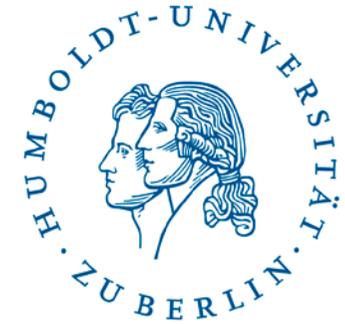Dr. Ulrich Klocke
klocke@hu-berlin.de
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Psychology Department
Sozial- and Organizational Psychology

Attitudes and Behavior towards Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People in Germany
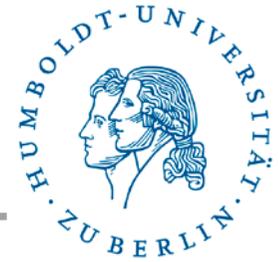
Bucharest, June 5th 2018

Presentation at the debate on
Changing Family Patterns.
Perceptions of Family and Couple Life in Romania
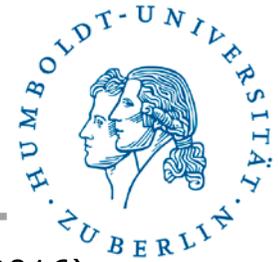
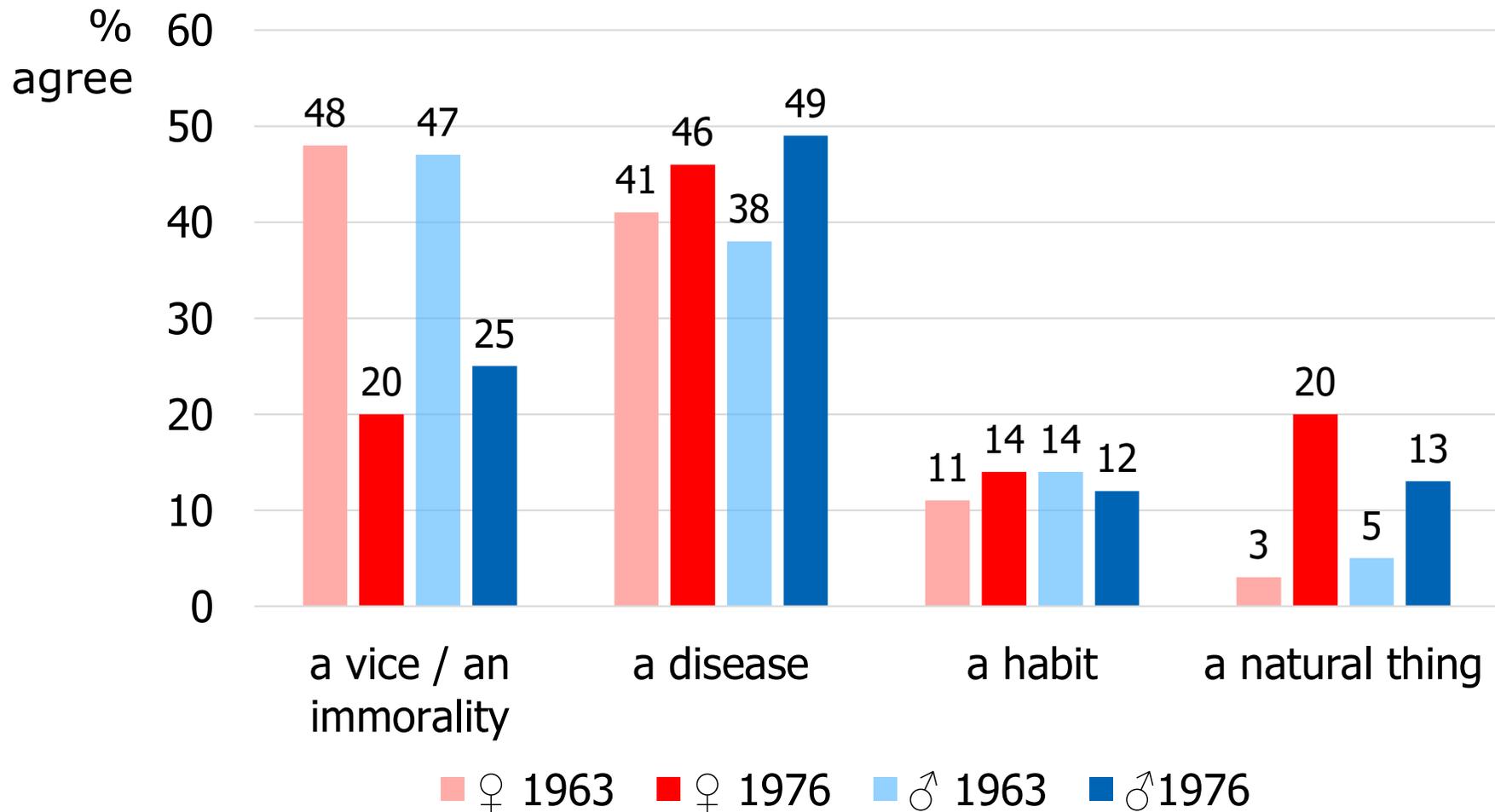Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and ACCEPT Association

