

BiJOU 27

The Bisexual Journal

May 2013

www.bine.net/bijou

KABOOM

Kaboom: The Film
Winged Visions: Concept seminar
What to do against Homophobia?
Bi-Quiz: Quiz cards
and more...

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Bisexuality doesn't equal bisexuality!

Not every bisexual is the same. There are plenty of variations! I think the differences between different bisexuals are greater than between hetero-, bi-, and homosexuals.

Since not every issue of the Bijou can cover all types of bisexuals, let me point out a few ways in which bisexuals can differ from each other. They can be anywhere between:

- Monogamous to polyamorous,
- Loyal to cheating,
- Having sex with only one person to being a swinger,
- asexual to nymphomaniac,
- more attracted to one gender to "fifty-fifty",
- completely outed to completely closeted,
- interested in men and women to interested in more androgynous people,
- possibly transgender, intersexual, etc or not,
- identifying oneself as bisexual to not believing in labels.

Each contributor in this journal has his or her own idea as well – and by the mere act of writing the article nothing is said about their own sexual identity, orientation, or behaviour.

Frank

We've got the first word!

The earth is shaking – on one side the resistance against gay marriage is crumbling, on the other side hate and discrimination towards non-heterosexuals is thriving. We dealt with these issues in our past issue (Bijou 26) with articles about different political parties, gay marriage, and the situation in Russia. In this issue we've got an interview on homophobia as well as an American study about bi- and homophobia (The end of the one-time rule). Changes are being promised at the concept seminar (Winged visions) while the interview 20 years BiNe e.V. allows us a look back. The main focus this time is the bi film Kaboom... enjoy reading! Also I'd like to welcome Mara as an active new addition to the editorial team! Now there are three of us!

Frank

It's me again

Around ten years ago I first attempted to work on the BiJou on a regular basis. What despite good intentions failed at the first attempt, went perfectly smooth in the second attempt. And it was completely unintentional this time, it just happened. I sent maybe three emails to Frank about some ideas I had and before I knew it I was an official member of the editorial team. Naturally then I had no choice but to deliver. ☺ I'm looking forward to, as per the pleasure principle, do what I enjoy doing (writing) and to at the same time create something with others, which will - hopefully - bring you, the readers, enjoyment and maybe a light bulb moment or two. Enjoy reading and see you in the next issue...

Mara

Traveling all over the place

First of all a warm welcome to Mara: May you have lots of fun and success in our editorial team! My focus this time wasn't writing. Instead I worked on getting an ISSN for the BiJou (ISSN is an ISBN for magazines) and represented BiNe at events we were invited to (like an invitation to speak at the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and the opening of the first rainbow family centre in Berlin). I hope you enjoy reading!

Christoph

The Bi Quiz (Part 1)

The bi quiz cards (in the centre of the magazine) can be cut out and used for a number of different game variations.

One idea would be:

The players take turns reading the topmost card to be answered by the person sitting next to them. If they know the answer they receive 2 points. If they don't, the "reader" reads the 3 possible answers. If the "guesser" answers correctly after the choices being read they receive one point.

But of course it's up to you how you want to make use of the cards.

Enjoy!

Frank

20 years of BiNe – an excursion with Anja

How long have you been a BiNe member and how did you find out about BiNe?

I was at a national meeting in Groß-Bademäusel in the early 90s where they discussed founding an association. I was against it because I didn't want to join yet another association and I felt that the organisation of meetings was going just fine without one. I'd been in several other associations and it was my experience that it could get pretty complicated. I did ultimately join the association out of solidarity to Winnie since further organisation of the meetings would have only been possible through a funding of her work.

What does BiNe mean to you? Is it just an association to you or is it something more? Did you get true and lasting friendships out of it?

Of course there have been true and lasting friendships, for as long as I've been active in the bisexual scene. On a professional as well as private level, at meetings, seminars, workshops... There have been a number of people who have left an impression in my heart and whom I'd really like to see again. These encounters were always very meaningful and I wouldn't want to miss a single one of them. In short, I've become a part of BiNe. I have to admit that it probably wasn't such a bad idea to found this association after all. I'm still not much of an "association person" but I am now blessed with the kindness of old age so I no longer care to oppose it.

Can you think of a particularly nice/funny/crazy/memorable experience with BiNe?

Holy shit, just one? I couldn't think of a meeting that WASN'T exciting, fun, and memorable. All meetings had a certain charm, led to new insights and inspirations. Sure, the first meeting was probably the most memorable. It was the first time that I'd encountered people that were bisexual and defined themselves as such. It was a feeling of having arrived in a familiar, secure place, and being caught in a wave of people who were the same as I. It was the mixed meeting in Gelsenkirchen in the early 90s which had been organised by Claudia. It was also the time I first began working on the BiJou, it was incredibly exciting. The team harmonised very well, we were creative and often met at all kinds of different places. I still remember Heiner, Frank was already there by then, Thomas, Vivi, Robin, Angelika, and if I missed anyone, I hope

you can forgive me for not remembering. Those were times where the BiJou, current, informative, and full of enthusiasm, stood for the networking of bi-interest groups and individuals in Germany.

If you were to compare BiNe at the very beginning with BiNe today, what changes do you perceive?

Hmm... those that every association goes through throughout its development and professionalisation. I believe the demand for professional visibility has increased. I also think that the drive to achieve something politically has become stronger and that activities like the participation at the CSD allow us to go more public. The reason for this change might be that the public image of bisexuality has evolved. There were times that bi was 'in', there were cover stories in magazines like the Marie Claire, and, at the time, shocking reports that dealt with bisexuality and sadomasochism. I remember one particular situation in the 90s, when I was still working for the BiJou. I'd given an interview for Jürgen Domian at the WDR with two other guys. Inge Meisel joined in via telephone and said that it wasn't a big deal anymore nowadays. I disagreed and argued that bisexual people were still being discriminated against today. She was acting all arrogant and insisted that I was wrong and that nowadays discrimination wasn't an issue anymore. I felt that her position was too undifferentiated since discrimination didn't always manifest openly or aggressively. Just because you couldn't see it didn't mean that it wasn't there. The development of BiNe became really apparent to me at the mixed meetings. Until far into the 90s these meetings had always been something very familiar, something comfortable. These little comfy meetings changed throughout the years and turned bigger and bigger, and more and more people attended. What became more and more unsettling for me was the increasingly strong emphasis on sexual encounters. That is when I began withdrawing from those meetings and going to the women's meetings instead since to me, they still had that familiar feeling. It was more about exchanging ideas rather than about hopping in bed. I did – and still do – find that a very pleasant change of pace for myself as well as for the many women that go there, full of curiosity, wanting to talk about being a woman, regardless of sexual orientation, and wanting to approach the topic of sexuality among women.

Most people only associate BiNe with the open meetings – do you feel the same way? Or is BiNe more than that?

Of course BiNe is more than just the open meetings! BiNe is an advocacy which offers the possibility to state and develop political demands. BiNe in my opinion has spearheaded many discussions on sexual identity, love, and relationships, through the seminars by Jürgen Höhn and Bettina Wessolowski to name just one example. It reaches beyond bisexuality and that's very important. I find the question interesting on whether bisexuality or specifically polyrelationships bear a socio-political relevance since people who are involved in multiple relationships display less competitiveness and aggression at work and in their private life.

Is BiNe getting enough people involved? For the association, for political issues?

I don't know. I guess so. I'm not really involved in what the association does internally.

How do you live your bisexuality? Are you monogamous or polyamorous?

