

## **PANEL 8: SEX, SEXUALITY AND RELATIONSHIPS**

### **How do different generations of women in UK view relationships and commitment? – A psychosocial exploration**

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This dissertation will explore the attitudes towards relationships and commitment in contemporary Britain between younger and older generations of women to establish whether there are differing views based on age and the impact societal changes such as feminist movements that have enabled women to work as opposed to being a housewife and no obligation to marry. It is now common for people to establish themselves in different forms or relationships such as open relationships, living separately or partnerships without marriage; and the stigma that appeared to be attached to 'unconventional' relationships no longer seem to exist in contemporary times. Data will be collected through online survey (qualtrics) - for participants that may find online survey inaccessible, questions will be handed to them in paper format. This research can potentially provide a greater understanding of relationships in modern society and how the attitudes of generations may or may not have changed overtime.

### **Sociological analysis of how protest and activism has led to progressive social change surrounding sexuality**

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My dissertation will be a sociological analysis of how protest and activism has led to progressive social change surrounding sexuality. Firstly I will provide a literature review that will aim to contribute an understanding of key theoretical approaches of sexuality. Key theorists that will feature in the literature review include Michel Foucault, Jeffery Weeks and Diane Richardson. I will explore examples of protest and activism that include the historical movement for legalisation of homosexuality and more contemporary examples including marriage equality. I plan to draw comparisons between feminist movements and LGBT movements from key periods of social change. Reasons behind the chosen topic include the personal connection I feel towards this area of sociology and history. As a gay man I have a quality of life that is only possible from the outcomes of protest and activism which have led to such social change within the UK.

### **Public's perception of sex workers in the UK**

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My dissertation will be based on the Public's perception of sex workers in the UK. It is important to understand the public's perception to gauge whether they would be in support of safe areas of soliciting for sex workers, such as Holbeck in Leeds. The method used to gather the research is snowballing, using online surveys which would include open and closed questions; the reason for this is to gather qualitative and quantitative research, the benefit of this is to allow people to give a reason for their answers. With the questions it will allow to see if there is difference in answers between genders, age brackets and if the choice of media the participant chooses to read or listen has an influence on their opinion.