

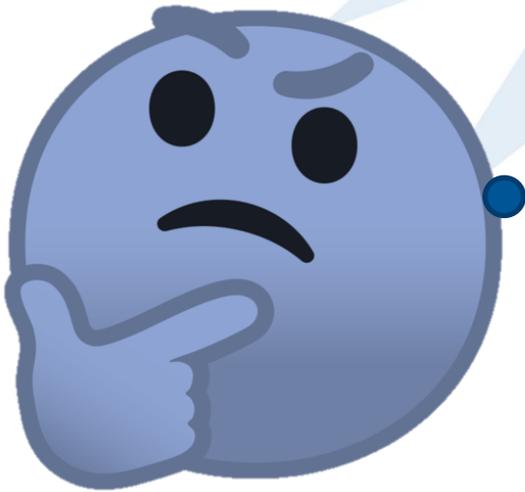
# Equalities Tutor Time: LGB Visibility

Produced at Fullbrook School  
With extra resources and figures from:  
Scientific American  
News Medical.net  
The Independent  
Channel 5

# Big think



In the history of human beings, how long ago did gay, lesbian or bisexual behaviours begin?



# Did you guess that we don't know? If so you were correct!

However, it has been documented in ancient civilisations across the globe for thousands of years, from Europe to Africa, from America to Asia!

Although we only have documentation from when people started writing things down, we also know that these behaviours are present throughout nature too!

People aside, homosexual and bisexual behaviour has been observed in a total of 1500 species from worms to primates. This count was as of the last study (2006), so who knows how many more research will uncover!

Given that our modern research suggests that several genes contribute up to 25% of our sexuality, perhaps it shouldn't be surprising that where there are people there are diverse sexualities!

# Some helpful terms and their meanings

Homosexual



Romantic or sexual attraction to the same sex (homo means 'same' in this word)

You may hear people use gay or lesbian to talk about people who feel this way.

Heterosexual



Romantic or sexual attraction to the opposite sex (hetero means 'different' in this word)

You may hear people use 'straight' to talk about people who feel this way.

Bisexual



Romantic or sexual attraction to both genders (bi means two here)

This is often abbreviated to 'bi'

Pansexual



Romantic or sexual attraction to all genders (pan means all here)

Pansexual acknowledges that these days not everyone feels like they fit into the boxes 'male' or 'female' and that there are many ways to express your gender.

Asexual



Sexual or romantic attraction to no one.

# Why is it important to have role models?



# Discuss!

So, considering LGB identities have been around for a very long time, do we think there are enough representation and enough role models for LGB people in the world?



LGB contributions to history are not always obvious, we may have incorrect ideas about where there were important LGB contributors, for examples...

# There are no LGB leaders!

Jóhanna  
Sigurðardóttir<sup>[1]</sup>



Elio Di Rupo<sup>[2]</sup>



Ana Brnabić<sup>[5]</sup>



Xavier Bettel<sup>[3]</sup>



Leo Varadkar<sup>[4]</sup>



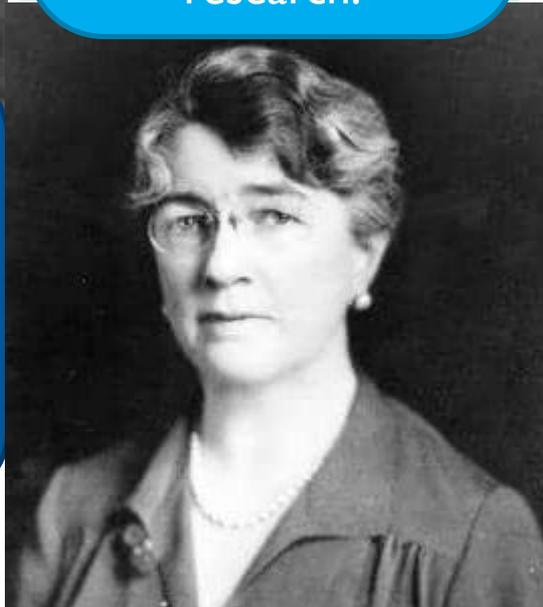
We also have modern heads of state who are out as LGB!

# There are no famous LGB scientists!



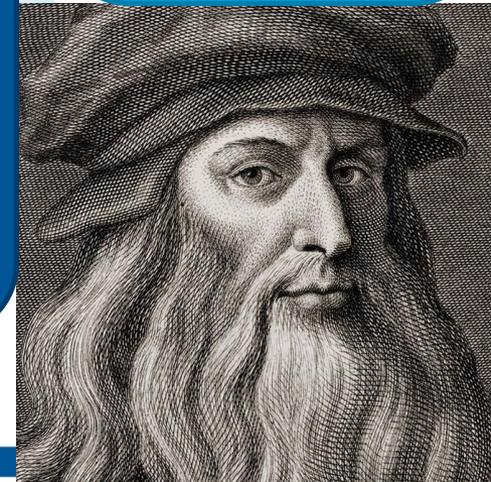
**Alan Turing**  
Indispensable in cracking German codes in WW2, made general use computers possible

**Louise Pearce**  
Developed treatment for African Sleeping Sickness, alongside other medical research.



**Sarah Josephine Baker**  
As a doctor made loads of progress in how to prevent spread of illness and keep some of the most vulnerable people well.

**Leonardo Da Vinci**  
Made significant contributions to arts and science across his lifetime.



# There are no famous LGB footballers...

## ...Okay but where are the men?



Megan Rapinoe was an undoubtable star in the women's world cup last year.

And the women's world cup teams boasted at least 41 out lesbian or bi players.