I've been openly bisexual since I was 16. That was never a question for me. I'm married and am currently in a heterosexual monogamous relationship with my husband, with occasional sexual encounters with women. Polyamory would be too complicated for me. It's difficult enough to keep ONE long-term relationship going.

Anything else you'd like to say on the topic of BiNe, bisexuality, or yourself?

I'm much more 'offensive' with my bisexuality now by being a part of a poster campaign here in North Rhine-Westphalia for instance. Back in the 90s I was already active by appearing in newspapers and the radio but this poster campaign is on another level altogether. It's become something more aware, more conscious.

What do you wish BiNe for the next 20 years?

I wish that BiNe will always be a network that fights against homophobia and that stands for equality and acceptance of different lifestyles. And of course I'd like for the meetings to continue.

Interview conducted by Mara



Bi & Friends Hamburg after ten years of solo organising now with big team: Fresh into the year 2013, Frank is no longer doing the job all by himself but is receiving support from five other people. We've still got our regular Stammtisch meetings, game nights, wine samplings, movie nights, and once in a while a trip to the sauna: Bi & Friends HH – every 1st Saturday of the month at 7pm at the Variable, Karolinenstr. 23, 20357 Hamburg and every 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm at changing locations. Contact: www.bigaystammtisch.de



Interview with Walter

How did you hear about BiNe?

I lived as a gay man for 15 years and in the fall of 2007 I noticed that I was beginning to look at women, too. I was surprised and felt that I needed to explore these feelings further. So I googled bisexuality, got redirected to the BiNe website and there just happened to be an open meeting 6 weeks later. I signed up and things just kept going from there. When I first got to the meeting I wasn't even sure if I was doing the right thing or if these feelings were just a flash in the pan.

What does BiNe mean to you? Is it just an association to you or is it something more? Did you get true and lasting friendships out of it?

By now it's become the sensation of "coming home" and entering a world that I don't have nearly enough of in my everyday life. So the biannual open meetings represent a break from everyday life. In the past five years two relationships have come out of BiNe – with a man and a woman, each having lasted one year. I'm still in touch with both of them. It's also become more apparent to me that I really care for a lot of the people I've met at the meetings and it saddens me that I don't get to have them present in my regular life. I'm currently trying to change that by putting

more effort into keeping in touch with the BiNe people by phoning and emailing them regularly.

Can you think of a particularly special experience with BiNe?

There are so many special experiences I can think of. What spontaneously comes to mind would be the "Glitschi" Workshop that was first held a few years ago in Butzbach and then again in Bad Belzig. Basi-

cally, there were around 20 bi women and men sliding around in several litres of warm oil.

If you were to compare BiNe from when you first joined with BiNe today, what changes do you perceive?

That's a difficult question to answer. What I've noticed for myself the most is that I didn't know anyone in the beginning and have grown to be a part of it now. I've noticed that I perceive a great continuity in the people I meet there.

Most people only associate BiNe with the open meetings – do you feel the same way? Or is BiNe more than that?

I mainly think of the open meetings in addition to the men's meetings. But I am thinking about becoming more involved in the association's work in the coming years, simply because BiNe is an opportunity to live bisexuality more consciously.

How do you live your bisexuality?

That's a very good question. In actuality I live both sides of my sexuality much too little. In the past years I've had 80% of my sexual encounters (aside from the two year-long relationships) at the meetings. Though I lived out my sexuality there quite extensively, the opposite is the case in everyday life. For me, bisexuality is strongly associated with openly approaching other people and not categorising people according to 'friends' on one side and 'sexual partners' on the other, as is often the case in the heterosexual and gay scenes. People should be able to meet one another without feeling like "something needs to happen now" or "nothing is supposed to happen".

I'm openly bisexual in my private as well as professional life. The problem is that I used to live as a gay man and that many people can't differentiate between bi- and homosexuality. When I was still together with my boyfriend, it didn't really bother me if people thought I was gay since at the time the gay side of me was still dominant. But now that I'm single again I'm noticing that both sides are starting to balance out and that I would like to communicate that. In the gay scene especially I try to make very clear that I'm bisexual and I always stress that I'm bi because that's who I am, and not because I'm afraid of being gay.

Anything else you'd like to say on the topic of BiNe, bisexuality, or yourself?

The day that I first joined BiNe six years ago was one

of the most important turning points in my life and I look forward to many more decades with BiNe.

What do you wish BiNe for the next 20 years?

That we never get tired of one another and stay open for new generations of bisexual men and women.

Interview conducted by Mara

Opening of first centre for rainbow families

The first centre for rainbow families has had its grand opening on March 15th in Berlin. Famous German politicians (Renate Künast of the Greens, and others from the CDU and SPD) were there as well as our very own Christoph, who went as representative of the Bisexual Network. (<http://berlin.lsvd.de/projekte/regenbogenfamilien/>) (German)

Short URL: <http://bit.ly/YGWH0E>



Ecstasy is Necessary

A Practical Guide by Barbara Carrellas

Lately, I've developed a certain interest in Tantra, visiting courses and reading up on some literature. But I never really liked what I read. There, Tantra lives off the gender dynamics between man and woman and is incredibly esoterically charged. They talk of Shiva and Shakti as man and woman. Or from the pelvis of the woman or the vagina, depending on the type of Tantra these are called Yoni, and there are a lot of other names giving the whole thing an esoteric touch.

Not so in *Ecstasy is Necessary*. Here the author speaks candidly about pussies, dicks, and fucking. A little eso-speak is still present but it's the nature of the topic and I can live with that.

The book is meant for anyone, regardless of gender or preferences. The terms man and woman are deliberately avoided. The book is meant for all genders and sexualities.

Breathing techniques are introduced as well as small rituals or hand movements that lead to ecstasy. There is no order in which exercises should be done, unlike in many other books. Instead it encourages people to play and discover, to have fun with Tantra and one's own desires. It's an invitation for all that want to fuck better – whatever a good fuck might mean to whoever is reading it. The healing aspect of Tantra

isn't taken for granted either and the book also includes tips for one's own little orgy. Barbara Carrellas builds bridges between Tantra and S&M. One chapter is dedicated to their apparently contradictory natures and points out how they fit together.

The whole thing is rounded off by a comprehensive section with literature- and film recommendations, meeting places, workshops, and shopping. What I particularly enjoyed were the music recommendations on which musical piece fits to which Tantra mood and variation.

The book doesn't just attract with its great content but the layout and design is fantastic as well. Nice simple illustrations emphasise the content. The format is square and makes it an eye-catcher in any bookshelf. I'm thrilled with this book and can only recommend it to anyone who is interested in tantric sex. It's a great queer sex book (Amazon, 251 pages, \$12.45).

John



Kaboom

– finally something worth watching for bisexuals!



Chris Zylka



Haley Bennett and Roxane Mesquida



Thomas Dekker with director Gregg Araki

“Kaboom” is an onomatopoeic word for an explosion, it is a comic series, a book with memories of the war in Iraq, a bike, a videogame, a Mexican game show, a cornflakes brand, but most importantly it’s a fantastic bi-positive film which is exciting, fun, and a must-see for all bisexuals!

The cover of Gregg Araki’s FSK-16 film says “Not even a David Lynch film could be much more off-beat!” and if you’ve seen Blue Velvet, Twin Peaks, or Mulholland Drive, you can guess what kind of journey Kaboom will take you on.

A friend didn’t attend movie night because she’s “neither into science fiction nor into teen films”. Too bad for her, because neither, especially the former, applies to this film. The story is pretty weird and crazy –beginning with a mysterious dream, strange people and visions, a connection between witches, sects and mysterious abductions is formed. But since what the film is really about are the wonderfully written characters, the - compared to other queer films still fairly down to earth - storyline is pushed into the background.

