

Understanding LGBTQ Stigma: An Intersectional Examination

Overview of the Text

This book offers its readers with the opportunity to expand their knowledge about LGBTQ stigma. In particular, this book is suitable for the classroom (graduate and advanced undergraduate) and as a scholarly resource because it offers both a theoretical and empirical overview of LGBTQ prejudices as they vary by gender and sexual identity. By taking an intersectional and sociological approach to these issues, this book expands upon the existing literature and brings together a wealth of information about LGBTQ prejudices in an innovative and impactful manner that is accessible for students and scholars alike. Its scope is both more extensive and more in depth than existing texts and extends upon the authors' own established work in this area of inquiry. In doing so, this book offers one of the most comprehensive in depth discussions of LGBTQ stigma to date.

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This text is divided into three parts: Part I introduces LGBTQ stigma and common explanations for it; Part II parcels out L,G,B,T, and Q stigma as related to gender, sexual identity, race, and class; Part III considers attitudes toward LGBTQ people as they vary by gender, sexual identity, race, and class.

Part I: Introduction	
1	Identifying LGBTQ Stigma This chapter lays the foundation for the entire text by providing the reader with definitions of the subject matter that will be discussed throughout the text. The overarching theme of this chapter (and the text in general) connects these ideas (LGBTQ stigma, homophobia, transphobia, sexual prejudice, trans prejudice) with a discussion of social power by situating their social construction within a societal context (heterosexism and heteronormativity, cisnormativity, cissexism, and hetero-cis-normativity). Social power is contextualized as built from heteronormativity, cisnormativity, and White mid/upper class privilege. This chapter ends with various examples from global surveys to continue to embed these ideas in both theoretical and empirical discussions.
2	Common Explanations for LGBTQ Stigma This chapter overviews various "explanations" and correlates of LGBTQ stigma documented in previous literature. As with Chapter 1, this chapter is also centrally organized around the theme of social power and how those in social power shape LGBTQ stigma with special attention to race and class. While there are many perspectives and experiences that contribute LGBTQ stigma, this chapter discusses some of the most commonly found in the literature (e.g. beliefs about gender and family, religious fundamentalism, political conservatism) and considers their overlapping relationships to LGBTQ stigma. This chapter concludes with empirical findings (Worthen).

Part II: Intersectionality and LGBTQ Stigma	
3	<p>Stigma toward Lesbian and Gay People This chapter begins with an historical overview of research about stigma/prejudice toward “homosexuals” and their historical and continued lack of social power. It then builds an argument for why we need to consider how stigma differs for lesbian and gay people. Prejudices toward lesbian women and gay men are first defined and described and then discussed as they are shaped by race and class. This chapter concludes with empirical findings and suggestions for how to measure these prejudices (Worthen).</p>
4	<p>Stigma toward Bisexual People This chapter follows a similar outline to chapter 3. It begins with an overview of bisexual stigma and the “invisibility” of bisexuals, noting their lack of social power. It then offers support for why prejudices differ for bisexual men and bisexual women. Then, prejudices toward bisexual women and bisexual men are defined and described and then discussed as they are shaped by race and class. This chapter concludes with empirical findings and suggestions for how to measure these prejudices (Worthen).</p>
5	<p>Stigma toward Trans People Following the outlines of chapters 3 and 4, this chapter also begins with an overview of trans stigma while also noting that this concept is considerably less developed than work on LGB stigma and how it is often misunderstood and misappropriated as LGB stigma. The issues facing trans people, especially in terms of their lack of social power are reviewed. Next, this chapter offers support for why prejudices differ for trans men and trans women (a much needed contribution to the paucity of existing literature on this subject). Then, prejudices toward trans women and men are defined and described and then discussed as they are shaped by race and class. This chapter concludes with empirical findings and suggestions for how to measure these prejudices (Worthen).</p>
6	<p>Stigma toward Queer People The intent of this chapter is to follow the outline of the previous chapters but this area of inquiry is significantly less developed than others. Thus, attempt will be made to review and identify prejudices toward “queer-identified” people, queer women, queer men, and genderqueer people while highlighting their “invisibility” and lack of social power generally. In addition, the ways further intersecting identities (queer and gay, queer and bi, etc.) affect prejudices will be discussed as well as how queer stigma is shaped by race and class. This chapter concludes suggestions for how to measure these prejudices (Worthen).</p>
Part III: Intersectionality and Attitudes toward LGBTQ people	
7	<p>Heterosexual Peoples’ Attitudes toward LGBTQ People This chapter is largely based on Worthen (2013) and outlines the 6 patterns and 6 explanations found in previous literature describing straight men’s and women’s attitudes toward LGBTQ people. A further discussion of how race and class play a role in these explanations is provided. Because it summarizes the most common patterns found in previous studies, it is referred to in subsequent chapters as an “existing framework” and thus, it serves as a comparison point for these additional areas of inquiry.</p>

8	<p>Gay and Lesbian Peoples’ Attitudes</p> <p>This chapter begins by considering the historical schisms between “GL and BT” people (Weiss, 2004). It then considers the existing patterns of gay and lesbian people’s attitudes directed toward bisexual, trans, queer, and straight people and offers explanations as to why those patterns may exist. A further discussion of how race and class play a role in these explanations is provided. Some empirical data is provided (e.g. Worthen). Finally, this chapter considers how the framework as described in chapter 8 does and does not fit with gay/lesbian peoples’ attitudes toward these issues and how race/class further complicates these patterns.</p>
9	<p>Bisexual Peoples’ Attitudes</p> <p>As with the previous chapter, this chapter considers the historical schisms between “GL and BT” people (Weiss, 2004). In particular, bisexual stigma coming from the gay/lesbian community is highlighted in the context of social power. It then considers the existing patterns of bisexual people’s attitudes directed toward gay/lesbian, trans, queer, and straight people and offers explanations as to why those patterns may exist, including how race and class play a role in these patterns. Finally, this chapter considers how the framework as described in chapter 8 does and does not fit with bisexual peoples’ attitudes toward these issues.</p>
10	<p>Trans Peoples’ Attitudes</p> <p>This chapter reiterates the historical schisms between “GL and BT” people (Weiss, 2004) and especially emphasizes the contentious nature of “T” in this political allegiance citing previous work that has emphasized the historical struggles of trans people and how this emphasizes their own perspectives about LGBQ issues (Serano, 2007). In particular, trans prejudice as coming from cisgender people is highlighted in the context of social power, including race and class. Further intersecting identities (trans and gay, trans and bi, etc.) are considered. It then offers a review of the existing patterns of trans people’s attitudes directed toward cisgender people and offers explanations as to why those patterns may exist. Finally, this chapter considers how the framework as described in chapter 8 does and does not fit with trans peoples’ attitudes toward these issues.</p>
11	<p>Additional Considerations in Understanding LGBTQ Stigma and Attitudes</p> <p>This chapter offers concluding remarks and suggestions for future research. It both summarizes the text and its novel approach of breaking LGBTQ prejudices down into separate but related concepts and then rebuilds it back together by acknowledging the significant overlap between these ideas while still pointing to the importance of their separate considerations. Finally, future research areas are offered including the importance of how LGBTQ people resist stigma and oppression as well as the roles of other identities including cultural origin, age, and ability in future investigations.</p>