'Learning *with*' GUI, learning *with*' LGBT+ youth:
Including sexual orientation & gender identity (SOGI) in surveys

Presenters:
Nerilee Ceatha,
Katie McCabe & Jayson Pope

GUI National Conference 08/11/2023

PhD supervisors: Des Crowley & Olive Lennon
Co-authors: *Ayrton Kelly, Theo Killeen, James Murray, Niamh Scully, Des Crowley, Gary J Gates, Aaron Koay, Conor Buggy, Oscar James, Louise Tully, Marta Bustillo*

Fás Aníos in Éirinn
Growing Up in Ireland

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Structured Population and
Health-services Research Education

Image Credit https://www.istockphoto.com/ie/photos/puzzle?sort=mostpopular&mediatype=photography&phrase=puzzle

Our experience: *LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy* & YuPP☺ Project

KATIE McCABE
(she/her)
Youth Advisory Group (YAG)
YuPP☺ Project:
Independent PPI Panel
🐦 @katiemccabe98

JAYSON POPE
(he/him)
Youth Advisory Group (YAG)
YuPP☺ Project:
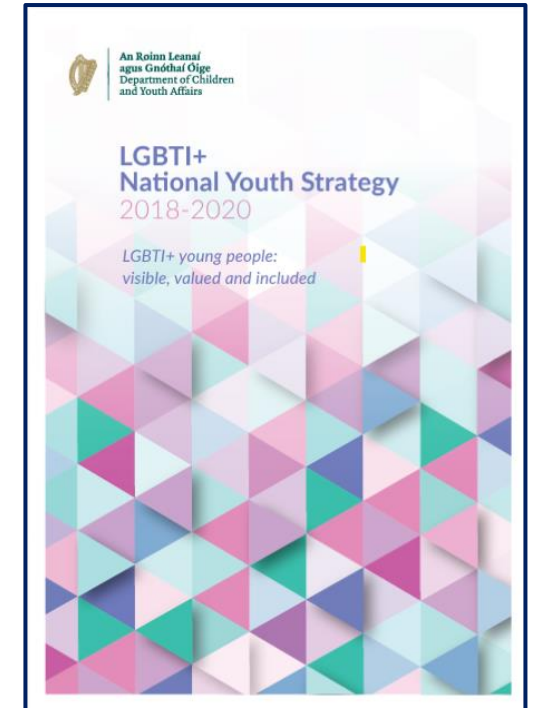Independent PPI Panel
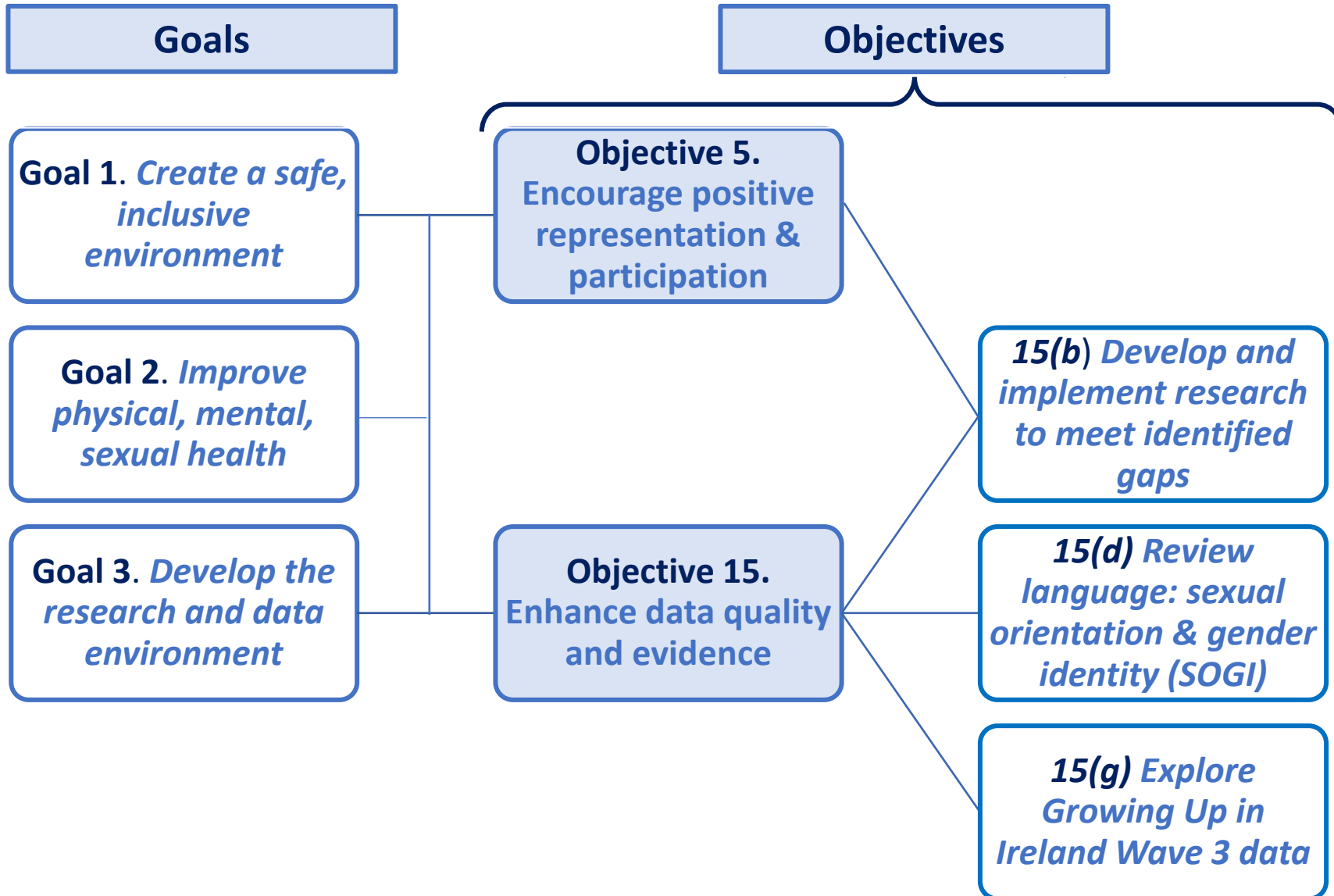🐦 @jayson_p0pe

