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Title: The current and potential targeting of LGBT people in sexual violence prevention education in and around UIUC

About the Author: Nick Gooler is a Junior at the University of Illinois. He is majoring in Gender and Women's Studies. This research is being done for GWS 495 Researching Queer Cultures. I chose to research this topic because I am a violence prevention educator and have noticed the lack of education that targets LGBT folks in a few different places.

Keywords: sexual violence, prevention education, LGBT, queer

Abstract: I chose to research the current targeting or inclusion of LGBT identified people in sexual violence prevention at the U of I. I believe that the goal of such programs should be to provide awareness of the realities of sexual violence to people in general, not just heterosexual identified people. I interviewed three people who are involved in violence prevention and/or LGBT organizations on and around campus to obtain multiple perceptions of what current sexual violence prevention consists of and collect some ideas of what might be done to include the needs of the LGBT community in the future. All three people concluded that more could and should be done to include LGBT folks in violence prevention.

- Initial Exercises:**
1. General Areas:
Sexual assault and domestic violence in/around the LGBT community
Safe spaces for LGBT people
 2. I am most interested in examining sexual assault within LGBT couples or targeting LGBT people. I am involved in violence prevention and there is very little information or discussion about violence involving LGBT folks other than, "it happens to them too".
The occurrence of sexual assault in/around the LGBT community
 3. The occurrence of sexual assault involving LGBT people at the U of I
 4. Regarding the U of I:

What steps are in place that focus on prevention of violence involving LGBT people?

How often does violence occur involving LGBT people?

How often do they report this violence?

What are the factors that discourage them from reporting or seeking assistance from local resources?

*What more can be done to include LGBT folks in violence prevention and advocacy as educators and community members?

Question: What is being done and what more can be done to include LGBT identified people in violence prevention and advocacy as educators and community members, specifically in and around the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign?

Revised Question

4/15/09

My question and plan have changed. I have cut the “potential targeting” aspect out of the question in order to allow for that piece to be a recommendation.

What is being done to include/target LGBT identified people in violence prevention and advocacy as educators and community members, specifically in and around the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign?

Plan: Initial Research Plan

Week of:

- March 30 – Contact potential interviewees from local and campus organizations
- April 6, 13 – Begin interviews and continue to look for and contact interviewees, ask interviewees for other contacts who might have some relevant input, look for and research specifics of training and statistics dealing with sexual assault and LGBT folks, determine whether any other research methods would be useful such as observation of a meeting, workshop, or class
- April 20 – Wrap up interviews and research in order to be

able to focus on analysis and presenting

- April 27 – Be prepared for practice presentation and actual presentation this week
- May 3, 10 – Complete any other loose ends and finish project

Revised Research Plan

4/15/09

My question and plan have changed. I have added to the plan details of specific organizations that I have spoken with or hope to speak with as well as how I will get in contact with these people. I am hoping to be able to complete two or three more interviews before the conference.

Week of:

- March 30 – Contact potential interviewees from The Women's Resource Center, Rape Crisis Services, Men Against Sexual Violence, the Fraternity Peer Rape Education Program, the First Year Campus Acquaintance Rape Education Program, an LGBT organization such as Pride or Colors of Pride, and perhaps someone who works in Housing with Student Allies or the Diversity Committee, many of which can be contacted through Ross Wantland or classmates or contacts within these organizations
 - April 6, 13 – Begin interviews and continue to look for and contact interviewees, ask interviewees for other contacts who might have some relevant input, look for and research specifics of training and statistics dealing with sexual assault and LGBT folks, determine whether any other research methods would be useful such as observation of a meeting, workshop, or class
 - April 20 – Wrap up interviews and research in order to be able to focus on analysis and presenting
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Data: 4/8/09

Field Notes 1

I met with Ross Wantland at his office in the Women's

Resource Center. Ross is the Coordinator of Sexual Assault Education and trains and directs undergraduates to facilitate the First Year Campus Acquaintance Rape Education Program (FYCARE) as well as teaching the Fraternity Peer Rape Education Program (FPREP). All incoming freshmen are required to attend one two-hour session of FYCARE. FPREP is a yearlong course for fraternity men to become trained as allies and sexual violence prevention educators. Ross also teaches a course for FYCARE facilitators to improve their facilitation skills. He is probably in his late thirties. Ross' office contains various objects having to do with violence prevention – t-shirts, videos, books. He was very interested to talk about this issue and said that he had thought about it a lot and that it was a tough subject. This is probably because he understands the need for targeting LGBT folks in education but it is difficult to find a way to do this without excluding people. He is very animated when he speaks, makes a lot of gestures. I didn't have to go through all of my questions because he answered most of them anyway. He was also able to give me some good sources for other people I might want to interview.

4/23/09

Transcript 1

Interviewer: So, do you understand who is included in LGBT?