The characters are awesome:

- The athletic, not very bright surfer boy Thor is the stereotypical heterosexual, but his fondness for 20 colourful flip flops – neatly organised in his closet – and his extensive grooming rituals speak volumes.
- The sarcastic lesbian Stella is always there for her friends and falls for a female control freak whom she can’t get rid of so easily.
- The straight-to-the-point party animal London is into gay men, likes to experiment, and also develops new feelings during her studies.
- And the one everything/-one revolves around – the bisexual Smith – Thor’s roommate, Stella’s best friend, and ultimately London’s boyfriend.

Along with Smith, played by Thomas Dekker (known from series like Heroes and Terminator – the Sarah Connor Chronicles) we suffer and long for desire and love. He also takes us on a strange trip of conspiracy theories and chases along the way. But the best part is Smith’s open and natural bisexual attitude, which is being widely accepted by everyone else. The “bad” word bisexual is even mentioned and it’s okay to sleep with both men and women. It may not be a

monogamous story but even monogamous bisexuals won’t be able to think bad of this character. He’s young and somehow everything is totally normal and okay the way it is. This portrayal of bisexuality is so completely positive that it’s just fun to watch. The side characters are interesting as well and Stella’s witty comments are a lot of fun, “Straight guys are gayer than gay guys. The fact that they are in love and can’t suck each other’s dicks makes them act queerer than Clay Aiken,” But the best thing is the birthday present... But I won’t reveal too much!

The film Kaboom is available for purchase on DVD and Blu-ray at Wild Bunch Germany/Universum.



Frank

More bi films

Not too long ago most bi films turned out to be gay/lesbian coming out films. Now, however, there seem to be a lot more options. *Kaboom*, *Three*, *Puccini for Beginners*, *Kissing Jessica Stein*, *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*, *The Opposite of Sex*, *Hamam*, *Happy Endings*, *Crustacés et coquillages*, *A Home at the End of the World*, *The Sex Of Angels*, *Brokeback Mountain* – although most people consider the latter a gay film.

Who invented what? The bi:forum turns one

biforum.haz.ch is a place where people meet and exchange stories about their lives and experiences. A lot of people realise at some point in their lives that they are attracted not only to one, but both sexes.

Since monosexuality still seems to be the social norm, that kind of realisation could lead to insecurities or even identity crises. Bisexuality is still a taboo in both the heterosexual and gay scenes.

biforum.haz.ch is meant to be a place where this challenge can be dealt with and a new sexual identity might be developed. Different ways in which bisexuality can be expressed are stated here.

The bi: forum was formed a year ago out of a private initiative and is being supported by haz.ch. It offers a freely accessible and ad free forum, chat, agenda, and additional resources on bisexuality. Everyone is invited to join the forum and be part of a lively discussion.

Christian, biforum.haz.ch

Concept seminar 2013: Winged visions

At past concept seminars there was always a lot of pessimism and fear that the association might have to dissolve. But in the end we always parted ways with an optimistic mindset.

2013 was different. From the beginning there were active discussions and members who couldn't be there sent others to voice their ideas.

Early March around 20 people met in Syke near Bremen in the West Wing, a beautiful house that also houses psychiatric patients who work in a number of small workshops. The guided tour through the house was wonderful and the residents reported on Sunday that they were very happy to have had our group of visitors there.

But of course, primarily we were there to work. The Saturday agenda called for the general assembly, the activity report of the board, treasurer's report, relieving of the old board, election of the new board, reports from the project group, and the adoption of the budget.

The discussions were heated at times, after all there are quite a few strong personalities in the group.

John introduced a new concept for the BiNe reform. Relevant points are:

- Survey the needs and situation of members and queer as well as non-monosexual individuals,
- Redesigning of the Bisexual Network website,
- Realignment of the club images and aggressive public relations,
- Changes to existing meetings and new meetings 2014,
- Supporting the board and base work.

Specifically this means that a survey needs to be conducted by an interest group in order to create a basis for further work. Furthermore the plan is to modernise the website for a more contemporary appearance. We will also embed services such as RSS, Face-



John

book, Google+ und Twitter. We are probably going to hire an external company to do the job. Lastly, the aim is to get more involved in political work again. And in the registration for open meeting we intend to reserve 10% of the available spots for newbies. Despite all that, all agree that there should be no expectations set on the individual work groups who volunteer to do this work.

The concept was already discussion topic on Friday and then again on Sunday.

We welcomed Mac of the bi community Liebe-Leben-Leuten (www.liebe-leben-leute.de) as guest, who advised us on the website and told us of his bi flyer concept.

The new board consists of David, Hartmut and Jasmin.

There are several active work groups. Telephone counseling, bi with disabilities, BiJou, group list, info packet, International contacts, internet, and organisation of the open meetings.

Those who are interested are invited to get in touch with BiNe e.V. or check



Work



Collecting points – Peter and Astrid

out the forum: aktionsforum.bine-forum.de.

On Sunday we were greeted by a snowy landscape and, like at every concept seminar, took a look ahead at the things to come – and some even felt the wings from our hostel's name.

Frank



West wing

Honourable desire – Your commitment to self-determined sexuality

Like many other organisations and groups that advocate freedom, self-determination, and concerns of a particular group of people, the Bisexual Network (BiNe e.V) is built on volunteer work.

According to Wikipedia, volunteer work is generally considered an altruistic activity and is intended to promote good or improve human quality of life with no financial gain.

This type of volunteer work is especially fun when you pursue goals along with like-minded people, that enrich yourself and the group. You meet new people, work in a goal-oriented fashion and successes have an impact on one's surroundings, one's own life.

Many groups all over the country have proven what can be achieved based on mere commitment. For self-determined sexuality the achievements of gays

and lesbians would be the first to mention. A lot of it was made possible through voluntary work as well as a resolute appearance to fight for visibility and a place in society.

For all those that – like us at BiNe e.V. – love more than one gender, this has not yet been realised. Sure, the media covers the topic every once in a while, but usually in a more flashy and colourful angle. We are the "others", the abnormal ones. Many straight people, and even lesbians and gays hold prejudice against us. And it's up to us to change that – if that's what we want.

This will not happen overnight. It takes a lot of patience, a common vision, a strong group and network. The Bisexual Network offers a good basis for this. It's an association that fights for self-determined sexua-

lity because the expression of sexuality is as diverse as the people expressing it. We don't use the encyclopaedia definition of bisexuality, because we include people who don't (want to) live and love monosexually. There are all kinds of people. Trans* meets Cis, young meets old, tantric meets sadomasochistic, people with disability meet people without, monogamous meets polygamous, etc.

At BiNe e.V. we follow the pleasure principle. If someone would like to do something, he looks for people who want to go in the same direction. Maybe an opinion will be picked up from others to determine the goal. Then they put their idea into practise, for as long as it brings them pleasure.

The drawback – you can't say "I want you to do this." If someone wants something he either has to take it in his own hands or he can join existing groups. So in the end only those projects that enough people are passionate about are realised.

It is an honourable desire to fight for one's self-determined sexuality and against societal norms.

Some of you might say, "I do want to do something now, but I don't know what."

I've listed a few suggestions for the benefit of those people (for a lot of things you don't even have to be a member of BiNe e.V.):

- Have a look if you can find a group for non-monosexual/bisexual people near you where you can engage yourself. Sometimes groups like that can definitely use a fresh new point of view.
- Form your own local group for non-monosexual/bisexual people. Make sure you feel comfortable doing it. If you need organising tips, get in touch with BiNi e.V., they've got more than enough experience.
- Go to local discussion groups, lesbian and gay groups included. Share your position on the topic and your opinion on sexuality.

