusion at multiple levels and need to be addressed.

## Perception of Social Exclusion in a Sample of the Puerto Rican LGBT Population

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This presentation discusses a survey exploring the perception of LGBT population in governmental agencies in Puerto Rico (PR) specifically, police force, local courts, and family services, funded by the PR Commission of Civil Rights. A sample of 929 LGBT participants included 52% males, 46% women, and 2% transsexuals. Most participants reported events of discrimination when requesting government services. Being Puerto Rico a territory of the United States of America with strong influence from USA culture, we discuss the implications for quality of life and social integration of LGBT communities, and repercussion of President Obama's positions towards LGBT communities.

## Psychometric Analysis of the Attitudes Towards Lesbians and Gay men (ATLG) Scale in Colombia

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The empirical study of homonegativity permits to understand the reason of their prevalence and how to change them. To examine the psychometric properties of a Spanish version of the Attitudes Toward Lesbians and Gay Men (ATLG) scale, a total of 359 undergraduate students were recruited from two cities in Colombia. Homonegativity was assessed using the ATLG Scale and the Homophobia Scale; anxiety was measured with a short version of the Zung Anxiety Scale. Results indicate that the ATLG scale is a valid and reliable measure of homonegativity in the Colombian context and support its continued use as a research instrument.



Symposium:

## **Trans Matters Beyond Depathologization: Critical Psychological Perspectives**

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Debates about the depathologization of transsexualism and transgenderism have become increasingly important in light of the changes being made to the classification of gender identity disorders on the DSM-5. Nevertheless, psychiatry is not the only institution implicated in these practices. Vitriolic 'border-line identity politics' regularly emerge in feminist and LGB debates about the relationship between gender and sexuality oppression, shaping trans subjectivity. The papers in this symposium offer a critical psychological engagement with practices that participate in the pathologization, regulation and marginalisation of trans lives. The first paper focuses specifically on the rhetoric of psychiatry, the second paper on the potential of trans-feminist coalitions, and the final paper on the consequences of tokenistic inclusion in the LGBT continuum. Together the symposium points to the importance of trans matters beyond discourses of pathologization.

## **Psychiatry and Rhetorical Fictions in the Explicit Pathologization of Transsexualism**

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Nowadays, the medical category "transsexualism" is a battleground for psychiatrists, academics and activists. Public narratives tend to be politically correct by not using or even rejecting the term "pathology" as appropriate to refer to this homogenized subjective position. But discourses are not only made up of what they explicitly say, and its greatest power is in the effects that it generates. Through the discourse analysis of a small example, I will try to visualize the use of a pathologizing rhetoric by psychiatry, and how it works through the body-identity dualism and its fictitious links.

# The DSM-5 and ‘Gender Dysphoria’: An Analysis of Feminist and Transgender Discourses

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Psychiatric constructions regarding gender expression have been the focus of much change and speculation. Using discourse analysis, this paper will trace the historical development of psychiatric constructions of ‘normal’ and ‘abnormal’ gender expression, and contextualise the recent reconstruction of gender through the DSM-5 proposals for ‘gender dysphoria’. Due to the mutual interest to both feminists and transgender individuals, this diagnosis provides an opportunity to reflect on the conflicting history between these two groups in the changing context of a more trans-positive feminism, and the potential implications of the impending DSM-5 for these distinct but linked communities.

## Funding

Manchester Metropolitan University, UK.

# Trans Matters in the LGBT Continuum

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Coalition activism involving LGBT people and others who fall outside of normative gender and sexuality identities has been crucial in provoking social change. Nevertheless, as researchers we need to be careful of tokenistic inclusion or generalisation of findings from one population to another in references to LGBT psychologies. By offering a number of examples, this paper argues that we must foster more research engagement with the complexities of trans people’s lives, their relationships with LGB people and communities, the way gender identities intersect with sexuality identifications, and the distinct relationships trans people may have with psychological and health care professions.

Symposium:

## **When Unveiling the Hidden Curriculum of Gender is not Enough to Ensure Respect for Sexual Diversity**

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In this symposium we will reflect on the contexts where negative attitudes towards sexual diversity manifest, and its consequences for LGBT people. Furthermore, we provide data from studies that analyse how these attitudes are promoted, explicitly or implicitly, in the discourse of the education agents. We conclude with a research data alerting us for the specific training needed for these professionals, promoting an emancipatory education perspective and respect for sexual diversity.