Ross: Yes, I do believe so. I understand what the L the G the B and the T all stand for. Even though it's often times used as a blanket term that doesn't include the L the G the B and the T.

Interviewer: Right. Ok. So what sexual violence prevention programs are there in and around campus?

Ross: You said sexual violence prevention programs? I, through my job, work with a couple of different peer educator programs and then a third related group of peer educators. The first is the Campus Acquaintance Rape Education Program which offers workshops to all incoming freshmen called the First Year Campus Acquaintance Rape

Education Program and that's a two-hour workshop to all freshmen, required, facilitated by undergraduate students who have gone through a semester long class. And the other that we operate is specifically for fraternity men. The Fraternity Peer Rape Education Program. It's a year long class that's just for men in social fraternities who are doing workshops to their own fraternity ideally, but also to other fraternities as well. And then a third group of related prevention educators are students who have already been in those two groups and want more advanced work and there are other workshops that they'll create on their own or they'll take the initiative to develop or design either based on what students are saying they want to see, workshops they're wanting or requesting, or based on what these facilitators themselves see as being gaps. And then I guess in terms or around the community there's also prevention education that the rape crisis center, Rape Crisis Services here in town offers sometimes to college students but vastly to elementary, middle, and senior high schools, some organizations of quote unquote adults, churches, civic organizations like Kiwanis club, groups of parents, etc. But vastly on campus the programs are run through the Women's Resource Center that I work with.

Interviewer: Ok. Is there any portion of these programs that specifically targets LGBT folks?

Ross: Yeah. Yes and no. The first year CARE workshops have been really the location where we've thought about how do we make this workshop that everyone has to go to relevant to the lives of all these folks who are coming to the campus in a lot of different ways. So what some research has shown, not surprisingly, is that if information is not made relevant to a group it's easy for them to check out, to say "well this doesn't mean anything about me". Particularly some of that research has been done around men of color in sexual violence prevention workshops where there wasn't anything particularly discussing either men of color generally or their own race, and how sexual violence impacts their community, then it was really easy to be like "well, that's a white problem that's not really my problem". I think a similar thing happens around sexual orientation. That if we aren't deliberate and relevant for

LGBT students in the workshops then I think many of them will either check out and say “this doesn’t mean anything about me” or get frustrated that their experiences aren’t being included within this blanket mandatory workshop. So, that’s been something we’d been thinking about for a while and four years ago I think we had a focus group of LGBT students talking about their experiences of the CARE workshops and not surprisingly the things that they talked about were all of the examples felt very heterosexist, just male and female, male on female sexual assault, male and female dating relationships. Whether that was in the script formally or informally when the facilitators would say “ok ladies when you’ve got a guy who’s talking you up how do you blah blah blah…” or “ok guys, you know when your going to have sex with that girl…”. These kind of off the cuff ways that there would be an assumption of heterosexuality. So a couple things that we did to the script itself to try and adjust that is we made a point to say that although the vast majority of sexual violence is male perpetrators on female victims that men can be assaulted by other men and women can be sexually assaulted by women as well as women can sexually assault men. And that it happens to everyone. It can happen to anyone regardless of sexual orientation. We also built in two different scenarios in two different sections of the workshop, one in the how to support a survivor section putting a male survivor coming to you for help, so not saying if it was a male who assaulted him, not saying what the circumstances were. That just in putting that there to include male survivor’s experiences. So not overtly saying and he’s gay that’s why he’s coming to you. Cause to some extent that could be the shiny object that they get distracted by and I don’t want the group to get distracted by the fact that this person needs their help and so how do they go about it. The other section in the women’s only segment where they have a list of scenarios they’re working through in terms of how might one escape this scenario. So coming up as a group with different escape strategies and ways to protect themselves there’s this scenario where it says your girlfriend Laura is basically being emotionally coercive around sex and it kind of alludes to a violent dating relationship, that you know you have to concede to sex otherwise it could get violent so

what do you do? They both have wound up producing some interesting impacts for both the facilitators and the audience. The audience we can predict. It's largely an audience who are not aware of same sex sexual violence, who don't understand the dynamics of same sex sexual violence. There's another thing that we did add to the script. Also who are not very in depth about talking about LGBT issues. So with the male survivor section what they tend to do sometimes is laugh because a man got raped, men shouldn't be able to be raped or its funny. They assume a woman did it, largely, and so they kind of laugh because of that. The other interesting thing, and this I think has something to do with homophobia, but also something to do with codes around masculinity. Whereas for the female survivors they'll give all these ways that they can respond positively to kind of emotionally support her, etc., for the male survivor they just say "I'll just give a phone number, ill just get him help and he'll got there and I won't have to talk to him anymore". So they get really uncomfortable with having to be emotionally supportive to a man. In the women's section, the women largely think it's a typo. They're like "wait am I Laura? Is it my boyfriend? Who am I am I, the guy?" They really want to fit this into a heterosexual scenario. So much so that they'll try and bargain with the facilitator. They'll say "I'll just imagine that Laura is a guy," Linden, or something "and so that'll make sense for me". And sometimes facilitators try and make it easier for the group by letting them imagine themselves as it being a heterosexual situation because, the women, they don't even want to imagine themselves being in this situation with a woman, can't even go there, cant event think about it, their homophobia is just too great. So it provides some interesting opportunities to challenge that but what we realized was that the facilitators weren't ready to challenge them although we've had some discussions about homophobia, they were very unprepared and played into homophobia in ways that were expected and unexpected. For the male survivor situation they would say "well just because he was raped doesn't mean he's gay". We had to really talk about, well, it doesn't mean that he's straight either. That there's an assumption that he was straight and that being sexually assaulted effeminizes him and makes him gay in some way. Which I think is

