

Binghamton University

## The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB)

---

Research Days Posters 2021

Division of Research

---

2021

### The Unique Experience of Living in Non-Urban Kentucky as LGBTQ+ Youth: Encouraging Wider-Inclusivity in Protection Policies for The LGBTQ+ Community

Renn Sizemore

*Binghamton University--SUNY*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://orb.binghamton.edu/research\\_days\\_posters\\_2021](https://orb.binghamton.edu/research_days_posters_2021)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Sizemore, Renn, "The Unique Experience of Living in Non-Urban Kentucky as LGBTQ+ Youth: Encouraging Wider-Inclusivity in Protection Policies for The LGBTQ+ Community" (2021). *Research Days Posters 2021*. 90.

[https://orb.binghamton.edu/research\\_days\\_posters\\_2021/90](https://orb.binghamton.edu/research_days_posters_2021/90)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Division of Research at The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). It has been accepted for inclusion in Research Days Posters 2021 by an authorized administrator of The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). For more information, please contact [ORB@binghamton.edu](mailto:ORB@binghamton.edu).

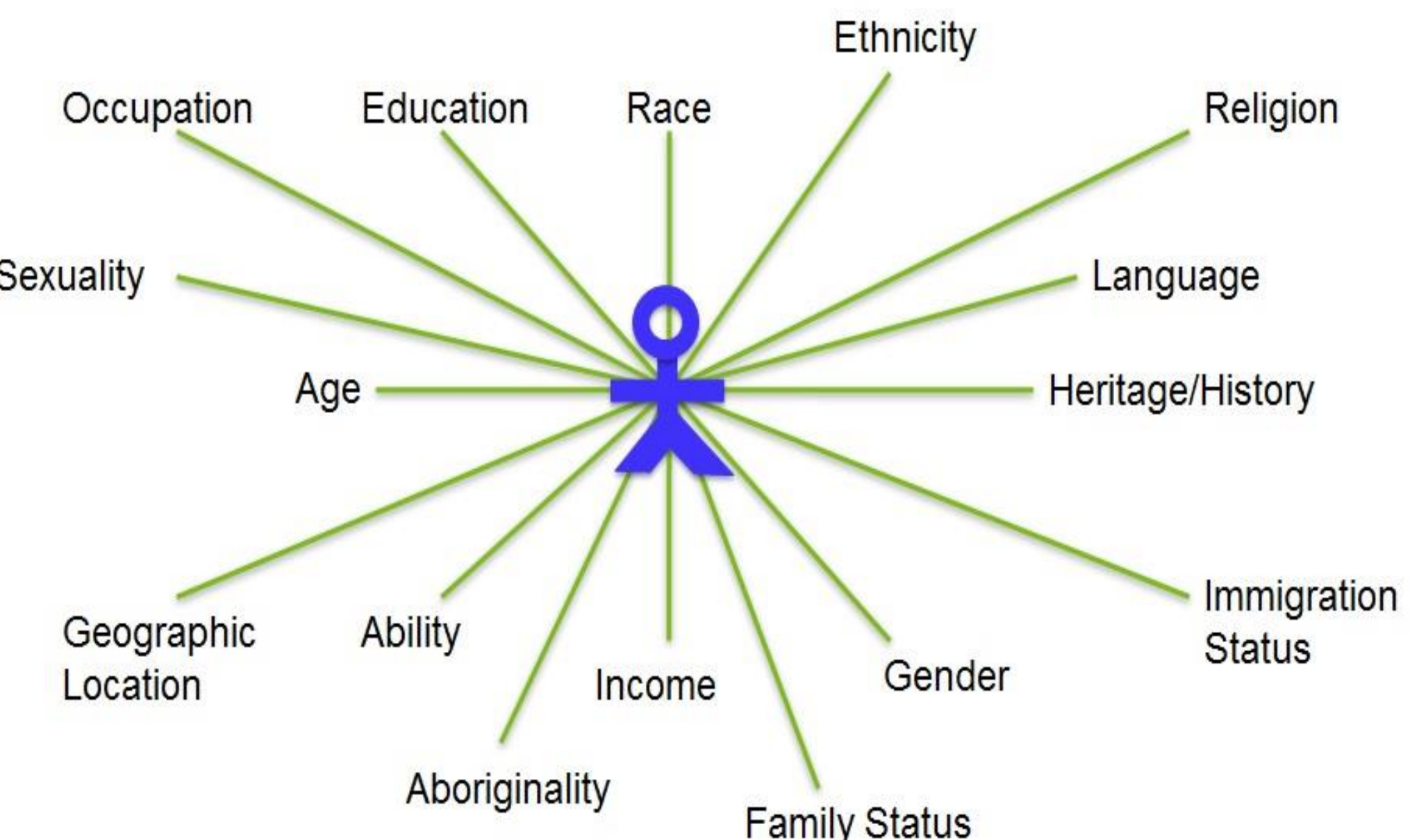


**Current Scholarly Conversation:**

- Dichotomous approach that leads to exclusion
- Urbanizing of queers - most research based in urban areas and coastal regions

**Intersectionality and Discrimination:**

- A prejudicial outlook, act, or treatment - treating individuals differently or unequally
- Discrimination is not single-axis
- How different social categorizations create overlapping and independent systems of discrimination and privilege



**Why?**

- Entitled to the same liberties, protections, and powers that all other citizens enjoy
- Shouldn't be treated as second-class citizens
- Recognize the variety of circumstances in the LGBTQ+ community for policies

3-5% rural population is LGBTQ



# The Unique Experience of Living in Non-Urban Kentucky as LGBTQ+ Youth: Encouraging Wider-Inclusivity in Protection Policies for the LGBTQ+ Community

Renn Sizemore

**In Non-Urban Kentucky...**

- Creating connectedness, inclusivity, recognition, identity, and affirmation/validation (internally and externally)
- Impacts of culture and geographic location

**STRENGTHS, STRUCTURES, AND CHALLENGES: HOW RURAL LIFE AMPLIFIES THE IMPACT OF ACCEPTANCE AND REJECTION**

**INCREASED VISIBILITY**  
Fewer people in rural communities means any difference is more noticeable.

**RIPPLE EFFECTS**  
When communities are tightly interwoven, rejection and acceptance in one area of life (such as church) can ripple over into others (such as work or school).

**FEWER ALTERNATIVES**  
In the face of discrimination, the already limited number of rural service providers can be limited even further.

**LESS SUPPORT STRUCTURE**  
More social and geographic isolation means less ability to find supportive resources, build supportive community, and endure challenges or discrimination.

**IMPACTING MANY AREAS OF LIFE:**

- Family, Faith, & Community
- Education
- Employment & Economic Security
- Housing & Homelessness
- Public Places & Businesses
- Health Care
- Legal System

**Legal Framework:**

**Equal Protection Law of the 5th and 14th Constitutional Amendments**

- Equal Clause extended interpretation prohibits discrimination based on gender, religion, and disability.
- Should also include sexual and gender identity

**Government Neutrality and the 1st Const. Amendment**

- Exercising of religion cannot be restricted or demeaned by gov., yet that same exercise may not unduly restrict other persons in protecting their own interests
- Welsh V. United States: should not create a religious exemption without equal regard for those of non-religious conscious
- If gov. allowed discrimination, it would not be acting neutrally - It would continue facilitating the continued marginalization of the targeted group

**Qualitative Interviews:**

- Youth (14-25 y/o)
- Identifies as LGBTQ+ (lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, etc)
- Lives in a non-urban location in Ky
- Currently 5+ Participants and personal experience



References