

While the clandestinity of much homosexual life precludes representative sampling, the researcher can approach this desideratum by pooling samples derived from gay bars, homosexual clubs, and mail organizations, each involving a different type of subject.


Discusses bureaucratic obstacles, problematic cooperation with other individuals and agencies, sampling, questionnaire construction, level of information elicited, interviewer bias, and interpretation of the data.

C. AGING

The emergence of gerontology as a serious body of knowledge is rather recent. In the case of gay men and lesbians it has disclosed one important counterintuitive finding: homosexual individuals do not become more unhappy as they grow older, but in many instances adjust well to the aging process. Social work intervention has also developed in this sphere, though only in an incipient stage.


After a review of the literature, presents results of questionnaire administered in 1977 and 1978 to 74 lesbians over 50. Almost half had been married at one time, little religious belief was held, most had adequate income, and few reported serious psychological problems.


Anthology of journals, poetry, fiction, and other literature by four women and four men, produced in the writing workshop of Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE).

2908. BAUDRY, ANDRE. "Le vieillard homophile," Arcadie, no. 141 (September 1965), 367-72.
Observations on homosexual aging by the founder of the Arcadie group.


Findings from 478 Australian male homosexuals do not support the stereotype of the older male homosexual (i.e., disengagement from the homosexual world, loneliness, rejection, depression, and unhappiness).


Reports findings of a 1978-79 study, conducted with 4,246 volunteer respondents, aged 50 to 93.


Personal interviews with 1,737 older men, mostly in Spain, show that homosexuality is more common among them than is usually supposed. For some, homosexual activity began only after 60 years of age.


Mimeographed list recording books (including a few novels), articles, theses, and papers.


Extensive interviews with ten over-50 male homosexuals, suggest that they commonly experience a "life crisis" early in their development and are therefore less affected by the trauma of role loss that occurs for most men in later life.

Reports on interviews with 43 self-identified older gay men in relation to coming out, support systems, and sex-role flexibility.

Gives the history and character of New York's Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE), which was founded in 1977. A small number of paid staff work with a large group of volunteers to provide a monthly social event, publicity and outreach programs, discussion and writing groups, financial planning, and intake and matching of new volunteers.

Interviews with 23 Jewish males, 73 to 94 years old, suggest that homosexual interests increase in old age among men.

2918. HARRY, JOSEPH, and WILLIAM DEVALL. "Age and Sexual Culture among Homosexually Oriented Males," Archives of Sexual Behavior, 7 (1978), 199-209.
Utilizing data from 243 males from the Detroit area, finds that the thesis that gay men are heavily youth-oriented has been exaggerated. Preference for younger partners varies according to social status, lifestyle, and other factors.

First of several articles in this issue on gay seniors. See also: Judy MacLean, "National Conference on Lesbian and Gay Aging," Advocate, no. 334 (January 7, 1982), 15-17.

A study of 241 gay men found little evidence to suggest that being homosexual itself causes problems in old age, but that societal stigma does.


2922. LANER, MARY R. "Growing Older Female: Heterosexual
Analyzed the age-related content of personals advertise-
ments placed by heterosexual and homosexual women. Con-
trary to popular notions, lesbians were not found to be
seeking young partners. See also her: "Growing Older
Male: Heterosexual and Homosexual," *Gerontologist*, 18
(1978), 496-501, showing a similar method and results.

2923. LEVY, NORMAN J. "The Middle-aged Male Homosexual,"
*Journal of the American Academy of Psychoanalysis*,
7 (1970), 405-18.
Discussion from the point of view of depth psychoanalysis.

2924. MINNINGERODE, FRED A. "Age Status Labeling in
Asked 95 gay men between 25 and 68 years of age to clas-
sify themselves as young, middle-age, or old. The pop-
ular suggestion of accelerated aging in homosexual men was
not supported.

2925. MINNINGERODE, FRED A., and MARCY R. ADELMAN. "El-
derly Homosexual Women and Men: Report on a Pilot
Reports on in-depth interviews with eleven 60-77-year-old
homosexual women and men, examining physical change and
physical health; work, retirement, and leisure time; soci-
al behavior; psychological functioning; sexual behavior;
and personal perspective on the life course.

2926. RAPHAEL, SHARON, and MINA K. ROBINSON. "The Older
Lesbian: Love Relationships and Friendship Pat-
Concentrates on support and intimacy as fostered by love
relationships and friendship patterns. Based on a sample
of twenty California women over 50.

2927. VACHA, KEITH (ed.). *Quiet Fire: Memories of Older
219 pp.
From over 100 interviews, Vacha has selected 17 to show a
range of experiences and attitudes.

2928. VINING, DONALD. "The Advantages of Age," *Advocate*,
no. 313 (March 19, 1981), 22-23.
Subjective observations by the diarist and playwright, now
retired from his office job.

2929. WEG, RUTH B. (ed.). *Sexuality in the Later Years:
Roles and Behavior*. New York: Academic Press,
Although there is no single paper concerned with gay and
lesbian aging in this collection, the subject is frequent-
ly discussed in context. See index.
2930. WEINBERG, MARTIN S. "The Male Homosexual: Age-Related Variations in Social and Psychological Characteristics," Social Problems, 17 (1970), 527-37. A sample recruited in San Francisco and New York refutes negative views of older gay men, who are found in fact to be better adjusted psychologically than younger gay men, though they are more likely to be withdrawn from the gay world.

D. BARS

The tendency of homosexual men ("sodomites") to gather in taverns, where they encountered other socially marginal elements, seems to begin in 15th-century Europe, though these locales did not come into their own until the 19th century. The modern gay bar seems to be a distinctively northern European and North American institution. In much of North America, the bars are, apart from the gay churches, the only homosexual gathering places. Regulation of alcohol consumption has repeatedly brought homosexual bar patrons into conflict with the police and, in the wake of Prohibition, also the underworld (see XXI.A).


2933. BRANSON, HELEN P. Gay Bar. San Francisco: Pan-Graphic Press, 1957. 89 pp. The owner of a Los Angeles establishment with a homosexual (mostly male) clientele describes her bar, comments on the problems of her customers, and characterizes the types of people she meets.

2934. CARSWELL, PHILLIP. "Life behind Bars," Gay Commun—
While it is easy to conclude that the sole purpose of bars is for cruising, bars can serve other purposes, and indeed have real potential for change.


2936. DALLAS, MICHAEL, et al. De leerscene—een onderzoek naar de ontwikkeling van mannelijkheid. Amsterdam: University, Sociologisch Instituut, 1985. 105 pp. Theoretical and empirical considerations by a team of Amsterdam graduate students on the leather scene, esp. as observed in the city's bars.

2937. HARRY, JOSEPH. "Urbanization and the Gay Life," Journal of Sex Research, 10 (1974), 238-47. With increasing size of cities there is increasing specialization of gay bars. In metropolitan cities bars cater to different age groups and different lifestyles, and this diversity encourages migration of small town gays to urban areas.

2938. HIGHLAND, JIM. "Raid!" Tangents, 2:4 (January 1967), 4-7. Account of the Black Cat raid by the Los Angeles police, which triggered a street confrontation two years before the Stonewall riot that involved several hundred people.

