

Social Exclusion and Resilience

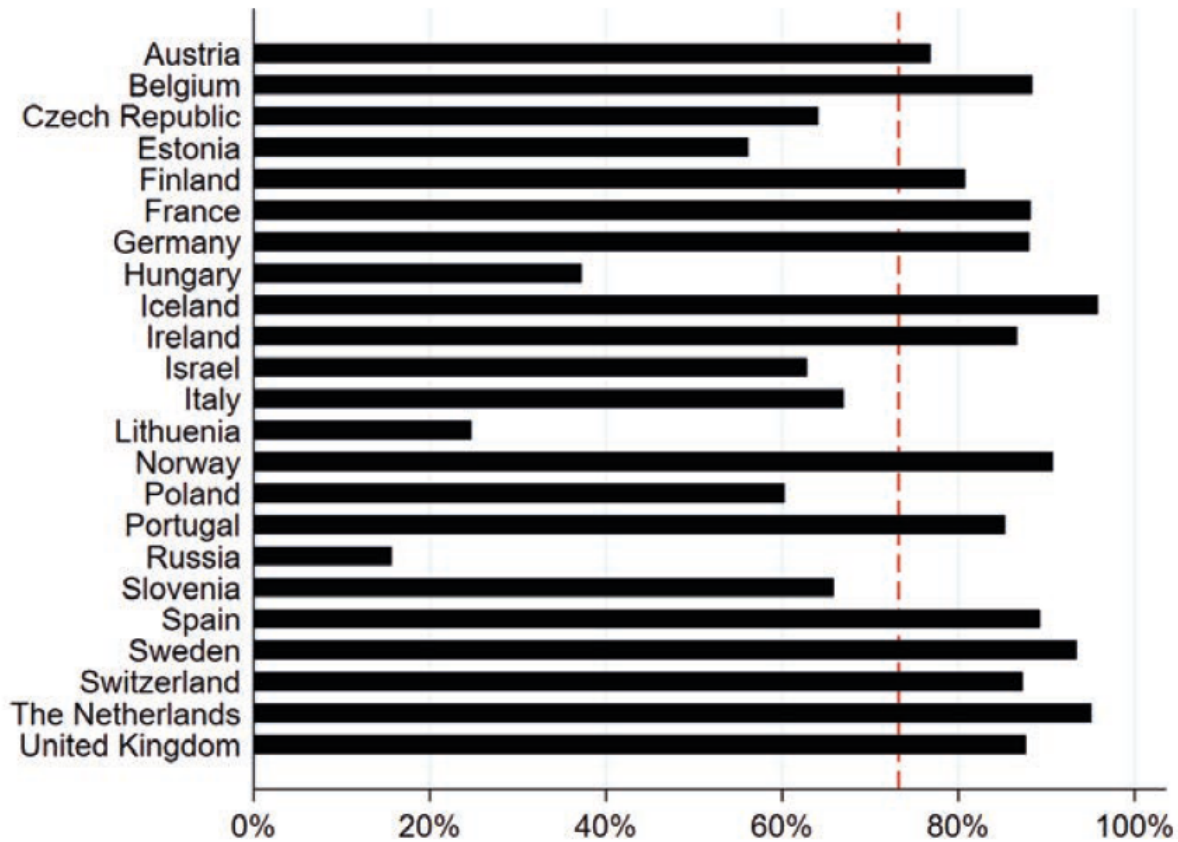
Examining Social Network Stratification among People in Same-Sex and Different-Sex Relationships

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Puzzle: Acceptance...

Figure 1.1 Percentage of people who agree (strongly) that gay men and lesbians should be free to live their own lives as they wish per country in 2016 (weighted)



More recently (2018)

(1) Iceland 96%

(2) Netherlands 94%

(11) Germany 88%

European average 80% (vs. 73%)

... and continuing inequity

- Well-being
- Mental and physical health
- Employment and income
- Education

Discrimination due to sexual orientation or gender (-identity) in particular areas of life

Share of LGBTQI* people who have experienced discrimination in different areas, in percent



Note: Discrimination due to sexual orientation or gender (-identity) within the last two years in Germany was surveyed; the shares refer to people who indicated to have experienced discrimination rarely, sometimes, or often; the total number of cases for the individual areas varies between 2,797 and 3,842 people.

Source: Socio-Economic Panel v36.beta, LGBielefeld; authors' own calculations.

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Modern stigma

- Overt homophobia as socially undesirable
- Negative attitudes are hidden
- New forms of homophobia are not yet recognized as such and therefore seldomly measured in surveys.