NERILEE CEATHA
(she/they)
Oversight Committee
Sub-Group Lead
SPHeRE PhD Alumni (UCD)
🐦 @NerileeCeatha

PhD aligned to *LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy*

Goals

Objectives

Goal 1. *Create a safe, inclusive environment*

Goal 2. *Improve physical, mental, sexual health*

Goal 3. *Develop the research and data environment*

Objective 5. Encourage positive representation & participation

Objective 15. Enhance data quality and evidence

15(b) *Develop and implement research to meet identified gaps*

15(d) Review language: sexual orientation & gender identity (SOGI)

15(g) Explore Growing Up in Ireland Wave 3 data

An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of Children
and Youth Affairs

LGBTI+
National Youth Strategy
2018-2020

*LGBTI+ young people:
visible, valued and included*

Mixed-methods research:
health policy & qual analyses and twinned GUI studies

GUI: quantitative analysis

Population Research and Policy Review (2023) 42:64
https://doi.org/10.1007/s11113-023-09807-w

RESEARCH BRIEFS

LGBT+ Self-Identification Among Youth in Ireland Aged 17-18 Years: A Research Brief

Nerilee Ceatha[1] · Gary J. Gates[2] · Des Crowley[3,4,5]

GUI: qualitative analysis

youth — MDPI

Article

LGBT+ Youth Perspectives on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Questions in the Growing Up in Ireland Survey: A Qualitative Study

Nerilee Ceatha[1,*], Aaron C. C. Koay[2], Ayrton Kelly[3], Tara Killeen[3], Katie McCabe[3], James Murray[3], Jayson Pope[3], Niamh Scully[3], Conor Buggy[1] and Des Crowley[4,5,6]

Health policy and qual analyses

youth — MDPI

Article

Beyond 'Voice' to 'Learning *with*': A Multiple Streams Policy Analysis and Qualitative Exploration Problematizing Representations of Young LGBT+ Identities

Nerilee Ceatha[1,*], Ayrton Kelly[2], Tara Killeen[2], Katie McCabe[2], James Murray[2], Jayson Pope[2], Niamh Scully[2] and Conor Buggy[1]

- Descriptive statistics of LGBT+ youth self-identification

- **Ethics UCD HREC** ☑

LGBTI+ YuPP☺ Project
➢ **Y**oung **P**eople's **P**anels
➢ **Y**outh **P**erspectives and **P**riorities
- **13 *Strategy* YAG Members**
➢ 8 YuPP☺ Panel members
➢ 6 youth co-authors

YuPP☺ Panel
youth advisory group
consultations
collaborators
and coauthors

Sexual Orientation and Gender identity (SOGI): beyond a binary

Draft Junior Cycle Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) Short Course curriculum specification For consultation

"...sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression are core parts of human identity... each experienced along a spectrum"

(NCCA, 2021: 13).

LGBT+

- sexual orientation

⟶⟵

➢Lesbian
➢Gay
➢Bisexual
➢+

- gender identity

⟶⟵

➢Transgender
➢+

"It's **more of a continuum** than an end-to-end **binary** thing – much **less** of a **dichotomy**."

