Does it 'Get Better'? Life Course Perspectives on Mental Health, Sexual Health and Intersecting Vulnerabilities in Sexual- and Gender-Diverse Populations

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Abstract:
In an era of new legal equalities and changing social attitudes concerning sexual- and gender-diverse populations, many assume that health is improving in these groups. We may also imagine that age, as well as life course events such as migration, build resilience against the adverse mental and sexual health experiences that individuals from these groups experience during youth. Advances in health data as well as focused qualitative interventions are now allowing us to evaluate these assumptions more systematically. This talk thus comprises findings from a series of my past and current projects on the geographical and temporal determinants of mental and sexual health in diverse populations (e.g., foreign-born and non-metropolitan LGBTQ+ populations, people living with HIV/AIDS) across North America and the United Kingdom. I suggest that a life course perspective is essential to understanding health outcomes and inequalities in these groups amidst rapidly evolving social and political environments.