

Queering European Asylum Law - Legal and Social Work Perspectives on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity based Asylum Claims in Germany with a Focus on Berlin

An Abstract of the Thesis By
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Applicants of international protection are under extreme personal pressure during the asylum process and need to prepare themselves emotionally and strategically for the asylum assessment. In the case of SOGI asylum claimants, a number of specific challenges emerge, such as the requirement of coming out as part of the asylum interview and the difficulty to prove one's identity as LGBTIQ*. Possible discriminatory and oppressive practice when assessing credibility and specific vulnerability can be addressed by focusing on common European standards and a human rights-based approach, implying a higher awareness on advocacy and accountability of legal and social assistance. By critically analysing recent political and legal advocacy achievements, Berlin will be examined as a "good practice" example for LGBTIQ* asylum seekers.

Keywords: SOGIESC Asylum Claims • European Human Rights Law • Coming Out • Credibility Assessment • LGBTIQ* Asylum Seekers in Germany • Anti-Oppressive Social Work • Identification of specific Vulnerability • Policies & queer asylum advocacy in Berlin