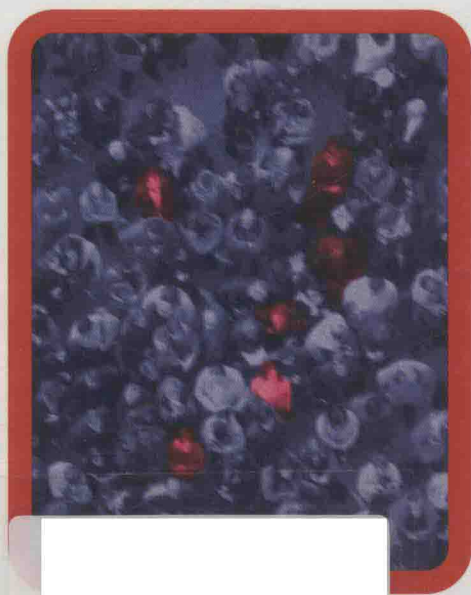


# Out

## in Psychology

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,  
Trans and Queer Perspectives



Edited by  
Victoria Clarke and Elizabeth Peel

W10.1  
88

---

# Out in Psychology

## Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer Perspectives

---

*Edited by*

**Victoria Clarke**

*University of the West of England, UK*

*and*

**Elizabeth Peel**

*Aston University, UK*



John Wiley & Sons, Ltd

Copyright © 2007 John Wiley & Sons Ltd, The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester,  
West Sussex PO19 8SQ, England

Telephone (+44) 1243 779777

Email (for orders and customer service enquiries): [cs-books@wiley.co.uk](mailto:cs-books@wiley.co.uk)  
Visit our Home Page on [www.wiley.com](http://www.wiley.com)

All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning or otherwise, except under the terms of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 or under the terms of a licence issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency Ltd, 90 Tottenham Court Road, London W1T 4LP, UK, without the permission in writing of the Publisher. Requests to the Publisher should be addressed to the Permissions Department, John Wiley & Sons Ltd, The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 8SQ, England, or emailed to [permreq@wiley.co.uk](mailto:permreq@wiley.co.uk), or faxed to (+44) 1243 770620.

Designations used by companies to distinguish their products are often claimed as trademarks. All brand names and product names used in this book are trade names, service marks, trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners. The Publisher is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book.

This publication is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information in regard to the subject matter covered. It is sold on the understanding that the Publisher is not engaged in rendering professional services. If professional advice or other expert assistance is required, the services of a competent professional should be sought.

#### ***Other Wiley Editorial Offices***

John Wiley & Sons Inc., 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030, USA

Jossey-Bass, 989 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103-1741, USA

Wiley-VCH Verlag GmbH, Boschstr. 12, D-69469 Weinheim, Germany

John Wiley & Sons Australia Ltd, 42 McDougall Street, Milton, Queensland 4064, Australia

John Wiley & Sons (Asia) Pte Ltd, 2 Clementi Loop #02-01, Jin Xing Distripark, Singapore 129809

John Wiley & Sons Canada Ltd, 6045 Freemont Blvd, Mississauga, ONT, L5R 4J3, Canada

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic books.

Anniversary Logo Design: Richard J. Pacifico

#### ***Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data***

Out in psychology : lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer perspectives /  
edited by Victoria Clarke, Elizabeth Peel.

p. cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-470-01287-1 (cloth : alk. paper)

1. Sexual minorities—Psychology. 2. Gays—Psychology. 3. Sexual minorities—Mental health services. 4. Gays—Mental health services. I. Clarke, Victoria, Ph.D. II. Peel, Elizabeth.

HQ73.088 2007

155.3'4—dc22

2006036089

#### ***British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data***

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-470-01287-1

Typeset in 10/12 pt Times by SNP Best-set Typesetter Ltd., Hong Kong

Printed and bound in Great Britain by Antony Rowe, Chippenham, Wiltshire

This book is printed on acid-free paper responsibly manufactured from sustainable forestry in which at least two trees are planted for each one used for paper production.

