

Relational and Ecological Aspects of LGBTQ Lives
(REAL Lives Lab)
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Overview:

The REAL Lives Lab focuses broadly on socio-contextual influences on health and wellbeing for members of minoritized groups, including sexual and gender minority people. We recognize that people's lived experiences are shaped by their intersectional identities and how these are situated within broader systems of power and inequity. We are interested in multilevel factors (e.g., at the individual, interpersonal, setting, and structural levels) that shape health and wellbeing. We examine factors that contribute to mental and physical health disparities as well as those related to resilience and thriving. We value qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods, including tools that support relational and multilevel analyses (e.g., social network analysis, GIS). We also value translational research related to clinical practice and intervention and community-based research, including needs assessment and program evaluation. Learn more about our lab here:

<https://sites.google.com/paloaltou.edu/real-lives-lab/home>

Current lab projects and student dissertations include:

- **Queer Non-Monogamies (QNM) Study:** an online survey examining the interpersonal, support-based, and mental health experiences of queer non-monogamous people, including how QNM people with disabilities meet support needs in their relationships
- **Transracial Adoptee Experiences Study:** a mixed-methods study examining how experiences of racial trauma impact the relationships, identity development, and mental health of transracial adoptees
- **Mental Health Experiences of Trans Filipino Americans:** a qualitative exploration of how identity, culture, and minority stress shape the mental health experiences of trans Filipino Americans
- **Burnout in Behavioral Health Study:** a community-based partnership with an inpatient psychiatric facility examining how specific workplace safety and culture factors associated with staff burnout
- **Sexual and Gender Identities Clinic (SGIC)-Based Scholarship:** a number of projects focused on bridging the research-practice gap with our clinical services and training in the SGIC
- *...and more! Reach out to us to learn more about current lab projects!*

Expectations:

- Attendance and active participation in weekly lab meetings.
- Contributing to ongoing lab research projects.
- Collaborating as co-authors on conference presentations and/or publications.
- Contributing to a positive and supportive lab culture.

Openings: 2-3 students will be invited to join the lab each year.

Application Instructions:

Please submit the following to Dr. McConnell (emcconnell@paloaltou.edu) by the application deadline:

- Cover letter (1-2 pages) detailing your fit with the lab, previous research experience, research goals for graduate school, and long-term career goals
- Curriculum vitae (including 3 references with email contact information)
- Current unofficial PAU transcript
- Research proposal from PAU's Research Methods course

Select students will be invited to interview. Accepted students will be notified on the PAU uniform notification date and will have the option to start in Spring if desired. Interested students welcome to attend a meeting!