## **No, I do not Accept it Anymore: Identity and Life Courses of Persons who Broke the Violent Intimate Relationship**

*Marisalva Fávero*<sup>a</sup>, *Amaia Del Campo*<sup>b</sup>, *Fátima Ferreira*<sup>a</sup>, *Sofia Tulha*<sup>a</sup>, *Bárbara Dias*<sup>a</sup>

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The objective of this study is to characterize the life experiences and beliefs of the victims of dating violence who leave the abusive relationship. It is also intended to know how it starts and runs the rupture process, along with the factors that lead to permanent physical separation. More specifically: to characterize the experiences of dating violence; to understand the process of transition from violence to a physical separation; to analyse the rupture process; to analyse whether the sexual orientation of the partners influences the process of rupture and identity after break; to identify the social, psychological, emotional and personality factors that led these victims to a permanent rupture. This study involves four women and three LGBT men and women (current research) who do not cohabit with the abusive partner, and six women who cohabit with the abusive partner and who broke definitively with the abusive relationship (for at least 18 months). To collect the data we used semi-structured interview. The content analysis revealed the following categories: physical violence, psychological violence, sexual violence, dating violence, gender and dating violence, experience of victimization; break; self-evaluation compared to victims who do not break; chance of living similar situations. The results demonstrated the crucial role played by social and family context in relation to the decision to break permanently the abusive relationship. The experiences and beliefs about violence are consistent with those described in the literature. We found that, although

the break does not occur following an assault, its process does not appear isolated, but together with a prior consideration on its consequences.

## **“Praxe Académica”: Hazing as a Contributor to the Homophobic and Coercive Rituals of Academic Integration**

*Marisalva Fávero<sup>a</sup>, Fátima Ferreira<sup>a</sup>, Amaia Del Campo<sup>b</sup>, Valéria Gomes<sup>a</sup>, Daniela Barreiros<sup>a</sup>*

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Nowadays academic hazing has a crucial significance on the university context, serving has an integration movement for the new students to the new educational and social stage ahead. Nevertheless, it is not rare to listen to negative discourses from students submitted to hazing that have experienced it not in a positive and integrated way, but as a negative and humiliating event marked by behaviours that clearly promote machismo and homophobia. In order to conduct a detailed analysis of students feelings about academic hazing, we’ve developed the Academic Hazing Individual Interview Protocol that we’ve applied to a sample of 20 students from a college degree. Results point out to a general interpretation of this event as a homophobic event, and to a feeling that revenge can be only achieved on the following years by promoting the same type of behaviours. This oblige us to reflect about hazing as a perpetuation of homophobic behaviours, and about the need to reinstruct students to promote new and healthy hazing rituals that don’t fall on the homophobia promotion segment.

## **Homosexuality and Discrimination: What can LGB People Tell us?**

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The way families and society have reacted to homosexuality hasn’t enabled homosexuals to express their sexuality freely and positively. With this study, we verify whether homosexual people in Portugal feel any kind of prejudice in their family, professional or social context, on account of their sexual orientation, and which factors they consider promote that prejudice. The data was collected by questionnaires from 69 homosexual people (males and females), who were members of LGBT associations in Portugal. Only 9% of the sample became aware of their sexual orientation in a positive way, as the majority of the sample expressed negative feelings, such as fear and anguish. The big majority of the people refer they were born that way, and undervalue any attempt to explain their homosexuality. When questioned about the importance of publically affirming their homosexuality, we noticed a symmetrical and equitable distribution. Personal experiences of prejudice were described by 75.4% of the sample, in the form of looks, threats, comments, gestures, different treatment and physical violence. Thirty three per cent refer to have felt harmed for being homosexual. The majority consider discrimination and prejudice responsible

for their families not truly knowing them, and for displaying behaviours which they do not identify themselves with. This study reveals that discrimination against homosexuals is a reality that regulates individuals' lives.

## Sex Education Programs and... What About Gender Stereotypes?

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Our aim was to evaluate a sex education program for third grade students, which was prepared according to directions of the law 60/2009 in Portugal. The evaluation of sex education programs in Portugal for the first cycle hasn't been subject of research. The SEC program consists of five sessions. For the evaluation of the program we have used a qualitative methodology based on interviews, before and after application, on a sample of students aged eight and nine years old: 16 students from the experimental group (participants of the ESC) and 11 from the control group. The interviews were analysed using content analysis. Before implementing the program, both groups had some knowledge in the area of sexuality. In contrast, they had misconceptions and numerous gender stereotypes. After the SEC application, we found an increase in knowledge in the experimental group compared with the control group, but in both groups gender stereotypes persisted. Our results indicate that the sex education Portuguese law is unable to point out the specific needs of this age group, by not stressing the importance of working gender stereotypes and therefore, gender inequalities, in the sex education programs for the first cycle.

## The Hidden Curriculum of Gender in the Children and Teenagers Discourses

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Gender hidden curriculum refers to a set internalized and not visible hidden level of consciousness, from construction of thought, language, symbols, values, beliefs and meanings that structure, construct and determine the relations and social practices of, and between, men and women. The purpose of this study is to examine how, in the speech of children and youth participating in a sex education program at a school in the northern region of Portugal, it reveals the hidden curriculum of gender. The Gagnon theory of scripts and analysis of the hidden curriculum of gender from Barragan are the theoretical reference. Focus group with 21 students aged between nine and 11 years, from a school in northern Portugal. From the content analysis 4 themes emerged: "Sexuality is heterosexual," "For girls do boy things not 'handle'" "Love and other sex", "Same when it is different." The aim of this study is to

contribute for the development of sex education programs in schools that include reflection and analysis of the elements of the hidden curriculum. In this way, contribute to the establishment of egalitarian relationships and practices between men and women.

