



NORTHERN

# An Exploratory Investigation of How NNMC Students Reconcile Gendered Sexuality and Religious Beliefs

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## Abstract

The experience of being in a strong religion and identifying individuals sexual orientation is difficult because it is a very sensitive subject. I decided to do my project on Gendered Sexuality and Religion, and how in different cultures they see different sexualities and how it is alright with being religious and having strong beliefs. In this research project I would like to find out how many people ranging in ages 18-50 think about gendered sexuality (sexual orientation) and how it clashes with religion. Random sample selection is the best method because it yields unbiased results.

## Introduction

Religion in itself is a difficult subject to talk about, with both topics usually being rooted in a very deep and personal sense or nature. Sexual Orientation defines itself as an individual's physical and/or emotional attraction to the same and/or opposite gender. "Gay," "lesbian," individuals find that whether it's a man or woman and they present themselves as part of the LGBTQ community and in regards to the fact that either the man or woman are very religious it may not sit well with others. The statistics of gendered sexuality and religion will always vary because each generation is ever changing and cannot be gauged the same as a previous generation. The GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) organization under the "Accelerating Acceptance" report states that 20 percent of millennials (ages 18-34) identify in the LGBTQ compared to 7 percent of baby boomers ages (52-71) who answered the same way. The total population who identifies as LGBTQ is 12 percent (Sara Gonzales, 2017). With this being stated, the LGBTQ community will continue to grow with more generations to come. I think that the LGBTQ community should have the exact same rights that everyone that is straight does. In my opinion we are all human beings and God's creation, whether we look different or whatever sexuality orientation we believe we are

## Theory

In this research project I found out how many people ranging in ages 18-50 think about gendered sexuality (sexual orientation) and how it clashes with religion. It was fascinating to see what men and women had to say and thought about our generation of LGBTQ and its relation to strong religious beliefs. My hypothesis was that most individuals (men or women) would not agree with the LGBTQ community and being able to maintain a strong religious tie. I had also thought a greater number of individuals who hold a strong religious background would argue strongly against being able to be LGBTQ and religious at the same time. I would hope that people are actually giving me the correct answers and not procrastinating or lying about the topic.

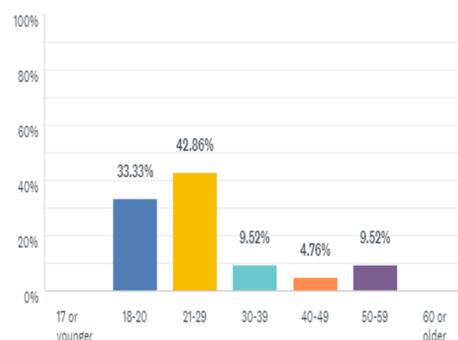
## Hypothesis

- What men and women would have to say and think about our generation of LGBTQ and its relation to strong religious beliefs
- Most individuals (men or women) would not agree with the LGBTQ community and being able to maintain a strong religious tie
- A greater number of individuals who hold strong religious background would agree strongly against being able to be LGBTQ and religious at the same time
- Not procrastinating or lying about one's personal views
- Results on Surveys/Interviews
- More male heterosexuals and female pansexual
- Not judgmental on religious beliefs (Right to Believe)
- More 21-30 year old
- A lot of blank open ended questions with N/A
- Therefore I reject the null hypothesis. Because I did not expect to find out what I did.

## Data Collection and Methods

The sample for this study comprises of Northern New Mexico College students enrolled in spring 2017 and 2018 semester. For the spring 2017 and 2018 the gendered sexuality and first year experience class I surveyed sample size was 20 students, 65.00% being female and 35.00% being male. Females dominated this research study with 10% being pansexual out of 45%. Sexual preference was not what I expected but came out with heterosexual being 38.10% and straight being 9.52%. Relationship status being 47.62% with straight being 33.33%. The biggest religious identification was Christianity that surveyed at 35.00% followed by Catholicism at 30.00%. The lowest religion was no religion being 20.00% and other please specifies 20.00%.

Table 1: Sample Selection- What is your age?



## Data Analysis and Findings

The LGBTQ community is dying out because they feel like they cannot be themselves with discrimination, religion, and categorizing subgroups. There has always been an issue with this sort of category. So what I did for my findings was I surveyed Northern New Mexico College Students on campus in different class types. Last semester in spring 2017 I surveyed the Gendered Sexuality class with giving me a total of 20 surveys. There was more females than males. As of spring 2018 I have surveys an additional 11 and have done 4 oral interviews. For the surveys in a First Year Experience class there was an equal amount of female and male. My interviews I surveyed older LGBTQ women. The experience of being in a strong religion and identifying an individual's sexual orientation is difficult because it is a very sensitive subject. It is present in today's world that people disagree with how the members of the LGBTQ communities live their life. Sometimes the discrimination may be taken too far. When tying in religion most people around the world will always reference the Bible, it was Adam and Eve not Adam and Eve. Another common reference topic in relation to the Bible is that a relationship is meant to be between a man and a woman. However, there may be no statistical significance between the two variables, gendered sexuality and religion. The tables below states what my data measured. I have a dependent variable and a qualitative analysis data table.

Table 2: Dependent Variable- Thoughts about religion

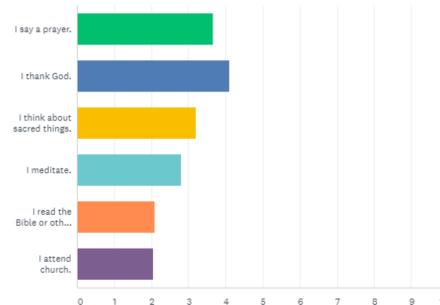
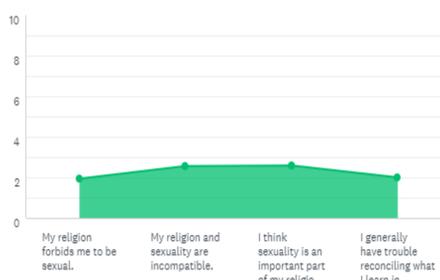


Table 3: Qualitative Analysis- How you think religion and sexuality comes together?



## Discussion

The data collected from this survey is for informational purposes only, and will not be published for public consumption. All personal information will be kept confidential to avoid any emotional harm to the respondents. My findings were not what I had hoped to find out and not what I had expected. Especially the topic being as sensitive as it is. Maybe that is why I didn't get what I had expected because people may feel offended or don't know how to answer the questions.

## Conclusions

What I found out is that most people in today's society don't really care about what gender you are or what your beliefs are. But, there are those certain people that do have their beliefs standards very high and they tend to put down and discriminate against people that are of the LGBTQ community and along with their religion. So after finding out all that I did with my research I can reject the null hypothesis because my research was not what I had expected. I suggested that I was going to have more people be against my research and make a very compelling argument but it turned out younger generations seem to have no problem with the situation. For future research I will survey older more religious people instead of the younger generation and maybe take it out of NNMC campus.

## References

- We personally hear people say nasty things about minority groups" (128).
- "Observed and discussed homosexuality. And it wasn't even the caring and committed relationships between two people who just happen to be of the same sex homosexuality but tawdry encounters between strangers in public toilets" (82).
- References**
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