

Ryan, Maura and Dana Berkowitz. "Constructing Gay and Lesbian Families 'Beyond the Closet.'" [under review at *Qualitative Sociology*, after a revise and resubmit decision]

Abstract:

This paper provides a multilayered analysis of how lesbian mothers and gay fathers construct their families in a social context that has been described by Steven Seidman (2004) as "beyond the closet." We stress how our participants' family building experiences are comparable to other non-biologically related families, but distinct due to heterosexual dominance. Using in-depth qualitative interviews with 18 lesbian birth mothers and 22 gay fathers, the authors discuss how participants navigate heterosexual dominance in institutions and in personal interactions.