"People should be able to **self-identify**… it's **how** they choose to **see themselves**"

LGBT+ self-identification in Ireland: 'learning _with_' GUI

Sexual orientation

D2. How would you describe your sexual orientation? [TICK ONE BOX]

Heterosexual/straight (sexually attracted to the opposite sex) .... ☐

Gay or Lesbian (attracted to the same sex) .... ☐

Bisexual (attracted to both men and women) .... ☐

Questioning/ Not sure .... ☐

Asexual (not attracted to either sex) .... ☐

Don't know .... ☐

Prefer not to say .... ☐
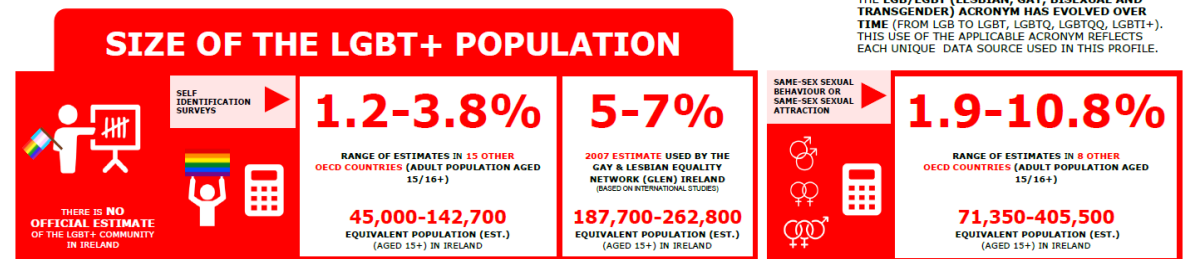
Gender and gender identity

D3. Would you describe yourself as: Male ....☐₁ Female ....☐₂ Other......☐₃ Prefer not to say ...☐₄

D4. Would you describe yourself as transgender?   Yes........☐₁   No.......☐₂   Prefer not to say ...☐₃

Oireachtas Library & Research Service
Seirbhís Leabharlainne & Taighde an Oireachtais
Houses of the Oireachtas
Tithe an Oireachtais

LGBT+ COMMUNITY IN IRELAND
A STATISTICAL PROFILE

THE LGB/LGBT (LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER) ACRONYM HAS EVOLVED OVER TIME (FROM LGB TO LGBT, LGBTQ, LGBTQQ, LGBTI+). THIS USE OF THE APPLICABLE ACRONYM REFLECTS EACH UNIQUE DATA SOURCE USED IN THIS PROFILE.

SIZE OF THE LGBT+ POPULATION

SELF IDENTIFICATION SURVEYS

1.2-3.8%
RANGE OF ESTIMATES IN 15 OTHER OECD COUNTRIES (ADULT POPULATION AGED 15/16+)
45,000-142,700
EQUIVALENT POPULATION (EST.) (AGED 15+) IN IRELAND

5-7%
2007 ESTIMATE USED BY THE GAY & LESBIAN EQUALITY NETWORK (GLEN) IRELAND (BASED ON INTERNATIONAL STUDIES)
187,700-262,800
EQUIVALENT POPULATION (EST.) (AGED 15+) IN IRELAND

SAME-SEX SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR OR SAME-SEX SEXUAL ATTRACTION

1.9-10.8%
RANGE OF ESTIMATES IN 8 OTHER OECD COUNTRIES (ADULT POPULATION AGED 15/16+)
71,350-405,500
EQUIVALENT POPULATION (EST.) (AGED 15+) IN IRELAND

THERE IS NO OFFICIAL ESTIMATE OF THE LGBT+ COMMUNITY IN IRELAND

https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/libraryResearch/2019/2019-06-28_l-rs-infographic-lgbt-community-in-ireland-a-statistical-profile_en.pdf

> "**They are official**. It is very **important** to have **data**. I would always be **excited** about this."
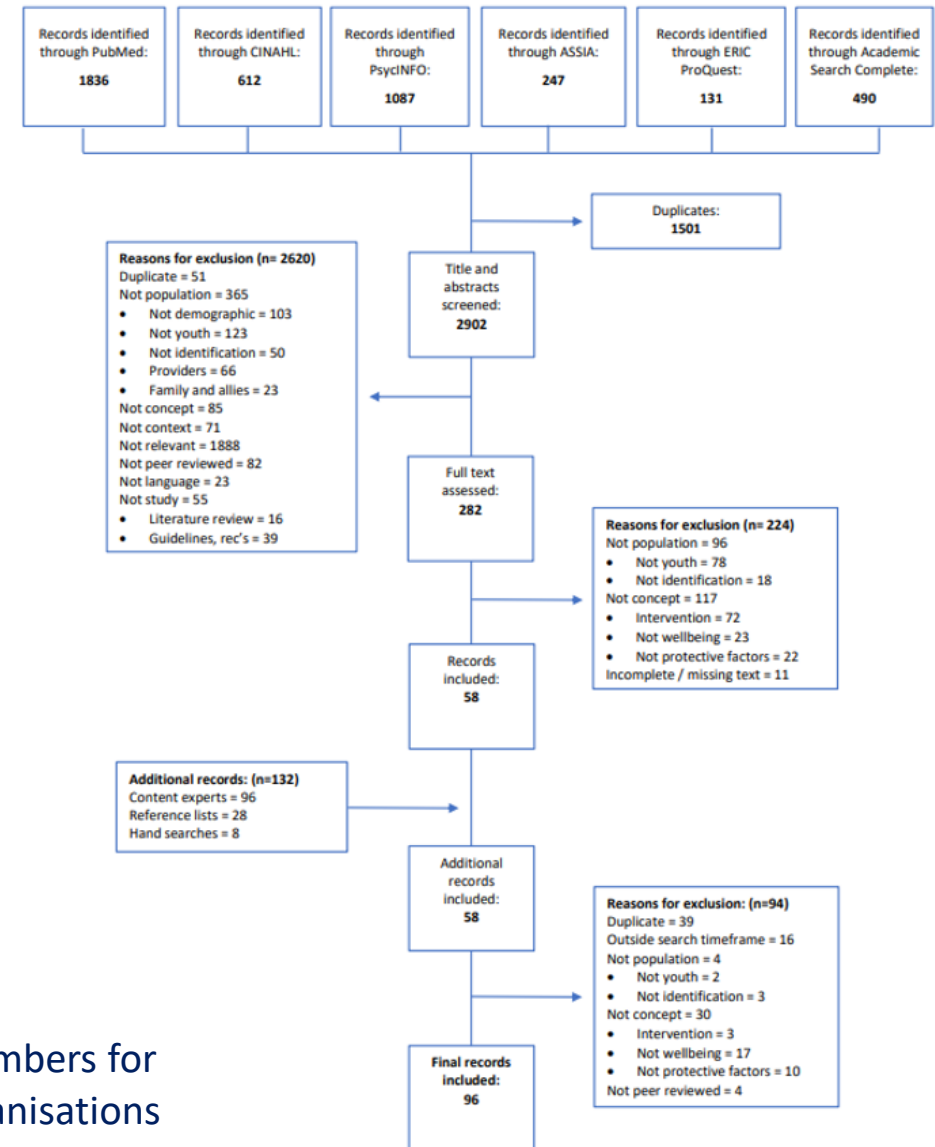
> "A **project** like this **that's longitudinal** and **representative** is the **gold standard**."

