

Systematic review on homosexuality and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transvestite, transsexuals, and transgender population

Revisão sistemática sobre homossexualidades e a população lésbica, gay, bissexual, travesti, transexual e de transgênero

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Abstract

Objective

This article aims to present a systematic review of the literature produced by Brazilian researchers, linked to the social and human sciences, who have studied homosexuality and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transvestite, Transsexuals, and Transgender population.

Method

The terms “homosexuality”, “homosexuality” and “LGBT” were searched in the following databases: Latin American and Caribbean Literature in Health Sciences, Scientific Electronic Library Online, Electronic Psychology Journals and Index Psi Periodic.

Results

In all, 263 articles were found and analyzed using a descending hierarchical classification that resulted in six lexical classes. It was found that psychology was the area with most publications on the subject.

Conclusion

The emphasis of the publications has changed over time, from concerns about the origin of homosexuality to the struggles and conquests of civil rights. The results also point to a small number of articles on lesbians, transsexuals, and transvestites.

Keywords: Gender identity; Homosexuality; Sexuality.

Resumo

Objetivo

Este artigo objetiva apresentar a revisão sistemática da literatura produzida por pesquisadores brasileiros, ligados às ciências sociais e humanas, que têm estudado as homossexualidades e a população Lésbica, Gay, Bissexual, Travesti, Transexual e de Transgênero.

Método

Os termos “homossexualidade”, “homossexualismo” e “LGBT”, foram buscados nas seguintes bases de dados: Literatura Latino-americana e do Caribe em Ciências da Saúde, Scientific Electronic Library Online, Periódicos Eletrônicos de Psicologia e Index Psi Periódicos.

Resultados

Ao todo, 263 artigos foram encontrados e analisados por meio de uma classificação hierárquica descendente que resultou em seis classes lexicais. Contatou-se que Psicologia é a área que mais publica sobre o tema.

Conclusão

A ênfase das publicações foi mudando ao longo do tempo, das preocupações com a origem da homossexualidade, às lutas e às conquistas de direitos civis. Os resultados também apontam para um pequeno número de artigos sobre lésbicas, transexuais e de travestis..

Palavras-chave: Identidade de gênero; Homossexualidade; Sexualidade.

Homosexuality is an ancient and frequent phenomenon in the history of humanity (A. F. P. Guimarães, 2009), but how it is interpreted has changed over time. Currently, it is seen as another way of relating to the world and, as such, there would be no need to investigate its origins or causes (Silva & Aléssio, 2019a). Apart from this, it is still possible to think how, throughout our history, the conceptions of homosexuality have influenced and still influence the practices and positions of subjects, groups, and institutions.

The term homosexual was created in 1869 by writer and journalist Austro-Hungarian Karl-Maria Kertbeny (Trevisan, 2018). It is the combination of radicals *homos* and *sexuality*, understood here as one more form of sexual experience shared by people of the same sex.

Despite being a term that doesn't represent an entire population now known as LGBTQIA+, the struggle of the homosexual movement resulted in the visibility of the LGBT movement, which organized itself primarily based on identity, and became political subjects. In addition, this term is present in everyday life and, therefore, was chosen in this review. In a survey conducted by Knewin at the request of the Gay Guide, it showed that the term LGBT was cited 320% more than LGBTQIA+ on Twitter in Brazil between 11 and 28 of June 2021. These data show that despite being an acronym that does not cover an entire community, it is more present in social relations.

Alexandre et al. (2014), from a systematic review of the literature about homosexualities, delimited six thematic categories, in which Brazilian studies have been focused since homosexuality began to be the object of study, they are: (a) investigations on theoretical issues and the history of homosexuality; (b) studies on homophobia and internalized prejudice; (c) investigations into homosexuality and discursive repertoires; (d) research on homosexuality and social movements; (e) homosexuality and adoption; (f) studies on psychology and gender issues.

In the academic field, the first modern work about homosexuality in Brazil was written in 1958 by sociologist José Fábio Barbosa da Silva and defended in 1960 is like a conclusion specialization article (Green, 2019). After the military dictatorship in Brazil, the number of publications decreased. When in 1985, important publications returned, like by Luiz Mott, an anthropologist, historian, and researcher who began writing about homosexual relations in Brazil. The famous book “What is Homosexuality?”, by Peter Fry and Edward McRae by the first steps collection is published. In 1997, even before the Resolution published by the Federal Council of Psychology in 1999, the first work

found in this review (Féres-Carneiro, 1997), in the area of psychology, already dealt with the theme in a natural way, in which homosexuality presented itself as just another form of sexuality.