something to call out but they're also neglecting the fact that he may not have been straight to start with and so this kind of continued assumption of heterosexuality. And like I said, in the women's section the groups sometimes just collude with the homophobia of the audience and don't call it out or address it. They themselves are uncomfortable with a same sex scenario and so fail to do that. Also in terms of language we ended up having a few workshops with the facilitators around language because they would use terms that for them and for their communities felt really normal to talk about LGBT folks but they were terms that for the queer students in the room really raised the hair on the back of their neck. They would say "well, the homosexuals blah blah blah...". You know, "the whatever," the anything was bad. They would say homosexual and there was a way in which they were saying it that I always felt like, even not talking to queer students, that it was over there it wasn't something in the facilitator's community or in the community in the room. It was something over on the other side of the street that they were talking about. We've tried to work on that in so much as we can. It's a work in progress I think. The other thing that we did add to that script that I'll say is we have a continuum of coercive behaviors and one of the behaviors is threatening to disclose damaging information about a person, or something like that, and so one of the examples we've built into the script that we encourage people to say is threatening to out someone, threatening to name someone as gay because I think that for sexual violence against queer folks that that becomes a very real emotional threat that gets played against them and if they're not out to their family or to work or their community then saying "well, I'm gonna out you if you don't do this". So wanting to kind of pull that in there. Now at the same time it's still largely a topic that gets assumed to just be a heterosexual problem. Most of the examples are still heterosexual examples, or male perpetrators, female victims or survivors. So does it really change it? One of the things that the students have brought up was having an LGBT only CARE workshop. We played around with that for a while. Ultimately I don't know that anybody would come to that. They don't want to come to a CARE workshop anyway. But there was some sense from some students that rather than feeling more inclusive

it might actually feel more exclusive or exclusionary to be like “well, you have your special workshop over here”. So we haven’t ever come back to that but that's one of many community specific CARE workshops we’ve talked about doing. International students being another group, students of color being another group, that community specific CARE workshops could make that more relevant for them. We also struggle from really not having the numbers of queer facilitators that I would like who I would feel comfortable leading that workshop, Queer or allied facilitators. So that's the kind of like established programs. We talk about heterosexism and we talk about same sex sexual violence within the classes, the trainings that facilitators do. But then we’ve also done, by request and often by suggestion, my own suggestion generally, done some workshops for the LGBT community about same sex sexual violence or dating violence, which I feel like have been really successful. It’s something that the communities often times really want to talk about and don't have an opportunity to talk about, have trouble making sense of, have trouble taking seriously because of the way that it calls out one’s community because this is happening often times from somebody in the community to somebody in the community. It becomes really difficult to call out, it just gets minimized as drama and pushed to the side. And then there’s this whole kind of context of heterosexism around the outside of it that kind of keeps that in. But those haven’t really been sustained and I don't know necessarily what it would look like to have those be sustained but they've been more moments. So, this moment we’re gonna do a workshop on dating violence because its domestic violence awareness month and we’ve got some students who would like to do this. This moment we’re gonna do a workshop about sexual violence in the LGBT community to the Big Gay Conference and see how that goes. But nothing that is kind of from the within community that is continued by the community. Which is understandable, I mean, one of things I’ve heard is that people don't want to talk about the bad stuff in your community, especially when your community is marginalized and everybody’s pointing fingers at you and talking about the bad stuff in you community. Creating those spaces and sustaining them can be really hard.

Interviewer: You mentioned a little bit about the queer organizations on campus. Do you do much cooperative work with them?

Ross: The workshops that we have done have been either been cosponsored by pride. I think we're probably gonna do a workshop this April with Colors of Pride and Ladies Loving Ladies and maybe Pride as well around sexual violence in the LGBT community. So yeah, because if you don't have a group supporting it nobody's gonna come to it, we have that co-sponsorship. Though the workshops themselves have more often been developed by facilitators already aware of the sexual violence aspect, most of whom are within the LGBT community, most of whom are lesbian or bi women, actually.