Scoping review consultations: informed qual SOGI study

Scoping review stages:

1. Developing research question: PCC criteria
   - **P-Population, C-Concept, C-Context**
2. Identifying relevant studies
3. Study selection
4. Charting the data
5. Collating, summarising, reporting results
6. Consultation

Thanks to **DCEDIY** and **Under the Rainbow** for facilitating the stakeholder consultation; Thanks also to **Youth Advisory Group** and **Youth Forum** members for the *LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy*, alongside **peer allies** from youth organisations

Records identified through PubMed: 1836

Records identified through CINAHL: 612

Records identified through PsycINFO: 1087

Records identified through ASSIA: 247

Records identified through ERIC ProQuest: 131

Records identified through Academic Search Complete: 490

Duplicates: 1501

Title and abstracts screened: 2902

Reasons for exclusion (n= 2620)
Duplicate = 51
Not population = 365
- Not demographic = 103
- Not youth = 123
- Not identification = 50
- Providers = 66
- Family and allies = 23
Not concept = 85
Not context = 71
Not relevant = 1888
Not peer reviewed = 82
Not language = 23
Not study = 55
- Literature review = 16
- Guidelines, rec's = 39

Full text assessed: 282

Reasons for exclusion (n= 224)
Not population = 96
- Not youth = 78
- Not identification = 18
Not concept = 117
- Intervention = 72
- Not wellbeing = 23
- Not protective factors = 22
Incomplete / missing text = 11

Records included: 58

Additional records: (n=132)
Content experts = 96
Reference lists = 28
Hand searches = 8

Additional records included: 58

Reasons for exclusion: (n=94)
Duplicate = 39
Outside search timeframe = 16
Not population = 4
- Not youth = 2
- Not identification = 3
Not concept = 30
- Intervention = 3
- Not wellbeing = 17
- Not protective factors = 10
Not peer reviewed = 4

Final records included: 96

96

Scoping review consultations: informed qual SOGI study

	LGBT+	Descriptors (n)
Sexual minority youth	Lesbian (L)	
	Gay (G)	6
	Bisexual (B)	
	Plus (+)	17
Gender minority youth	Trans (T)	16
	Plus (+)	16

The '**+**' symbol from the **LGBT+** acronym included:

- **23 terms** used by sexual minority youth, (alongside **lesbian**, **gay** and **bisexual**)
- **16 terms** for **transgender** youth
- **16 descriptors** for broader **gender minority identities**

"What would a **better wording** of the **gender** and **sexual orientation questions** look like"

(GUI study team, Stakeholder consultation, 2021)

SOGI question placement in GUI:
'learning *with*' LGBT+ youth

youth — MDPI

Article

LGBT+ Youth Perspectives on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Questions in the Growing Up in Ireland Survey: A Qualitative Study

Nerilee Ceatha [1,*], Aaron C. C. Koay [2], Ayrton Kelly [3], Tara Killeen [3], Katie McCabe [3], James Murray [3], Jayson Pope [3], Niamh Scully [3], Conor Buggy [1] and Des Crowley [4,5,6]

Sections X1 & X2

X1. Young Person's sex:.. Male.............☐₁ Female...................☐₂

X2. Young Person's date of birth? [ ][ ] day [ ][ ] month [ ][ ][ ][ ] year

"*Were they **expecting** a trans person to put down their **assigned gender** in response to **male/female**?*"