## Teacher Training in sex Education: Spaces for Reflection and Openness to Sexual Diversity

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Sex education (ES) is still a matter of controversy within the school environment, despite the Law 60/2009 (6th August). While inside educational institutions there is the recognition of its importance, resistance from many teachers in performing the ES intentionally still prevails. The objective of this research is to analyse the contributions of the continuous training, taught in a more common model in Brazil. Using Bardin's method of content analysis of the speeches (presented in the final report "The contributions of this training to my teaching practice") of nineteen teachers from a cluster of schools in central Portugal, who participated in the training "Sexual Education in School: Methodologies Approach / Intervention," 50 hours, will be analysed. From the pre-analysis it was made evident: clarifying the concept of ES and performing ES intentionally in an emancipator perspective and respect for sexual diversity; combining theoretical and practical aspects; availability and security to perform ES at school and the importance of ability to communicate warmly and with no shame to talk about sexuality. To contribute to prepare teacher training in ES that will meet their expectations and needs, leading them to overcome resistance to undertaking intentional ES in school, and that they do so guided by theoretical suitable for the construction of a work covering sex education, gender and sexual diversity.

Symposium:

## **Working With Trauma in LGBT Populations: A Case Example From Turkey**

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In numerous locations, LGBT populations are under the risk of having traumatic experiences. Beside the traumatic events, which could be experienced regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, some traumatic events could be directly related to sexual orientation or gender identity. LGBT individuals could experience physical or sexual assaults, same-sex domestic violence, or bullying. Sometimes psychological/psychiatric/legal interventions could be traumatic instead of alleviating. For many reasons LGBT individuals in Turkey are vulnerable to experiencing traumatic experiences. Albeit being LGBT is not illegal or criminalized, being LGBT makes people vulnerable to exclusion, stigma, isolation, abuse or insult. LGBT organizations have a particular importance in this context. In Turkey, there are more than sixty five organizations and they have different target groups with slightly different political perspectives. The majority of these organizations are working on a volunteer basis. These organizations, however, have a wide variety of functions, such as creating public visibility, providing role models for young LGBTs, educating and supporting families, offering legal counselling, providing social, emotional and economical support, creating a peer group and so on. Unfortunately, not only hectic workload and diversity of duties but also continuously witnessing survivors and sometimes non-survivors of trauma could be exhausting for volunteers. For this reason, it is essential for LGBT organization members/volunteers to understand the concept of trauma, be familiar with the types of trauma, and be informed about different ways of intervening and coping with it while supporting the traumatized member. The purpose of this symposium is to review different sources of traumatic experience and intervention methods for LGBT organizations. Furthermore, the secondary trauma – or compassion fatigue – will be discussed through Turkish experience.

## **Traumatic Experiences of Turkish LGBT People and the Role of Their Families**

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One of the many sources of trauma for LGBT people is rejection of family. High rejection was found to be related to many risk-taking behaviours. Families might use physical and verbal violence, threaten or isolate the LGBT

member, or try to prevent their coming-out. In order to support families with LGBT members, LGBT organizations could enforce different strategies, such as providing role models, encouraging peer and family groups, etc. Critical Incident Stress Debriefing techniques could be a valuable resource for LGBT organization volunteers to help trauma victims as well as to help themselves for their own secondary trauma.

## Psychological Consequences of Working/Volunteering With LGBT Trauma

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Compassion fatigue, defined as the cumulative effect of working with trauma, and characterized by ruminations about victims' traumatic experiences and resultant irritability, anxiety, apathy, pessimism etc., can be debilitating for volunteers working with trauma. These effects are more pronounced in LGBT organizations as volunteers working there often are LGBT themselves and highly identify with the victims, leading to secondary victimization/trauma. In order for the indispensable volunteer support system to function at LGBT organizations, symptoms and risk factors for compassion fatigue and secondary trauma should be identified, and physical and psychological care strategies should be made available to volunteers.

## Traumatic Experiences of LGBT Organization Members: Siyahpembeucgen Experience

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SiyahPembeÜçgen association (SPUA) is a nongovernmental organization which has been established legally in 2009. However, its informal history dates back to 2000s. SPUA has been working on violation of rights and hate crimes against LGBT individuals. In 2012 alone SPUA worked with 126 cases of discrimination, violation of rights, and hate killings in Aegean region within the scope of Access to Justice Project. In Turkey, the number is accelerated to more than 1000 cases in one year. Volunteers and employees of SPUA face many primary and secondary traumas as witnesses to violations, and defenders of rights.



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