- many political parties have a local contact person for the LGBT community. Try contacting them and ask them if they take non-monosexuals/bisexuals into account.

In addition to these suggestions, there are a lot of other things that can be done from walking at the CSD to setting up an info booth at town festivals or even open conversations with acquaintances, friends, and family about one's sexuality and the wishes and fears that are associated with it.

Naturally BiNe e.V. is happy about every single lovely person that wants to get involved in the association itself. Be it public relations, networking, the organisation of meetings, local groups, etc. – we look forward to welcoming you to our ranks!

John

* Cis people are people who identify with the sex that they were biologically assigned with at birth. In contrast, trans* people perceive a discrepancy between the sex they were assigned with and the one they identify with.

The end of the one-time rule!

For a long time in the past, when a man kissed another man even just one time, or even had sex with him, it meant that he was and would forever be gay. Now, a study by Anderson & Adams published in the American Journal of Bisexuality claims that this mindset has become outdated. The study revolved around 60 young footballers who were observed and interviewed.

Even though most of them didn't have bisexual friends or acquaintances, the level of acceptance is said to have been quite high, the existence of bise-

xuality was not being denied, and some were even said to have recognized a certain amount of bisexual tendencies in themselves.

In BiJou 24 we reported on Dr. Eric Anderson's rousing appearance at the BiReCon 2010 and on his bisexuality-positive studies.

I would like to talk a little bit about the article "Aren't We All a Little Bisexual?: The Recognition of Bisexuality in an Unlikely Place" by Eric Anderson und Adi Adams from the Journal of Bisexuality, 11:3-22, 2011.

It said that young men were being encouraged to join team sports from an early age, to teach them to compete with one another. And that violence played a role in these sports as well and would likely lead to homophobia and "hypermasculinity". The one-time rule in terms of same sex experiences leads to sexual orientation being limited to hetero- and homosexuality and this dualism denies bisexuality.

Back in 1995 Schwartz reported that a drop of homosexuality, according to society, immediately made a man gay, while a drop of heterosexuality didn't even minimally affect him.

Anderson/Adams wrote that the restriction into homo- and heterosexuality limited sexual behaviour and emotional range. In times of strong homophobia homosexual contact was frowned upon because it stood for insecurity and weakness. It would go so far as to lead to gay hysteria and any type of physical contact between members of the same sex would be avoided since even a mere hug might entail sexual desire. But would homosexual tendencies be uncovered in a "real men's sport" such as football this perception of the world would fall apart.

And that's exactly what Anderson, Adams, and their crew did. They interviewed 60 footballers between the ages of 18 and 22 from three different universities in the US, one of which being a rather conservative establishment. Six coloured and two Latin American men were part of the study as well. The crew accompanied the men for ten days during football season. The members of Anderson and Adams' team integrated themselves well and at times were no longer perceived as observers.

The results were as follows:

1. "Decreasing homophobia leads to decreasing biphobia."

Statements like "It doesn't matter who you love," were the rule. Some of the kickers even had gay friends. Only two individuals made homophobic statements. The others also didn't have a problem with men showing a romantic or sexual interest in them. They either felt flattered or didn't care.

Although there was mention of gay as well as bisexual men in the questions posed, the responses usually referred to gay men. However, in this case the term "gay" seemed to be inclusive of "bisexual". The footballers also claimed to have nothing against friendships with bisexual men, but didn't personally know any (outed) bisexuals.

2. "Complex understanding of bisexuality."

The one time rule was depicted as absurd by the interviews. A fluid sexual orientation and wide sexual range was recognised. One footballer said that maybe his grandfather still thought in that old mindset but

that a man who sleeps with another man can be gay, bisexual, or even a heterosexual who just happened to have had sex with a man.

Upon questioning, the young men changed their previous definition of "bisexual" and acknowledged that one could for instance be 5% attracted to men and 95% attracted to women. The existence of bisexuality was clearly accepted despite the lack of personal contact with bisexual men.

One man questioned why bisexual women were admired but bisexual men weren't seen as equally "cool". Furthermore the rigid labels for sexual orientation were questioned.

3. "Recognising one's own bisexuality."

Although none of the men identified as bisexual, a lot of them recognised indicators of bisexual tendencies and (slightly) bisexual behaviour, such as:

- Kissing a male friend,
- Having been to a gay bar,
- (Friendly) love for the best friend (one referred to it as "bromance")
- Ranking of self on a scale from 0 (100% heterosexual) to 10 (100% homosexual) which resulted in 0 (12 men), 1 (32 men), 2 (12 men), and 3 (4 men) which, in my opinion, can be considered as a 13% homosexual rate on average,
- Joking about one's sexual identity,
- Statements like "We're all a little bi, aren't we?"

4. "Old myths die slowly."

Despite everything, a few of the football players still had some false preconceptions, for instance that bisexuals are confused, that bisexuality was just a phase on the way to homosexuality, that bisexuals were permanently horny or neurotic. But these prejudices only came from a few of the guys and weren't set in stone.

Overall, the study showed that since the research conducted by Herek und Capitanio in 1995, where 64% of men considered homosexuals "disgusting", a lot has changed.

As previously mentioned, none of the football players identified as bisexual. The terms "gay" and "straight" were not so sexualised according to Anderson/Adams and were preferably used as opposed to "a little gay" for instance.

In my opinion the study suggests further development in the acceptance of bisexuality in the western world.

Frank

Six times sex

One

Mareike
 I was itching for it again last week. Yes, female hormones need some balancing once in a while, too... So I called Maik. We've got similar names, similar likes and are not in love – good conditions for spending a nice evening. It was like it always is, hot, hot, hot! I'm itching again today. I hope Maik is itching, too!

Two

Lars
 I'm straight. I'm not one for one night stands. So far I've been in four long-term relationships. I only got tested for HIV because a friend of an ex girlfriend wrote me on Facebook. I'm straight and positive.

Three

Silke
 My girlfriend and I are in an open relationship. We are living together and each of us is free to get with other people. Safe sex? If I get intimate with a man not using a condom is out of the question. Both of us find dental dams extremely unsexy. Besides, a woman can't really get anything from another woman anyway. And if we somehow do catch chlamydia or something we'll just take antibiotics. The wonderful encounters are definitely worth it.

Four

Sven
 My biggest fantasy? The glory hole in the darkroom of my favourite club. I'm kneeling in front of it and one after another dicks appear in front of my face, which I then... My absolute no go? The glory hole in the darkroom of my favourite club. As much as the thought of someone else's semen in my face and mouth excites me – my health is more important.

Five

Lena
 A few years ago I was sleeping with a guy. We knew each other well and he knew that I wasn't on the pill. While I was still enjoying foreplay, I suddenly felt his penis inside me. I looked at him, horrified. He smiled reassuringly and said "Don't worry, I can control it. Thanks to Tantra I know when to pull out." What I found shocking was the ease with which he alone, without even asking me, made a decision that concerned us both.

Six

Me
 I had a lot of encounters with people. What I wish for and also live myself is that everyone takes responsibility for themselves. Of course I do pay attention to my partner, is he/she feeling alright, does it feel right between the two (three) of us? But what is safe and more importantly, which risks are worth taking and which aren't – that's something I want to decide for myself. Being able to talk with the other person about our ideas, and to then go for it together, is one of the most erotic foreplays I can think of.

