

Straight Jacket – Overcoming Society’s Legacy of Gay Shame

Part Two

By Matthew Todd

&

Exploring the Workplace for LGBT+ Physical Scientists

*A report by the Institute of Physics, Royal Astronomical Society
& Royal Society of Chemistry*



DISCUSSION BOOKLET 2

"All of us who are openly gay are living and writing the history of our movement. We are no more - and no less - heroic than the suffragists and abolitionists of the 19th century; and the labor organizers, Freedom Riders, Stonewall demonstrators, and environmentalists of the 20th century."

Tammy Baldwin, US Senator

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Thinking back - What challenged/surprised you from the chapters?

This could be something pertinent or something that really grabbed your attention and made you think twice.



Last session we discussed heteronormativity, the impact of slurs and discrimination on the LGBTQUA+ community and the lasting legacy of historical discrimination. We also considered how we, as a university and as individuals, can better support LGBTQUA+ students and colleagues.

This time we will be focusing on the personal consequences of the continued discrimination of the LGBTQUA+ community, as well as considering the objectification of the LGBTQUA+ community and why this occurs.

Discussion

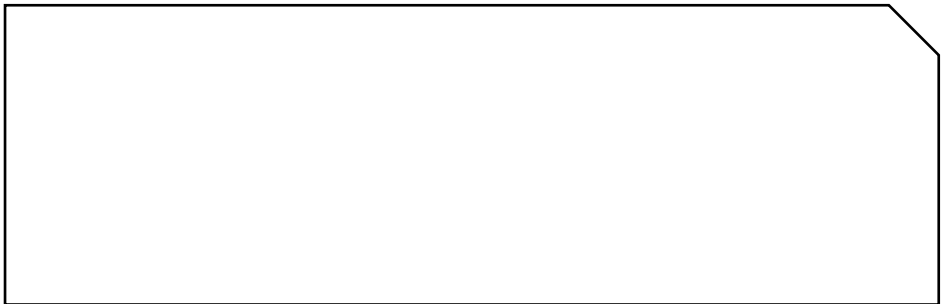
What does Todd highlight as the consequences of chronic societal shaming and discrimination? Re-read pages 108-9, 158 and 161

"... if you are mugged every month or beaten up by your dad every Saturday night it begins to get under your skin and changes you as a person..."


Page 158

"Chronic recurrent humiliation is how a great many LGBT people experience childhood. Remember, I assert that we subconsciously perceive that we are fundamentally defective and develop extremely low self-worth, which in turn manifests as depression, suicide ideation and other negative feelings."

Page 109



What does the "Iceberg Model" tell us about addiction and mental health conditions? Re-read pages 112-113



Reflecting

In what ways do some members of the LGBTQUA+ community use escapism and why?

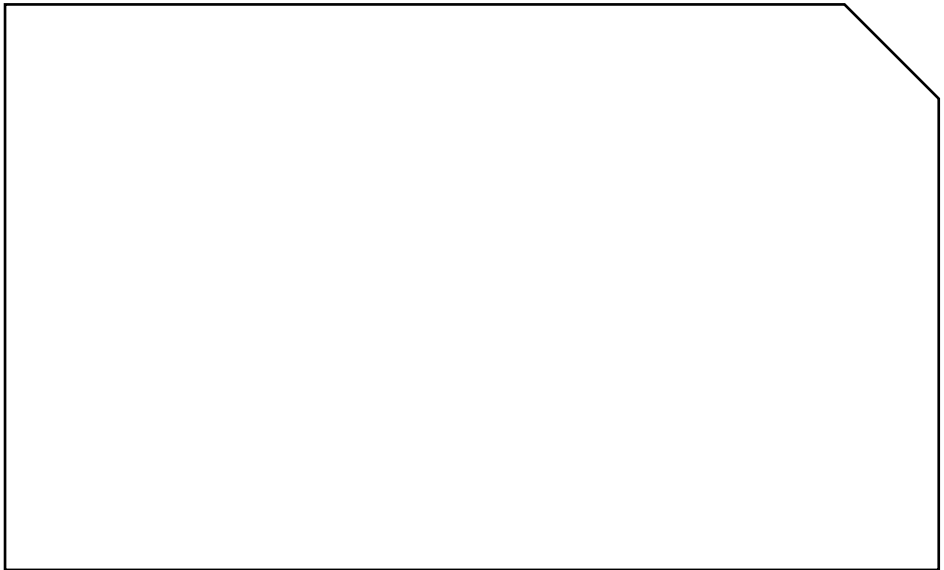
Re-read pages 133-136

"I had found a world where I got complimented on my appearance... where I felt happy with who I was. I didn't want to leave. I didn't want to go back to the real world where I felt I needed to be masculine to be safe."

Laura Kate Dale, Page 134

"I think queer audiences tend to like the horror film because they can and do easily identify with the monster who is out to topple white heteronormative culture"

Harry Benshoff, Page 133



How does society objectify the LGBTQUA+ community? Re-read pages 163

To reiterate members of the LGBTQUA+ community do not have to share any lived experiences.

*"It is pretty intimidating being cornered and making homophobic comments.
"They wanted us to show them how lesbians have sex. They said 'show us' and I don't remember if it was on its own or part of a larger phrase but the words were said."
"They were being extremely aggressive verbally and then they made it physical."*

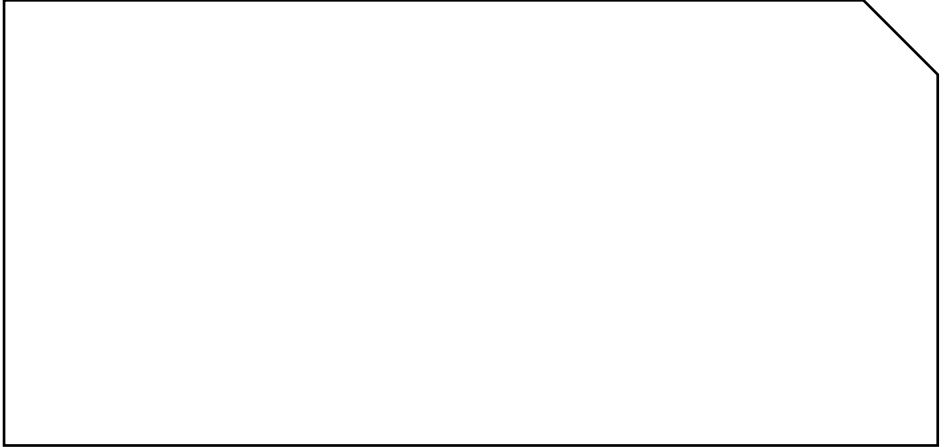
Christine Hannigan

(BBC News, London bus attack: Boys told couple 'to show how lesbians have sex')¹

Why does society objectify the LGBTQUA+ community?

Application

How can we be more aware of the issues that face members of the LGBTQUA+ community? How can we better support LGBTQUA+ individuals in these areas?



Additional Notes;



References;

- (1) BBC News. London bus attack: Boys told couple “to show how lesbians have sex.”