Interviewer: So it seems like you see LGBT folks as a group that needs to be addressed more?

Ross: One of the ways that I've started to look at this is that I think that in the context of oppression, marginalized communities have a double burden in terms of addressing sexual violence, when and if you're able to name it and call it out and go and get the resources that the larger context of the oppression that the community experiences in addition to the sexism, and whatnot, that allows the sexual violence to occur that the larger element of racism or heterosexism or anti-Semitism or whatnot, really makes the community want to be insular and want to deny that this problem exists as a self protective mechanism, saying "well, these folks in our community are already being hurt by racism or heterosexism or anti-Semitism so we can't call this stuff or don't call attention to this, people will just make assumptions about us". And then the larger community, the larger straight, larger white, or whatever, kind of community will point fingers like "I knew that would happen, you violent, Chris Brown, violent black man, tsk tsk tsk, I can't believe that Rihanna brought this on but Chris Brown's a violent man". So I think that for very real reasons it becomes difficult to call that out, so, a long way of answering that, the part of that work that I feel like is really important is to help communities identify those

dynamics that are going on and to be able to point them out and say “yeah, but we need to talk about this, I know it’s difficult, I know this is hard stuff” and to really give communities the tools to have those discussions. I think that for a lot of reasons, structures of accountability that are reliant upon the criminal justice system don’t work for marginalized communities, they don’t work for most people. But they don't work for marginalized communities and so we have to imagine other ways of accountability that people might actually use and utilize and if it's something as simple as saying “you can’t be in this group because you're hurting people in this group, or you need to go get help, you need to go do this and this before you can come back and join our organization, or be a part of our church, or whatever”. But that stuff’s much further down the road than just starting to have a conversation.

Interviewer: So, do you think LGBT people are targeted for sexual violence because of that identity?

Ross: Yes, definitely, most definitely. And I think that we can look at that through several different lenses of why that might happen. I think that on one level lesbians, gay men, bisexual folks, transgender folks are seen as transgressing their socially approved gender roles of who they're supposed to be affectionately attracted to. And so therefore we can see the sexual violence against them especially when perpetrated by straight folks as a punishment, you know, as a way to push this person back into their box. We know that some literature suggests that most male on male sexual assaults are perpetrated by men who identify as heterosexual. That's prison research. I don't necessarily know how much stock to put in it because your getting a situation that has reached a level where the courts actually took it seriously. Or the person’s identity is such that they didn't have money, they didn’t have status, they weren’t going to be taken seriously so they were more likely to be incarcerated. But these folks vastly identified as heterosexual. We can also imagine that acquaintance rapes are less reported than stranger rapes too, that’s another thing. But regardless of that we have many stories of gay men and lesbians and bi folks who can talk about being sexually assaulted by straight people who

said “I’m gonna teach you how you’re supposed to be, I’m gonna show you what you get for being gay”. So this is very much a cautionary weapon. The stuff that’s more difficult to figure out in some ways is acquaintance rape, or within community stuff, from that lens. I think that a part of it is because we still have these dynamics that aren’t just embedded in men but I think get embedded in relationships and how relationships are supposed to look or what real power looks like in society. Power over somebody is preferred to power with someone and what kind of power is eroticized. You can put all that on top of a society that says gay men, lesbians, and bisexual folks and transgender folks aren’t worth very much. You can imagine how an acquaintance of theirs even within the community may buy into that and may enact that violence against them. Even through some form of self loathing, and the communities are largely ill equipped to deal with this, ever, any community when that happens from somebody in the community to somebody in the community. But they generally side with the perpetrator, which means usually to do nothing. If you do nothing, you side with the perpetrator. If you are to take the survivor seriously, then you have to do something. So they either do nothing or they actively side with the perpetrator and so some statistics bear that out. Lesbians have a higher rate of sexual violence than straight women in some research and I can’t recall specifically research around gay men and their experiences of sexual violence, men’s experiences of sexual violence are under research in some ways, that may not be well documented. Michael Scarce, in his book *Male on Male Rape*, says this really interesting thing: “homophobia keeps men’s bodies off limits to other men, sexually, yet at the same time, dramatically increases the risks that some men will be identified as targets of sexual violence”. I think that’s a really interesting statement. So men aren’t supposed to be sexual with other men, cause of what homophobia says, “oh, I’m not supposed to find another man attractive”. Yet, sexual violence, as a weapon, gets kind of leveled at men who are assumed to be gay or too effeminate as a kind of weapon, a punishment. It’s ironic.

Interviewer: You’ve talked quite a lot about targeting LGBT

folks in violence prevention, but what more do you think could be done?