Being able to decide on your own desires is the greatest feeling imaginable.

Mara



New blogger at bisexualitaet.org
 The bi blog that fights for bisexual visibility and deals with political issues regarding bisexuality, is welcoming a new face: Julia, a bisexual queer feminist! Have a look: <http://www.bisexualitaet.org/2013/03/eine-neue-mitbloggerin-julia/#more-1878> (German)
 Short URL: <http://bit.ly/YGW5YW>



<p>BI Quiz: Answer 1 B</p> <p>In the series Dynasty Al Corley, later Jack Coleman, played sensitive Steven Daniel Carrington, who was in alternating relationships with men and women, but was never officially referred to as bisexual.</p>	<p>BI Quiz: Answer 2 B</p> <p>Thomas Mann (1875–1955) was married to Katia Mann, but secretly heeded an (unrequited) love for young boys which is apparent in his works Buddenbrooks, The Magic Mountain, and Death in Venice.</p>	<p>BI Quiz: Answer 3 C</p> <p>Michael Page designed the bi flag in 1998 with the colours magenta, lavender, royal blue. Magenta represents same-sex attraction, royal blue the attraction to the opposite sex and lavender stands for the entire gender spectrum.</p>
<p>BI Quiz: Answer 4 C</p> <p>Early 2013 issue 116 of the Bi Community News (bicomcommunitynews.co.uk) was released. The magazine is thinner than the BiJou but is published more frequently. The editor-in-chief's name is Jen.</p>	<p>BI Quiz: Answer 5 A</p> <p>The 1994 bi film classic with Lara Flynn Boyle, Stephen Baldwin and Josh Charles is called Threesome. It's about a love triangle in which Eddy loves Stuart, Stuart loves Alex, and Alex loves Eddy.</p>	<p>BI Quiz: Answer 6 C</p> <p>The Kinsey scale goes from from 0 (exclusively heterosexual) over five bisexual grades to 6 (exclusively homosexual), so seven grades in total. In addition there is grade X which stands for asexuality.</p>
<p>BI Quiz: Answer 7 B</p> <p>The bi symposium was held in Berlin in 1996 with the motto The many faces of bisexuality – the diversity of bisexual relationships. Attendees included Fritz Klein, Oswald Kolle and Dr. Erwin J. Haeberle.</p>	<p>BI Quiz: Answer 8 B</p> <p>Terviseks is pronounced Der Bi-Sex (dea-bee-sex – German for the bi sex) and means Cheers.</p>	<p>BI Quiz: Answer 9 C</p> <p>Elizabeth Gill's film Goldfish Memory (2003) is set in Dublin. As the characters switch partners, gender and sex are not really an issue. The film is light and cheerful and is therefore a pleasure to watch for all bisexuals.</p>



<p>The BI Quiz: Question 3</p> <p>What are the three colours of the International bi flag?</p> <p>A – Pink, violet, dark blue B – Pink, purple, blue C – Magenta, lavender, royal blue</p>	<p>The BI Quiz: Question 2</p> <p>Which German author was married but had a secret weakness for young boys?</p> <p>A – Franz Kafka B – Thomas Mann C – Hermann Hesse</p>	<p>The BI Quiz: Question 1</p> <p>What is the name of the bisexual son of an oil millionaire in a famous soap?</p> <p>A – Bobby Ewing B – Steven Carrington C – Dominik Gerner</p>
<p>The BI Quiz: Question 6</p> <p>How many grades for profiling sexual orientation does the Kinsey Scale have?</p> <p>A – 5 B – 6 C – 7</p>	<p>The BI Quiz: Question 5</p> <p>Where does this quote come from: "You have the hots for me, I have the hots for him, and sooner or later he's gonna have the hots for you. - Sounds pretty hot to me."?</p> <p>A – Threesome B – Basic Instinct C – Chasing Amy</p>	<p>The BI Quiz: Question 4</p> <p>What does BCN stand for?</p> <p>A – Bisexual Church Network B – Bisexual Cyber Notes C – Bisexual Community News</p>
<p>The BI Quiz: Question 9</p> <p>In which city does the romantic comedy Goldfish Memory take place?</p> <p>A – Oslo B – Amsterdam C – Dublin</p>	<p>The BI Quiz: Question 8</p> <p>If you hear Der Bi-Sex (dea-bee-sex – German for the bi sex) in Estonian, it means what?</p> <p>A – Vagina B – "Cheers!" C – a curse word</p>	<p>The BI Quiz: Question 7</p> <p>what year did the 4th International Bisexual Symposium (IBIS) take place in Berlin?</p> <p>A – 1992 B – 1996 C – 2001</p>

<p>The BI Quiz: Question 10</p> <p>Which country still hadn't legalised same-sex marriage by 2012?</p> <p>A – Czech Republic B – South Africa C – Iceland</p>	<p>The BI Quiz: Question 11</p> <p>Which bisexual popstar got sued for \$10.5 million by Russian activists in St. Petersburg due to "Gay Propaganda"?</p> <p>A – David Bowie B – Lady Gaga C – Madonna</p>	<p>The BI Quiz: Question 12</p> <p>What was the religion of the man who in 1200 AD wrote, "He who claims that he experiences no sexual desire [when looking at beautiful male youths] is a liar."?</p> <p>A – Islam B – Christianity C – Hinduism</p>
<p>The BI Quiz: Question 13</p> <p>When was BiNe e.V. founded?</p> <p>A – August 29th, 1992 B – October 23rd, 1990 C – July 26th, 1994</p>	<p>The BI Quiz: Question 14</p> <p>What did scientist J. Michael Bailey use in a dubious study which resulted in the NYT article claiming that bisexuality in men does not exist?</p> <p>A – Colonoscope B – Plethysmograph C – MRI</p>	<p>The BI Quiz: Question 15</p> <p>Who is Kyrsten Sinema?</p> <p>A – US Politician B – British professor for sex education C – Australian actress</p>
<p>The BI Quiz: Question 16</p> <p>Which breed of monkey has a pronounced bisexual orientation?</p> <p>A – Gorillas B – Bonobos C – Chimpanzees</p>	<p>The BI Quiz: Question 17</p> <p>Which song's music video shows two men and one woman taking turns kissing?</p> <p>A – Diamonds by Rihanna B – One Day/Reckoning Song by Asaf Avidan C – Try by P!NK</p>	<p>The BI Quiz: Question 18</p> <p>When is Celebrate Bisexuality Day?</p> <p>A – May 17th B – June 28th C – September 23rd</p>

What to do against homophobia?