Currently, some reviews deal with specific aspects related to the theme, such as homophobia (Silva & Aléssio, 2019b; Sobral et al., 2019); homoaffective relations (G. C. M. Nascimento et al., 2015); homosexuality gender, sexuality, and aging (Fernandes et al., 2015); adoption (Lira et al., 2016) and; finally, about the health of this population (R. B. B. Cunha & Gomes, 2014). However, it draws attention to the number of publications found in them because, despite being a theme present in social relations, academic events, congresses, etc., publications in scientific journals are still scarce.

That said, through a systematic review, this article aims to present the production of Brazilian researchers, linked to social and human sciences, who are dedicated to the study of homosexualities and the LGBT population and insert them in the debate and development of international literature on gender studies. More specifically, it is intended to: (a) identify the areas of knowledge that have been investigating this theme and (b) identify which subthemes have the highest prevalence in these studies.

Method

This is a systematic literature review article (A. B. Costa & Zoltowski, 2014) based at the following question: "What are the characteristics of the knowledge produced by the social and human sciences in Brazil, about homosexuality and the LGBT population?". For data collection, a search was conducted in *Literatura Latinoamericana y del Caribe en Ciencias de la Salud* databases (LILACS, Latin American and Caribbean Literature on Health Sciences), Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO), *Portal de Periódicos Eletrônicos em Psicologia* (PePSIC, Electronic Journals of Psychology and Psi Index Journals), and Index Psi Technical-Scientific Journals. There was no time limit, thus including all papers published until January 2020. The terms sought were: "homosexuality", "homosexualism" – Although no longer used, it could appear in the articles prior to 1973, the year that the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexualities from the category of mental illness – and "LGBT", taking into account that search algorithms consider the subject of the articles and, therefore, presents all the articles related to the subject and that, in turn, evidence each population that constitutes the chosen acronym.

The articles were included according to the following standards: (a) indexation in journals of human and social sciences; (b) affiliation of the first author to the Brazilian Higher Education Institution; (c) with a theme related to homosexuality and LGBT and; (d) drawn up in Portuguese. To check the inclusion standards, the title, abstract, keywords, and scope of the journal were analyzed. The articles excluded were those that: (a) did not have the full text for consultation; (b) whose institution of affiliation of the first author was not Brazilian; (c) was duplicated between the databases and; (d) was a review article. Chapters of books, reviews, letters, news, congress scans, dissertations, and theses were discarded. It was considered the fact of being indexed in a database, thus ensuring a greater technical rigor of the material, since the selection process until the final acceptance goes through a rigid editorial board.

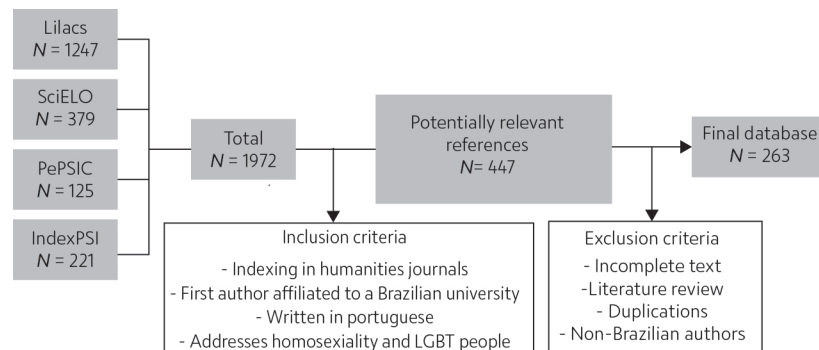
Data were collected by two independent judges. The possible disagreements were again submitted to the inclusion and exclusion criteria until a consensus was reached. The material was divided into axes of analysis, the first took into account the title and abstract of the works. Then, we considered the year of the publications, the area of knowledge, the region where the study was conducted, and the gender of the first authors.

The data were submitted to the software Interface R for Multidimensional Analysis of Texts and Questionnaires (IRAMUTEQ), a statistical tool that analyzes the text corpora. Among possible analysis, a Descending Hierarchical Classification was performed, a method created by Reinert in 1990, in which the lexical worlds are identified and classified based on their contexts (Camargo & Justo 2013).

Results

Initially, a total of 1,972 articles were found (LILACS: 1,247, SciELO: 379, PePSIC: 125, IndexPsi: 221). In the first screening, 1525 articles that did not meet the inclusion criteria were excluded. The 447 remaining articles went through another stage, and 184 articles were excluded because they met the exclusion criteria, i.e., they did not have the complete text for reading, they were some kind of literature review, they were duplicated among the databases, or the author did not have Brazilian nationality. Therefore, articles remained to compose the corpus of analysis of this study (Figure 1).