Ross: I think that sustained, within community efforts would be really amazing, but I'm not clear how to do that, especially on a campus like this one where most people are only here four years. It's not like we can identify one person who's going to just kind of, within community, do this work for 8 years because they're not gonna be here, their whole community's gonna turn over twice. So I think that kind of like the FPREP model, the Fraternity Peer Rape Education model, I think about some elements of that or some way that folks within LGBT organizations could be trained as advocates or allies to survivors, could really be empowered to be the ones responsible for addressing that violence within their community, and knowing where to go to get additional resources, to find some allies who are also going to be understanding of sexual and domestic violence, who can kind of help them work through this, to know that this really painful experience doesn't have to be something that they just go through alone. And that they have the ability to talk about it. So, that's, I think, the direction that I might imagine it going so something beyond moments to a more kind of sustained effort that doesn't feel like me just kind of saying "oh, we're gonna do another workshop with you all, there's something else going on". One of the things that has been interesting about doing these workshops is people want to talk about this. We had about 30 or 40 people at the Big Gay Conference's workshop, that was a year ago, February, people just started disclosing. We had probably five disclosures of experiences of sexual violence from an acquaintance or somebody within the community and a lot of pain there. People were just really not sure where to get help, not sure how to talk about this, hadn't had a place to talk about this. And they all left. The workshop was over and they all left and my co facilitator and I were just kind of struck with "wow, people need this space" but it's also hard to keep it sustained because it's vulnerable.

Interviewer: Ok, thanks.

Ross: You're welcome.

4/15/09

Field notes 2

I met with “Pat” in the Undergrad Library after a Men Against Sexual Violence (MASV) meeting. “Pat” is a member of MASV, went through the FPREP class, and is a facilitator for FYCARE and other violence prevention workshops. He was also involved in Allies for a Women’s Center, a group which successfully advocated to get a space on campus for the Women’s Resource Center. He is an undergrad student at the U of I in his early twenties. The feeling of the interview was very relaxed. He seemed happy to talk with me after the meeting. Being a facilitator, he understood what I meant when I said that, in workshops, the extent of the current exploration of the ways that sexual violence affects LGBT folks seems to be, “it happens to them too, they’re just like us”. He seemed to be less interested in changing the workshops, though, and talked a lot about trying to get organizations with different purposes to share resources and work together. He mentioned that Allies for a Women’s Center was a really powerful group because it included members from many different groups such as MASV, Feminist Majority, LGBT groups, and others but that currently, most members of different groups stick to the one to which they see themselves most tied. He thought that collaborations between many groups in the future could be a good way to enact change, and not just related to violence prevention.

4/23/09

Transcript 2

Interviewer: So, do you understand who is included in LGBT?

“Pat”: Yeah, I think so.

Interviewer: Ok. So, What sexual violence prevention programs or organizations are you involved in or do you know about on campus?

“Pat”: Well, I started my sophomore year with FPREP, that was a two semester class. It’s the Fraternity Peer Rape

Education Program. And through that I started doing facilitations for fraternities on various issues: how to be allies, how to be a good supporter to a sexual assault survivor. And then from that I got into FYCARE and did the First Year Campus Acquaintance Rape Education and because of that, because I really like doing that work, I started doing freelance, education talks for the office of women's programs. I've done sexist language workshops, I've done bystander intervention workshops and just different things like that. So mainly FPREP and FYCARE and through that I got involved with Men Against Sexual Violence.

Interviewer: Can you talk a little bit about Men Against Sexual Violence?

"Pat": Yeah, It's an organization that is trying spread awareness about men's role in stopping violence, mainly sexual violence, but any type of violence that men inflict on women and other men. And basically our whole stance, our motto is that we realize that we're a bunch of normal guys who wanted to do something, there's a lot of us out there but very few people knew of any ways to get involved and we're just trying to spread the knowledge that there are outlets for men to get involved and just because you do that, it seems like there's a lot of social constraints for men where they think they can't speak out against these issues so were trying to speak out to large groups of men. So we go out to the fraternity system a lot and try to recruit from there because that's a structured organization that we can tap into and get other leaders from but we also look into other groups on campus too, different RSO's to help spread our awareness and gain new membership.

Interviewer: OK. Is there any portion of MASV or FPREP or FYCARE that specifically targets LGBT folks?

"Pat": Not especially. And the LGBT community is an organization that I'm just starting to get involved with. I think men who take the FPREP class, even take the FYCARE class and stuff like that, they don't really understand what an ally means and I think a lot of them find it very easy to be an ally for the women in their lives

but then they find it difficult to talk about things like racism and homophobia and through practice and through experience they get more comfortable with that and they begin to see “I can't be an ally just for the women in my life, I have to be an ally for the other men in life, the gay friends I have, different organizations like that”. And another thing I've noticed is there's so many student organizations, there's quite a few LGBT organizations, there's many different organizations against sexual violence where we all work very well together but it seems like people pick which one that they want to affiliate most of their time with so that can be kind of tough when you're recruiting because you have a lot of friends in the other organizations. Like they're busy with Feminist Majority and I'm busy with Men Against Sexual Violence so we'll get together and share our resources but “I'm with this group or I'm with that group”. So, I've been trying to get away from that. I'm on the Pride email list and I get updates from them, but I think that's the one problem. We all go to Ross as like our connection but I think people have a tough time interworking between the two groups especially if they hold a position in one of them they feel like “oh, I really should devote my time to this”.