Agenda

1. Attitudes towards LGBT in Germany
   a) Attitude change between 1963 and 2016
   b) Contemporary attitudes
   c) Differences between socio-demographical groups
2. Sexual and gender diversity in schools
3. Interventions to increase acceptance for sexual and gender diversity
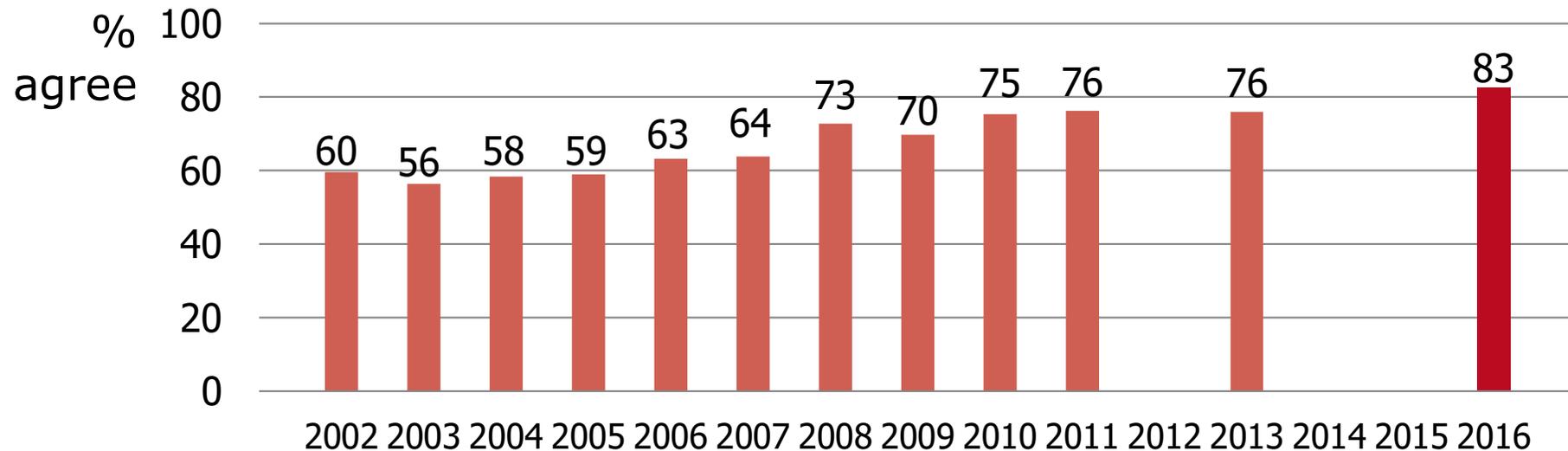4. Conclusion

Attitude change in Germany between 2002 and 2016

„Marriages between two women or two men should be allowed."

Respondents: German residents from the age of 16 years up

References: Longitudinal survey on Group-focused enmity (2002-2011), ZuGleich-Studie (2013), Küpper, Klocke, & Hoffmann (2016)

„I want to come into contact with the issue of homosexuality as little as possible."

- 2008: 61% agree (Antidiskriminierungsstelle des Bundes, 2008)
- 2016: 27% agree (Küpper, Klocke, & Hoffmann, 2016)

Attitude change in Germany between 2002 and 2016

„Homosexuality is immoral."