Figure 1
Search strategies



Note: LGBT: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transvestite, Transexual and Transgender; LILACS: *Literatura Latinoamericana y del Caribe en Ciencias de la Salud* (Latin American and Caribbean Health Sciences Literature); PePsic: *Portal de Periódicos Eletrônicos em Psicologia* (Electronic Journals of Psychology and Psi Index Journals); SciELO: Scientific Electronic Library Online.

The 263 articles that made up the sample of this work were published between 1997 and 2019, and were distributed as follows: between the years 1997 and 2004, 15 papers were published; 46 between 2005 and 2009, in the period between 2010 and 2014, the number of publications almost doubles, 87 papers were found; finally, between 2015 and 2019, 115 papers were found. Although the growth in the number of publications is remarkable from 2010 on, this does not mean that, previously, the interest did not exist. After all, other issues need to be pointed out, such as the fact that the country lived through a period of Military Dictatorship, for example, when there was a great control of intellectual production.

In addition, many works are not available in digital media, as shown in the report on Homosexuality, Bisexuality, and HIV/AIDS in Brazil, produced by C. D. Guimarães et al. (1992). These authors found more than one hundred works in the social sciences and related areas – among books, articles, theses, dissertations, and reports – available in institutions and private sources in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo.

Despite the academic interest in the theme, added to the fact that important works were already being developed in the country, it is surprising to see such a limited number of works produced. It is worth reflecting if the interest in the theme is related to the visibility it had in the public sphere. Fernando Henrique Cardoso, for example, was the first president to propose affirmative action recognizing the rights of the LGBT community, to defend civil union between people of the same sex, to publicly speak the word homosexual, and hold the rainbow flag (Mott, n.d.). Despite this, in the period of his two governments, only 15 articles were found.

In 2004, during the government of President Luís Inácio Lula da Silva, the Brazil without Homophobia Program was created, with more than 57 affirmative actions (Mott, n.d.). Compared to the previous period, the growth of scientific production more than doubled. This article doesn't to punctuate who was the ruler who was more on the side of homosexuals, but, perhaps, to question the relationship that the theme has with the political scenario, since, as more was said about the subject, the publications also increased.

Still, in Lula's government, the Restructuring and Expansion Program of Federal Universities was one of the main public policies responsible for the growth and interiorization of Higher Education in the country, with the creation of 18 new Federal Universities and 173 Campi in cities in the interior (Mott, n.d.). A project that began in 2003 and extended significantly until 2015, in the government of former President Dilma Rousseff. It is necessary to point out that there may be different factors and hypotheses that justify the increase in these productions and, not specifically, are related to the presidential figure, but it is necessary to remember that political agendas also extend and reflect beyond a political mandate.

Regarding the areas of publications that stood out the most, Psychology ($n = 156$) occupied the first place, followed by Psychoanalysis ($n = 40$), Anthropology ($n = 23$), Sociology ($n = 18$) and History ($n = 4$). The field of sexualities has always been incorporated into the field of psychology and medicine, especially from the 19th century on, as pointed out by Michael Foucault when writing about the "History of Sexuality" (1976). In psychoanalysis, Freud stood out with important works, among them: The three essays on the Theory of Sexuality (1905); Leonardo da Vinci and a memory of his childhood (1910), The Case of Schreber (1913), and Psychogenesis of a case of homosexuality in a woman (1920).