Interviewer: Do you kind of actively look for LGBT members for your group?

“Pat”: I think I personally, when I first started doing facilitations, it was really early in my education of what an ally really is and I think I was gearing it to what I would like to hear and until I was confronted, not like physically confronted or, “hey I didn't enjoy your workshop” but someone asked me how come the men's section of the FYCARE seemed to be geared toward straight men? And it wasn't until that point I was like “oh, man”. And I can tell you why, because two very straight men were up there talking and acting very buddy-buddy like and talking to the guys like “what would you do if you were in this situation with a girl?” And we never thought about how that would impact how somebody else thought. Someone who maybe wasn't from our same viewpoint. I've been trying to incorporate as many people from that but it seems like there's other outlets for them like Pride or LGBT where they

like working with us but our numbers are limited in the first place so whether we're specifically targeting LGBT...not really. But we're really open to taking anyone who wants to help out. Lately it's been people from the FPREP class and it seems like we have like one woman every couple years who's an awesome member of our group and I would love to get more women involved in our group too. I just think that Men Against Sexual Violence, people automatically assume that we don't have women in our group but we do. My recruiting efforts have been to anyone and everyone but really it's whoever shows any interest.

Interviewer: Do you see LGBT folks as a group that needs to be addressed more in violence prevention?

“Pat”: Uh, yeah? Not for any specific reason. I don't know much about statistics and stuff about that but it seems to me, like I said earlier, there's a lot of groups that focus on their own strict mission statement and I've known a lot of LGBT who've done FYCARE who've been great facilitators and I think they do a really great job but I need to get more involved I think but I think where we can do a better job is interworking between groups. When we're doing events about LGBT awareness lets do those. When we're doing stuff about sexual assault awareness let's focus on that. And I think if we came together as a group of entities that we could get a lot more done rather than this group's just spreading sexual assault awareness, this group's spreading domestic violence awareness and this group's spreading LGBT awareness. If we all work together and focus separately each of those has their own month. I think we could do a lot between interworking but, like I said, it seems like each group has their own segmented thing and I'm as guilty as anyone. You just focus on that. You support the other ones, you show up but you don't really get actively involved sometimes. That's why I think things like Sex Out Loud's a really good activity cause it brings all the different groups together and they talk and they all have fun and they exchange numbers and emails and they get on other email lists but then the next day they go back to just working on their own, specific mission statement. So, yeah, I don't know. The people I know from the LGBT, they've done really good, Allies for a Women's Center...I

was one of the co-founders for that and that was one of the best groups I've been involved with cause that was literally people from different organizations who started their own organization and there was a few people from MASV there, there was Feminist Majority people there, there was LGBT people there and we all got together and had weekly meetings, sometimes twice a week and had little events on the quad and stuff. That was very successful. We raised petitions, we very quickly secured a space on Green street and they're saying within the next 7 years we're gonna have a women's center. So that shows how quickly ten or twelve organizations who work together can achieve a goal. I don't know specifically what LGBT does with sexual assault or violence prevention. I'm sure they're doing a fine job.

Interviewer: Do you think GBT people are targeted for sexual violence because of that identity?

“Pat”: I think to, like, the general public, the people who walk by the quad, see all our groups out there, I don't think they initially, just by doing the FYCARE's I think most of them think about it in a man on woman situation and that's something we even, like, have to point out, like, “remember, hey, these two people in this made up scenario we have, they may be a man and a woman but think about it as if they're a guy-guy or a guy-girl, think about it as gay, straight, try to bend your mind around this very generic scenario and think how this can be viewed in different ways” because a lot of people, especially straight males or straight females, they think like “oh, this is how everyone must think,” they don't do a very good job of viewing other scenarios like that. I know, for instance, in the women's section there's a scenario where its like “you have been dating Laura for this long” and its like, “is this in the wrong section? Why am I dating Laura?” And its like “well, you just offended any of the lesbians in the group here”. And a lot of the women, and the FYCARE facilitators have had to push this, are really uncomfortable, “well, cant we just say his name's Steve?” “No, the name's Laura. Just work on the scenario. We just did two straight ones, you can do this”. I just think that people, in general, when they think sexual assault or they think rape or something

like that or anything in between, falls on a male attacker and a female victim and that's not always the case, It's usually not the case in LGBT instances because that implies, usually, one gender sometimes. I don't know. Like I said before, people like to pick and choose what's important to them, what they're gonna argue for and sometimes things get overlooked. So, there are a lot of people in MASV or Feminist Majority who think, "for me, my most important issue is stopping violence. So I'm gonna promote that". And I think there's people in LGBT who that's a big issue for them just like vice versa but they think "well, we really need to get equal understanding, equal rights and stuff like that and we're gonna push for cooperation and raise awareness that way". And they can sometimes overlook just like the other people overlooked their status. Yeah, so I think yes, but I just think that a general raising of awareness for everyone would benefit that. If everyone had to take the CARE class I think people would start realizing that sexual assault happens in and out of relationships, it happens whether the person is gay or straight. I just think, in general, the campus is not very informed. So, of course, that is gonna effect how you try to educate them.