---

## Out in Psychology

---

---

# About the Editors

---

**Victoria Clarke** is a Senior Lecturer in social psychology at the University of the West of England, Bristol, UK. She has published a number of papers on lesbian and gay parenting, same-sex relationships, the history of LGBTQ psychologies, and qualitative methods in journals such as *Sexualities*, *British Journal of Social Psychology*, *Qualitative Research in Psychology* and *Lesbian & Gay Psychology Review*. She has edited (with Sara-Jane Finlay and Sue Wilkinson) two special issues of *Feminism & Psychology* on marriage, and edited (with Elizabeth Peel) special issues of *Feminism & Psychology*, *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Psychotherapy*, *Lesbian & Gay Psychology Review* and *Psychology of Women Section Review* on LGBTQ psychologies. She is also the editor with Elizabeth Peel and Jack Drescher of *British LGB Psychologies: Theory, research and practice* (Harrington Park Press, 2007). She is a member of the British Psychological Society's Lesbian & Gay Psychology Section and Qualitative Methods in Psychology Section. She is an editorial board member of the *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Psychology*, the *Journal of GLBT Family Studies*, and *Feminism & Psychology*. She is currently conducting British Academy funded research on civil partnership (with Elizabeth Peel) and co-authoring a textbook (with Sonja J. Ellis, Elizabeth Peel and Damien W. Riggs) entitled *LGBTQ Psychologies: Themes and perspectives* (Cambridge University Press).

**Elizabeth Peel** is a Lecturer in psychology in the School of Life and Health Sciences, Aston University, Birmingham, UK. She has published a number of articles about heterosexism, diversity training and lesbian and gay relationships in journals such as *Discourse & Society*, *Feminism & Psychology*, *Lesbian & Gay Psychology Review* and *Women's Studies International Forum*. She is the editor with Victoria Clarke and Jack Drescher of *British LGB Psychologies: Theory, research and practice* (Harrington Park Press, 2007). She has also edited (with Victoria Clarke) special issues of *Feminism & Psychology*, *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Psychotherapy*, *Lesbian & Gay Psychology Review* and *Psychology of Women Section Review* on LGBTQ psychologies. She is a chartered psychologist and a member of the British Psychological Society's Lesbian and Gay Psychology Section and Qualitative Methods in Psychology Section. She is former editor of *Lesbian & Gay Psychology Review* and editorial board member of the *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Psychotherapy*. Her current research centres on the management of chronic illness (especially diabetes), understandings of health-related technologies (such as neuroimaging techniques), same-sex relationships and the intersections of LGBTQ psychologies and critical health psychology. She is currently editing (with Michael Thomson) a special issue of *Feminism & Psychology* on LGBTQ health psychologies and is co-authoring a textbook (with Victoria Clarke, Sonja J. Ellis and Damien W. Riggs) entitled *LGBTQ Psychologies: Themes and perspectives* (Cambridge University Press).

---

# List of Contributors

---

**Jeffery Adams** is undertaking his PhD in (Critical) Psychology at the University of Auckland. His research is concerned with gay men's health and well-being – particularly focusing on gay men's discourse around health, health-related practices and masculinity, and seeking to understand how these affect health-related practices and outcomes. He is also researcher at the Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation, Massey University.

**Sydney Bayley** is a Specialist Educational Psychologist working largely within the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in the North Essex Mental Health Partnership Trust, UK. Sydney works with young people on issues affecting their lives, including sexuality, and also with schools on mental health issues, including those arising from homophobic bullying and negative attitudes towards different sexualities.

**Meg Barker** is a Senior Lecturer at London South Bank University, UK. She teaches the psychology of sex and gender, critical psychology, counselling, and qualitative and quantitative methods. She researches sexual identities, practices and communities with a particular focus on bisexuality, polyamory and sadomasochism. She has published in both academic journals and popular magazines including *Journal of Constructivist Psychology*, *The Psychologist* and *Diva Magazine*. Meg is the honorary secretary for the Lesbian and Gay Psychology Section of the British Psychological Society and is co-editor of the Section's journal *Lesbian & Gay Psychology Review*.

**Christopher Bennett** is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist working in a medium secure unit for people with learning disabilities, part of Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust, UK. His doctoral dissertation explored the psychological and emotional impact for men with learning disabilities who were gay or who were exploring a gay identity. Within his clinical work he has facilitated a support group for gay men with learning disabilities as well as providing psychotherapy to gay men. He also provides supervision to an organization working with people with learning disabilities who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

**Jerry J. Bigner**, PhD, is Professor Emeritus, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Colorado State University. He is the editor of the *Journal of GLBT Family Studies* and editor of the *Haworth Series in GLBT Family Studies*. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Couple and Family Therapy*. His principle research area is in parent–child relations with an emphasis on GLBT parenting. He is the author of *Parent-Child Relations* (7th edn, 2006, Prentice Hall), and is the author of two lifespan development texts. He has over 50 research publications and 20 chapters in texts relating to parent–child relations as well as gay and lesbian family issues. He has provided expert

testimony in Canadian same-sex marriage litigation and his research served as part of the plaintiff's cases in the Hawaii, Massachusetts and Vermont same-sex marriage litigation. He is a research member of the American Family Therapy Academy and is a member of the National Council on Family Relations. He is a 2006 Centennial Laureate of the College of Human Sciences, Florida State University.