Respondents: German residents from the age of 16 years up

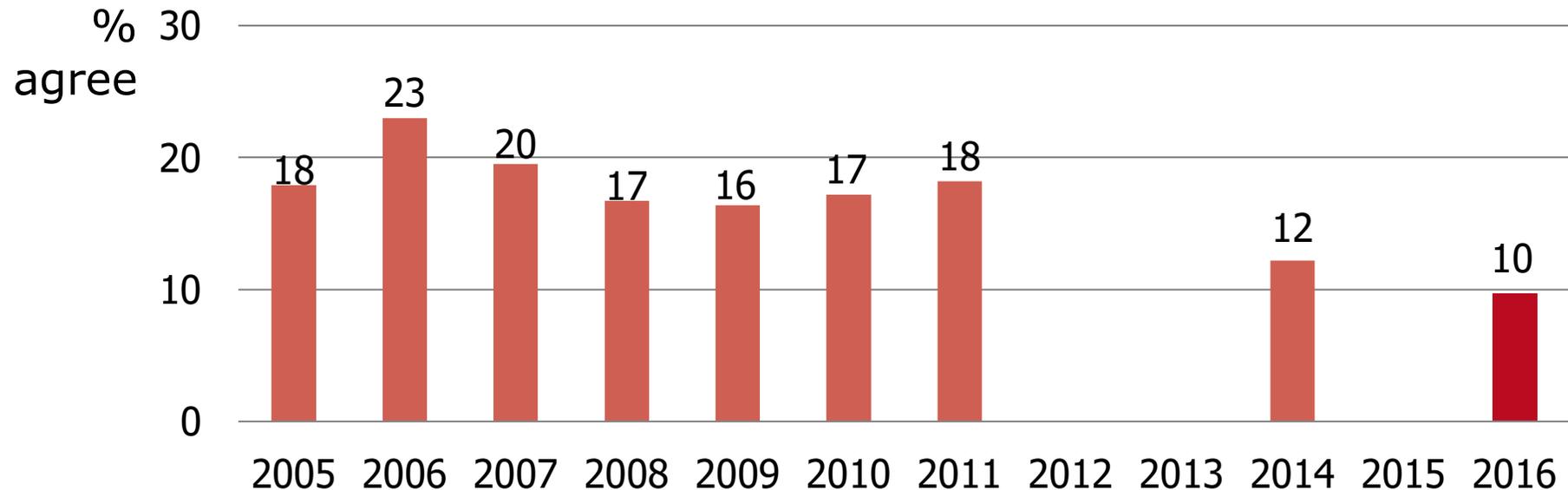References: Longitudinal survey on Group-focused enmity (2002-2011), FES-Mitte-Studie (2014), Küpper, Klocke, & Hoffmann (2016)

Agenda

1. **Attitudes towards LGBT in Germany**
   a) Attitude change between 1963 and 2016
   b) **Contemporary attitudes**
      - **Classical homo-/transphobia**
      - **Attitudes to equal rights**
      - **Modern homo-/transphobia**
      - **Affective attitudes**
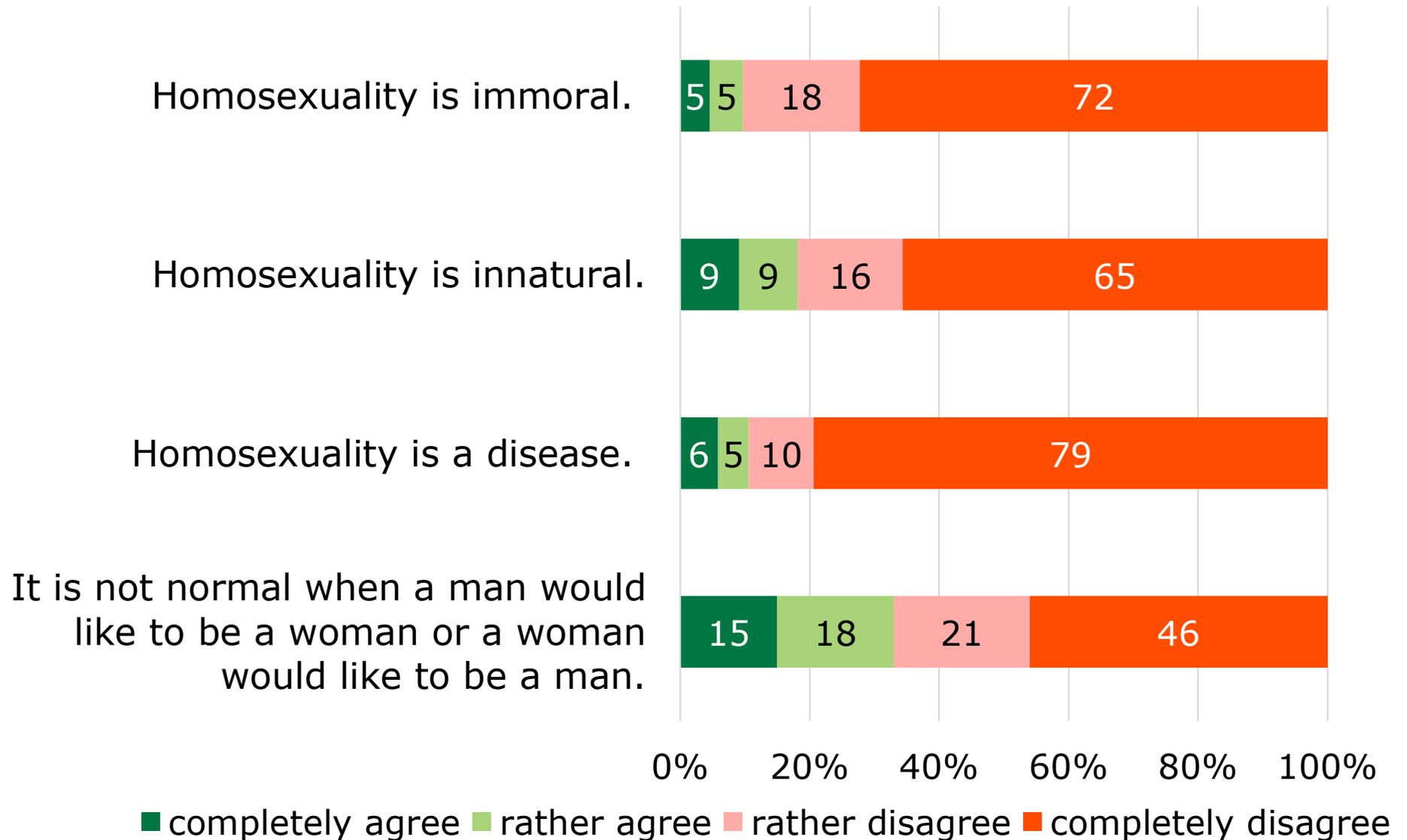   c) Differences between socio-demographical groups
2. Sexual and gender diversity in schools
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4. Conclusion