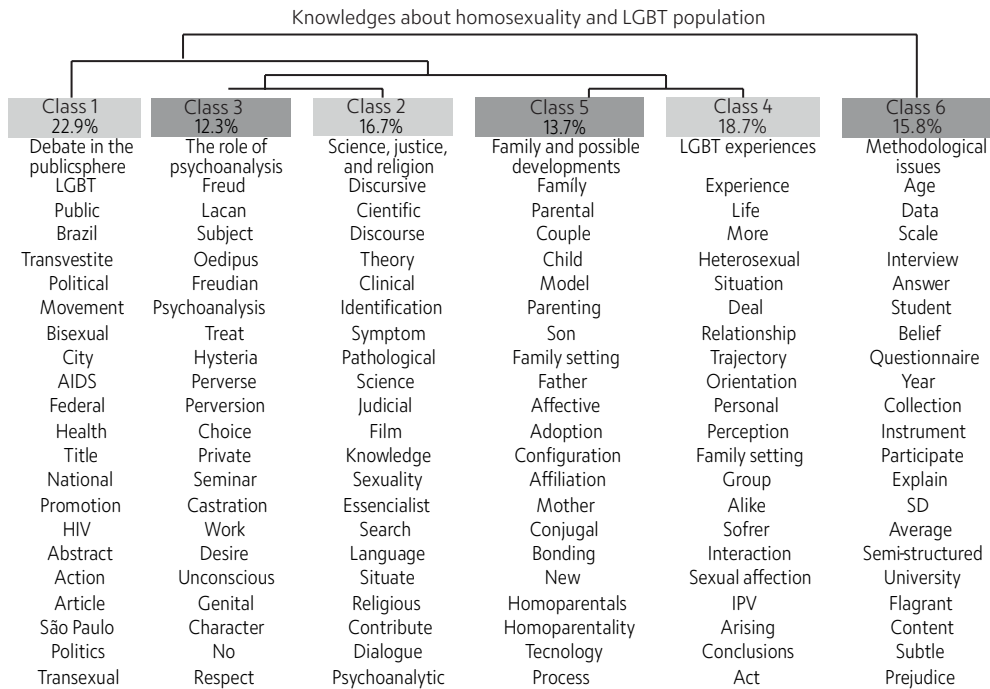
That being said, it is not surprising why these areas appear in the first positions in publications of this nature. It is necessary to point out that it is not about dominating knowledge, because each area, in its own way, has contributed in a significant way so that the field of sexualities could, today, be discussed by different researchers.

As for the researchers' regions of origin, there was a predominance of the Southeast region ($n = 132$), followed by the Northeast ($n = 60$), South ($n = 42$), Center-West ($n = 18$), and North region ($n = 11$). These regional differences can be thought of as taking into consideration the Brazilian university system, specifically through public universities and the policies of expansion of higher education, with the demands of faculty and student production. It is also necessary to think about public investments in research, development, science, technology, and innovation.

Regarding the gender of the researchers, only the first author was considered. It was noticed that men ($n = 139$) published more compared to women ($n = 124$), and, despite not being a statistically significant amount, it is possible to raise questions about gender inequalities in academia, especially when analyzing the number of productivity fellowships that are mostly occupied by men.

The initial analysis of the 263 articles totaled 41285 occurrences and 6625 distinct words. After reducing the vocabularies to their roots, 1166 Elementary Context Units were found. The lexical analysis resulted in six classes of lexical content that were classified from 1072 Elementary Context Units, retaining 91.94% of the corpus. Figure 2 shows the dendrogram generated by the IRAMUTEQ software after the text corpus was analyzed.

Figure 2
Descending Hierarchical Classification



Note: For illustrative purposes, the 21 words with the strongest significant association for each class measured by the chi-square were retained in the dendrogram. AIDS: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome; HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus; IPV: Intimate Partners Violence; LGBT: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transvestite, Transsexual and Transgender.

As seen in Figure 2, there was a separation of the corpus into five subcorpora, which, in turn, are subdivided into six classes. The first was formed by Classes 6 and 1 and was named “The research on homosexualities and LGBT”; the second agglutinated Class 1, together with Classes 3, 2, 5, and 4, and was named “Main themes”, taking into consideration the fact that it agglutinated all themes related to the LGBT issue; the third sub-corpora, formed by the junction of Classes 3 and 2 with Classes 5 and 6 was named “discourses on LGBT”, since these classes present the different discourses related to the theme, such as that of science or of the LGBT movement itself. Finally, there are still two partitions generated by Classes 3 and 2, about “theoretical discussion”; and another with Classes 5 and 4, “the LGBT subject”, for joining the issues related to the sphere of private life, individuality, perceptions, and experiences.

Class 1 – Debate in the public scene

Class 1, which represents 22.85% of all the material analyzed, is formed by the following words: LGBT, public, Brazil, transvestite, political, movement, bisexual, city, AIDS, federal, health,

title, national, promotion, HIV, abstract, action, article, São Paulo, politics and transexual. Its name, “Debate in the public scene”, took into consideration the context in which its lexicons were inserted, public order issues, and social aspects. In addition, 112 articles were linked in some way to the main aspects of this class.

Two general axes stood out, which complement each other insofar as one understands the struggle and trajectory of the LGBT Movement. The first axis deals with issues linked to the “LGBT Movement” and is related to social movements, the role of the State, public policies, citizenship, rights, etc.; the second axis highlights the “Health of the LGBT population”, and involves issues related to public policies in health, HIV/Aids, the (dis)attention given to the health of lesbian women, the clinical care of LGBT people, etc.