<p>BI Quiz: Answer 12 A</p> <p>Muslim Hanbalite juriconsul Ibn al-Gauzi wrote: "He who claims that he experiences no desire [when looking at beautiful male youths] is a liar, and if we could believe him he would be an animal, not a human being," and, like many other Muslim spirituals, acknowledged bisexuality as natural.</p>	<p>BI Quiz: Answer 11 C</p> <p>Madonna was aware of the consequences, but did it anyway. Her August 2012 concert in St. Petersburg saw rainbow flags with "no fear" written on them, pink bracelets, and a 4 minute speech against homophobia.</p>	<p>BI Quiz: Answer 10 A</p> <p>Up until now the Czech Republic does not allow same-sex marriage. In 2006 South Africa became the 5th country to legalise same-sex marriage and Iceland the 9th in 2010. By 2012 there were 11 countries who'd opened marriage to same-sex couples.</p>
<p>BI Quiz: Answer 15 A</p> <p>Kyrsten Sinema, born in 1976, is the first openly bisexual US Congresswoman in history. She was appointed in Arizona and is a member of the democrat party.</p>	<p>BI Quiz: Answer 14 B</p> <p>With help of a plethysmograph, Bailey attempted to measure bloodflow to the penis. The study and newspaper article were debunked. In the meantime studies with completely different results have been published. A colonoscope is used in colonoscopy, an MRI is a brain scan.</p>	<p>BI Quiz: Answer 13 A</p> <p>The Bisexual Network was founded August 29th, 1992, although some older issues erroneously claim the year 1994.</p>
<p>BI Quiz: Answer 18 C</p> <p>Celebrate Bisexuality Day is the brainchild of the bisexual US activists: Wendy Curry, Michael Page, who also designed the bi flag, and Gigi Raven Wilbur. It was first observed on September 23rd, 1999.</p>	<p>BI Quiz: Answer 17 B</p> <p>It's the No.1 hit One Day/Reckoning Song of the Israeli folk rock musician Asaf Avidan. " One day baby, we'll be old, and think of all the stories that we could have told."</p>	<p>BI Quiz: Answer 16 B</p> <p>The Bonobos are even considered a fully bisexual species. There are also many other species with proven bisexual behaviour such as beetles, bats, dolphins, penguins, etc.</p>

On one hand the world is increasingly becoming more accepting. In more and more (western) countries gay marriage is being legalised and in Germany the Constitutional Court has decided that the adoption of children by rainbow families may not be prohibited, no matter how reluctant or reactionary the current government is approaching the subject.

On the other hand homophobia is more present than ever in the eastern states. Under the pretense of alleged protection for children the Russian Duma seems to be pushing the dubious law against "gay propaganda", and other countries' governments consider these kinds of laws sensible as well.

The retired pope is being praised by chancellor Merkel instead of being criticised because of his abuse cover-ups, and there are still 79 countries worldwide where homosexual acts are still punishable by law, in seven of which it may even be punishable by death.

We spoke with Thomas, a therapist from Hamburg specialised among others in coming out issues, about homophobia, its causes and counter-strategies.

[Where does this incredibly strong homophobia that goes as far as violent acts towards homosexuals in some countries come from?](#)

This question has been bothering social scientists, politicians, parents, and countless others for a while now. Yes, where does such extreme apparently baseless hatred come from? Social psychologists primarily deem certain socialisation as responsible. Prejudice is often passed on to children.

And later on the reference group plays a crucial role. In a worst case scenario they allow me to think and act in a way that is normally not socially acceptable and supports my position which I would normally never admit to. That is the basic mechanism.

People who are insecure due to unemployment, political uncertainty, or whatever else, tend to look for minority groups to project their anger onto. People who use violence perceive themselves as powerful which gives them even more confirmation. In Southeastern Europe it's the Roma that have to serve as the scapegoat, in Russia it's the Jews.

[How can this way of thinking be explained on a deeper level?](#)

Psychodynamic studies confirm that people that are extremely hostile towards the gay, lesbian, and bi community use their hatred to attempt to suppress their own homosexual tendencies. It scares them subconsciously to be the same way, or to possibly become "infected", as absurd as that may sound. "My son might end up gay if he hangs out with them," - these types of statements show how threatening being "different" is being perceived, because it questions their domineering image of masculinity.

[But in Germany that's become a thing of the past.](#)

I actually don't agree. Strong homophobia can be found everywhere. The fact that it's more evident in Eastern Europe, Africa and some parts of Asia is probably due to our relatively democratic tradition

since 1945 and the emancipation movements of gays and lesbians in the 60s and 70s. Also the influence of the Catholic church is stronger in other places.

However there are also counter-examples. In the traditionally strongly Catholic kingdom of Spain, gay marriage has been equal to heterosexual marriage since 2005. Apparently there are many different factors involved when a minority or even larger parts of society think and act homophobic. Some factors are easier to point out, some we can but guess on.

[But homophobia is sick. What do therapists or science have to say about it?](#)

Be careful. Others' unwanted points of view, albeit objectively being viewed as "wrong" behavior, still can't be called "sick". Referring to anything or -one as sick is derogatory and stigmatising. It begins with the choice of words. Calling somebody "sick" is putting a label on him, since it's something he "is". Someone "has a sickness" might be more appropriate. If someone "has" something at least there's the possibility of getting rid of it.

The use of the term "sickness" is increasingly being discussed and viewed with criticism. For one, more and more sicknesses and disorders are being thought up and it's not exactly helping, instead they give people the perfect excuse for living questionable lifestyles. Also, doctors and the pharmaceutical industry often suggest treatment where it is not necessarily needed, in cases like a recent incident where an "obsessi-

vely healthy diet” was considered a mental illness.

But these people have lost touch with reality.

I wouldn't go that far. Still, a real phobia is a serious disorder that many suffer from. Well-known examples are fear of heights or animal phobias in which behavioural therapists are being attributed rapid treatment successes. I don't consider the “homophobia” we're talking about as an anxiety disorder but as a term that represents passive or aggressive rejection of lesbian, gay, or bisexual people. And violent bullies don't exactly look anxious or afraid to me.

Roughly speaking a so called mental disorder with clinical significance begins when a person suffers under significant limitations in social and emotional functioning. But we know that homophobic, baseball bat swinging guys on the other hand can also be good friends and colleagues. We can diagnose them with poor impulse control, antisocial behaviour, and other things, but whom are we helping by defining violence against gays, lesbians, and bisexuals as an illness? Granted, it's unacceptable and, depending on the severity, a violation against human rights, the respective country's constitution, morality, and Christianity's simple commandment of “love thy neighbour” – but it's not sick. The same way being a neo Nazi is not sick. An in our opinion distorted socio-politic point of view alone is not a sickness.

Is there such thing as therapy for homophobic people in Germany?

I'm not aware of it being specifically offered, let alone as a “re-education measure”. Generally precondition for any type of therapy is a willingness to undergo the treatment and to actively participate. Otherwise it will never be more than an alibi measure as

it is often seen in court ordered therapies for violent hooligans or notorious DUI speeding offenders for instance. If the individual lacks insight, every therapy is bound to fail. While insight may develop as the therapy progresses, this is quite rare.

So there's nothing we can do about these people?

There is. For instance if a father realises that he is losing touch with his gay son and suffers immensely, like “It's terrible that he has this horrible flaw that is causing us to drift apart, it hurts me,” and he turns to a therapist at this point, there is a chance that he may be able to grow past it. If the father, with professional help, manages to lay down his beliefs, prejudices, and accusations and accepts a new way of thinking, then there may come a time when he will be able to objectively look at his homophobia and recognise the defense mechanism hiding beneath it. The people who, as part of a mob, beat up and nearly killed homosexuals in Poland, Hungary, and elsewhere would first need to develop insight that there is something wrong with their actions. But why would they? Their governments, political parties, courts and the media encourage them in their behaviour.

What drives politicians to put all their energy into opposing the rights of homo- and bisexuals instead of worrying about issues like unemployment, education or the economy?

Easy. Stirring up hatred against certain groups distracts from the real problems. Comparisons with the Nazi period are usually problematic, but what we are seeing in Eastern Europe is following the pattern of 1933 with the slogan “The Jews are our downfall!” Unfortunately that kind of thing usually works best.

You mentioned that you've been to Poland. What were your experiences?

