



How do gay men age? Certain qualities of relationships and social networks at age 60 or above

Dr. Michael Bochow

Dr. Ralf Lottmann

Conférences santé
sport et diversité



Colloque international - 9 et 10 mars 2017

Self-Identification (in %)

EMIS 2013

Age group by Self-Identification	>16	60+
Gay (schwul)	56	46
Homosexual	15	22
Bisexual	19	26
No self definition	7	4
n	54.260	1.491

Relational Status of Respondents (in %)

EMIS 2010

Age group	Male Partner	Civil Union	Female Partner	Single	n
< 20	26	1	3	70	3.443
20-29	37	2	5	56	17.717
30-44	40	7	8	45	22.096
45-59	32	10	14	44	9.513
60+	23	12	23	42	1.491
Total					
%	37	6	8	50	
N	19.822	3.066	4.376	26.996	54.260

The “Lebensort Vielfalt” project in Berlin



- “Lebensort Vielfalt” – a housing and care project, opened in 2012 in Berlin-Charlottenburg
- Building from November 2010 to April 2012
- Costs € 6 Million (donations, loan from the bank and own funds)
- First project in Germany (→press)
- Organized by the “Schwulenberatung Berlin” (and the gay community)



The “Lebensort Vielfalt” project in Berlin



Rundgang: Maisonettwohnung, Dachgeschoss



- 24 Apartments for old and young gay men, women (and couples): 20 – 20 – 60
- 8 places for older gay men with dementia/health problems, with nursing care
- „Wilde Oscar“ Café-Restaurant; a concierge at the entree
- Schwulenberatung Berlin: counselling and support (total employees: 113)

Images of Age(ing)

Ageing as

new opportunities

activity

wisdom

having more time

continuity/maintain sth.

a loss (of...)

- sexual attractiveness
- early experience of age limits

If you are gay, you are automatically also young. Old and gay that didn't exist at all. I knew one older gay man, but no one else. They were ... they are... they are not visible at all.
(Exp. B: 109)

Characteristics, demands and infrastructure

Expectations/wishes

avoiding getting old alone/
establishing social network

community to age together –
„feel at home“

support in case of sickness

place for getting old

exchange of experienced
discrimination

being in a safe space

accepting environment

sexual orientation is
„no issue“

Categories/Examples

a chance to re-arrange contacts/relationships

K: hope of exchange/communication on a regular basis; K:
communication to age successfully, K: mutual
support/interests

companionship; to be sure to help each other

until the end: facing dying and death (K)

Everyday life discrimination/stigmatization, also over the
lifespan, shared experiences – up to § 175 StGB

shelter from related discrimination

Open and accepting interactions, also towards
deviant habits/sexual behavior/cultural differences

K: released; belonging and protection is empowering;

GLEPA - Study

Current state of research: LGBT*I not visible in long term care institutions; more likely to be childless and socially isolated; discomfort/dissatisfaction concerning LTC-institutions

Awareness of Professionals in LTC for needs of LGBT*I Seniors

- Knowledge of sexual identity on both sides
- Heterosexualised and asexualised care facilities provide inadequate services for LGBT* seniors (e.g. visibility)
- Trans* and intersex seniors: fears because of non-normative bodies

Queer Professionalism

- Sensitivity relating to LGBT*I persons (recognizing)
- Aware of fears and discrimination over the lifespan of LGBT*I
- Are imaginative for specific and LGBT*I related social work activities (knowledge about LGBT*I communities)