Classical homo- and transphobia
(Küpper, Klocke & Hoffmann, 2017: Survey Sept./Oct. 2016)

	completely agree	rather agree	rather disagree	completely disagree
Homosexuality is immoral.	5	5	18	72
Homosexuality is innatural.	9	9	16	65
Homosexuality is a disease.	6	5	10	79
It is not normal when a man would like to be a woman or a woman would like to be a man.	15	18	21	46

■ completely agree ■ rather agree ■ rather disagree ■ completely disagree
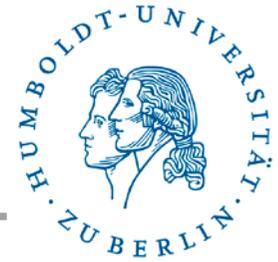
Attitudes to equal rights
(Küpper, Klocke & Hoffmann, 2017: Survey Sept./Oct. 2016)

	completely agree	rather agree	rather disagree	completely disagree
Marriages between two women or two men should be allowed.	65	18	7	11
Lesbian and gay couples should be allowed to adopt children just like heterosexual couples.	56	19	10	14
Same sex couples should get just as much support with artificial insemination as heterosexual couples.	45	23	15	18
It is good that homosexual people by law are protected against discrimination.	77	18	3	2

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%

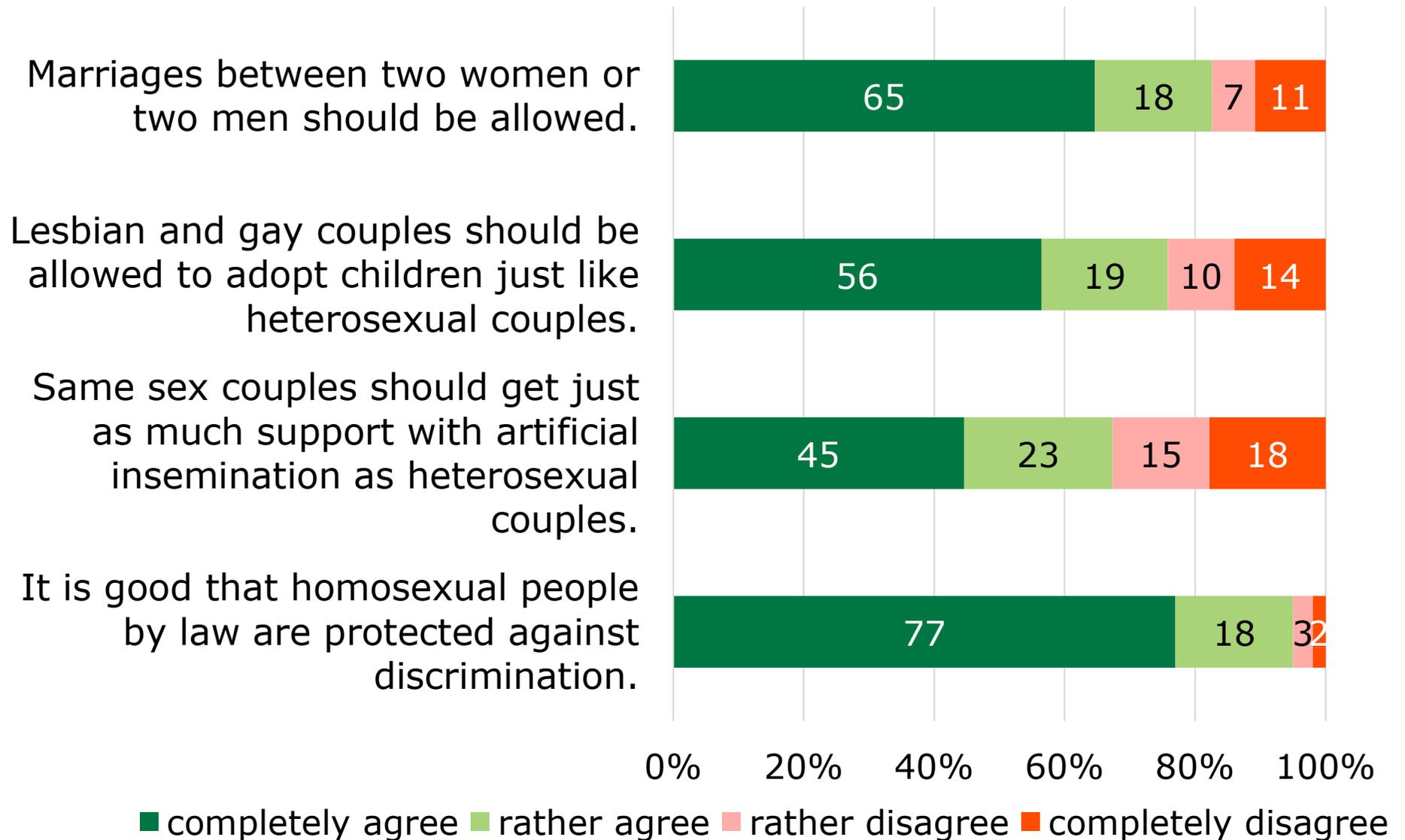■ completely agree ■ rather agree ■ rather disagree ■ completely disagree

