

A stylized sun graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a solid yellow circle at the bottom left, with several yellow dashed lines of varying lengths radiating upwards and to the right, suggesting rays of light. The background is a solid orange color, and a large white semi-circle is positioned on the right side, framing the text.

Exploring the Intersection of Bisexuality and Dementia

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What is LGBT+ (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender)?

- Community?
- Minority?



What is Bisexuality?

- Eisner (2013):
Desire, More than One, Same and Different, Community and Umbrella Term
- Savin-Williams and Cohen (2018)
Primary, Concealed, Transient, Situational, Sensation-seeking and Clinical






The Research

Questions

- Exploring the intersection of bisexuality and dementia in adult social care
 - How are bisexual people with dementia figured?
 - What are the experiences of bisexual people with dementia who use adult social care?
 - What are the barriers bisexual people face when accessing dementia social care?



Research Aims

- To improve the experiences of bisexual people with dementia in social care
 - Detail how dementia services can be more inclusive of bisexual people
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Methods

- Post-structural theoretical perspective
- interviews with bisexual people with dementia (and partners and carers of?)
- Supplement data with interviews from bisexual people over the age of 60
- Thematic Analysis of the transcript data
- PHD write up and toolkit/leaflet for services and/or bi people.



Some points
of interest
RE:
bisexuality
and
dementia

- How are Bi people with Dementia treated?
- How would memory loss affect your bi identity?
- Liberated from, or further marginalised by heteronormativity? (Price and Ward, 2016)
- How is sexual health and happiness promoted?
- How are families or partners involved in identity affirmation?
- Polyamory, race and gender?





History of bisexuality (Eisner, 2013)


- Early 20th century - 'intersexuality' or Psychosexual hermaphroditism.
- Freud - Arrested Development in relation to the Oedipal Complex.
- 1940s Kinsey Scale - bisexuality as a sliding scale
- Breakaway Bisexual movement from the Lesbian and Gay rights movement 70s/80s/90s

Consequences of Biphobia/monosexism

- Eisner (2013) Bisexuals are...
 - Non existent
 - confused or indecisive
 - Slutty, promiscuous and unfaithful
 - Carriers of HIV and other STIs
 - Really just gay or straight

‘A Bisexual Identity is an ongoing process characterised by continued uncertainty and persistent confusion’ (Taylor, 2018, p87).

Bisexual Health and Social Inequalities

- Bi women experience a high prevalence of sexual assault. (Eisner, 2013, p.)
 - Bisexual people have poorer mental health (Taylor, 2018, p.85)
 - Bi people are less likely to disclose their sexual identity (Fredrikson-Goldsen et al, 2017)
 - High levels of loneliness, distress and suicidality (Mereish et al, 2017, p.723)
 - Poorer health outcomes connected to poverty and lower socioeconomic status (Ross et al, 2016)
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What have Bi Researchers Recommended?

- Bi people to be researched as a distinct population (Flanders, 2015)
- More research on Bi health and mental health and the reasons for disparities (Taylor, 2017)
- More diverse in terms of race and class (Taylor, 2018)
- Research Bi-specific minority stressors (Mereish et al, 2017)
- Include more Bi men (Savin-Williams and Cohen, 2018)



Dementia, sex and sexuality in social care

- Little to no conversations about sex by care providers. (Willis et al, 2016)
- New relationships after diagnosis are discouraged (Willis, et al, 2016)
- Men with Dementia = “predatory”, Women with Dementia = “vulnerable” (Willis et al, 2016)
- Infantilization and sexual expression controlled. (Archibald, 2004)
- Clinical atmosphere of care homes and lack of privacy (Bauer et al, 2018)





Heteronormativity in Dementia Social Care

- Key issues for LGBT+ people with Dementia include (King, 2016):

‘passing’, disclosure, trauma, loss of control of concealment, Erasure, third party disclosure, peer support, Bullying and refusal of services

Biphobia in Adult Social Care

- Bisexuality = psychological or emotional damage, (Smalley, 2015)
- Care providers are neither knowledgeable or inclusive of bisexual clients (Taylor, 2018)
- Exclusion by lesbian and gay services. (Jones, 2018)
- Identity denied by Counsellors/therapists (Jones, 2010)
- Seen as promiscuous and predatory (Jones, 2010)



The Numbers

- The number of people identifying as lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) in the UK has increased by more than a third in four years. In 2020 the LGB population was 2.2%. 4.4% of 16-24 year olds are LGB. It is only going to keep on increasing. (The Guardian, 2020)
- 850,000 people with dementia currently – this is set to be 1.6 million in 2040. (Alzheimer's Society, 2020)
- Like to be at least 35,200 – 70,400 LGB people with Dementia by 2040

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