**Poster P01**

**Abstract for a poster presentation**

**A small study of three autobiographical stories of non-biological lesbian mothers that present their own experience of accessing healthcare for their children.**

**Disenfranchisement in British healthcare: being a lesbian non-biological mother.**

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This poster will entwine three autobiographical stories of non-biological lesbian mothers that present their own experience of accessing healthcare for their children, thus creating an awareness within higher education healthcare programmes of the intersectionality between being a lesbian and a parent.

Previous research has shown that Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) parents may be reluctant to access healthcare for their children for fear of discrimination and acceptance (Chapman et al, 2012a. Shields et al, 2012). The self-narratives in this paper were ascertained via the method of narrative inquiry and were from a wider study that has raised emergent themes around being a non-biological mother and the rhetoric and language of discrimination encountered within British healthcare.

The findings showed that the lesbian non-biological mothers had mixed experiences with regards to professionals’ attitudes when navigating healthcare. The data analysis revealed positive and negative experiences and four themes emerged: attitudes and managing healthcare experiences, acknowledgment of sexual orientation, professional standards and family constellation.

**What does this poster contribute to the community with regards to intersectionality?**

The demography of a family has changed significantly in recent history as it is now more common for parents to be lesbians. Therefore this poster aims to highlight that in view of changing demographics and legal status of parents internationally, students and healthcare professionals should practice inclusivity. This is of particular note in terms of appropriate, inclusive terminology that is sensitive to the family makeup, and they should also be mindful that the rhetoric and language used for lesbian mothers will be heard and understood by the children attending health consultations with them.