

Acceptance and Rights of LGBT Who cares about?

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Article 1

*“All human beings are born free and equal in
dignity and rights . . .”*

*Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
United Nations, 10 December 1948*

This essay will examine the current state of the acceptance of LGBT—lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender—in some modern societies and we will reasoning carefully on this subject, either to expose or to refute others opinions always with the desire to reach practical conclusions. We assert that nowadays the debate lean towards acceptance of LGBT and in the future this trend will continue pursuant to new generations are more supportive with LGBT groups than previous generations.

The paper is devoted to two issues. The first will seek to uncover an argument to defend the rights of LGBT and last will give some answers with the help of statistics.

Our main claim is based on two pillars, the major premise comes from the first article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UNO) paraphrased as; (1) Persons have unalienable rights by the mere status of being humans, and the minor premise, expressed as; (2) Men and women belonging to LGBT are persons, leading us to conclude that (3) LGBT have exactly the same unalienable rights like any other human has. The major premise generally finds no argument against because most of us accept the precepts laid down by that universal declaration of human rights. However, our minor premise is the one that is often attacked because antagonists to our argument try, from the beginning of the debate, kidnap the idea that LGBT are part of the humankind and thus, denied them any right. So we are forced to find additional arguments to defend the minor premise.

It should be understood the origin of this discussion and remember that short time ago, people who looked like you, or like anyone else, could have been considered that they were less human and for example, millions were exported as natural products worldwide. Fortunately people of good conscience stood, and forced the world to demand and ensure social justice for all human being, for all people without distinction of any kind such as race, color, sex, language, religion, birth or other vectors of identity such as sexual orientation. Even so, still an enormous work to be done yet. LGBT do not ask today for sympathy or

special rights. They just pretend to occupy a space in society, a place sheltered by the most fundamental rights of human beings such as live without fear of persecution and with the same warrants that any other person has—*la liberté et l'égalité*.

We focus on the debate around the nature or nurture of homosexuality or simply if people born gay due to genetic or not and we choose this line of thought because some people justify that if homosexuality has a genetic origin then LGBT have the same rights as heterosexuals. We will quote some examples of the main stakeholders' arguments.

Paul W. Ewald and Gregory Cochran believe that there are a lot of homosexuals and that one germ could be the cause of homosexuality and so they say,¹

No one has found a virus or a bacterium for homosexuality. But recently, a slew of ailments that were long thought to be caused by stress, high living, or genetic bad luck have instead been pinned on microbes. . . . (Caleb Crain)

With next quote, from an article of The American Psychological Association, we venture to think that readers could be driven to visualize a scene from any old movie in which psychiatrist uses electroconvulsive therapy on a helpless patient just to model his temper according to the will of the physician (...),²

The term 'reparative therapy' refers to psychotherapy aimed at eliminating homosexual desires and is used by people who do not think homosexuality is one variation within human sexual orientation, but rather still believe homosexuality is a mental disorder. . . .(American Psychological Association)

The other side of the coin is represented by those who do allege the existence of a link between genetics and homosexuality. Dean H. Hamer wrote,³

DNA linkage analysis of a selected group of 40 families in which there were two gay brothers and no indication of non-maternal transmission revealed a correlation between homosexual orientation and the inheritance of polymorphic markers on the X chromosome in approximately 64 percent of the sib-pairs tested. . . . (Dean H. Hamer et al.)

And finally, Kenneth S. Kendler says,⁴

In accord with findings from prior twin studies, resemblance for sexual orientation was greater in monozygotic twins than in dizygotic twins or non-twin

sibling pairs. These results suggest that genetic factors may provide an important influence on sexual orientation.

(Kendler et al.)

Against this line of ideas, we have a common rebuttal for both since we do not endorse these claims. At first sight might seem surprising that we not agree with neither one of the two positions because we are not going to get support from them. The reason is that we want to try to get beyond any rhetoric that could make us move away from our goal.

We argue that humankind shares the same rights between all individuals and also mankind has genomic diversity between his people, thus the rights that any person shares with the rest of their congeners are not conditioned neither by one unique set of genes nor by one gene. The similitude or the difference on genes from two folks does not matter on the rights they both share in common,

We suggest that when a person has genetic addition, like in trisomy of chromosome 21—Down syndrome—we do not allow adding or removing any right as a result of having three chromosomes 21 instead of the usual pair. Similarly, if one genetic subtraction appears we also reject alter the rights of the individual, like in the event of chromosomal deletion in the terminal region of the long arm of chromosome 5—Cri du chat syndrome. Any individual has rights, not by the fact that has or

not one particular gene, but simply by being a person. Otherwise, people would have more or less rights depending on the inherited genes, for example, we could grant more rights to people with green eyes and black hair than to those with blue eyes and blond hair. Why not? It is as arbitrary as any other irrational choice we can do.

Yet, there still who argue that LGBT do not deserve the rights because they can be re-educated, as we have seen, even with 'reparative therapy' (...) Therefore we have to rebut the opposite position in which instead of the gene of homosexuality what we have is the voluntary preference of the individual to be LGBT. In this case, we argue that mankind is free and each individual can choose what to do with his life and we cannot force anyone to do our will unless we snatch him his freedom. Once we agree each individual is a free person to choose whatever wants to do with his life, we cannot denied the rights that has as part of humankind, despite being hooked of the snuff or the alcohol or even of the homosexuality—for those who think homosexuality is a kind of habit.