Questions about the LGBT movement appear in different ways in the analyzed works. There are those that tell its history and institutionalization in Brazil (Claudia, 2015) and that, show its importance in the fight against homophobia. Anthropological studies that aim to investigate through their activist and academic practices have become important actors in the process of defense and construction of citizenship of sexual minorities in Brazil (Carrara, 2016). Investigations that work with young people’s opinions about different social movements, among them the LGBT (Monteiro et al., 2011).

According to Sampaio and Germano (2014), in the 1980s, the LGBT movement in Brazil, in partnership with the state, united to confront the AIDS outbreak, resulting in the implementation of new political agendas regarding the assistance of the LGBT population. In the academic sphere, unions such as this, between the state and the LGBT movement resulted in several investigations, such as in the research of Aragusuku and Lopes (2018), who presented the public policies present in the state of Mato Grosso with the creation of the LGBT Reference Center, the first act aimed at this group. The article of Feitosa (2019), carried out at the State Center to Combat Homophobia, in Pernambuco, investigates how the center works in minimizing violence against the LGBT population. Still in the field of public policies, the work of Abreu et al. (2015) suggests special attention to the deaf regarding their linguistic specificities and their social vulnerability. Mello et al. (2014) reflects on the issue of public safety aimed at LGBT people and how public agencies position themselves.

The issues on education also motivated several studies, perhaps due to the fact that there is, in Brazil, a *Programa Nacional do Livro e do Material Didático* (PNLD, National Program of Books and Teaching Materials), with several materials that help in the educational practice and propose the discussion on sexual diversity (Rios & Santos, 2009). Moreover, in general, education appears as being a coping strategy, a way to eradicate prejudice, and linked to the school environment, the place of implementation of these public policies (Perucchi & Corrêa, 2016).

All the themes exposed, to some extent, are intertwined with political aspects. But, unlike today, when there is talk of a left-wing homosexual agenda, this relationship has not always existed. In the 1970s, the issues linked to homosexuality were the last to be understood as a political agenda by the left itself (Moretti-Pires et al., 2018). Today, it is already possible to think of LGBT candidates (G. G. Costa, 2016), including transvestites and transsexuals (G. G. D. C. Santos, 2016), even in a moment in which conservatism has been growing (J. V. D. O. Santos, et al., 2018) and the interest of some politicians is to legislate against this population (Gama, 2019).

Despite political advances and the supposed visibility of transvestites and transsexuals, they are still the most discriminated against. The condition of marginality is evidenced in many different

works. Garcia (2019), for example, when studying the migratory process of transvestites to the big city, realized that the search for a change of life, in fact, resulted in the entry of another condition of vulnerability, that of prostitution. Antunes and Paiva (2013), when studying the territorialization of homoerotic sexual cultures in São Paulo, realized that the downtown neighborhoods, older and traditional, were where there was the highest concentration of transvestites, while in the upscale neighborhoods, such as Jardins, the reality was different, in that place transvestites had no turn.

In the second axis, linked to health aspects, the studies aim to understand and contribute to specific issues that permeate the LGBT population. In general, articles about HIV/AIDS and the processes of vulnerability that women, lesbians, or bisexuals face in the face of sexually transmitted diseases (Mora & Monteiro, 2013). Mental health was also a topic of interest, specifically, the processes of non-acceptance that many young people go through in their families J. V. D. O. Santos et al. (2018) and how health professionals deal with these groups (Toledo & Pinafi, 2012).

Class 3 – The role of psychoanalysis

Since its origin, psychoanalysis has been involved in issues related to sexuality. In Victorian society, it was the cause of moral scandals, as when dealing with child sexuality, besides confronting the established norms of that time (Pacheco Filho, 2016). Although Class 3 gathered the smallest amount of text segments (12.31%), its relevance is not less, since its subjects and lexicons are present in the others, as in the class on discourse, in which the psychoanalytic discourse appears as a knowledge that defines, including, the notions of homosexuality and heterosexuality. The most significant words in this class were: Freud, Lacan, subject, Oedipus, freudian, psychoanalysis, treat, hysteria, perverse, perversion, choice, private, seminar, castration, work, desire, unconscious, genital, no character, and respect.

