

Examining Same-sex Inequalities in Norway Using Register Data

Abstract

Norway has been recognized as a global leader in LGBTQ+ rights, with progressive legal and social reforms over the past decades. However, despite the legalization of same-sex partnerships and marriage, persistent inequalities may remain between individuals in same-sex and different-sex partnerships. Professor Alexi Gugushvili explores such disparities using Norwegian register data, covering birth cohorts from 1955 to 1995, with approximately 15,000 gay and lesbian individuals. The analysis employs Cox regression models to examine differences in key outcomes, including time to partnership transition, cohort effects, the role of education, class, and migration status. While legal recognition marks a significant step toward equality, the findings highlight structural and demographic differences that persist across partnership types. Professor Gugushvili also addresses methodological challenges in identifying gay and lesbian individuals in register data and the implications of assuming a fixed sexual identity. These insights contribute to the broader discourse on the intersection of legal rights and social inequalities in contemporary settings.