Aside and as we had announced, we conducted a statistical analysis to identify how the support to LGBT is distributed in different social sectors, but we wanted move away from what we already know about female and Democrats compared to male and Republicans and that former two groups tend to give more support than latter two to these minorities. Which is the reason

we did a cross sectional observational study (**COURSERA**), with particular attention to the effects of birth cohort, using the last three waves of the World Values Surveys from 1999 to 2012 (JDS, “Wave 4 - 1999” “Wave 5 - 2005” “Wave 6 - 2012”) in order to support and give answer to the question we stated from beginning about acceptance of LGBT and therefore recognize their rights, Who cares?

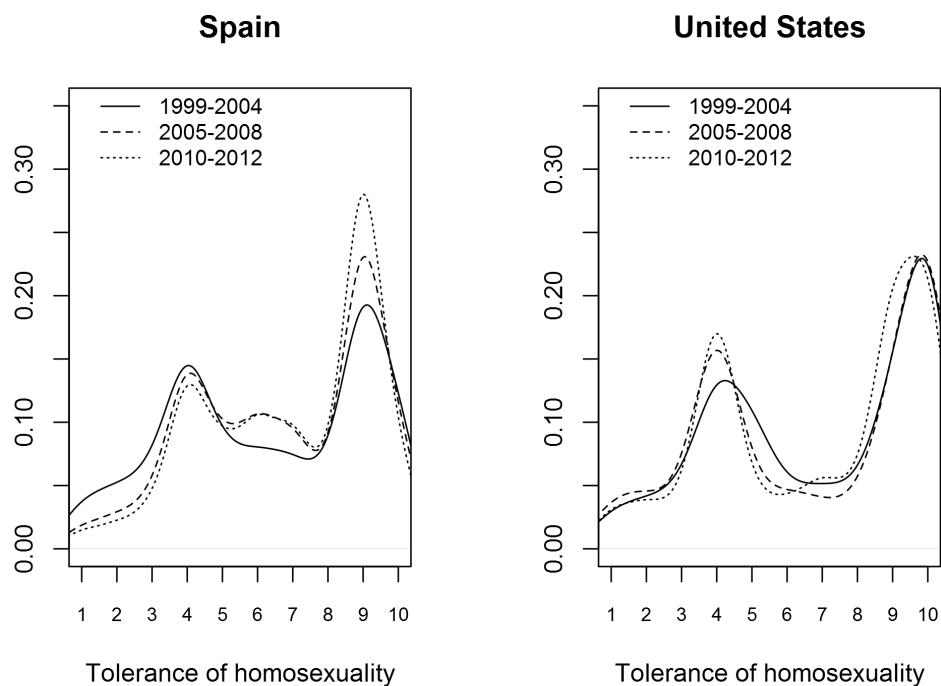


Fig. 1. Panel with graphs of density estimates for the distribution of tolerance towards homosexuality by year and country. The lines in the graphs represent density estimates, which can be seen most simply as smoothed histograms. The dependent variable on a 10 point scale where 1 is equivalent to 'never justified' and 10 correspond to 'always justified'.

The study investigated two countries, Spain by the personal

interest that represents and USA as reference and possible comparison with previous or future studies. A partial summary of the statistical analysis is shown in the two figures, and we remember to the interested reader that can consult directly the [original article](#) to get a complete vision of the scope and the conclusions derived from the statistical analysis. Nevertheless, in our actual exploration what matters from figure 1 is the evidence that a greater number of respondents in both country gave more high rating to acceptance of homosexuality. In addition, if we look only the first plot for Spain, as the time goes (the three waves of survey) the amount of respondents that give low scores (1-5) of acceptance are becoming fewer and respondent giving high scores (6-10) are becoming much. All this suggests that a lean toward accepting of homosexuality is growing as time goes on.

In the figure 2 we can see simultaneously the effects of the country, survey wave, and birth cohort. The figure plots fitted values from the country specific models showing the effects of birth cohort over time in both Spain and the United States.

Several notable findings are evident from this figure. If we look only at the effects for Spain, we notice that acceptance of homosexuality gradually increased from one year of the study to the next, especially in the latter cohorts. On the other hand, for the United States, there was a slight drop in wave 5 for younger people and then a rise again in wave 6. Finally, the changes within cohorts, and the differences across countries, suggest that

significant change in opinion has occurred, even that this change has been most marked in Spain, in both countries people who born on 60s, 70s and 80s increased the acceptance of homosexual during the course of the 13 years we have studied with the unique exception of last cohort of older wave of USA.

