Dealing with the Impact of Social Control:  
Strategies and Coping Mechanisms of LGBT+ People in South Africa  

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Abstract:

South Africa has one of the most progressive Constitutions in terms of the rights of LGBT+ people. However, there is an existing gap between law and lived reality for LGBT+ people in South Africa.

My research discusses social control mechanisms that derive from and lead to the (re-)production of this gap. I am looking at LGBT+ people, groups, and activists in South Africa in order to find out how they are dealing with the impact of social control mechanisms.

The study focuses on the perception of norms and values that underlie and reinforce the stigmatization of LGBT+ people. Thus, it points out how strategies and coping mechanisms are developed and applied to cope with these circumstances.