LGBT+ Abroad

Students, Academic Scholarship, & Discussion
Center for Research on Abroad and International Student Engagement
Defining LGBT+
Flags of the Community

- LGTB flag
- Lesbian flag
- Bisexual flag
- Pansexual flag
- Asexual flag
- Intergender flag
“Heteronormativity points at the everyday and mundane ways in which heterosexuality is privileged and taken for granted, that is, normalized and naturalized (Myers & Raymond, 2010). As we have seen, the notion of compulsory heterosexuality is not only tied into conceptions, ideas, and acts of sexuality, but it is rather viewed as a foundational structure in society and culture.” (Herz & Johanson, 2015; 1011-1012)
Examples in Practice

- Asking someone if they have an opposite sex partner
- Same-gender housing policies
- Heterocentric histories and excursions
- Study abroad destination
Homonormativity

“—it is a politics that does not contest dominant heteronormative assumptions and institutions but upholds and sustains them while promising the possibility of a demobilized gay constituency and a privatized, depoliticized gay culture anchored in domesticity and consumption” (Duggan, 2002; 180).
Examples in Practice

Assimilation or transgression
Do I fit in?

Passing
You couldn’t tell I was gay?

Community Policing
That’s not how to fit in. Why are you like that?
Your Turn!

5-10 minute discussion on the following:

What are some of the barriers that LGBT+ students face when studying abroad?
Global laws regarding homosexual activity

69 countries outlaw being gay, to name a few; many of these countries have the death penalty in place for gay and, by extension bisexual, men: Afghanistan, Brunei, Iran, Mauritania, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudia Arabia, Somalia, and Yemen (ILGA, 2020).
Multiple-gated approach:

1. StAR Database (Brunsting et al., 2021)
2. October 2021: Broader electronic search to include articles that may have been excluded from the StAR Database because of the stringent inclusion criteria
3. February 2022: Final broader electronic search

Inclusion criteria:

1. Empirical data drawn from student participants attending U.S. universities who study abroad
2. Include LGBT+ participants, explicitly mention LGBT+, or focus on a critical LGBT+ issue
**Prisma Chart**

**PRISMA diagram for article selection process**

- **Electronic Search October 2021** (n = 12)
  - Records after duplicates removed (n = 2423)
  - Records excluded during title and abstract review as clearly not relevant to study (n = 2401)

- **Google Scholar Search January 2022** (n = 2401)
  - Records screened-in for full-text review (n = 15)
  - Articles excluded due to not meeting inclusion criteria (n = 2)

- **StAR Database Search November 2021** (n = 10)
  - Articles meeting inclusion criteria (n = 13)

- **Articles identified through ancestral searches** (n = 0)
- **Articles identified through hand searches** (n = 0)

**Articles included** (n = 13)
Current Research Landscape

13 studies that met inclusion criteria

5 studies focus explicitly on LGBT+ identity

6 studies had LGBT+ participants but not the critical focus of the research

2 studies focused on relevant topics pertaining to LGBT+, but had no clear LGBT+ participants

Total LGBT+ Participants across all 13 studies:
1,210
Race/Ethnicity percentages

**Gay and bisexual men are most underrepresented across all studies**
- **White**: 74.1%
- **Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**: 15.6%
- **African-Americans/Black**: 5.4%
- **Native American**: 0.4%

**Homophobia/Transphobia**
- Sexual Assault/Rape
Destinations

- East Asia/South Pacific: 5 Studies
- Europe/Central Asia: 5 Studies
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 5 Studies
- Latin America: 4 Studies
- Middle East/North Africa: 4 Studies
- South Asia: 1 Study
Embedding Inclusion in Study Abroad

5-10 minute discussion on the following:

What are your current practices of inclusion geared towards LGBT+ students?
Thanks for coming!

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