*...and then **a few questions later** put down their **gender identity** and **whether they were trans**?*"

Section A: Your friends and how you get on with them

Section B: Smoking, drinking, alcohol and drugs

Section C: Sex education

Section D: Gender identity and intimate behaviour

D3. Would you describe yourself as: Male..........☐₁ Female....☐₂ Other......☐₃ Prefer not to say...☐₄

D4. Would you describe yourself as transgender? Yes........☐₁ No......☐₂ Prefer not to say...☐₃

SOGI question phrasing in GUI: 'learning *with*' LGBT+ youth

Section D: Gender identity and intimate behaviour

D2. How would you describe your sexual orientation? [TICK ONE BOX]

Heterosexual/straight sexually attracted to the opposite sex ....☐

Gay or Lesbian attracted to the same sex...☐

Bisexual attracted to both men and women ....☐

Questioning/ Not sure .... ☐

Asexual not attracted to either sex)... ☐

Don't know.. ☐

Prefer not to say .... ☐
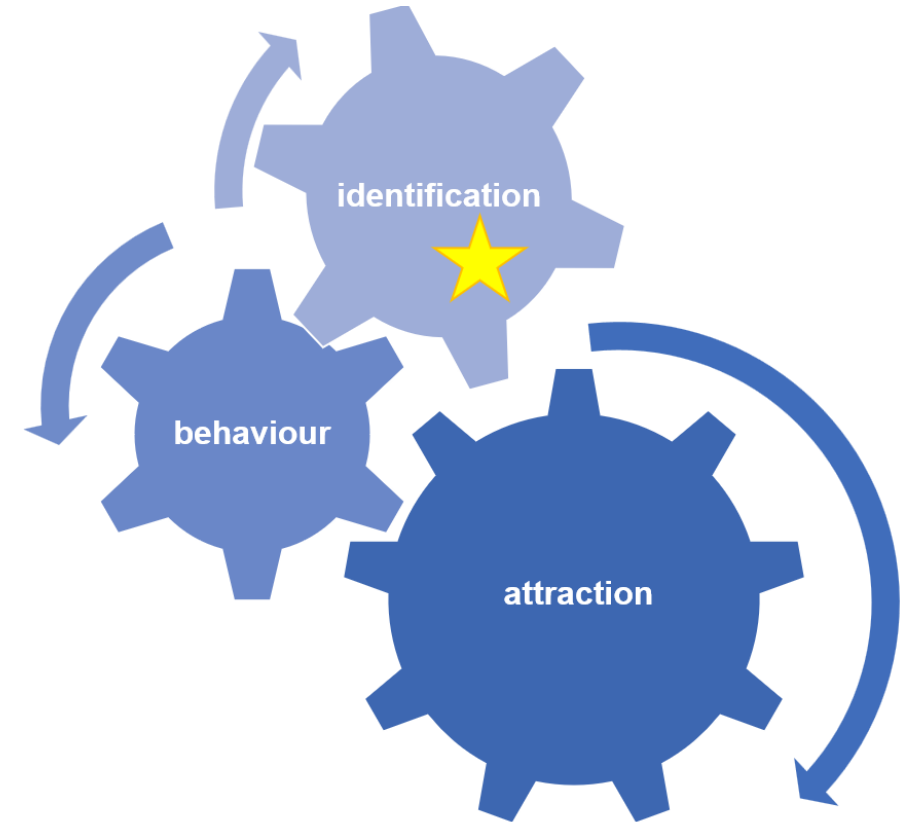
SOGI question phrasing in GUI: 'learning _with_' LGBT+ youth

Section D: Gender identity and intimate behaviour ← identity described as behaviour

D2. How would you describe your sexual orientation? [TICK ONE BOX] ← identity

Heterosexual/straight sexually attracted to the opposite sex ....☐

Gay or Lesbian attracted to the same sex................☐

Bisexual attracted to both men and women ....☐ ← identity described as attraction

Questioning/ Not sure ....☐

Asexual not attracted to either sex)................ ☐

Don't know................☐

Prefer not to say ....☐

"Just thinking about **identity versus attraction**. I know someone who tends to **identify as gay**, even though **attraction-wise** they often find themselves **attracted to multiple genders**... more in line with **pansexuality**"

YuPP☺ Project template for SOGI survey questions

Demographic data collection within quantitative surveys	
X2. Young person's date of birth	▢▢ day ▢▢ month ▢▢▢▢ year
X1a.Young person's sex	**What sex was assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate?** Male………☐ Female………..☐ **Prefer not to say………☐**
X1b. Young person's gender	**Would/do you describe yourself as:** Male……☐ Female……☐ **I use another term….. ☐ [free text]** Prefer not to say…..☐
X1c. Young person's sexual orientation	**How would/do you describe your sexual orientation? [TICK ONE BOX]** Gay or Lesbian ……………………………………………………………………… ☐ Heterosexual ………………………………………………………………………☐ Asexual …………………………………………………………………………☐ Bisexual …………………………………………………………………………☐ **Pansexual** …………………………………………………………………………☐ **Queer** …………………………………………………………………………☐ Questioning/ Not sure …………………………………………………………☐ **I use another term [free text]** …………………………………………………☐ Don't know …………………………………………………………………………☐ Prefer not to say …………………………………………………………………☐
X1d. Young person's gender identity	**Would/do you describe yourself as transgender?** Yes………… ☐ No………… ☐ Prefer not to say ………… ☐