**Jo Bower**, PhD, is currently a Research Consultant. Her research has focused on post-modern and discursive approaches to deconstructing gender and sexuality, relying primarily on Foucauldian analysis and feminist epistemologies. Specific research projects have included identity construction in bisexual women and lesbians in the military.

**Virginia Braun** is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychology at the University of Auckland, where she teaches social psychology, gender, sexuality and qualitative methodology. Her research interests encompass sex, sexuality, bodies and health. Current projects include 'sex in long-term relationships', the social contexts of STI transmission, and 'female genital cosmetic surgery'.

**Carol Burgoyne** is a Senior Lecturer and member of the Economic Psychology Research Group in the School of Psychology, University of Exeter, UK. She is on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Economic Psychology*, the *Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology* and is a member of the International Association for Research in Economic Psychology. Her current research includes an ESRC-funded study of money management in lesbian and gay relationships; a study funded by the DfES on money management and commitment in heterosexual couples, and a Leverhulme-funded project on beliefs about the allocation of money in marriage.

**Maree Burns** is the co-ordinator of the Eating Difficulties Education Network in Auckland, New Zealand. She recently completed ESRC-funded research on money management in same-sex relationships with Carole Burgoyne and Victoria Clarke at the University of Exeter. Maree has also published several articles on discourses of the 'eating disorder' bulimia. She is currently co-editing two books: *Critical Feminist Perspectives on Eating Dis/Orders* (Routledge & Psychology Press) and *Critical Bodies: Representations, practices and identities of weight and body management* (Palgrave Macmillan).

**Clair Clifford** is a Clinical Psychologist with Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust, working at The Cystic Fibrosis Unit. Her doctoral research addressed 'The experience of social power in the lives of people who define as transgendered' and was completed at the University of Birmingham, UK.

**Adrian Coyle** is Senior Lecturer in the University of Surrey's Department of Psychology. He was one of a group of psychologists whose campaigning efforts resulted in the establishment of a Lesbian & Gay Psychology Section within the British Psychological Society in 1998 and was a founding co-editor of its publication, *Lesbian & Gay Psychology Review*. With Celia Kitzinger, he was editor of *Lesbian & Gay Psychology: New Perspectives* (BPS Blackwell, 2002). His other publications have addressed various issues within lesbian and gay psychology with a focus on identity issues, psychological well-being and experiences of therapy.

**Bramilee Dhayanandhan**, BA, is a Research Analyst for the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Canada. Her current research projects focus on the concurrence of domestic violence, substance use, anger and problem gambling. Other research interests



include resiliency and motivational factors among youth and women in disadvantaged communities.

**Sonja J. Ellis** is a social psychologist and Senior Lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University, UK where she teaches Social Psychology, Social and Psychosocial Perspectives on Young People, and Qualitative Research Methods – all with a healthy dose of lesbian and gay perspectives! She completed her PhD on support for and reasoning about lesbian and gay rights issues in 2001, which has been published as a number of papers including a chapter in *Lesbian and Gay Psychology: New Perspectives* (edited by Coyle and Kitzinger, 2002). Her more recent work has focused on contemporary issues in the lives of lesbians and gay men, and she is currently undertaking exploratory work on homophobia among students. She is currently co-authoring a textbook (with Victoria Clarke, Elizabeth Peel and Damien W. Riggs) entitled *LGBTQ Psychologies: Themes and perspectives* (Cambridge University Press).

**Richard Green** obtained his medical degree from Johns Hopkins. Psychiatry training was at the University of California, Los Angeles and the National Institute of Mental Health. Legal training was at Yale (all in the USA). He co-edited the first multi-disciplinary text on transsexualism in 1969, *Transsexualism and Sex Reassignment*. He has been Professor of Psychiatry at the University of California and the State University of New York (USA) and Imperial College (UK). He has been on the law faculty of the University of California and Cambridge University. He was Research Director or Head of the Gender Identity Clinic, Charing Cross Hospital, 1994–2006. He has 180 publications.

**Maria Gurevich**, PhD, is Assistant Professor in Psychology at Ryerson University, Canada. Her research has focused on lesbian and bisexual women's health, community, identity and sexuality. Current research interests also include traumatic stress in medical populations, emergency medical personnel and residential youth.

**Gareth Hagger-Johnson** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Psychology, University of Edinburgh, UK. His research interests are in personality, individual differences and health psychology.

