

LGBT*I AGING AND CARE

01.07.2015 – 30.09.2017



+ RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Studies have shown that lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans* and intersex people (LGBT*I) are more likely to be childless, single and to live alone than their heterosexual and cisgender peers. They have a greater risk of social isolation, poorer health outcomes and worse experiences of health and care services that do not adequately correspond to their needs. Our research project, GLEPA, explores the perspectives of LGBT*I in need of care and offers research-based insights for LGBT*I seniors for a better recognition of individual biographies and diversity within care services.

+ RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Which particular challenges need to be considered for LGBT*I elders in care services, and to what extent are care services addressing their special demands?
- What role do personnel play in improving care services for older LGBT*I people, contributing to a biographical sensitive care service?

PROJECT OUTLINE

- **Data collection:** narrative interviews with LGBT*I seniors, problem-focused interviews and focus group with professionals working in long-term care facilities

- **Data analysis and evaluation:** biographical method (Rosenthal), qualitative content analysis (Mayring), focus group discussion (Bohnsack)

+ RESULTS, MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Interviews:** 11 held with lesbian, gay, trans* and intersex persons in need of care and 10 with experts, 1 experts' (focus) group discussion
- **Findings:** Heterosexualised/asexualised care facilities provide inadequate services for LGBT*I; Invisibility of LGBT*I seniors in care homes/services and lack of experience with non-normative bodies in care situations (with intersex and trans*) lead to problems regarding the quality of care; LGBT*I care professionals as an important resource
- **Recommendations:** Promoting knowledge and visibility of sexual and gender identities; establishing diversity-sensitive care (not only for LGBT*I seniors); endorsing in-house reflections, practices and trainings regarding e. g. heteronormative documents, or gender-sensitive care; using social work activities for individual care; implementing LGBT*I issues on the curriculum for care professionals
- **Publications:** Edited book on Homosexualities and Aging; references to GLEPA at Bundestagsdrucksache 18/9905 (official document of the German Bundestag)

CONTACTS

Prof. Dr. Maria do Mar Castro Varela
Prof. Dr. Ingrid Kollak
Prof. Dr. Claudia Gather
Dr. Ralf Lottmann
lottmann@ash-berlin.eu

COOPERATION PARTNER

Schwulenberatung Berlin GmbH ·
Pflegedienst CuraDomo GmbH · Frankfurter
Verband für Alten- und Behindertenhilfe e.V. ·
Vitanas GmbH & Co. KGaA

WEBSITE

www.ifaf-berlin.de/projekte/glepa

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