For the most part, research in psychoanalysis is clinical in nature and takes into consideration the case-by-case or singularity, unlike experimental approaches (Couto & Lage, 2018). However, there is not only one way to do research in psychoanalysis. In this sense, Sauret (2003) presents some possibilities, which are: those that respond to questions posed by psychoanalysis; those which aim to answer questions posed to psychoanalysis; those which aim to build a theory from doctrine and experience; those which aim to expand the field of analytic experience and; those that are guided by the knowledge and ethics of psychoanalysis, the case of research conducted in universities (Sauret, 2003).

The papers that composed this class analyzed the following issues: the relationship between the psychoanalyst and homosexuality, dealing with training and professional practice (Cruxên, 2018); theoretical-clinical papers that address issues of LGBT clinical experience (Elias, 2007); those which use psychoanalytic theory to explain issues in literature, film, and the arts (Alvares, 2017); those which use theory as a reference to address issues related to homosexualities, such as homoaffective union, adoption, hypermodernity, etc. (Rodriguez, Gomes, et al., 2017); those which somehow seek to explain or understand the phenomenon with respect to its origin (Couto & Lage, 2018) and; the works that are interested in the theoretical-conceptual debate from Freud and Lacan, precursors of psychoanalysis (Ferreira & Grecco, 2017).

Class 2 – Science, justice, and religion

Made up of 179 text segments (16.7%), Class 2 presents two important aspects to be discussed. The first is about “discourses and their implications”; the second is about “scientific

theories". These classifications were based on the following words: discursive, scientific, discourse, theory, clinical, identification, symptom, pathological, science, judicial, film, knowledge, sexuality, essentialist, search, language, situate, religious, contribute, dialogue, and psychoanalytic.

The first aspect raised here relates to the notion of discourse as an instrument that permeates social relations. According to Oliveira (2013), in a world dominated by new technologies, increasingly explicit media manipulation, and the power that the word exerts, it is evident the importance that discourse has in everyday relations, mobilizing economic and political elites. In this sense, the discourse has a function of delimiting knowledge and practices about homosexualities and LGBT people. Among the words that stood out the most and contributed to the composition of this first aspect, it is possible to highlight those related to scientific, religious, medical, psychological, and legal discourse. These represent the different institutions of power that shape and construct different discursive repertoires, representations, positions, opinions, beliefs, and values.

Scientific discourses shape different positions and knowledge about homosexuality. Homophobia, for example, is still justified by many, based on biological or pathologizing arguments. The scientific character assigns a value to the argument, as being the truest, therefore unquestionable (Silva & Aléssio, 2019a). In the same way that sociopolitical aspects can affect scientific development, the reverse also happens. After all, this knowledge is considered as true influences sociopolitical changes (Menezes & Carvalho Neto, 2015).

Silva and Aléssio (2019a), in an investigation on expressions of prejudice, evidenced a bio-religious argumentation, in which the subject says he does not accept homosexuality because two equals do not reproduce, a kind of amalgam between two distinct knowledges. But which are used to validate a position as "normal" since it comes from science. In most of the works analyzed here, the scientific discourse has served as a basis for different homophobic expressions (D. K. D. Santos, 2013). Religious discourse, in general, has its basis in the Bible. However, on the contrary, there are works on inclusive churches, which reconcile religious discourse and sexual diversity, removing homosexuality from the field of sin and treating it as another form of existing sexuality (Natividade, 2017).

The medical and psychological discourse, for a long time, defined homosexuality as a pathology and perversion (A. F. P. Guimarães, 2009). Although this moment has been overcome, it is still possible to find prejudiced positions by doctors and nurses based on this belief, as exposed in some studies (Vitiritti et al., 2016). In the field of psychology, despite attempts by some fundamentalist professionals to suspend the prohibitions of the Federal Council of Psychology, for psychologists to offer conversion therapy to homosexuals (Martins et al., 2014), mostly, the psychological discourse describes homosexuality as another form of sexuality (Silva & Aléssio, 2019a).

The legal discourse was related to issues related to the rights of the LGBT population. It is worth remembering that, if it weren't for the Supreme Federal Court, several conquests acquired by this population would not be possible, such as the recognition of same-sex unions, adoption by homosexual couples, the criminalization of homophobia, the recognition of civil registration for transgender people, among others. Such achievements are due exclusively to the judiciary, since the legislative power still remains silent.

On the second aspect, the lexicons of this class also refer to the different theoretical references used in the research, namely: the different discursive approaches (Lima Silva et al., 2015); the psychological theories (Rodrigues & Carmo, 2013); especially those used by

social psychology (Rezende et al., 2019); the psychoanalytic theories (Couto & Lage, 2018); the gender theories (Rodriguez, Gomes, et al. 2017); theories about sexuality (E. L. Cunha, 2013), philosophical theories (Nina & Souza, 2012); among others (M. A. N. Nascimento & Santos, 2009).