- **Recommend:**
  - ➤ **consecutive sex** and **gender** questions
  - ➤ **expanded** sexual orientation **identity categories**
  - ➤ **maintaining** well-phrased **transgender question** from GUI

Policy context:
↑ social acceptance ↑ LGBT+ visibility

Marriage Equality Act (2015)

Gender Recognition Act (2015)

LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy (2018)

*"Really **good timing** that **Growing Up in Ireland** has **respondents born after decriminalisation** and who **came of age at a time of marriage equality**."*

*"These **young people** could be **in their 70s** and **asked the same question** when the **Growing Up in Ireland survey** turns into the **Growing Old in Ireland survey**."*

GUI Cohort '98 at 17-18 years: sexual orientation

RESEARCH BRIEFS

LGBT+ Self-Identification Among Youth in Ireland Aged 17-18 Years: A Research Brief

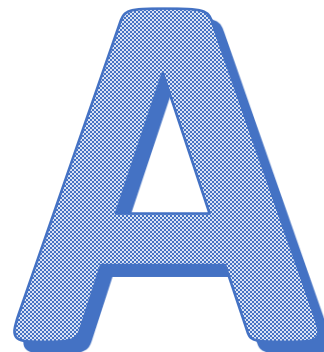Nerilee Ceatha[1] · Gary J. Gates[2] · Des Crowley[3,4,5]

One-in-ten youth **LGBT+**:
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,
Transgender, Questioning,
Asexual, Gender Other
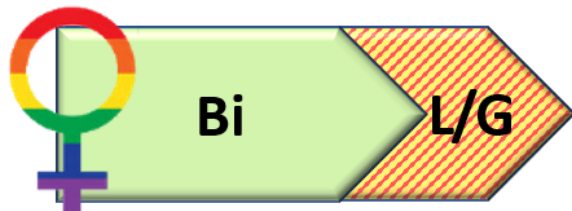
LGB
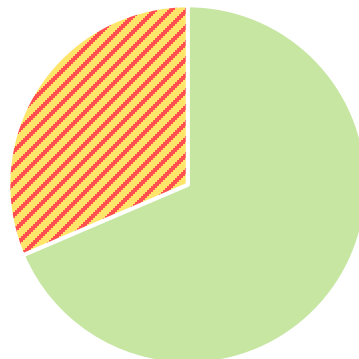
Bisexual   Lesbian / Gay

Questioning

Does/ does not reflect social change?

Challenging the question / labels?

Understanding the question?

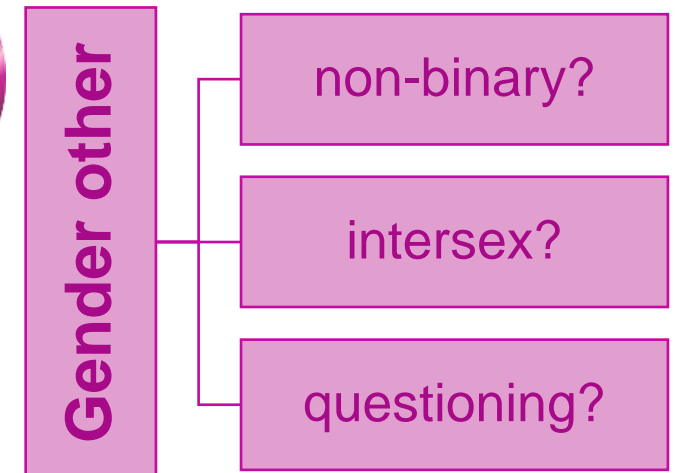# GUI Cohort '98 at 17-18 years: gender identity

RESEARCH BRIEFS

LGBT+ Self-Identification Among Youth in Ireland Aged 17-18 Years: A Research Brief

Nerilee Ceatha[1] · Gary J. Gates[2] · Des Crowley[3,4,5]