Interviewer: Apart from groups cooperating with each other and some of the scenarios that aren't heteronormative in the CARE workshops, do you have any other ideas of how LGBT folks might be addressed more?

"Pat": People just being more comfortable with it. I think what took me so long is that a facilitator must realize that these people might not be comfortable talking about but I can be. And I can make them understand or try to show to them that this is ok to talk about, for a guy to talk about homophobia and what he thinks about it doesn't make him less of a man, it means he disagrees with a homophobic comment. So I think just through examples and through just practice. Like how many years ago it was taboo to even talk about sex? And we still have a huge problem with sex education in this country but I think its getting better. So, I think the facilitators, the workshop people, any person in a position like that should really stress the comfort level of talking about issues like this because I

think if more people are comfortable with talking about it more people are gonna go through with talking about it. They're gonna learn from each other and then sooner or later this won't be a problem to address. I think we're getting somewhere with it. It seems like the whole 1950's culture of cookie cutter houses and gay people should not tell people about that, should keep themselves closeted and all that, it's starting to change. Also, I think that'll help with the comfort level of discussing an issue like this. Oh, yeah, I just watched the film Milk a couple weeks ago and, of course I knew who he was, but when he was saying "hey we need to make sure that people know about this, that if each one of them knows that they know someone it'll make it easier". Like me. I came to college and no one had ever told me like, "hey, I'm gay". None of my friends had ever done that. Since I've got involved in this work I've had people tell me that. I've worked with LGBT people and that makes me a lot more comfortable with talking about it. That makes me, like, I have an interest and I have friends so it's something I want to talk about, something I want to fight for. And three years ago that wasn't really the case. I didn't really know anyone, no one had ever confided in me, to tell me something like that. I didn't know all these people because I wasn't involved in these organizations yet. So, I think, just in general, awareness will help that. I think the University of Illinois is doing a pretty good job with that. They've got Ross Wantland, so I think he's gonna help with it.

Interviewer: Great, thanks.

4/22/09

Fieldnotes 3

I met with "Liz" in the basement of the Union. She was vocal about being unsure of how much help she could be to me because she claimed not to know much about the topic. Despite some of my questions that could have been worded better, it was a smooth interview. It was the shortest one I've done. There were a few people sitting at the tables around us but it was quiet and "Liz" seemed comfortable talking there. After I clarified some of my inquiries, I found that she was very knowledgeable about

myths about sexual assault and said some very smart things about what the future of violence prevention education might look like in contrast with her earlier statement of not being versed in the topic. I chose to interview her because she is a member of Colors of Pride, an LGBT group that works to create safe spaces for queers of color. I wanted to get a perspective from someone who isn't rooted in violence prevention because, so far, I had only talked to people with that type of background.

4/23/09

Transcript 3

Interviewer: So, I assume that you understand who is included in LGBT?

“Liz”: Mhmm.

Interviewer: Ok. What LGBT and/or violence prevention organizations are you involved in?

“Liz”: Violence prevention organizations? I would say that, that work specifically towards those goals? None. But I think that all LGBT organizations have that as something in mind that they want to address eventually but I don't think it's like the main thrust but it's one of the things that's important to them. You see what I'm saying?

Interviewer: Mhmm. So, what LGBT organizations are you involved in?

“Liz”: I'm involved in Colors of Pride. And the main goal of that organization is to provide a safe space for queer people of color but all the different things that face queer people in the community is something that we are concerned with so violence prevention of course is something that is very important to us.

Interviewer: Did you go through FYCARE, the First Year Campus Acquaintance Rape Education?

“Liz”: Yes I did.

Interviewer: What did you think about that program as far as targeting LGBT folks?

“Liz”: I don't think we were targeted at all and this was before I had identified as LGBT so I wasn't really on the lookout for it but when I think back to my freshmen year, I don't think anything is said specifically about LGBT people, which is how it usually is with everything. It's something that is never really focused on or pointed out.

Interviewer: Ok, do you think that programs like that should target LGBT folks? Or some portion of those?

