

Queers, Bis, and Straight Lies - New Book on LGBTQ Studies Available Today

This book is the ideal resource for understanding LGBTQ stigma through a nuanced, theory-driven, and intersectional examination of LGBTQ prejudices.

NORMAN, OK, UNITED STATES, April 2, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Though there have been great advances for LGBTQ people in recent years, stigma, intolerance, and prejudice remain. [Queers, Bis, and Straight Lies: An Intersectional Examination of LGBTQ Stigma](#) offers an in-depth exploration of LGBTQ negativity through its ground-breaking use of Norm-Centered Stigma Theory (NCST), the first ever theory about stigma that is both testable and well-positioned in existing stigma scholarship. NCST focuses on the importance of norms/norm violations, social power, and interactions among these. Put succinctly, the central element of identifying and understanding stigma is norms, and because norms are built from privilege, this creates a hierarchy of non-stigmatized norm followers and stigmatized norm violators that is organized by social power.

Based on research with a nationally representative sample of 3,104 U.S. adults aged 18-64 stratified by U.S. census categories of age, gender, ethnicity and census region, hetero-cis-normativity and intersectionality are highlighted as fundamental in understanding separate but interconnected discussions about LGBTQ individuals' experiences with discrimination, harassment, and violence. With chapters dedicated to lesbian women, gay men, bisexual women, bisexual men, trans women, trans men, non-binary/genderqueer people, queer women, and queer men, *Queers, Bis, and Straight Lies* brings together empirically-driven findings that work toward dismantling "straight lies" in an innovative and impactful manner.

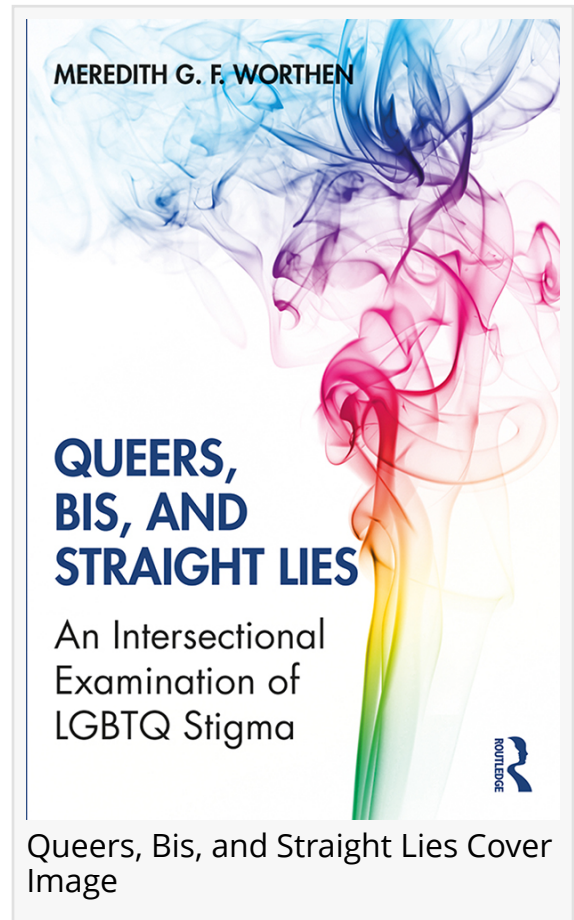
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A norm-centered intersectional and social power-focused examination of hetero-cis-normativity is integral to best understand the spectrum of stigmatizing attitudes toward LGBTQ people.”

Meredith G. F. Worthen

Through its novel and critical approach, *Queers, Bis, and Straight Lies* is the ideal resource for those who want to learn about LGBTQ stigma more broadly and for those who seek a nuanced, theory-driven, and intersectional examination of how LGBTQ prejudices and prejudicial experiences differ by gender identity, sexual identity, race/ethnicity, and class.