Class 5 – Family and possible developments

The words that constituted Class 5, formed by 147 text segments (15.75%), are: family, parental, couple, child, model, parenting, son, family setting, father, affective, adoption, configuration, affiliation, mother, conjugal, bonding, new, Homoparentals, Homoparentality, technology, and process. Being part of the same axis as Class 4, the issues that appear, are quite similar. However, this class deals with family issues regarding two specific points: the new family settings that exist and adoption by homosexual couples.

The debate around homoparental families is gaining space in different settings (Mosmann et al., 2010), in academia and its different approaches (Passos, 2005), in the media (Noletto, 2016), in LGBT mobilizations and in the struggle for civil rights (Grossi, 2003), since for many years, this group was put in a place of invisibility and denial of marital and parental rights and full citizenship (Mello, 2006). There was a greater focus on research whose interest was the different views on equal marriage (A. B. Costa et al., 2017). In general, there are still positions contrary to these new family arrangements. The main justification would be that children would not have a well-defined notion of sexual differences, besides that they could become homosexuals, that is, being homosexual, in itself, would already be a problem for those people who position themselves against it (Machin, 2016).

The new family settings are considered a threat to traditional values, as they question an entire existing structure (Ceccarelli, 2007), and even though there are many conservative groups that do not want to recognize these new unions as a family institution, it is not possible to simply deny their existence (Nina & Souza, 2012). These are single-parent families (Futino & Martins, 2006), families constituted by gays (Rodriguez, Merli, et al., 2015), lesbians (C. V. M. Santos & Gomes, 2016), and by transvestites and transsexuals (Zambrano, 2006).

Despite prejudice, it is currently guaranteed by law that people of the same sex can unite in marriage and become a family. Homoaffective union, for a long time, was an agenda of the LGBT movement. Once achieved, new issues began to enter the scene, such as adoption and biological motherhood. In the study developed by Pontes et al. (2015), the authors showed the main challenges experienced by women who want to fulfill the desire to be a mother with the help of new reproductive technologies.

The articles related to the theme of adoption and filiation seek to understand: how parental roles are constructed in homoaffective relationships, which are generally more egalitarian and with particular characteristics in families formed through adoption adoção (Rosa et al., 2016); study the production of meanings between parents and adopted children and how they perceive parenthood (Mota et al., 2016); as well as analyze the psychic constitution of adopted children (Ribeiro et al., 2017).

Class 4 – LGBT experiences

Formed from 200 text segments (18.66%), in Class 4, the most significant words are experience, life, more, heterosexual, situation, deal, relationship, trajectory, orientation, personal,

perception, family setting, group, alike, suffer, interaction, sexual affection, IPV, arising, conclusion and act. This class, in general, deals with the personal experiences of LGBT people in different contexts, their family relationships, their perception of their marital relationships, their life experiences, and their trajectories. In its composition, we identified more than 100 studies that dealt with these themes directly or indirectly. These are qualitative and quantitative research studies, in which the objective is to understand the love choice of couples, and the experience of LGBT people regarding their families, sexual partners, domestic violence, etc.

Regarding the main discussions of this class, it is worth highlighting the experiences of LGBT elders, a group that is excluded and suffers prejudice from heterosexuals (J. V. D. O. Santos et al. 2018) and also from homosexuals (L. S. Alves & Menandro, 2017). Elderly homosexuals are denied the freedom to live their sexuality freely, making their experiences increasingly marginalized. With elderly lesbians, the reality is no different, the invisibility happens since the interest in the theme (A. M. Alves, 2010).

Still, about lesbian women, another point worth mentioning is the prejudice they suffer, because, in addition to homophobia, there is sexism to further limit their experiences (Lira et al., 2016). The article by Toledo and Teixeira Filho (2013) draws attention to the fact that aspects of lesbian sexuality are only accepted if they are compatible with androcentrism and heteronormativity, that is, with the norms of sex, gender and desire. What is evident is the fact that lesbians are only accepted if they look beautiful, modern, glamorous, and, above all, agree to have sex with men. Women who do not meet these standards, the masculinized ones, remain condemned to invisibility (Monteiro et al., 2011). In environments where their masculinity is valued, such as in prison, this happens because they are in a better hierarchical position since they play a male role and therefore deserve respect (Barcinski, 2012).

