

Editorial

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)

Henrique Pereira^{ab}, Pedro Alexandre Costa^{ab}

[a] Psychology & Health Research Unit (UIPES), ISPA-IU. [b] Universidade da Beira Interior.

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During the last decades there has been an increase in the theoretical and empirical body of knowledge in LGBT Psychology and related fields. However, this new body of knowledge is still somewhat dispersed and not widespread, which makes the process of affirming LGBT topics very difficult in the current international scientific scenario.

It is unequivocal that both Psychology and other social and medical sciences can, and should, contribute to the improvement of LGBT people's well-being, with the purpose of emphasizing the psychosocial experience of sexual minority people by challenging the social oppression they are faced with. In this regard, the 1st International Conference of LGBT Psychology is an invitation for the diverse scientific communities to disseminate and debate their research on LGBT topics, under the assumption that these topics may have political, social, and scientific implications. It is everyone's responsibility to contribute to a more equitable and fair society, and this Conference will be a unique opportunity to dignify the academic studies on LGBT topics within a psychological context.

This 1st International Conference on LGBT Psychology and related fields has the main objective of making LGBT Psychology visible, thus achieving a significant contribution to the civic, social and sustainable development in the current world that respect sexual diversity. When we first talked about hosting this Conference, it was astonishing to us that no such international conference has been held before. It is our hope that this 1st International Conference will empower students and junior researchers in their strive to understand and document LGBT people's experiences worldwide.

The abstracts of the 1st International Conference of LGBT Psychology and related field, held in Lisbon, Portugal, June 20-22, 2013, are published on a special issue of the international journal *Psychology, Community & Health*. The published volume includes the accepted abstracts of symposia, oral communications, poster presentations, roundtables, and workshops, numbering over 350 separate contributions, and creating an invaluable overview of the discipline of LGBT psychological science around the world.

The topics covered include: Feminism in LGBT Research, Gender Identity and Transgenderism, Gender Identity in Childhood and Adolescence, Issues in Counselling and Psychotherapy, LGBT and Human Rights, LGBT and

Youth Development, LGBT Affirmative Psychotherapy, LGBT Communities, LGBT Families, LGBT Health and Mental Health, LGBT Identities, LGBT Researchers doing LGBT Research, Minority Stress, Oppression, and Homo/Bi/Transphobia, Queer Theory, Same-Sex Relationships, Sex Education, Sexuality and Sexual Behaviour across the Lifespan, Violence against LGBT People (Bullying, Harassment, Hate Crimes), and others.

We hope that this special issue contributes to affirm LGBT Psychology as a viable and legitimate discipline from a scientific standpoint, facilitating the exchange of knowledge, research and experiences of professionals and students involved in any activity related to the LGBT field, thus contributing to the development of adequate social and community responses to priority areas of intervention as defined by governments and social organizations in the field of sexual minorities.

Finally, we wish to thank all those who contributed directly or indirectly to promote, defend and disseminate models and good practices for LGBT Psychology in their everyday practises, research and activism. We would also like to thank the prompt and enthusiastic response from our guest speakers Dr. Fiona Tasker, Dr. Gary Harper, Dr. Anthony D'Augelli, and Dr. Fernando Cardoso, four eminent scholars who have significantly contributed to the advancement of the field of LGBT research. Our special thanks go to the members of the scientific and organizing committees and to the reviewers of *Psychology, Community & Health* who have worked hard to put this special issue together.

The editors of the Special Issue,

Henrique Pereira, Pedro Alexandre Costa

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