Sexuality: The missing social axis in social work education

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HOMOSEXUALS should be judged as individuals.
Let's judge ourselves as people.

Consumer con-game
Pepsi-Cola
Toni Olds Mobile
Youngmobile

If you want meat - go to the butcher.
Teenage pregnancy

HIV/AIDS

Sexual violence

Child sexual abuse
Conceptualising sexuality

Sociology
‘desires, practices, relationships and identities’
(Jackson 2006: 106)

Queer
Emphasis on performativity
Heterosexuality

Non-heterosexuality
Heterosexuality

Non-heterosexuality
LGBTI
Heteronormativity

‘compulsory heterosexuality’

(Rich 1980)

Shorthand for the numerous ways in which heterosexual privilege is woven into the fabric of social life, pervasively and insidiously, ordering everyday existence.
Mental Health and Wellbeing Month October 2012

Find out what’s happening on your campus,
www.uws.edu.au/mhwbmonth
SEXUAL HEALTH
Summary points of argument

- Locates sexuality as a social axis that intersects with other social axes
- Conceptualises sexuality as people’s changing desires, practices, relationships and identities
- Focuses on the everyday sexual experiences of men and women
- Explores different meanings of sexual health
- Includes sexual differences
- Examines critically heteronormative assumptions in society and in social work
- Makes sexuality visible in social work education
What strategies do you suggest for raising the profile of sexuality and sexual health in Australian social work education?
References