Modern homo- and transphobia
(Küpper, Klocke & Hoffmann, 2017: Survey Sept./Oct. 2016)

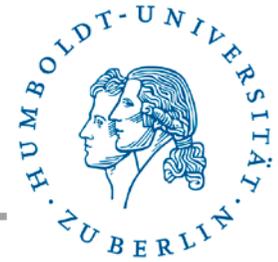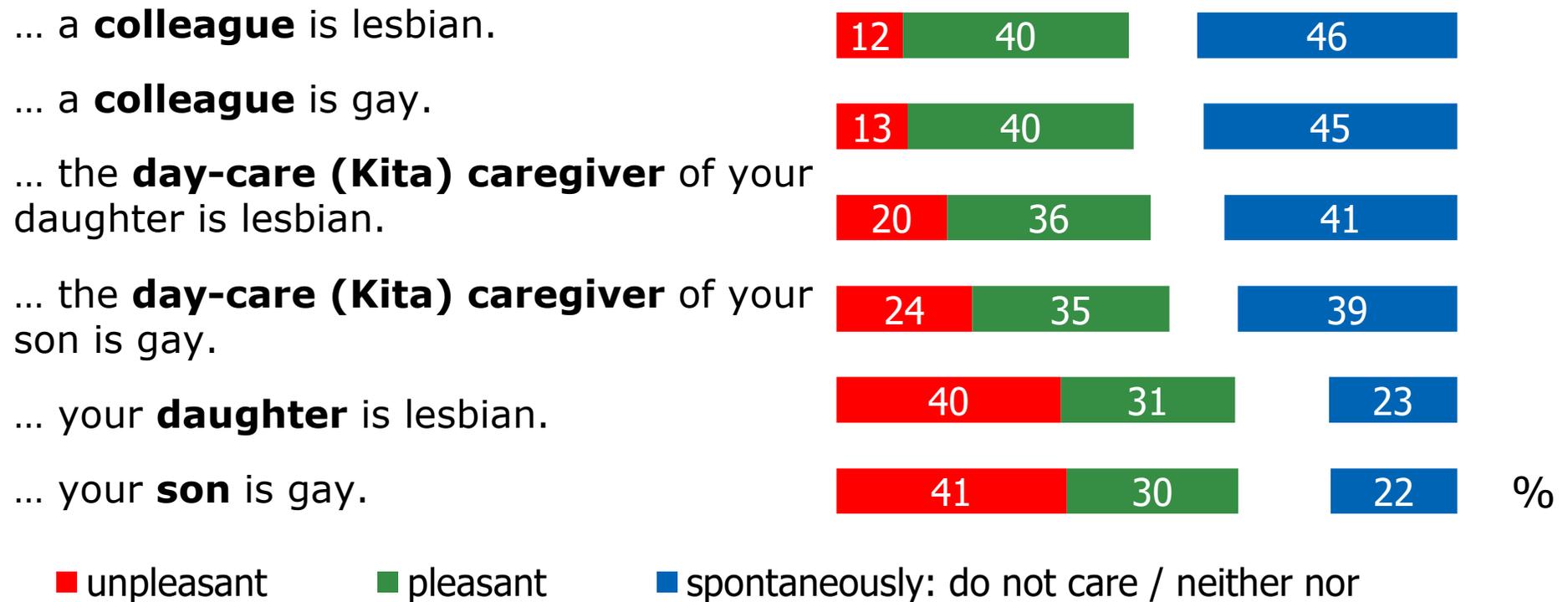|	completely agree	rather agree	rather disagree	completely disagree
Homosexuals should stop making such a fuss about their sexuality.	20	24	26	30
The topic of homosexuality takes up too much space in the media.	12	14	31	43
It is inappropriate for people to make their homosexuality public.	12	15	21	52
It is too much effort now to have to take into account the specifics of transsexual or transgender people.	11	14	26	50

Affective attitudes to lesbians and gays
(Küpper, Klocke & Hoffmann, 2017: Survey Sept./Oct. 2016)

