HHS4C Longitudinal   
Lesbian Family Study

**Seminar 2**

**Tasks**

1. Read… US National Longitudinal Lesbian Family   
   Study Psychological Adjustment of 17-Year-Old   
   Adolescents
2. Complete the work below…

**Terms - Minds On**

longitudinal in text citation lesbian conception adolescent  
cohort implications heterosexual homosexual same sex  
DSM psychosocial devleopment dearth DI donor insemination planned lesbian family  
inter-individual difference minority status mean age normative appendix (report)  
somatic complaints independent variable dependent variable

**Summary**

Write a five sentences summary of the research study. Try to be as comprehensive as you can in these five sentences. Include as much of the key information as possible. There will be a prize for the best one! NOTE: Do this first so you don’t forget, it is worth marks on its own.

**Discussion Questions - Action***Introduction and Literature Review*

1. In 2005, approximately how many children lived in the US with two same sex parents? How many lived with or had one same sex parent?
2. Prior to the 1960s, how did the medical and psychiatric community view homosexuality? How do you think the rest of society viewed it?
3. Look at the first in text citation (see parenthesis in the first paragraph which shows the last name of the authors’ of the article being cited and the year it was published). How many authors wrote the article first cited in this study?
4. How many articles are referred to or cited in the second citation of this study?
5. When was homosexuality removed from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders? Who publishes or authors this Manual?
6. During this time period, of the early 1970s, how did most women who were lesbian happen to have children? Why do you think this was? Why would it have been difficult for them to keep custody of their children in the event of a divorce or separation? What were the concerns of the courts?
7. What have the early studies, and subsequent three decades worth of studies, shown regarding differences between children raised in homes by heterosexual or same sex parents in terms of psychosocial development?
8. Before we go on, what are the different ways that same sex couples or individuals can become parents?
9. Has there been a lot or little amount of research in this area? Why are the same sex couples in this study based on women?
10. What are the four key areas of development examined in this study?

*Learning Goal (Begin with the End in Mind): I will know what a longitudinal study is, know what the research of the last three decades says about children raised by lesbian parents, compare and contrast the psychosocial development of adolescents raised by heterosexuals or lesbians, reflect on societal stereotypes and my own views. Lastly, I will apply the method of inquiry to a specific study in preparation of designing my own.*

1. What do the authors site regardless of sexual orientation of parents, for healthy outcomes for young children?
2. How does this change for adolescents?
3. Why is this study different from the ones done in the 90s with adolescents raised by lesbians?
4. What was interesting about the longitudinal study conducted in the UK?

*Method, Results and Discussion*

1. What research problem or question prompted this study?
2. After completing their secondary research (literature review) what hypothesis do you think this pair was looking to prove?
3. Who are the groups being compared in this particular field research? What are the sample sizes? What specific variables are they studying?
4. What method or methods did they use to gather their data? What did the CBCL measure specifically? What were the independent and dependent variables listed?
5. What were the results? Where were the groups similar and where did they differ?
6. Do you think their hypothesis was proven?
7. How did they share their findings with the rest of the world?

**Reflection Questions - Consolidation**

1. In your opinion, does it make a difference in terms of healthy development, if an adolescent is in one or more minority groups? Why or why not? Add any other observations you think are relevant.
2. What implications does this have for the whole question of what type of family we are raised in, if we consider adolescent development? Is this fair or unfair in your opinion?
3. What are some stereotypes that exist in our society around same sex parenting?
4. Did this study reinforce or argue against these stereotypes regarding children raised by same sex parents?
5. What makes a good parent? See question 11 – do you agree, disagree? Are they missing anything?
6. Which of the steps of the method of inquiry are the easiest – and why? The most challenging – and why? The most interesting – and why? The most important to the outcome – and why?
7. What type of study could come next?
8. What question(s) should I have asked and missed?