

## WRITING A CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

*Individual Papers:* You may submit extended abstracts of individual papers for potential inclusion in a regular paper session. These abstracts will be organized into sessions by members of the Program Committee on the basis of common themes. All regular paper submissions should include: (a) the title of the paper, (b) names, affiliations, and contact information for each author, and (c) an extended abstract. Extended abstracts should be approximately 400-450 (max. 450) words and organized with the suggested three section headings: Objectives, Methods, and Findings.

### Objectives

- What does your paper examine?
- What do we know about this topic? What are key concepts, theories, findings? Are there any gaps that you hope to address?
- What is your research question?

### Methods

- What is your research method (e.g., survey, interviews, ethnography, content analysis)?
- Who? Describe your sample or study participants (number and basic characteristics)
- What? Describe key variables, main interview topics/questions, coding sheet
- How? Describe how you analyze your data

### Findings

- What are your preliminary findings?
- What are potential implications?

### Example Abstract

*Note: This is an example of an abstract for a quantitative study. Other types of submissions can look different.*

Title: Attitudes toward mononormativity and polyamorous legal rights in the US

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#### *Objectives*

This study examines the relationship between age cohort, sexual orientation, contact, and attitudes toward polyamory. While western society at-large remains committed to monogamy as the standard for relationships, the deinstitutionalization of marriage suggests that people are becoming more accepting of alternative forms of relationships, such as polyamory. However, many people still incorrectly conflate polyamory with cheating in their definitions of the practice, meaning that polyamory continues to be stigmatized. Previous literature suggests that younger cohorts, sexual minorities, and those with contact to practitioners of alternative relationship forms are more open to non-heteronormative relationship practices, which could extend to polyamory. Therefore, we pose two questions: What is the impact of cohort, sexual orientation, and contact with polyamorists on attitudes toward monogamy and

polyamorous legal rights? Does contact with polyamorists mediate the relationship between cohort and attitudes or sexual orientation and attitudes?

### *Methods*

Our study draws on the American Marriage Survey, a national probability-based sample of individuals in the United States ( $n = 2,576$ ). We created an index of *mononormativity* by combining two statements: “monogamy is the normal orientation for relationships” and “marriage should always be monogamous.” We created an index of *polyamorous legal rights* by combining two statements: “committed relationships with more than two individuals should have the same legal rights as married couples” and “marriage among three or more people should be legal.” In addition to cohort, LGBQ status, and contact with a polyamorous individual, we controlled for gender, race/ethnicity, marital status, parental status, education, political ideology, and religiosity. We tested our hypotheses using OLS regression models and included separate models for interaction effects.

### *Findings*

Descriptive findings show some support for mononormativity with an overall mean of 7.32 and little support for polyamorous legal rights with an overall mean of 4.8. Regression results show that Millennials are less supportive of mononormativity while Gen Z and Millennials are more supportive of polyamorous legal rights than older cohorts. LGBQ individuals are less supportive of mononormativity and more supportive of legal rights for polyamorous relationships and polyamorous marriage compared to heterosexual individuals. People who have contact with polyamorous individuals are more likely to support polyamorous rights. Interaction effects show that the impact of contact on both attitudes is even stronger for the Millennial cohort while support for mononormativity decreases more steeply with contact among LGBQ individuals than straight individuals. In conclusion, in a post-marriage equality society with overwhelming support for marriage between same-sex couples, there is still an emphasis on monogamy and little support for marriage between three or more individuals. If attitudinal shifts occur, it is likely to happen among younger generations, LGBQ individuals, and those who know someone who is polyamorous.