**Rosie Harding** is currently a PhD student in the AHRC Centre for Law, Gender and Sexuality at the University of Kent after completing an LLM in Gender, Sexuality and Human Rights at Keele University. Her research interests include the intersection of law and psychology, the legal regulation of lesbian and gay relationships, anti-discrimination law, employment law and legal consciousness and law in everyday life. Her work has been published in *Feminism & Psychology*, *Lesbian & Gay Psychology Review* and *Social & Legal Studies*.

**Peter Hegarty** received his PhD in psychology from Stanford University and taught at City University of New York and Yale University before his current appointment as Lecturer in the Psychology Department at the University of Surrey in 2002. His research focuses on the intersections of sexual politics and scientific work, drawing on both social psychology and the history of psychology and has been published in such journals as *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Psychological Science*, *Feminism & Psychology* and the *Journal for the History of Sexuality*. He is currently Chair of the British Psychological Society Lesbian & Gay Psychology Section.



**Katherine Johnson** is Senior Lecturer in psychology in the School of Applied Social Science, University of Brighton, UK. Her research interests straddle theoretical and methodological debates in psychology and sociology with a focus on notions of self, identity and embodiment, particularly in relation to gender and sexuality. She has published articles in *British Journal of Social Psychology*, *Social Alternatives*, *Qualitative Research in Psychology* and the *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, and is an Associate Editor of the *Psychology of Women Section Review*. She is currently working on a collaborative, community-based study of LGBT suicidal distress and she is writing a book *On Sexualities* (tentative title) (Polity).

**Kerrie Kauer** is an Adjunct Faculty at Smith College in the Exercise and Sport Studies department and at Bay Path College in the Liberal Arts Program, USA. Her research, grounded in queer and feminist cultural studies theories, focuses on identity and identification, heteronormativity and social justice in sport. Dr Kauer recently completed her PhD at the University of Tennessee in the Cultural Studies of Sport program and she is also a Certified Consultant, AAASP.

**Celia Kitzinger** is Professor of Conversation Analysis, Gender and Sexuality in the University of York's Department of Sociology. She was one of a group of psychologists whose campaigning efforts resulted in the establishment of a Lesbian & Gay Psychology Section within the British Psychological Society in 1998 and, with Adrian Coyle, she was editor of *Lesbian & Gay Psychology: New perspectives* (BPS Blackwell, 2002). She married her long-term partner, Sue Wilkinson, in Canada in 2003 when equal access to marriage was granted to same-sex couples in British Columbia, and Sue and Celia subsequently petitioned the British government for recognition of their Canadian marriage. They lost their High Court case in July 2006, when the judge declared that marriage was, by traditional definition, a union of a man and a woman and that civil partnership is an 'expressly different' institution. More information is available at [www.equalmarriagerights.org](http://www.equalmarriagerights.org).

**Vikki Krane** is the Director of the Women's Studies Program and a Professor in the School of Human Movement, Sport, and Leisure Studies at Bowling Green State University, USA. Her research, grounded in social identity theory, specifically focuses on heterosexism in sport and is published in the *Journal of Applied Sport Psychology*, *Quest*, *Research Quarterly for Sport and Exercise*, and *Sex Roles*. She is the Editor of the *Women in Sport and Physical Activity Journal*, former editor of *The Sport Psychologist* and is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Applied Sport Psychology*. Dr Krane also is a Fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Applied Sport Psychology (AAASP) and a Certified Consultant, AAASP.

**Victoria Land** was a doctoral student, supervised by Celia Kitzinger, in the Department of Sociology at the University of York, UK, but is now at the University of Surrey, UK. Her research uses conversation analysis to explore how and why sexuality is relevant in talk-in-interaction. She is using a naturalistic data set (150 telephone conversations to and from five lesbian households) to investigate how sexuality and sexual identity become relevant in these ordinary mundane interactions. Her work contributes to our knowledge about the basic organisation of talk in interaction (including membership categorization, person reference, repair and correction), to sociology more broadly (including work on language, identity and stigma management), and to interdisciplinary lesbian and gay studies.

**Lih-Mei Liao** is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist who works with women presenting atypical genitalia. Employed by Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust, she leads Psychological Services to Women's Health at University College London Hospitals, Whittington Hospital and Royal Free Hospital. As Honorary Senior Lecturer at University College London, her academic activities have a broader focus. Key themes in her research include: (1) social constructions in women's health complaints and decisions to undergo complex treatments; (2) models of sexuality in clinical/social practices.