„How does the following situations feel? You learn that …"

… a **colleague** is lesbian.

| 12 | 40 | 46 |

… a **colleague** is gay.

| 13 | 40 | 45 |

… the **day-care (Kita) caregiver** of your daughter is lesbian.

| 20 | 36 | 41 |

… the **day-care (Kita) caregiver** of your son is gay.

| 24 | 35 | 39 |

… your **daughter** is lesbian.

| 40 | 31 | 23 |

… your **son** is gay.

| 41 | 30 | 22 | %

■ unpleasant   ■ pleasant   ■ spontaneously: do not care / neither nor

Missing percentages: spontaneously "partly partly" or "both"

Affective attitudes to lesbians and gays
(Küpper, Klocke & Hoffmann, 2017: Survey Sept./Oct. 2016)
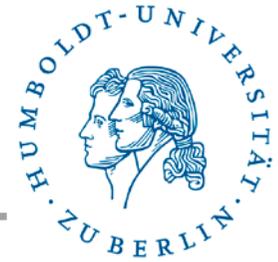
„How does the following situations feel? You learn that …"

A man and a woman show their affection in public, e.g. by kissing each other.

| 11 | 58 | | 30 |

Two women show their affection in public, e.g. by kissing each other.

| 28 | 41 | | 29 |

Two men show their affection in public, e.g. by kissing each other.

| 38 | 34 | | 26 | %

■ unpleasant   ■ pleasant   ■ spontaneously: do not care / neither nor

Missing percentages: spontaneously "partly partly" or "both"

Agenda

1. **Attitudes towards LGBT in Germany**
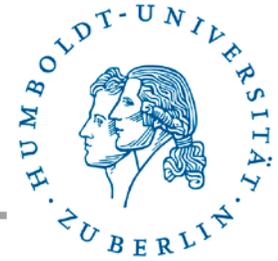   a) Attitude change between 1963 and 2016
   b) Contemporary attitudes
   c) **Differences between socio-demographical groups**
2. Sexual and gender diversity in schools
3. Interventions to increase acceptance for sexual and gender diversity
4. Conclusion

Differences between social groups
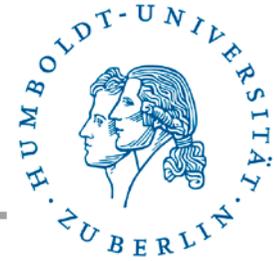## (Küpper, Klocke & Hoffmann, 2017 and several other studies)

More positive attitudes to LGBT

- women

- younger than 60 years old

- without a migration background

- higher education

- politically left/liberal

- not (fundamentalist) religious

  - predominantly with regard to equal rights

Agenda

1. Attitudes towards LGBT in Germany

   a) Attitude change between 1963 and 2016

   b) Contemporary attitudes

   c) Differences between socio-demographical groups

2. **Sexual and gender diversity in schools**

3. Interventions to increase acceptance for sexual and gender diversity

4. Conclusion

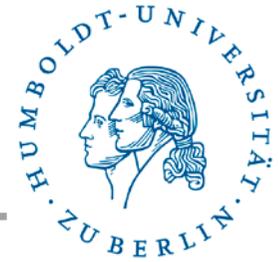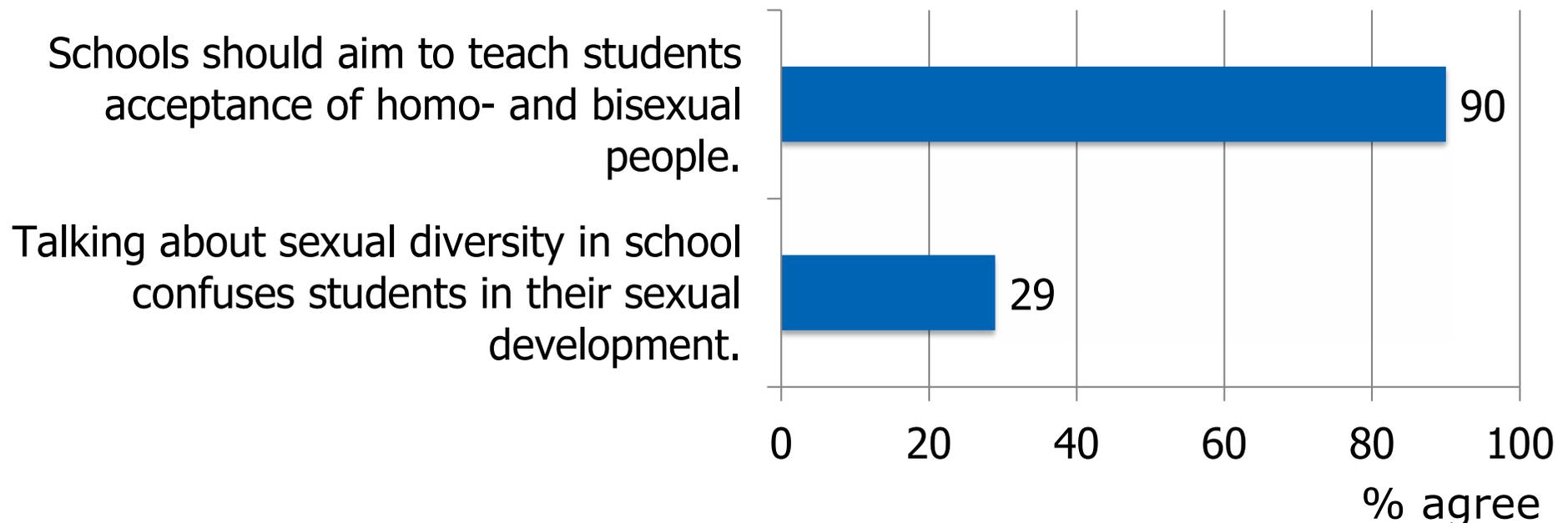# Resistance to sexual and gender diversity in schools