In America and Australia there are a couple of out footballers who have continued to play



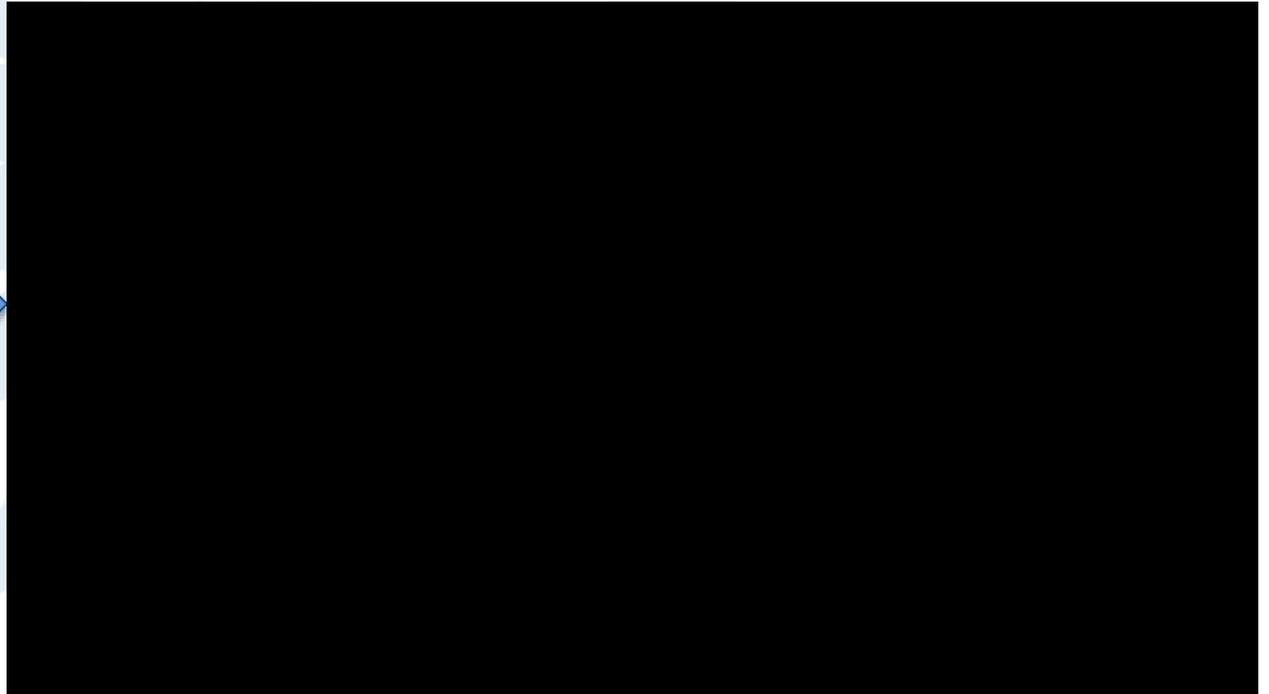
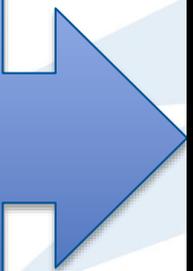
But why is this such an issue?

# A quick look on Wikipedia shows there are a lot of LGB role-models in sports in general – so why not male football?

Ramona Bachmann	b. 1990	 Swiss	Association football	Lesbian <sup>[20]</sup>
Mianne Bagger	b. 1966	 Danish	Golf	Transgender <sup>[21]</sup>
Clare Balding	b. 1971	 English	Jockey	Lesbian <sup>[22]</sup>
Jason Ball	b. 1988	 Australian	Australian rules football	Gay <sup>[23]</sup>
Shawnacy Barber	b. 1994	 Canadian	Pole Vault	Gay <sup>[24]</sup>
Bárbara Micheline do Monte Barbosa	b. 1988	 Brazilian	Association football	Lesbian <sup>[25]</sup>
Nicole Bass-Fuchs	1964–2017	 American	Professional bodybuilding	Bisexual <sup>[26]</sup>
Betty Baxter	b. 1952	 Canadian	Volleyball	Lesbian <sup>[27]</sup>
Billy Bean	b. 1964	 American	Baseball	Gay <sup>[28]</sup>
Shelley Beattie	1967–2008	 American	Professional bodybuilding	Bisexual <sup>[29]</sup>
Mack Beggs	b. 1999	 American	Wrestling	Transgender <sup>[30]</sup>
Lorena Benítez	b. 1998	 Argentine	Association football, futsal	Lesbian <sup>[31]</sup>
Kajsa Bergqvist	b. 1976	 Swedish	Track and field	Bisexual <sup>[32]</sup>
Thomas Berling	b. 1979	 Norwegian	Association football	Gay <sup>[33]</sup>
Mark Bingham	1970–2001	 American	Rugby	Gay <sup>[34]</sup>
Sue Bird	b. 1980	 American	Basketball	Lesbian <sup>[35]</sup>
Alex Blackwell	b. 1983	 Australian	Cricket	Lesbian <sup>[36][37]</sup>
John Blankenstein	1949–2006	 Dutch	Association football	Gay <sup>[38]</sup>
Brian Boitano	b. 1963	 American	Figure skating	Gay <sup>[39]</sup>
Tom Bosworth	b. 1990	 British	Racewalking	Gay <sup>[40]</sup>

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And cricket has players actively challenging these attitudes in sport.



<https://youtu.be/FhLxnz2YgYk> - first 36 seconds

# Discuss

- Why do you think football remains a place where gay men feel unsafe to come out?
- How could football change to become more inclusive?



# What areas could we stand to see more LGB role models in in general?

- What do you think has to change to make this happen?
- Who do you think needs to be involved in this process?
- What effect do you think having more role models will have?