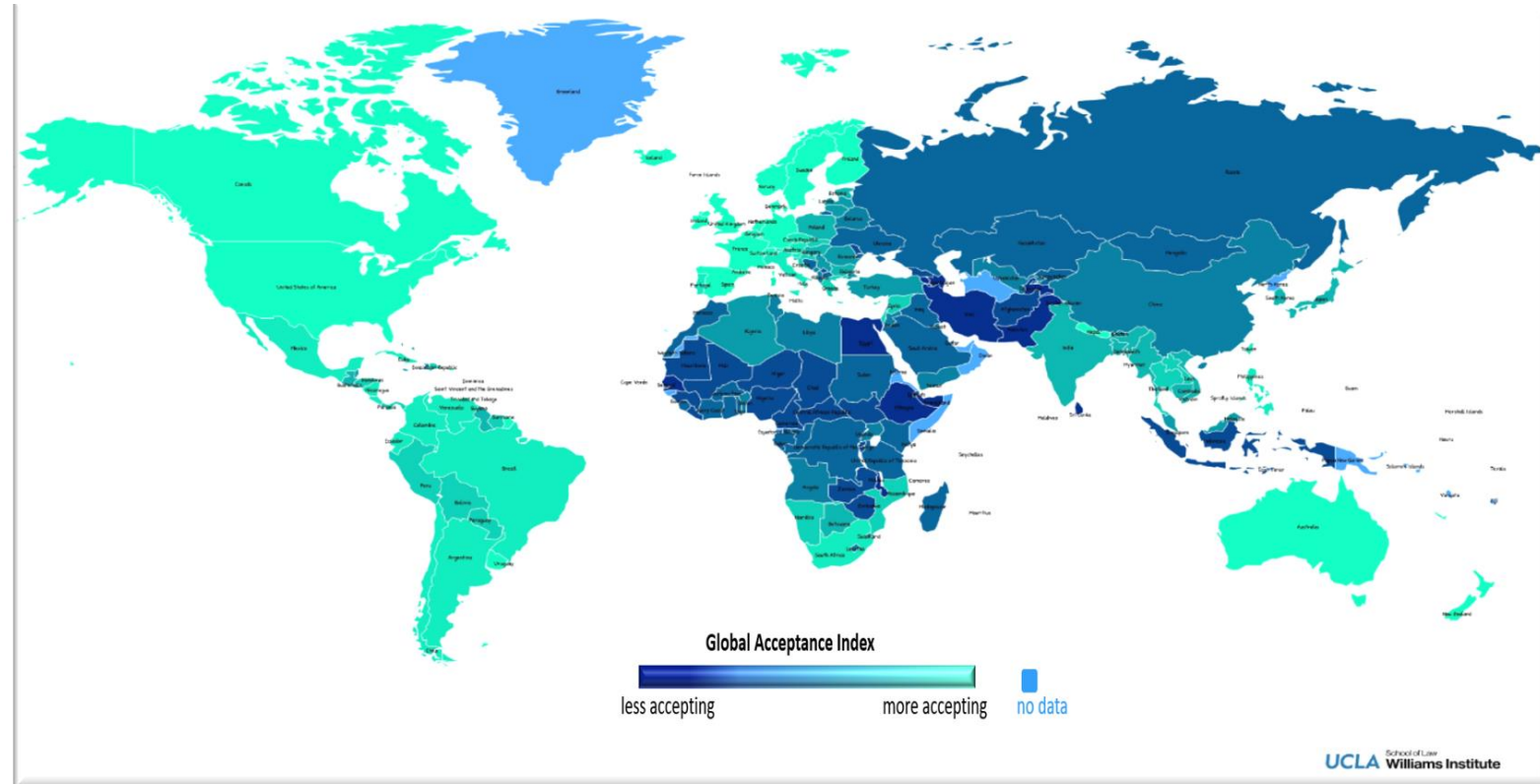Of **LGBT+** youth, one in ten:

Transgender, Gender Other

non-LGB+   LGB+

Gender other

non-binary?

intersex?

questioning?