In the articles, the concept of family is not reduced to the family of origin, but to the chosen family as well. In general, cases of homophobia happen in families of origin Perucchi et al. (2014). The lack of support from these families ends up driving away young people who prefer to share their experiences and difficulties with friends (L. S. Campos & Guerra, 2016). In many cases, LGBT people are expelled from their homes for being who they are. But there are those who accommodate themselves to the invisibility of the issue, that moment when no one touches the subject and they continue as if nothing will happen (C. B. Costa et al., 2015).

Choice of who to love and marital interaction were themes of some articles that sought to analyze possible differences in the way heterosexual and homosexual couples dealt with their love relationships (Mosmann et al., 2010). Intimate partner violence was also addressed (Cezario et al., 2015).

The theme of prejudice appeared in most articles: they show narratives of internalized homophobia (Cerqueira-Santos et al., 2016); prejudice in the workplace, and the survival strategies used in these spaces (Irigaray & Freitas, 2013). As a way to make these marginalized subjects visible, attention was drawn to the different situations of social vulnerability, as well as the lack of citizenship previously reported. These articles show the experiences of homelessness in adolescents and sexual exploitation (D. A. Campos & Moretti-Pires, 2018), as well as the situation and life history of transvestites (Garcia, 2009).

Class 6 – Methodological issues

Formed from 169 text segments (15.76%), the most representative words, from Class 6, are age, data, scale, interview, answer, student, belief, questionnaire, year, collection, instrument,

participate, explain, standard deviation, average, semi-structured, university, flagrant, content, subtle, and prejudice. To name this class, the most significant lexicons were taken into consideration, specifically the relationship they have with the methodological descriptors that scientific research has, therefore “methodological issues”.

Of the 263 articles analyzed, 199 are empirical and 64 are theoretical. Of the empirical articles, only 23 used the quantitative method, characterized by quantification, both in the modalities of information collection and in the treatment by means of statistical techniques. It is a type of research in which the object of study is controlled and is employed, in general, questionnaires and scales that are produced or adapted for that specific context (Sacco et al., 2016). Quantitative articles amounted to an average of 9% of the total sample of this review, an amount considered small. Similar to these findings, in a review by Sobral et al., (2019) on what Brazilian psychology has to say about homophobia, of the 74 articles analyzed, only six were quantitative.

The qualitative articles ($n = 240$) showed lower rigor in the description of their abstracts, only 70 were described with a certain methodological rigor. Although it isn't possible to speak about replication, a study of this nature needs to highlight the path, means and forms that led it to reach certain results, something that did not appear in all the articles. The tools more used were: interviews, content analysis, ethnography, focus groups, among others.

Discussion and Final Comments

The objective of this review article was to present a systematic review of the literature produced by Brazilian researchers, linked to the human and social sciences that have studied homosexuality and the LGBT population. Specifically, psychology stands out as the area with the most published articles about this theme. However, it is also important to take into account that much of the knowledge linked to other human and social sciences can be organized in books and discussed at events and congresses. It should be noted that there are efforts for actions that escape the domain of academia, with social movements being the main actors in the dissemination of content and information.

Themes related to the LGBT subject, as well as the history of the LGBT movement, have undergone changes over the years. If in the beginning, the questions related to the search for explanations for the expressions of prejudice and homophobia were the articles, the themes began to change as new achievements and rights were acquired by the LGBT population. As an example, the case of AIDS gained visibility and was the object of study during the 1980s. Subsequently, the issues related to marriage, mainly the search for the guarantee of rights to civil marriage. Then, the interest in understanding the functioning of the new family configurations, as well as their desires, opened space for the debate related to adoption.

Limited production was identified with regard to lesbians, transsexuals, and subjects who do not fall within a predetermined category because they flow in their sexualities. Moreover, studies in this area do not address the impact of class and race, so punctuated in new feminist studies, for example. The race cut was not mentioned in any article, and the questions about sexism were also superficially worked, at the same time, lesbians and bisexual women remain invisible to academia and society. Other populations, like elderly people, deaf people, and Indians, despite having been described in some articles, wouldn't even serve as statistics, because their mentions are very scarce.

This article has some gaps, among them, the lack of analysis of dissertations and thesis, two types of publications that have condensed much of the studies on the subject. Moreover, the

articles of Brazilian researchers who published their work in other languages were also not analyzed. Future articles could be dedicated to this type of analysis as well as to discuss in greater depth the methodological aspects of the studies that have studied homosexuality and the LGBT population.

Finally, it is important to point out that some topics need attention in future work, such as lesbian, transsexual, and transvestite groups. Whether with regard to the health of this population, which is still marginalized, as in different public politics of social inclusion.

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Contributors

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