

Introduction

- Gender and sexual minorities have unique healthcare needs and face barriers accessing quality healthcare¹
- Community association supports identity formation, health, and resilience for this community²
- Socially responsive occupational science (OS) scholarship and occupational therapy (OT) practice requires studying occupation from a group-level perspective³
- Research suggests that occupation-based learning is socially significant

Research Aim:

Explore the process of group formation and evolution of an NC woodworking collective composed of mostly queer-identified women and genderqueer people

Methods

- **Design:** Rapid ethnography
- **Sampling:** Snowball
- **Data:** Semi-structured interviews with 3 group members & guided tour of workshop
- **Data analysis:** Thematic coding and analysis

Findings



A safe space for learning

"Figuring things out... on my own terms"

- "A push back"
- Making space to learn

Woodworking as means or ends?

"Different ideas and expectations"

- Bonding through doing
- Social motivations
- Pooling resources

Informality as value and challenge

"A fabric of our lives"

- Leadership and role definition
- "What are we making rules about?"

Discussion

Who is in the room?

- The gendered composition of the group impacted how members related through shared occupation
- **OT implication:** Individuals with marginalized gender/sexual identities may benefit from being in identity-defined groups
- **OS implication:** Further research into purposefully-gendered groups is needed

Beginnings matter

- The group's lack of shared vision or formal structure likely contributed to lack of cohesion and group sustainability
- **OT implication:** Therapists facilitating groups should offer clear structure and develop clarity around group member motivations
- **OS implication:** Further research will support occupation-based community partnerships

References

1. Mayer, K. H., Bradford, J. B., Makadon, H. J., Stall, R., Goldhammer, H. & Landers, S. (2008). Sexual and gender minority health: What we know and what needs to be done. *American Journal of Public Health*, 98(6), 989-995.
2. Wong, F. Y. (2015). In search for the many faces of community resilience among LGBT individuals. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 55(1-2), 239-241.
3. Angell, A. M. (2014). Occupation-centered analysis of social difference: Contributions to a socially responsive occupational science. *Journal of Occupational Science*, 21(2), 104-116.