2013/2014: OpenPetition of the teacher Gabriel Stängle *No Education Policy 2015 Under The Ideology of the Rainbow* received 192,450 signatures

# Sexual diversity in schools: Knowledge and attitudes in general population

- Only 20% knew of the education policies to make sexual diversity an issue. Of these …
  - 91% knew that they aim at promoting acceptance of homo- and bisexual people
  - 14% believed they aim at encouraging students to try out different sexual practices."

	% agree
Schools should aim to teach students acceptance of homo- and bisexual people.	90
Talking about sexual diversity in school confuses students in their sexual development.	29

Sexual diversity in schools:
Observations of 16-30 year old respondents
(Küpper, Klocke & Hoffmann, 2017: Survey Sept./Oct. 2016)
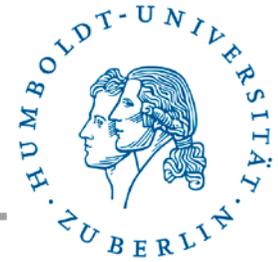
„How often have teachers …?"

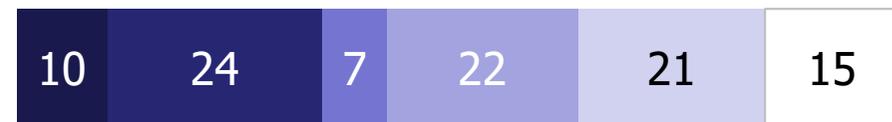**used teaching examples or materials with lesbian, gay, or bisexual people?**

2	6	28	64

■ frequently ■ sometimes ■ rarely ■ never

showed disapproval when words as ´faggot´, ´homo´, ´or ´lesbian´ were used in a derogatory way?

10	24	7	22	21	15

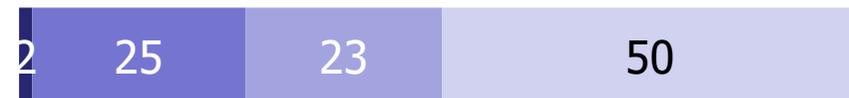■ each time ■ mostly ■ in about half the cases ■ rarely ■ never □ never used in the presence of teachers

„In the school(s) you visit(ed), are/were there any …?"

students who were openly lesbian, gay, or bisexual?

2	25	23	50

teachers who were openly lesbian, gay, or bisexual?

1	7	18	74

■ yes, many ■ yes, some ■ yes, one ■ no, no one
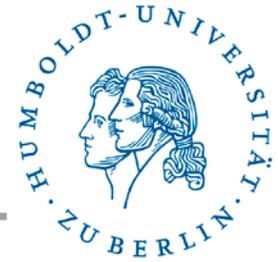
Ulrich Klocke: Attitudes and behavior towards LGBT people in Germany

Agenda

1. Attitudes towards LGBT in Germany

   a) Attitude change between 1963 and 2016

   b) Contemporary attitudes

   c) Differences between socio-demographical groups

2. Sexual and gender diversity in schools

3. **Interventions to increase acceptance for sexual and gender diversity**

   a) **Increase knowledge, visibility, and empathy**

   b) **Provide personal contact to LGBT**

   c) **Intervene against discrimination**

4. Conclusion

1. Increase knowledge, visibility, and empathy
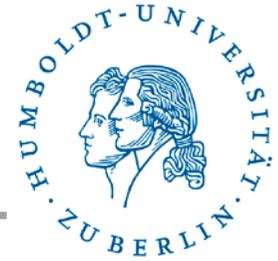
- **Provide knowledge** (e.g. about the situation of LGBT, causes and unchangeability of sexual orientation, the prevalence of LGBT students, or how to intervene against discrimination)

  ⇨ students' more positive attitudes to LGBT (Klocke, 2012)

  ⇨ teachers' more LSBT-supportive behavior (Klocke, Latz und Scharmacher, 2015; Klocke, Salden, & Watzlawik, in prep.)