**Becky J. Liddle** is currently a contractual Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. She recently relocated to Canada after 14 years on the faculty of Auburn University (USA). She has served on various editorial boards including *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, and *Journal of Lesbian Studies*. She publishes in LGBTQ psychology and has also had a private practice specializing in counselling LGBTQ clients.

**Bonita C. Long** is Professor of Counselling Psychology at the University of British Columbia, Canada. Her main areas of research and publication focus on the influence of personality and contextual factors on the health of individuals who experience chronic psychosocial stress (e.g. occupational stress, chronic illness). Her work examines conceptual and theoretical aspects of stress and coping processes, as well as person-environment interactions. In addition, Dr Long and her colleagues have conducted research on lesbians' experiences of disclosing their sexual orientation. She also has supervised research focused on same-sex immigrant partners and the career development of lesbians who are leaders in their field. She has published numerous journal articles and book chapters. Among her publications is the book *Women, Work, and Coping* (1993). Professor Long is a Fellow in the Canadian Psychological Association.

**Sara MacBride-Stewart** is a Research Fellow in the School of Social Sciences at Cardiff University, Wales. She is currently leading a research programme on professionalism, feminisation and general practice. Sara has related research work and publications in the areas of heteronormativity and cervical screening, dental dams, critiques of 'queer science' and biocultural understandings of chronic pelvic pain.

**Cynthia M. Mathieson**, PhD, is Professor of Psychology at UBC Okanagan, USA. Her research interests include women's health, narratives of chronic illness and qualitative research methodologies.

**Tim McCreanor** is a social science researcher in Whariki Research Group and the Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation at Massey University in Auckland, New Zealand. He also lectures in the Psychology Department at Massey University's Albany Campus in Auckland. Current research projects are in race relations, the linkages between health and place, positive youth development, and impacts of marketing on youth identities.

**Jeremy J. Monsen** has been involved in training educational and child psychologists in the Psychology Department at University College London for 11 years and is an Assistant Principal to the Kent County Council's Educational Psychology Service. Jeremy works with schools and other agencies to address issues associated with intolerance and ignorance around the experience of LGBTQ young people. Current research projects

involve the exploration of children's, parents' and school staff's attributions of sexuality and homophobic bullying and identifying those factors that support more positive experiences of school.

**Jim Orford** is Professor of Clinical and Community Psychology and Head of the Alcohol, Drugs, Gambling and Addiction Research Group in the School of Psychology at the University of Birmingham, UK. He has promoted the development of community psychology in Europe, and was coordinator of the European Network of Community Psychology between 2003 and 2005. His published works include: *Community Psychology: Theory and Practice* (Wiley, 1992) and he is working on a sequel, as well as books and articles on addiction.

**Damien W. Riggs** is an ARC postdoctoral fellow in the School of Psychology, University of Adelaide, Australia. He is the National Convenor of the Australian Psychological Society's 'Gay and Lesbian Issues in Psychology' Interest Group and is the Editor of its *Gay and Lesbian Issues and Psychology Review*. He has published in the areas of lesbian and gay psychology and critical race and whiteness studies in *Psychoanalysis, Culture and Society*, *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*, *Lesbian & Gay Psychology Review*, *Culture, Health and Sexuality* and *International Journal of Critical Psychology*. He is the editor of two books: *Out in the Antipodes: Australian and New Zealand perspectives on gay and lesbian issues in psychology* (with Gordon Walker, 2004, Brightfire Press), and *Taking up the Challenge: Critical race and whiteness studies in a postcolonising nation* (2006, Crawford Publishers). His new book, *Priscilla, (White) Queen of the Desert: Queer rights/race privilege* (Peter Lang) was published in 2006 and he is completing work on a second, due out in 2007, entitled *Becoming Parents: Lesbians, gay men, and family* (Brightfire Press). He is currently co-authoring a textbook (with Victoria Clarke, Sonja J. Ellis and Elizabeth Peel) entitled *LGBTQ Psychologies: Themes and perspectives* (Cambridge University Press).

**Ian Rivers** is Professor of Community and Applied Psychology, and Head of Psychology at Queen Margaret University College, Edinburgh, UK. He is the author of over 80 articles and chapters focusing on homophobia in schools and its long-term effects, and has presented at over 150 international and national conferences. Ian is the recipient of the British Psychological Society's 2001 Award for Promoting Equality of Opportunity in the United Kingdom through his work as a researcher and psychologist, and currently serves as deputy chair of the Society's Standing Committee for the Promotion of Equal Opportunities. Previously Ian was Professor of Applied Psychology at York St John University College, and co-ordinator of the Social Inclusion and Diversity Research Unit – a facility developed to support health, education and voluntary sector organizations evaluate and develop their services for lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgender women and men.

