

Bonjour



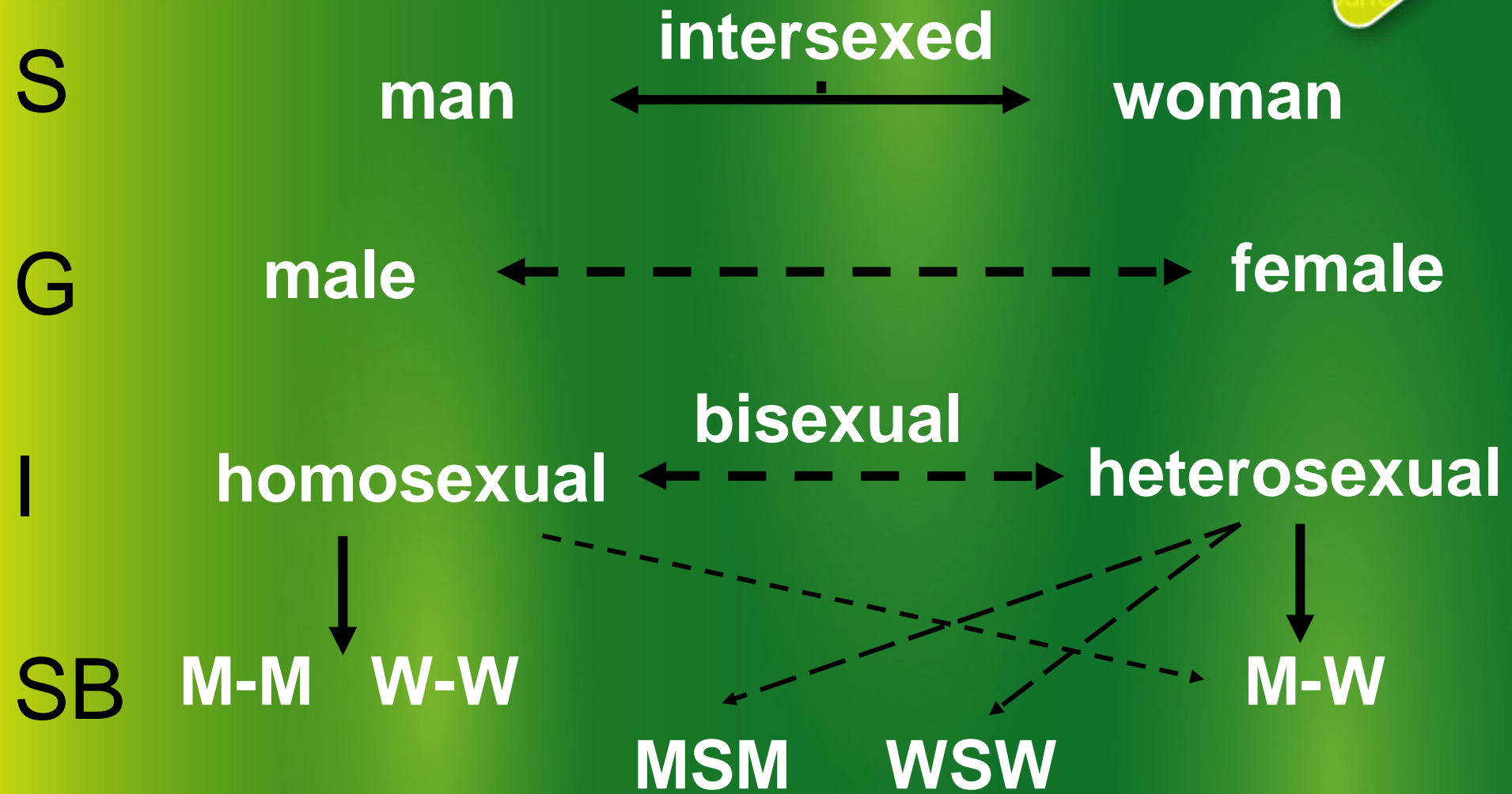
The health of sexual minorities

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Michael Hausermann, DSW, Dialogai, Geneva

michael@dialogai.org

Sex, Gender, Identity and Sexual Behaviour



Quick activity in pairs



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Finish off this sentence :

Being gay (bisexual or lesbian) is relevant to health care because...

Answers...

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Being gay (bisexual or lesbian) is relevant to health care because...

« a lifetime of discrimination (or fear of) can have an impact on someone's physical and mental health »

Answers...

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Being gay (bisexual or lesbian) is relevant to health care because...

« experiences of discrimination in the health system makes proactive health screening less likely »

Answers...



Being gay (bisexual or lesbian) is relevant to health care because...

« of different sexual practices, high levels of legal and illegal drugs use and epidemics of sexually transmitted infections including HIV »

But...



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It's important to understand that being gay, lesbian or bisexual does not make someone mentally or physically ill.

Some historical facts

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MEDICINE AND PSYCHIATRY

Discriminated homosexuals and considered homosexuality as a mental disorder from the end of the 19th century until :

1987 (USA) DSM III

1991 WHO

Quickie questions



5 minutes, group of 3

Why do you think gay men (lesbians, bisexuals) do not disclose their sexuality to GP's ?

Why do you think GP's do not question their patients about their sexuality ?

What are the benefits of disclosing sexuality to a GP or questioning a patient about his/her sexuality?

Removing barriers to disclosure



- Use gender neutral language when discussing partners
- Assure the patient of confidentiality
- Being aware of specific health issues
- Use open ended questions
- Be non judgemental
- Avoid the presumption of heterosexuality
- Etc.

Why work with valid data

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- It is possible to make friends among epidemiologists and build strategic alliances with them on research-action projects. You need them, they need you.
- Epidemiological data is what governments, agencies and policy makers use to fix priorities and allocate funds.

How to collect valid data with sexual minorities (method)

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- Time-space sampling (CDC)
- Method to collect valid data in difficult to reach populations
- Existence of physical and/or virtual venues of the targeted community is a pre-requisite
- Clients of these venues are considered as the best reachable sampling of the targeted community

Thanks, contacts and links



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Contact: Michael Hausermann
michael@dialogai.org

www.dialogai.org

<http://www.sigmaresearch.org.uk>

<http://www.tht.org.uk>

Some historical facts

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CHURCH & RELIGION

- Open condemnation of (male) homosexuality started with patriarchal monotheist religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam.
- Countries in which governments and religions were or are not clearly separated were and are the most anti-homosexual (death penalty)

Some historical facts

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WESTERN GOVERNMENTS

Condamned, jailed and killed
homosexuals until the end of WW II
(some still condemn anal sex)

Only very recently, some of them gave
equal rights to sexual minorities