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H.07. Queering pedagogy. Contributions and challenges of pedagogical and educational research on gender, sexuality and sociocultural normativities

Homosexual Sons and Daughters: Why Parents must Accept, Indorse and Love Them

Massimiliano Stramaglia (University of Macerata, Italy)

families, education, homosexuality, discrimination

Although society is changing, open-mindedness toward homosexuality is not yet widespread. In some Countries homosexuality is still considered a crime. Monotheistic religions deny the possibility of same-sex relationships. In Italy, homosexuals are discriminated both in terms of social policies and civil rights. Within this framework, the first problem we should solve is the psychological acceptance of the homosexual by his/her family, especially his/her parents. When a boy or a girl grows up, his/her point of reference are his/her parents. If parents communicate judgment, intolerance or fear towards homosexuality through the words and behaviours, children will learn that homosexuals are unworthy and that we must be afraid of them. This will have repercussions in the future sexual orientation of the son or the daughter. In fact, they could develop feelings of guilt and shame in discovering their eventual homosexuality. Educating parents to love their children as they are can create the conditions for a healthier and inclusive society. Homosexuality is neither a choice nor a fault, but a “normal” (in the norm) variant of the human and the animal sexual behaviour.



education and/for social justice

Cagliari, June 2024