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**Introduction:** I am an intersectional feminist social welfare researcher focusing the ways in which gender and sexuality (GS) norms impact health via mechanisms across all levels of the social ecology and throughout the life course. My work aims to inform developmentally and contextually relevant interventions for reducing violence and sexual risk and expanding GS-inclusive policy. This research is inspired by seven years working in sexual health and relationship violence primarily with GS minorities.

The Institutes of Medicine and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have recognized LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) adults as an understudied and underserved population at-risk of poor physical and mental health outcomes. Meta-analyses have shown higher rates of depression, substance use, suicidality, intimate partner violence (IPV), and STI's/HIV risk, in young gay and bisexual men. Research suggests that bisexual men experience worse health outcomes than their exclusively heterosexual or gay counterparts, however the mechanisms whereby that disparity is conveyed is not understood. Gay and bisexual men experience health disparities that tend to arise in emerging adulthood, a socially and biologically vulnerable developmental stage. Associated stress effects of chronic substance use, IPV, or mental illness can perpetuate across the life course and intergenerationally and can work synergistically with minority stress experiences to exacerbate health impacts.

**Research Experience:** As a doctoral student, I have had numerous opportunities to engage in interdisciplinary research and training. I worked with the Collaborative Health and Prevention Group on the mixed methods Guys Turn study exploring heterosexual emerging-adult (HEA) men's sexual, relationship, peer, aggression, and substance use-related behavior, and was awarded interdisciplinary NIH funding for work on this project. This research identified high rates of psychological aggression (PA) perpetration and positive associations between perpetration of physical aggression and sexual risk. This work contributed to research connecting sexual risk and aggression perpetration, however, it remains unclear how this HEA conceptualize and deploy PA and how it impacts well-being across the life course. To begin to address this gap, I conducted a systematic literature review on the use of PA in populations of emerging adult men and found that a). the literature on bisexual men is scant b). the general lack of definitional consistency across studies limits our ability to understand relevant contextual factors or target interventions and c). the literature focused on individual variables, failing to account for cultural influencers such as sexism (measuring it as an individual attitudinal variable), a construct which has been well documented to manifest in health decrements across the social ecology. Given the limited literature on bisexual men, the health disparities which that literature suggests, and the biological vulnerability of emerging adulthood (potential for chronic stress related impacts throughout the life course and intergenerationally), I have turned my scholarly focus towards bisexual emerging adult men.

I have also worked on a few other notable mixed methods studies. The gerontology and bioethics Greenwall study explored attitudes towards surveillance and monitoring with older adults and their children using an innovative dyadic interviewing technique to code for themes.

As a member of an interdisciplinary team, I worked on the ALMA study which developed a novel mindfulness based intervention with Latinx service providers aimed at reducing stress and increasing coping skills. I consulted on the development and facilitation of the intervention, analyzed quantitative and qualitative data, and contributed to an additional NIH funded R01 grant to expand and adapt the intervention to clinical populations.

**Dissertation:** My mixed methods dissertation aims to explore emerging adult bisexual men's identity development and sexual and aggression related behaviors and is funded by Smith College's Clinical Research Institute. Phase 1 will apply regression analysis to explore the associations between relevant variables such traditional gender norm adherence and substance use. Phase 2 will involve conducting in-depth semi-structured interviews and will apply thematic analysis to explore themes.

**Future Work:** Expanding on my dissertation work, I intend to explore the implications of gendered and heteronormative socialization, reinforced through relationships between individuals, and within families, and communities, and via systems, institutions, and policy. My three main trajectories of research over five years are:

1. To better understand the most effective ways to support and collaborate with young people and the adults that interact with them (teachers, health care providers) around sex and gender related topics.
2. To implement interventions aimed at developing prosocial skills and expanding/transforming/eradicating gender and sexuality norms.
3. To translate gender, sexuality, and related health research (such as neurological research on stress embodiment) into efforts to influence health promoting policy.

I will actively seek funding through the National Institutes of Child Health and Development, National Institutes of Mental Health, Guttmacher Institute, Funders for LGBTQ Issues, and the Guggenheim Foundation; organizations that have demonstrated commitment to these topics.

**Contribution:** I will provide a social work perspective to a field that has been traditionally represented by public health, sociology, and psychology. I plan to focus on conceptual and intervention research that has practical implications for translation into social work and public health practice and policy. My subsequent work will include community collaboration and participation that is congruent with social justice orientations and will help me understand the nuances, across the social ecology, of intersectional identity formation and maintenance and relationship and sexual and aggression related beliefs and behaviors. Using ecological and feminist frameworks in my substantive area of interest will further scientific knowledge of socialization and development and inform interventions aimed at supporting more flexible "ways of being" for all genders and sexualities that support positive relational and sexual outcomes and mental and physical well-being.