

## Introduction

For human beings, the first significant social group we belong to is our family. Family can mean genetic connections, but it can also be meaningfully created close social bonds by those who are not genetically linked as well. How we talk, not just to, but about persons in that group are important and can resonate throughout our social world. A critical discourse analysis (the process by which individuals use language to accomplish personal, social and political endeavour's (Starks & Trinidad, 2007, p.1374)) was done on persons who had close personal connections with those who are LGBTQ2S+ to examine how they speak about them.

## Methods

### Who were able to participate and why?

- A convenience sample of MacEwan Sociology Students who fit the criteria, which was that they had someone close to them who was LGBTQ2S+.
- Focus Group and Interviews were conducted on campus at MacEwan University.

## Methods Continued

### Focus Group

Data Collection Technique:

- Semi structured Open Question Construction
- Convenience Sample Focus Group Construction
- Data Collection, Transcription and Analysis

### Interview

Data Collection Technique:

- Semi Structured Open Question Construction
- Convenience Sample Interview Construction
- Data Collection, Transcription and Analysis

## Results

### Discussion: Top 3 Results

- **LGBTQ2S+, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identification and Language Use.** Research found that our participants show support for their LGBTQ2S+ persons by using empathy, inclusive language, appropriate pronouns and so on to show those from the LGBTQ2S+ community our consideration. The participants knew that there are differences in sexual orientation and gender identification. They emphasized that they tried to simply be there for their person, even if they had no experience or advice that could help.
- **Representation, Inclusion, Acceptance and Awareness of LGBTQ2S+** Research found that participants saw media representation of LGBTQ2S+ to more varied, respective and inclusive than it used to be. They mentioned media like Instagram and YouTube were great places for representation but also

- a means of expression However, there were concerns that some media companies were using inclusion to ingratiate themselves and make them seem more progressive in order to boost sales.
- **Supports, Information Resources, Means of Educating, Feelings and Challenges of Supporting LGBTQ2S+** I found our participants were all supportive of the LGBTQ2S+ person they knew, and they had similarities in how they handled and perceived being a support. Simply being there and listening were the most talked about supports. In both the focus group and the interview, the participants discussed means of awareness and educating others about LGBTQ2S+ issues with the Internet, media and social media, However, the focus group brought up schools and University for creating awareness and a means of learning about LGBTQ2S+ issues.

## Conclusion

People who care for those who are LGBTQ2S+ consider and integrate that knowledge and language into other aspects of their lives. It changes their perspective and opens them up to language and considerations that they might not have had previously. It broadens their views on this minority group and allows for acceptance, support, empathy, and understanding of those who are LGBTQ2S+ Through increased knowledge of those in this community, the number of people who feel it is safe to "come out" or to live their authentic lives will only increase. The implications of these results are that as more and more people end up with someone close to them who identify as LGBTQ2S+, the more the language used to talk about them not only becomes mainstream, but positive rather than negative. This will also hopefully create a greater attitude of tolerance to all those who are minorities..

### Suggestions for further study:

- Look into why participants did not discuss religion
- Larger number of millennial participants from a wider range of backgrounds and education

## References

Starks, H., & Trinidad, S.B. (2007). Choose your method: a comparison of phenomenology, discourse analysis and grounded theory. *Qualitative Health Research*, 17 (10), 1372-1380.

### Acknowledgements

The author would like to acknowledge the support and services of MacEwan University, Dr. Kalyani Thurairajah for helping me improve a great deal as a researcher, my partner for the data collection (Jordan Johnston), my family for tolerating my absence, and my dogs for refusing to socially distance.

**Further Information:** Those who would like to contact me for more information may do so at [reynoldsd@mymacewan.ca](mailto:reynoldsd@mymacewan.ca) There was an article written about my work in the MacEwan paper: [https://www.macewan.ca/wcm/MacEwanNews/FEATURE\\_LGBTQ2S\\_RESEARCH\\_20](https://www.macewan.ca/wcm/MacEwanNews/FEATURE_LGBTQ2S_RESEARCH_20)

For those who are looking for a support group for those who are parents and family of persons who are LGBTQ2S+ please visit <https://pflagcanada.ca>.



Figure 1. Logo, company name. From *pflag Canada 2021*, retrieved from <https://pflagcanada.ca>. CCO.



Take a picture to go to the article written about my research