→ Social exclusion as **behavioral indicator** of attitudes

Social networks

- Social network structures have the potential to **perpetuate existing inequalities** and bear the potential to buffer against them
- Survival and well-being
 - Material, emotional or financial resources
 - Validation, recognition
 - Companionship

This study

A **representative study** into the social networks of people in same-sex and different-sex relationships who live in the Netherlands: **How similar or different are their networks?**

Social Exclusion and Resilience

Network size: larger networks than heterosexuals (H1)

→ Need for active network building

Families-of-choice hypothesis: fewer family-of-origin, more friendship ties (H2)

→ Counteract a loss of support

Choice homophily I

If social exclusion is understood as **limited or absent access to resources**, resilience involves the creation of strategies to gain access to these lacking resources in a different way.

Homophily may be **unbeneficial**.

Choice homophily II

Sexual orientation: more ties with other sexual minorities (H3)

→ Validation, affirmation, safety

Gender: fewer same-gender ties, particularly among men (H4)

→ Reflection of sexual stigma

Data

- Unions in Context (UNICON), 2016

→ Representative of cohabiting couples with partners between 30 and 65 years in the Netherlands

Table 3.3 Number of observations in the UNICON dataset per household type

	Mixed-sex with/out children	Same-sex without children	Same-sex with children	Single	Missing	All cases	Valid cases
Individuals	510	576	267	61	21	1,435	1,353
Households	356	356	168	42	13	935	880

Notes: Valid cases = cases for which the household type is known, excl. missing and single households.

Missing = respondents dropped out before answering question or partners gave conflicting information.

Source: UNICON 2016.

Analyses

- Name generator: **Who are the people with whom you discuss important matters or with whom you like to spend time?** + interpreter questions
- OLS regressions of **network size** (range 0 - 8), **role composition** (family-of-origin, friends), **demographic composition** (sexual orientation, gender) **on four couple types** (wom/en in same-sex relationships, wo/men in same-sex relationships)
- Controlled for age, education, urbanization, martial status, having children, living standard

Network size

Table 4. OLS regression models of network size, role composition (family, friends) and similar others (sexual minority people, same-gender ties) on relationship type

	Network size (1)	Network size (2)	Network size (3)
Constant	4.579*** (.134)	3.800*** (.259)	3.431*** (.353)
Main independent variables			
Same-sex relationship (ref. is different-sex)	.855*** (.161)	.492** (.168)	.464** (.169)
Woman (ref. is man)		.791*** (.143)	.796*** (.142)

Families-of-choice hypothesis

Table 4. Continued

	Family- of-origin (1)	Family- of-origin (2)	Family-of- origin (3)	Friends (1)	Friends (2)	Friends (3)
Constant	1.805*** (.080)	.242 (.169)	.435 (.228)	2.495*** (.100)	-.456** (.173)	-.584* (.241)
Main independent variables						
Same-sex relationship	-.240* (.099)	-.315*** (.095)	-.302** (.095)	.853*** (.129)	.447*** (.109)	.439*** (.110)
Woman (ref. is man)		.181* (.090)	.172 (.089)		-.177 (.100)	-.168 (.099)

Choice homophily

Table 4. Continued

	Sexual minority ties (1)	Sexual minority ties (2)	Sexual minority ties (3)	Same gender ties (1)	Same gender ties (2)	Same gender ties (3)	Same gender ties (4)
Constant	.186 ^{***} (.035)	-.617 ^{***} (.150)	-.832 ^{***} (.202)	3.901 ^{***} (.103)	-.495 ^{**} (.153)	-.310 (.189)	.072 (.192)
Main independent variables							
Same-sex relationship	1.192 ^{***} (.073)	1.051 ^{***} (.072)	1.036 ^{***} (.071)	-.020 (.132)	-.372 ^{***} (.086)	-.357 ^{***} (.087)	-1.003 ^{***} (.139)
Woman (ref. is man)		-.076 (.088)	-.068 (.089)		1.183 (.087)	1.183 (.087)	.544 (.110)
Interaction effect							
Same-sex relationship x woman							1.048 ^{***} (.160)

Same-gender ties:

- Men in same-sex relationships (2.8 ties)
- Men in mixed-sex relationships (3.8 ties)
- Women in both relationship types (4.4 ties)

A piece of the puzzle

- The social networks are mostly similar, with **a few notable differences**.
- Social exclusion and active strategies of **resilience**.
- **Negative attitudes** among straight men are mirrored in the networks of men in same-sex relationships.
- Acceptance **measures** increasingly **outdated**.