**Suzanna M. Rose**, PhD, is Chairperson and Professor of Psychology and also Director of the Women's Studies Center at Florida International University, Miami. Dr Rose's research focuses on how gender, sexual orientation and race affect relationships and sexuality and on gay and lesbian issues more generally, as well. She has published extensively on love scripts and friendships in psychology journals and co-authored or edited several books and journal special issues, including *Lesbian Love and Relationships* (Haworth, 2002) and *Innovations in Lesbian Psychology*, a special section of the *Psychology of Women Quarterly* (June, 2005).

**Faith Rostad** gained her PhD in counselling psychology from the Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology at the University of British Columbia, Canada (November, 2002). Her dissertation research explored the occupational experiences of a diverse sample of lesbians in order to understand how they succeeded. Dr Rostad is presently working as a registered psychologist in private practice as well as a counsellor in a public high school where she works with students on issues such as 'coming out' and 'handling homophobia'.

**Glenda M. Russell**, PhD is a psychologist who has been involved in clinical practice, research, theory-building, teaching and activism. Her work has centred on the psychological impact of anti-gay politics, out-group activism and social constructionist approaches to sexual orientation. She is the author of *Voted Out: The Psychological Consequences of Anti-gay Politics* (2000) and, with Janis Bohan, of *Conversations about Psychology and Sexual Orientation* (1999).

**Susan A. Speer** is a Senior Lecturer in Language and Communication in the School of Psychological Sciences at the University of Manchester, UK. Her research focuses on topics and debates at the intersection of feminism and conversation analysis. She has published articles in *Sociology*, *Discourse & Society*, *Discourse Studies*, *Journal of Sociolinguistics*, *Feminism & Psychology* and *Theory & Psychology*. Her book *Gender Talk: Feminism, discourse and conversation analysis* was published by Routledge in 2005. She is currently Principal Investigator (with Prof Richard Green, Imperial College School of Medicine) on a three-year ESRC-funded project 'Transsexual Identities: Constructions of gender in an NHS gender identity clinic', which is part of the Social Identities and Social Action Research Programme (award number RES-148-0029). She spent the 2005–2006 academic year as a Visiting Scholar in the Sociology Department at UCLA, funded by an ESRC-SSRC Collaborative Visiting Fellowship. She is currently collaborating with Elizabeth Stokoe (Loughborough University, UK) on an edited collection, *Conversation and Gender* (Cambridge University Press).

---

# Foreword

---

**Jerry J. Bigner, Professor Emeritus**

*Department of Human Development and Family Studies  
Colorado State University, USA*

The year 1983 is indelibly imprinted on my life as the year I came out to several family members and friends and started my life as an authentic person for the first time since my birth, a gay man who was also a father. It was a tumultuous time that began the process of letting go of illusions and developing a new identity. I was giving up what I misperceived as an appropriate way of life for me – believing I was successfully passing as heterosexual by being married to a woman, being the father of three children, and developing my professional life as an academic behavioral scientist working in the fields of human development and family studies. Up until that time, my life, both personally and professionally, had been governed by the awesome fears generated by internalized homophobia and heterosexism.

In those days, one did not come out publicly as a professional, for to do so was to commit suicide regarding one's respect and acceptance in academia – at least, where I was teaching and working as a researcher. So, like many others, I continued to hold private my personal identity at a cost to my integrity. Coming out completely was stymied by maintaining one foot in the closet to keep some semblance of security for myself and my children.

In the beginning of my coming out process, I prepared for my divorce by searching the literature about what research showed about gay fathers. My search took place very quickly since there was only a handful of studies that had been conducted prior to 1984. The works of Fred Bozett were almost the only ones that the search produced as he was the pioneer researcher on gay fathering (Bozett, 1980, 1981). While I found Fred's works to be reassuring, I fretted that there were no empirically-based studies nor were there any that utilized the experimental-control group methodology that was based on acceptable sampling procedures. Knowing that it was possible that I (as well as countless other gay and lesbian parents) could be denied holding joint custody of our children by a court (despite the fact that I had authored three editions of my parent-child relations text and one edition of my lifespan development text), I set out to rectify this glaring gap in the literature about gay fathers. The studies that I produced with a colleague, with graduate students and with Fred resulted in some of the first studies of gay fathers based on acceptable, quantitative behavioral science methodology (Bigner & Bozett, 1989; Bigner & Jacobsen, 1989a, 1989b). We also turned our attention to studying lesbian mothers (Miller, Jacobsen & Bigner, 1981; Siegenthaler & Bigner, 2000). Thankfully, over the years, we were joined by an increasing number of researchers who hammered out similar findings using a wide variety of



instrumentation, data collection and analyses (e.g. Patterson, 1995; Tasker, 1999, 2002). Armed with this sound databank, I and other research colleagues began testifying on behalf of US gay and lesbian parents in legal custody proceedings. In my personal life, it was this path of research that eventually enabled me to come out publicly as a professor, a researcher and a father (and grandfather).