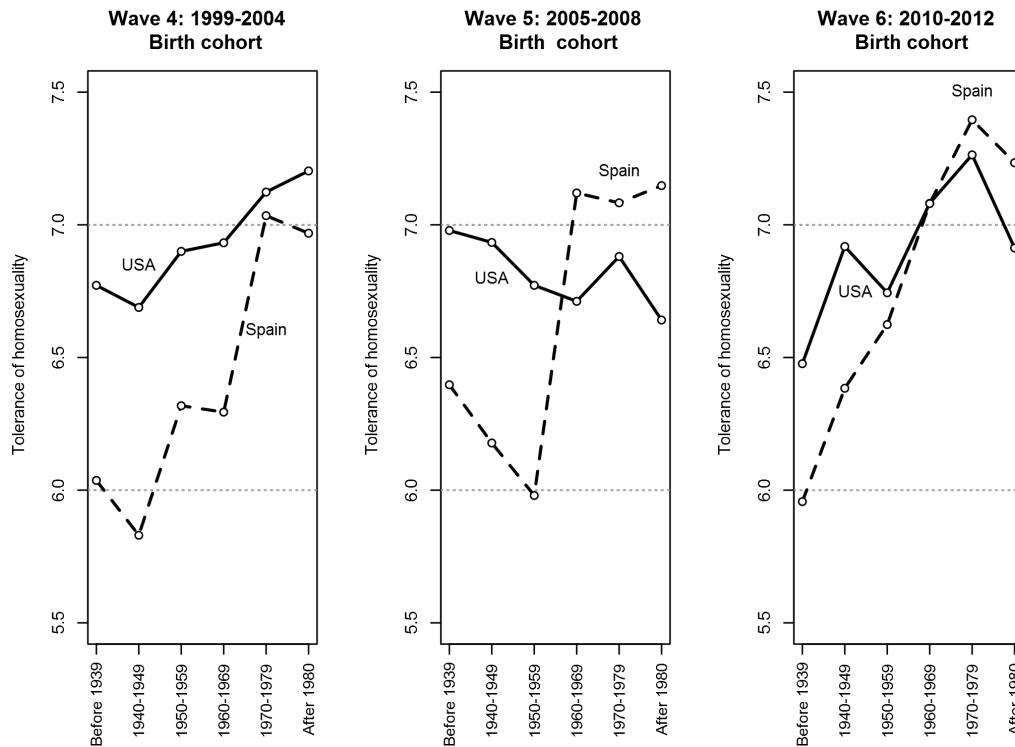


Fig. 2. Panel with the effect of birth cohort on tolerance of homosexuality, by survey wave and country. Fitted values are based on models for each country treated separately—six regression models in total.

This paper was not intended to be more than a humble capstone, developing one theme that remains interesting, and some times, principal issue of enjoyable conversations between friends. Within the scope we have studied, Spain and the United

States, we believe we have established that all people have equal rights and these rights have no reasons to depend on the genetic background because in this context genes have the only merit of being inherited from the parents and neither is relevant being homosexual like in the case that is the result of an exercise of freedom—own choice—instead the result of genetic. Additionally we are comfortable by saying that the younger generations, compared with previous generations, are more supportive and in accordance with LGBT.

The limitations not only in space but also in time, have left out many different perspectives from which to approach the subject. We will mention only a couple, among the potential, for having them close during the preparation of this research and because we consider them interesting for future work. It could be approached the issue from the following discussions, (1) until do not appear a homosexual gene the sexual preference and the sexual orientation could be developed and (2) while the homosexual gene do not appear it could be developed if nature show homosexuality in animals and if really matter or not.

Notes

1. Paul W. Ewald, a biology professor at Amherst College in Massachusetts, and Gregory Cochran, an independent physicist in Albuquerque, New Mexico. They hold that germs could be the cause of homosexuality because they can modify our behavior.
2. The American Psychological Association stated in its 2005 website article, "Just the Facts About Sexual Orientation & Youth: A Primer for Principals, Educators and School Personnel" the need of reparative therapy for some homosexuals
3. Dean H. Hamer, PhD, Chief of the Section on Gene Structure and Regulation at the Laboratory of Biochemistry at the National Cancer Institute, et al., wrote in the July 16, 1993 that there is a correlation between homosexual orientation and the inheritance of polymorphic markers on the X chromosome
4. Kenneth S. Kendler, MD, Director of the Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics, et al., published in the 2000 American Journal of Psychiatry the article "Sexual Orientation in a U.S. National Sample of Twin and Non-Twin Sibling Pairs" where they concluded that "Familial factors, which are at least partly genetic, influence sexual orientation."

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The authors of the original article, Ewald and Cochran, boldly predict that we will eventually find germs for every condition that carries a high fitness cost, strikes more often than a random mutation (that is, more than one person in 50,000), and cannot be explained by a new environmental hazard such as pesticides or cigarettes. They say: "No one has found a virus or a bacterium for homosexuality. (So far no one seems to have looked.) But recently, a slew of ailments that were long thought to be caused by stress, high living, or genetic bad luck have instead been pinned on microbes... "

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In this article the authors concluded, "Familial factors, which are at least partly genetic, influence sexual orientation." Also we can read on it that: "In accord with findings from prior twin studies, resemblance for sexual orientation was greater in monozygotic twins than in dizygotic twins or non-twin sibling pairs. These results suggest that genetic factors may provide an important influence on sexual orientation."

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