A few years ago I visited Krakow with a friend. The gay owner of our small holiday flat immediately warned us to avoid any type of physical contact – we knew kissing was out of the question but holding hands was as well and even hugging. Even downtown during the day time. Otherwise we could get into trouble. And trouble meant, verbal abuse if we're lucky, probably being physically attacked or beaten up. And Krakow is supposedly anything but conservative. It's known to be more of a liberal university town. What must it be like in other parts of Poland, then? Feeling this atmosphere so evidently was pretty shocking. Luckily nothing happened but we did behave and acted totally heterosexual.

Is there even a way to talk to these notorious homophobes if they are so set in their plans of “abolishing” homosexuality? What can we do to encourage positive development?

We can always talk, but do they want that as well? We have to at least try and keep doing in Eastern Europe what we did in Germany that lead to the abolishment of § 175 and the implementation of the right to adopt – dialogue and persistent education on all channels, coupled with external pressure (for instance if German politicians were to go there to campaign for human rights). It takes time and won't be easy but I don't see any other way.

In our country this much-desired tolerance still isn't as extensive as it should be though, especially outside the major cities. Hungary is a good example to show that democratic societies can regress back to authoritarian systems. In post-war Germany, unlike most of our neighbours, no right-wing po-

ulist has really been successful. That, in my eyes, is pure fortune. I also think that young women should never forget that the achievements in terms of equality so far didn't just fall from the sky and must be secured and developed every day anew. And like the rest of the rainbow community, bisexuals must not relent their efforts for acceptance. Presenting oneself with strength and confidence is the first step.

Interview conducted by Frank

The psychotherapeutic medical practitioner Thomas Östreicher, born in 1960, works as conversation and Gestalt therapist in Hamburg with focus on coming out (www.hamburg-psychotherapie.info).

Recommended reading with many further references: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homophobia>

Note: In queer studies the term “heterosexism” is now being used instead of “homophobia” and “monosexism” instead of “biphobia”, to stress that the hatred does not represent a sickness.



BiNet USA has published bisexual fact sheet:

- Half of the LGBT community is bisexual.
 - In comparison with lesbians and gays, bisexuals have a higher lifetime prevalence of sexual victimisation.
 - Bisexuals are at least one-third less likely to disclose their bisexual identities to their doctors than gay men or lesbians.
 - 40% of LGBT People of Colour identify as bisexual.
 - Bi women are almost 6 times more likely than heterosexual women to have seriously considered suicide, and 4 times more likely than lesbians.
 - Bisexual employees are eight times more likely to be in the closet compared to homosexuals.
 - From 2008 to 2012 only \$5,000 in grants were awarded to bi specific projects or bisexual organizations (out of over \$100 million tracked)
- 2013 Bisexual Fact Sheet”, <http://binetusa.blogspot.co.uk/2013/03/2013-bisexual-fact-sheet.html>, Short URL: <http://bit.ly/YGVO8n>

Meschede rocks!

Where fox and bisexuals bid each other good night

1999 – 2001 – 2002 – 2006 – 2010 – 2012: These are the years in which the BiNe men's meeting has taken place in Meschede. The last time I went was six years ago because I missed the 2010 meeting, 2006 was also the meeting at which Martin and I distributed our first BiJou together – the few copies we had were literally ripped from our hands and we were pretty damn proud of it!

Now – in the fall of 2012 – I'm in Meschede once again and BiNe just happens to be celebrating its 20th anniversary! The party motto is "The golden 20s", we've brought the new BiJou 26 along, and there is going to be a picture show with many many familiar faces from all the meetings that we've been to over the years. It's all very emotional because there are so many emotions and memories we associate with the BiNe meetings, or

rather with the people that we meet at the BiNe meetings.

Like all of our meeting houses, the Matthias-Claudius-Haus lies quite hidden, far away from civilisation. But that's what makes it so attractive. It's like entering an oasis of emotion and relaxation. After going up the stairs you'd see an open room with a central fireplace, a library, and cosy seating possibilities. A few steps further there's the kiosk and access to the group rooms. Further up the stairs are the dining room and the hallways leading to the rooms.

Intensive new contacts are formed as usual, but also, old friendships are rekindled with many wonderful people.

The different workshops offer something for every taste: BDSM – Theory & Practise (2 workshops), Charleston – the dance, a film

workshop, two jeux dramatique sessions about airships, male self-gratification, a meditation workshop, naked yoga, "20 years of BiNe – attempt at a speech", and an active workshop "The future of BiNe".



At the party we were treated to a sample of the Charleston workshop which had us all wanting more. A long night of free and wild dancing followed. The outfits were once again imaginative, beautiful, and stylish. One bi woman said, "Finally the men are showing their chic side!"

Meschede may be a beautiful place but the best thing about it are and always will be the people that encounter each other there.

Frank



Matthias-Claudius-House

Where's a man a man?

Bi men's meeting 2013 in Göttingen

The third men's meeting once again took place at the Waldschlösschen where it will also be held next year. Like every time there was a sauna evening, wonderful encounters, a jeux dramatique and interesting conversations. However, there were some things that have changed. The environment was freer (which wasn't to everybody's favour), Michael has passed the organisation for next year on to Christoph and Ralf and sexually the meeting has gotten a lot more liberal since 2011 – which doesn't mean that it was just all about sex, in fact, for some it wasn't about sex at all. And finally this year's workshops were a lot more structured. Among others there were the fetish workshop, team building, the HumanMetrics personality test, jeux dramatique: Leatherstocking Tales, sperm – desire and frustration and tantric massages.

(Frank)

Those who have been to a BiNe meeting will be able to tell you that afterwards heart and head are swimming with positive impressions and experiences, you'd be able to talk about it for hours. And at the same time it's difficult to put in words, which defines the magic of the BiNe meetings. How can I describe the men's meeting 2013 in a mere few sentences?

I have to limit myself to what was very important to me aside from all the other beautiful and positive things at this meeting – it's always overwhelming to be among people that feel the same way I do. Because then I can really be myself without having to bend over trying to pretend I'm something that I'm not. The friends that I've met there are mindful and sensitive towards each other and

treat one another with respect, tolerance and warmth, because our bisexuality in its breadth and diversity requires and entails it. It's so different as opposed to my heterosexuality dominated regular life, and I use this opportunity to draw the strength I need to brave regular life.

(Wolli)

The big event at the men's meeting: The two organisers lay down the leadership on day one. The men themselves put the pieces back together, into a new shape and it worked despite springs and cracks. I look forward to the next meeting.

(Roland)

Exciting workshops, great men, and lots of male energy! I was finally able to attend the BiNe men's meeting and I can't wait for the next one! Thank you!

(Walter)

The jeux dramatique "Leatherstocking Tales" was super dramatic. The death at the stake triggered several therapeutic processes and was pure self discovery. Unfortunately the LoBBi and the erotic part of the meeting kind of faded to the background because of it.

(Stefan)

Open arms in all directions!

(Jens)

An especially beautiful experience. There's no need for explicit leadership, if need be we can organise ourselves (and accept that we can't have some of the things we're used to from the big meetings like theme parties with games and DJs, but we DID have a LoBBi of course). There was opportunity for meeting, conversati-

on, sex, whatever anyone wanted. On the other hand, I didn't see the exclusion of women as a particularly positive thing. If asked what the mixed meetings could offer that this one couldn't, I wouldn't be able to come up with an answer.

(Thomas)

Hello men,

This is the new organisational team of the future BiNe men's meetings.

The men's meeting in the coming year already falls under our, Ralf and Christoph's, responsibility.

We've taken over the organisation from Michael and are excited to see how we will manage to carry on Michael's established and successful programme.

Michael, we would definitely like to thank you for making the BiNe men's meeting what it is today – with great dedication and commitment. This will serve as our motivation. We've got big shoes to fill. Let's see if we can fill them as well as you did. After all there are two of us... ;-)

We wish you all the best – for all the things you now have time for again!

