

Call for papers

Journal of Official Statistics

Special Issue on Measuring LGBT populations

Special Issue Guest Editors

Stephanie Steinmetz, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Mirjam Fischer, Doctoral researcher in Sociology, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Nancy Bates, Senior Researcher for Survey Methodology, US Census Bureau, USA

In recent years, much progress has been made in the US, Europe and beyond with regard to legislation that is supportive and protective of LGBTs (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans persons). While these achievements are laudable, it is important to keep evaluating to what extent structural obstacles to equality remain. Compared to research on other minority groups, sexual minorities have been studied quantitatively much less in the social sciences. Yet, scholars have continuously made efforts to overcome the methodological challenges associated with studying this population quantitatively. This is an important development which should be encouraged and continued.

The aim of the special issue is to showcase research around the challenges, successes, and best practices when collecting data on sexual minorities. We also welcome articles estimating the size of the LGBT population (using a variety of methodologies) and policy papers.

The editors invite submissions in the following areas:

1) How to sample LGBT populations?

Existing survey data to study LGBT populations have their restrictions, such as nonprobability (convenience) samples or lack of a suitable comparison group of heterosexuals. What are common strategies for designing sampling frames intended at capturing LGBT populations? Which advantages and disadvantages in terms of data quality can be detected?

2) How to measure sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) in large-scale, general-population surveys and polls?

Can sexual orientation be collected by proxy in surveys that use a single household informant? Is the two-step method best to reduce undercounting of transgender populations? As younger people embrace non-binary or gender-nonconforming identities, how must our questions and categories for gender identity change? How can issues of cross-cultural validity, language and interviewer effects be addressed? Does the addition of SOGI items harm unit response rates in surveys that do not typically collect such items?

3) Methods for estimating the size of LGBT populations.

While sample surveys are perhaps the most common method for producing LGBT population estimates, are there other inventive methods e.g. administrative records or internet web scraping that can yield valid estimates? In the absence of large representative demographic survey data, are there ways to extrapolate from non-random, small area, snowball, or convenience samples?

4) Policy recommendations.

Issues around SOGI are increasingly visible on the agenda of governments and governmental organizations around the globe. Are there best practices which demonstrate how the SOGI topic can most efficiently and successfully be approached? Are there any concrete policy recommendations for how to deal with the issue of SOGI?

Submission guidelines and deadlines

Manuscripts should be submitted through the manuscript management portal ScholarOne
<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/joffstats>.

All manuscripts must adhere to the JOS submission and peer review rules and will go through the usual JOS review process. Instructions for authors are available at
http://www.degruyter.com/view/supplement/s20017367_Instructions_for_Authors.pdf

JOS is an open access journal. For more information about JOS, see www.jos.nu

For all articles of JOS, see the JOS-archive at http://www.jos.nu/Contents/jos_online.asp

Deadline for submission is March 31, 2018.