“Liz”: I think yes and no. It's a fine line. You don't want people to feel like they're being singled out, however you do want them to know you are taking their issues and you believe in the importance of it. I don't think that with FYCARE, that was where they were teaching about rape and everything? I think when you teach about rape, it should be targeted to everyone because not just women get raped and not just men get raped and rape isn't a woman's problem it's really the people who are doing it. It's their problem. But I think in terms of hate crimes and things like that then there does need to be specific programming for LGBT people.

Interviewer: Ok, have you done any cooperative events or workshops or anything with the Women's Resource Center or any violence prevention work on campus?

“Liz”: The latest thing that we've done would be bringing Eboni Edwards to campus and she'll be here this Friday and she's doing a play called Body, it's a one woman play which focuses on how different characters deal with sexual assault. So it's not specifically LGBT but it's kind of in the realm of sexual violence.

Interviewer: So, do you see LGBT folks as a group that needs to be addressed more in violence prevention?

“Liz”: See, that's a little bit tricky, well not tricky but, like I said I think we need to work on everyone getting focus and not being pulled to the side and “Ok, now all the gay

freshmen stay behind because we're gonna have a program for you gay people that might get raped," kind of thing. But there are different circumstances and different ways that LGBT people can endure sexual violence that you wouldn't think of because it is possible for a woman to rape another woman. And these are things that aren't really thought to happen. You're like "oh, that can happen?" Yes, it can happen. So, it needs to be addressed and I wish it could be addressed in the larger context when you're talking with everyone else it could be brought up too instead of having to have a whole separate program. You see what I'm saying?

Interviewer: Mhmm.

"Liz": So, that you feel like "I'm different from everyone else". And I wish we had a type of culture or a type of atmosphere where you could talk about a man raping another man and not hear snickers, or "oh, I can't believe that could happen," you know? I think it needs to be more educational for everyone, not just LGBT people.

Interviewer: Do you think that LGBT folks are targeted for sexual violence because of that identity? Do you think sexual violence is perpetrated against LGBT folks because of that identity, ever?

"Liz": Unpack that a little bit for me. When you say identity what do you mean?

Interviewer: I guess, do you think people who are perpetrating sexual violence are ever like, "oh, that person's gay, I'm going to assault them" or do you think people get assaulted because "oh, they're gay, I'm going to use type of violence against them"?

"Liz": I would say yes. But I can't say that every single person who is LGBT and has been sexually assaulted, it's because of their identity but there's probably that one person out there because we hear the stories like if you're a lesbian: "I'm going to show you how a man can do it," kind of thing. Or "ok, you're gay," like prison stories but I don't think we can apply that to everyone. I think that's a

question that I can't really answer without statistics and without studying it because I'd just be going off what I think but just because I think something doesn't mean that it's true. So, sure I think there's at least one person out there and there's probably many others but I can't say for certain that "yes, you're gay, that's why you got raped". You see what I'm saying?

Interviewer: Right. So, do you have any ideas of what more might be done to address issues of sexual violence perpetrated against LGBT folks?

"Liz": Well, I think first off, especially in terms of lesbian relationships it needs to be recognized that it can and does happen. That's one thing that I would like to see done in the community because you know like I was saying earlier, a woman can rape another woman. It can happen. And then when it comes to the issue of rape, in general, rape targets the wrong people with education. When we have programs, women are being taught to not walk at night, and they're being taught to carry their rape whistle, they're being taught to be safe and to go in numbers when really we need to be talking to those who rape. "Why do you do it?" "This is what you need to do to not do it". Because we all know it's not about sex, it's about power. We need to be addressing those dynamics. Instead of telling me to stop walking at night, we need to tell people to stop raping at night. So, I think that we need to change the entire way that we approach education in terms of sexual assault. For everybody. Straight, gay, everybody. Personally.

Interviewer: Thank you.

Discuss: see attachment "Discuss"

EUI Links: Safety in the Residence Halls : An Issue for the University or Students?

<http://hdl.handle.net/2142/3739>

GLBT Discrimination at ISU

<http://hdl.handle.net/2142/3741>

Reflect: The EUI method was a good way to improve my research skills without having to go through everything the IRB requires. I would like to see more types of communication allowed such as interviews over the phone in cases where informants are not within the area. I appreciated, after the fact, having the conference be a mandatory part of the class and encourage more EUI professors to make this a requirement.

Recommendations: My recommendations for the University, and other higher education institutions, are as follows:

- Add mandatory LGBT awareness training to what is already required of incoming students.
- Re-evaluate the effectiveness of current sexual violence prevention education for marginalized groups such as LGBT identified people and people of color.
- Make sexual violence prevention programs, i.e. the First Year Campus Acquaintance Rape Education program, mandatory for at least all incoming undergraduate students if not for all incoming students.
- Provide more funding for organizations and programs on campus that do violence prevention and/or LGBT awareness/safety work.
- Provide safe spaces for LGBT identified people.
- Create a more strict policy to handle sexual assault/violence and hate crimes on campus.