Supportive Irish policy climates:
27% increase in social acceptance

Global Acceptance Index (GAI)
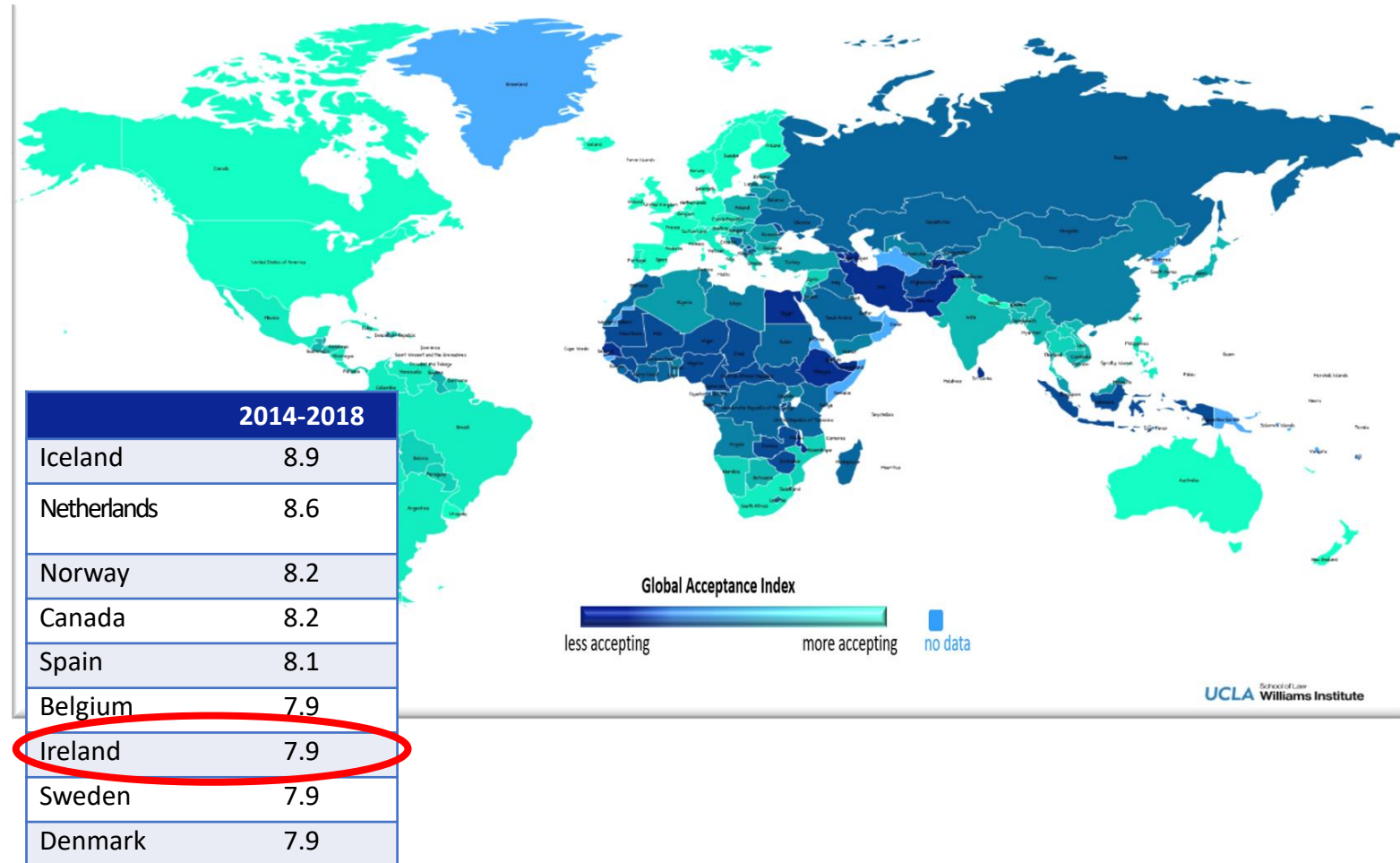
- assesses **social acceptance**
  - 174 countries
- Ireland **rose** from
  - **20th place** 2000–2003
  - **7th place** 2014–2017

GAI 2014-2018

Global Acceptance Index

less accepting   more accepting   no data

UCLA School of Law Williams Institute

Flores, AR *Social Acceptance of LGBT People in 174 Countries 1981 to 2017*. Williams Institute: UCLA, 2019. https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/GAI-Update-Oct-2019.pdf

Supportive Irish policy climates:
27% increase in social acceptance

GAI 2014-2018

*"As **societal acceptance increases** and things **continue to change**, it will be **interesting** to see how that [GUI] **data changes**, because it's **longitudinal**."*

2014-2018	
Iceland	8.9
Netherlands	8.6
Norway	8.2
Canada	8.2
Spain	8.1
Belgium	7.9
Ireland	7.9
Sweden	7.9
Denmark	7.9

Global Acceptance Index

less accepting   more accepting   no data

UCLA School of Law Williams Institute

Flores, AR *Social Acceptance of LGBT People in 174 Countries 1981 to 2017*. Williams Institute: UCLA, 2019. https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/GAI-Update-Oct-2019.pdf

Key messages and next steps:
'Learning _with_' GUI, 'Learning _with_' LGBT+ youth

Key messages

There is rich 'learning _with_' LGBT+ youth

- Recognises youth social and cultural capital
- Draws on youth expertise alongside complementary expertise

GUI shows the value of this approach:

- commitment to inclusion of SOGI questions in future Waves
- openness to change and develop improved question wording

There is a pressing need for SOGI data collection in the Census / national surveys

Next steps (watch this space!)

- **Nerilee Ceatha has CSO approval for:**
- ➢ Comparative analyses of Cohort '98 at 17-18 & 20 years
- ➢ Potential cross-cohort analysis of Cohort '98 and Cohort '08 at 17-18 years

Ceatha N, Gates GJ & Crowley D. (2023). LGBT+ self-identification among 17–18-year-olds in Ireland: A Research Brief. _Population Research and Policy Review._ https://doi.org/10.1007/s11113-023-09807-w

Ceatha, N, Koay, ACC, Kelly, A, Killeen, T, McCabe, K, Murray, J, Pope, J, Scully, N, Buggy, C, & Crowley, D. (2023). LGBT+ Youth Perspectives on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Questions in the Growing Up in Ireland Survey: A Qualitative Study. _Youth_, _3_(1), 261-284. https://doi.org/10.3390/ youth3010018

Ceatha, N.; Kelly, A, Killeen, T, McCabe, K, Murray, J, Pope, J, Scully, N, & Buggy, C. (2022). Beyond 'Voice' to 'Learning with': A Multiple Streams Policy Analysis and Qualitative Exploration Problematizing Representations of Young LGBT+ Identities. _Youth_, 2, 479–504. https://doi.org/10.3390/ youth2040035

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