- **Make sexual and gender diversity a natural issue and LGBT visible in school materials** (e.g. books, movies)

  ⇨ students' more positive attitudes and knowledge of LGBT (Klocke, 2012)

- **Increase empathy, e.g. by stories from LGBT perspective or (mental) simulations** (Bartoş, Berger, & Hegarty, 2014)

- **Reduce fear of LGBT education, e.g. by correcting misinformation and showing that LGBT can be presented as "asexual" as heterosexual people**

2. Provide personal contact to LGBT
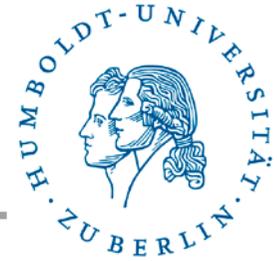
- e.g. by teachers who are openly LGBT (⇨ more positive attitudes and behavior, Klocke, 2012) or by inviting LGBT education teams (Timmermanns, 2003)

⇨ more positive attitudes (meta-analyses of Pettigrew & Tropp, 2006, and Smith, Axelton & Saucier, 2009; for transgender: Walch et al., 2012)

⇨ teachers' more LGBT-supportive behavior (Klocke, Latz und Scharmacher, 2015; Klocke, Salden, & Watzlawik, in prep.)

- Even indirect contact (meta-analysis of Lemmer & Wagner, 2015)

- Stronger effects
  - when contact intervention supported by authorities
  - positive, repeated contact with several LGBT people
  - LGBT identity salient
  - (fundamentalist) religious people (Cunningham & Melton, 2013; Klocke, 2014)
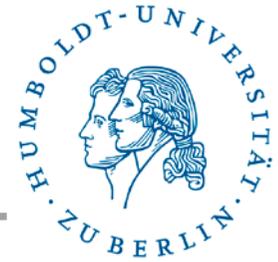
Abqueer Berlin (Education and counseling on gender and sexual diversity
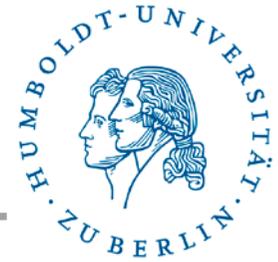
Community Gaymes
LSVD (German Lesbian and Gay Association) Berlin Brandenburg

3. Intervene against discrimination

- Do no (unintendedly) discriminate by yourself
  (➪ otherwise students will also discriminate more, Klocke, 2012)

- Intervene against discrimination
  (➪ tendency for students' more positive attitudes, Klocke, 2012)

  - Question (e.g. "Why do you use this term as an insult?")

  - Encourage empathy and perspective taking (e.g. "Imagine, you were lesbian, would you dare to be open, when your friends use 'lesbian' as an insult?")

  - Refer to anti-bullying or anti-discrimination policies (e.g. of your school/organisation or the Council of Europe, 2011)

- Inclusive anti-bullying school policies ➪ reduction of lesbian and gay students suicidality (Hatzenbuehler & Keyes, 2013)

Agenda
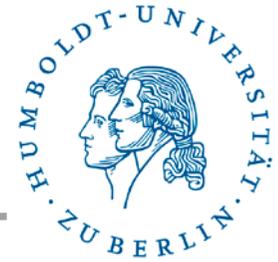
1. Attitudes towards LGBT in Germany
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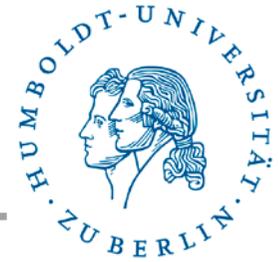4. **Conclusion**

Conclusion

- Dramatic increase of acceptance of LGBT in the past decades in Germany

- Still modern forms of homo- and transphobia (Reducing LGBT on their sexuality and rejecting visibility)

- However, visibility and personal contact are the keys to acceptance

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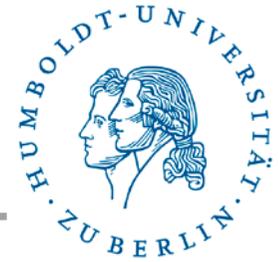
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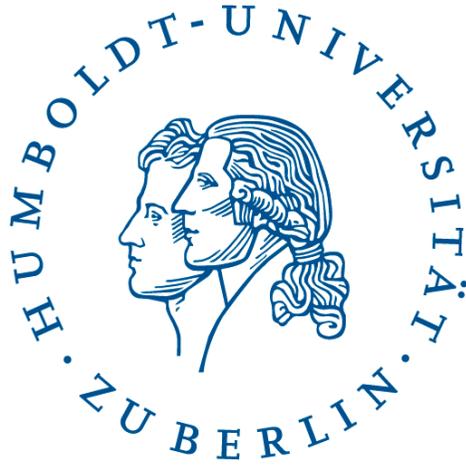
Thank you very much for your attention!

Questions?
Comments?