As I reflect on the past 30 years of works produced by what is now an army of researchers instead of only a few, I acknowledge the position taken by Stacey and Biblarz (2001) that heterosexism thwarted intellectual progress in the early path that research programmes in lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer (LGBTQ) family studies followed. This was apparent in claims that LGBTQ parents were no different than heterosexual ones; that children were not harmed by being reared by LGBTQ parents. In acknowledging this, however, it is important to emphasize that there was very good reason for the heterosexist bend in the research path followed by myself and most of the other early researchers: the political atmosphere of the legal system and of the court of public opinion heavily discriminated against LGBTQ parents. It was this atmosphere that necessitated this stance. More pointedly, we needed acceptable, scientifically valid proof that would stand up in court that refuted the myths, stereotypes and misconceptions about ourselves as parents and how we influenced our children. We deeply feared losing them from our lives and needed data proving we were not different significantly from heterosexual parents; essentialism 'rather naturally spring[s] from hostile times' (Bohan & Russell, 1999, p. 184).

Today, because of the path followed by early research, sexual orientation of parents is no longer considered a viable factor in court proceedings regarding fitness to care for children; adoption is made easier in most US states; legal issues surrounding surrogacy and non-biological parenthood have been examined; same-gender marriage is definitely a hot political, social and religious issue; and the path is now clear for new directions of enquiry. We've learned that we no longer need to fear admitting our differences from heterosexuals – and that these differences are good and positive ones.

The works you are about to read here represent a new era for the future in which psychology, in particular, can lead the way for more adventurous and fearless research about LGBTQ issues. Taken together, the chapters in this book show the multifarious nature of the issues at hand. What is particularly unique about this volume is that it serves as a showcase for current directions in *international* LGBTQ psychologies. The international perspectives found here are frequently lacking in other collections on LGBTQ issues. The volume is also valuable in demonstrating inclusiveness by integrating all of the communities represented in the acronym LGBTQ, particularly bisexual, transgender and queer communities and perspectives. Such inclusion is difficult to achieve in a single collection of works and not usually accomplished by others. The editors should be congratulated in this achievement. A further important aspect of this volume is the use and examination of a variety of theories, methods and approaches employed to research LGBTQ communities. This book is a much needed addition to the field. Perhaps the true value of this volume is that it demonstrates how LGBTQ psychologists are leading the way applying research findings to the practical worlds in which we all live.

The authors of these works open up the closet that has hidden the controversies within the LGBTQ communities for years, not only in the scientific world but in the political and social worlds as well. Just as the path now diverges into novel branches of enquiry about LGBTQ parenting, it diverges now into novel directions in relation to the discipline of

LGBTQ psychologies, as the contributors to this volume aptly demonstrate. Indeed, they provide encouragement, thoughtful reflection and an adamant call to action to address the new world of enquiry that lies ahead.

## REFERENCES

- Bigner, J. J. & Bozett, F. W. (1989). Parenting by gay fathers. *Marriage and Family Review*, **14**(3), 155–176.
- Bigner, J. J. & Jacobsen, R. B. (1989a). The value of children to gay and heterosexual fathers. *Journal of Homosexuality*, **18**(1/2), 163–172.
- Bigner, J. J. & Jacobsen, R. B. (1989b). Parenting behaviors of homosexual and heterosexual fathers. *Journal of Homosexuality*, **18**(1/2), 173–186.
- Bozett, F. W. (1980). Gay fathers: How and why they disclose their homosexuality to their children. *Family Relations*, **29**(2), 173–179.
- Bozett, F. W. (1981). Gay fathers: Identity conflict resolution through integrative sanctioning. *Alternative Life-Styles*, **4**(1), 90–107.
- Bohan, J. & Russell, G. (1999). Afterword: The conversation continues. In J. Bohan & G. Russell (Eds), *Conversations about Psychology and Sexual Orientation* (pp. 183–210). New York: New York University Press.
- Miller, J. A., Jacobsen, R. B. & Bigner, J. J. (1981). The child's home environment for lesbian versus heterosexual mothers: A neglected area of research. *Journal of Homosexuality*, **7**(1), 49–56.
- Patterson, C. J. (1995). Sexual orientation and human development: An overview. *Developmental Psychology*, **31**(1), 3–11.
- Siegenthaler, A. & Bigner, J. J. (2000). The value of children to lesbian and nonlesbian mothers. *Journal of Homosexuality*, **39**(2), 73–92.
- Stacey, J. & Biblarz, T. J. (2001). (How) does the sexual orientation of parents matter? *American Sociological Review*, **66**(2), 159–183.
- Tasker, F. (1999). Children in lesbian-led families: A review. *Clinical Child Psychology & Psychiatry*, **4**(2), 153–166.
- Tasker, F. (2002). Lesbian and gay parenting. In A. Coyle & C. Kitzinger (Eds), *Lesbian and Gay Psychology: New perspectives* (pp. 81–97). Malden, MA: Blackwell.