From the Reviewers:



Queers, Bis, and Straight Lies Cover Image

"For the first time, we have a book that takes a novel look at LGBTQ discrimination. Using an intersectional lens, Meredith Worthen offers both a new theory of stigma and a method for investigating how the intersections between hetero-cis-normativity, gender/sexuality, and racial/ethnic identities relate to differences in the stigmatization of a whole array of different queer identities. The elegance of the argument, breadth of scholarship marshalled, and the author's crisp and engaging writing make this book a pleasurable read for beginners and experts alike."

Verta Taylor, Professor of Sociology and Feminist Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara

"Meredith Worthen has done us an invaluable service—providing the first detailed roadmap for developing a true science that can challenge the kind of social stigmas with which every queer is all too familiar."



Meredith G. F. Worthen, PhD

Riki Wilchins, author of TRANS/gressive and Burn the Binary!

"Despite hard-earned progressive social change that has enhanced the status and welfare of LGBTQ people, they are still stigmatized. *Queers, Bis, and Straight Lies* is a must read if you want to understand the cultural sources of that stigma, how LGBTQ stigma manifests in the lives of the stigmatizers and the stigmatized, and the constancy and variation in the stigmatization of lesbian women, gay men, bisexual women, bisexual men, trans men, trans women, non-binary and genderqueer people, queer women and queer men. This book scores on multiple fronts: it provides an encyclopaedic treatment of what is known about LGBTQ stigma; it advances an innovative theory of LGBTQ stigma, Norm-Centered Stigma Theory; it draws on original survey data to test the theory and, as a result, presents a dizzying array of provocative empirical findings; and it ultimately enables us to understand the intersectional nature of LGBTQ stigma. The result is a significant advancement in stigma research and an empirically grounded unpacking of the complicated ways LGBTQ stigma is anchored by hetero-cis-normativity that interfaces with gender, race and ethnicity, social class, and other axes of social stratification. Seen in this way, this book begins as a sociological study of stigma, but it turns out to be more than that. It is a compelling treatise on power, including the power to define social types, and the production of social differentiation connected to prejudice, discrimination, and violence."

Valerie Jenness, Professor of Criminology, Law and Society, University of California, Irvine

"This book is essential reading for people looking for a powerful theory on stigma that helps explain the lives of LGBTQ people. Based on extensive research, the author fastidiously details LGBTQ groups' and individuals' experiences with discrimination, harassment and violence. Criminologists, especially those with a special interest in LGBTQ welfare, will want this book for themselves and for their students. Included are scales for measuring stigma and other important, and validated, resources. It's a relief to have study that is both a practical and scholarly approach to this important issue."

Pepper Schwartz, Professor of Sociology, University of Washington.

"Finally, a look at stigma that disaggregates the experiences of nine subgroups within the LGBTQ+ community, including bisexual, pansexual, queer, non-binary people, and does so through an intersectional lens! This book not only covers stigmatizing attitudes and perspectives, but also LGBTQ+ people's experiences with discrimination, harassment, and violence." Robyn Ochs, Speaker and LGBTQ+ Advocate, Editor, Bi Women Quarterly

This book's deep dive into anti-LGBTQ stigma reveals why the topic remains fundamentally important, despite recent gains in equality. Theoretically informed and with exacting analyses, this book challenges popular discourses about who LGBTQ people are, what they experience, and why.

Vanessa R. Panfil, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Old Dominion University

About the Author:

[Meredith G. F. Worthen](#) is a professor of sociology at the [University of Oklahoma](#). Her main interests are in the sociological constructions of deviance and stigma, gender, sexuality, and LGBTQ identities, as well as feminist and queer criminology. As a researcher, teacher, and activist, her work dissects multiple dimensions of prejudice in efforts to cultivate understanding, empathy, and social change.

Meredith Worthen
The University of Oklahoma
+1 405-325-2829
[email us here](#)
Visit us on social media:
[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)
[LinkedIn](#)

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