---

# Contents

---

About the Editors	ix
List of Contributors	xi
Foreword: Jerry J. Bigner	xix
Chapter 1 Introducing <i>Out in Psychology</i> <i>Victoria Clarke and Elizabeth Peel</i>	1
Chapter 2 From Lesbian and Gay Psychology to LGBTQ Psychologies: A Journey into the Unknown (or Unknowable)? <i>Victoria Clarke and Elizabeth Peel</i>	11
<b>PART I Histories and Commentaries</b>	
Power, Invisibility and Heteronormativity: Invitations to Paradox <i>Glenda M. Russell</i>	38
Chapter 3 What Comes after Discourse Analysis for LGBTQ Psychology? <i>Peter Hegarty</i>	41
Chapter 4 Recognizing Race in LGBTQ Psychology: Power, Privilege and Complicity <i>Damien W. Riggs</i>	59
Chapter 5 Personality, Individual Differences and LGB Psychology <i>Gareth Hagger-Johnson</i>	77
Chapter 6 Heteronormativity and the Exclusion of Bisexuality in Psychology <i>Meg Barker</i>	95
<b>PART II Lives and Experiences</b>	
The Challenge of Understanding LGBTQ Lives and Experiences <i>Becky J. Liddle</i>	120
Chapter 7 A Minority within a Minority: Experiences of Gay Men with Intellectual Disabilities <i>Christopher Bennett and Adrian Coyle</i>	125
Chapter 8 Closet talk: The Contemporary Relevance of the Closet in Lesbian and Gay Interaction <i>Victoria Land and Celia Kitzinger</i>	147

Chapter 9	Romance, Rights, Recognition, Responsibilities and Radicalism: Same-Sex Couples' Views on Civil Partnership and Marriage <i>Victoria Clarke, Carole Burgoyne and Maree Burns</i>	173
Chapter 10	The Experience of Social Power in the Lives of Trans People <i>Clair Clifford and Jim Orford</i>	195
Chapter 11	'What Do They Look Like and Are They among Us?': Bisexuality, (Dis)closure and (Un)viability <i>Maria Gurevich, Jo Bower, Cynthia M. Mathieson and Bramilee Dhayanandhan</i>	217
<b>PART III</b>	<b>Work and Leisure</b>	
	LGBTQ Psychologies Go to Work <i>Suzanna M. Rose</i>	244
Chapter 12	Heterosexism at Work: Diversity Training, Discrimination Law and the Limits of Liberal Individualism <i>Rosie Harding and Elizabeth Peel</i>	247
Chapter 13	Out on the Ball Fields: Lesbians in Sport <i>Vikki Krane and Kerrie J. Kauer</i>	273
Chapter 14	Homophobia, Rights and Community: Contemporary Issues in the Lives of LGB People in the UK <i>Sonja J. Ellis</i>	291
Chapter 15	Striving for Holistic Success: How Lesbians Come Out on Top <i>Faith Rostad and Bonita C. Long</i>	311
<b>PART IV</b>	<b>Health and Practice</b>	
	Bringing LGBTQ Psychology into Mainstream Practice <i>Ian Rivers</i>	332
Chapter 16	On Passing: The Interactional Organization of Appearance Attributions in the Psychiatric Assessment of Transsexual Patients <i>Susan A. Speer and Richard Green</i>	335
Chapter 17	Alcohol and Gay Men: Consumption, Promotion and Policy Responses <i>Jeffery Adams, Tim McCreanor and Virginia Braun</i>	369
Chapter 18	Towards a Clinical-Psychological Approach to Address the Heterosexual Concerns of Intersexed Women <i>Lih-Mei Liao</i>	391
Chapter 19	Educational Psychology Practice with LGB Youth in Schools: Individual and Institutional Interventions <i>Jeremy J. Monsen and Sydney Bayley</i>	409