With this in mind, dear men, we look forward to seeing you soon at the next men's meeting at the Waldschlösschen!

Christoph and Ralf

BiNe men's meeting 2014

Where? – Akademie Waldschlösschen (Göttingen, www.waldschloesschen.org)

When? – February 6-9 2014 (Thu-Sun)

More information on bine.net under "Treffen/Offene Treffen" (not available in English)

We often encounter interesting things by accident. It was completely by accident that I stumbled upon an interview of the editor in chief of a new youth magazine called Tonic. My interest in this magazine was piqued by several things I heard about it. Like this new magazine was said to be completely free of advertisements, it was produced by volunteers, and young people used it to write about things that interest them. Even though I didn't really fall into the age group the magazine was trying to reach – I wanted to read, too!

I went for it and it was worth it.

Among lots of interesting articles I found the following article “We don't want to be telephones “. I contacted the editor as well as Lisa, the author of the article, and voila, we – the BiJou – got our hands on an article about polyamorous life.

We are proud to present you Lisa's article, first published in Tonic magazine, as well as a short description of how she defines herself and what the term bisexual means to her.

Mara

We don't want to be telephones.

The author Lisa Bendiek is involved in three relationships – with Esther, John and Norker. And for this she needs a lot of time and a thick skin against prejudice.

At the foot of the stairs of Mainz train station Esther is waiting for me. I haven't seen her for a month, take three steps at a time. Her arms wrap around me, hold me tight. “I'm glad you're here,” she says. “Yes,” I say, “I've missed you.”

One month is a long time for me, when I'm in love. I'm in love all the time. Usually with several people simultaneously. Currently there are three, and Esther is one of them.

We met for the first time in 2006 at the summer academy of the Young Greens – back then I was 16 and still thought feminism a bad word. Esther remembers that I used to do cartwheels during coffee breaks. Five years later I found out that we both have the same habit of painting the white IKEA paper lamps with watercolours. When I finally ended up with Esther, John and Notker were already part of my life. John and I have known each other for two years. When I come back out of the bathroom into his room in the mornings he lays in bed with his mobile on twitter. He can even recite particularly interesting tweets from memory hours later. In return, John learned from me that ketchup is vegan but pesto usually isn't. About a year ago we realised that our no strings attached affair had turned into a loving relationship.

Notker is very much into agriculture. Since getting together with him, I've learned to tell the difference between Holstein cattle and Simmental cattle. Our relationship has been going on for two and a half years now. That surprised us both. Because the first night

we spent together he explicitly warned me that he didn't want a relationship, “In a relationship it's like you're suddenly ‘occupied’, like a telephone.” Notker didn't want to be ‘occupied’ by me, didn't want me to raise any claim on him. That's why he was relieved to hear about my boyfriend at the time.

Esther, John, Notker and I, we don't want to be telephones. We believe in polyamory. This word is composed of the Greek word “poly” – “many” and the Latin word “amor” – “love” and stands for being in love relationships with more than one person at a time. We know that love and desire – in contrast to coal, oil, and uranium – are not limited resources. Our emotions follow different rules than the batteries of our mobile phones. That is why we can love several people at the same time and have sex with them as well.

To make sure everyone is okay, we strive for maximum honesty. Before I get involved with a new person I tell them about my current relationships. When Esther and I kissed for the first time, John and Notker were there. Ever since Ester's ex-girlfriend moved to Scotland I'm her only relationship.

After my arrival in Mainz she's standing in the kitchen at the stove and is frying potato pancakes. I stand behind her and put my head on her shoulder. “Do you think you would be able to be in another relationship – parallel to ours – with the same intensity?” I ask. Without missing a beat she replies, “In terms of emotions, easily – in terms of time, no way.”

Time, as opposed to love and desire, is a limited resource. To be able to see my three loved ones regularly I use up a lot of it and often drive from Hamburg to Goettingen, Mainz and Berlin. My schedule planner is calibrated with three others. John, who lives in Goettingen, comes to visit me regularly and travels

just as often to Berlin where he meets one of his other girlfriends. Notker, who lives there, is currently fully occupied with his studies, his part time job in parliament, his political engagement and our relationship – there's no time for anyone else.

The first time I met John and Notker at the same time I was really nervous. They were sitting in Notkers apartment at the dinner table when I entered the room. I hugged them both and sat in the middle. Then they carried on their conversation about police violations at the last Castor transport. I observed them and waited for the first signs of jealousy. But I couldn't spot any. I spent the night in Notker's bed and John slept on the living room couch. Two conflict-free days and nights later we were all excited about how easy it was to spend time as a threesome. Nowadays Notker, John, Esther and I have gotten used to us all meeting up and hanging out together. It's evening in Mainz now. Esther and I are sitting on wobbly plastic chairs in the garden of a squat and are sharing a vegan pina colada. A few metres further the campfire is crackling, a punk with purple hair is playing guitar. “You guys are so cute together,” Daniela, a friend of Esther's says, “One might think that you guys were in a monogamous relationship.” Daniela knows me, so she's long given up trying to convert Esther and me to monogamy. The relationship between Esther and I destroys her whole understanding of the world. In love, Daniela says, there is only one person in the world that is right for you and that can make you happy. “If you've found that person, why do you need anyone else? The two of you are perfect for one another, there's no need for anyone else!” Esther chokes on her pina colada. As she finishes coughing she protests, “I'm not looking for a person that will save me from my misery. This perception of romantic love is an illusion that isn't worth striving for.”

Esther has never been in a monogamous relationship and doesn't feel the need to ever be in one. “For me,” she explains, “it's important to know that my girlfriend has someone else or could have somebody else. That way I feel like I can say no. I could leave without leaving anyone on their own. It makes me feel free.” This freedom allows her to really get close to someone without feeling suffocated. And the other way around, she doesn't want to put the burden of fulfilling all of her needs on just one person. Meanwhile, Daniela is still crying after that one woman whom she had expected eternal happiness from, but who now wants nothing to do with her. Esther and Daniela are both convinced that the concept of the other is bound to end in misery.

The agreement between Esther, Notker, John and I entail that we are all allowed to sleep, fall in love, and enter long-term relationships with other people.

We are not obliged to disclose anything but we do often tell each other about the people we are currently interested in. I'm happy for Esther when she spends a night with another woman. Notker listens intently when I tell him about John.

The polyamorous refer to this feeling as “joy resonance”. Notker thinks that the preference for poly-relationships is a sexual orientation just like heterosexuality. The only difference is that polyamory doesn't conform to social norms. Whoever lives polyamorously is forced to keep having to come out as “abnormal” or to deny their own lifestyle. In that sense polyamorous people deal with the same challenges anyone who isn't heterosexual does.

Esther is sometimes asked if she has a boyfriend. Most of the time she answers honestly and says that she is in an open relationship with a woman. So she manages to deviate from the norm twice in one sentence.

That doesn't always go smoothly. “A polyamorous lesbian like myself is a totally strange concept for most. You don't usually encounter women who sleep with a lot of other women outside of porn. Some men will then be incapable of thinking of anything other than this absurd porn portrayal of women. I've had the displeasure of being hit on along those lines as well. After a few beers at a pub an acquaintance leaned over to me and whispered, “Hey you're not monogamous right? So does that mean you'll sleep with anyone?”

Again and again people mistake polyamory with promiscuity. Not that there is anything wrong with the latter – having sex with a lot of people that is, but it has as much to do with polyamory as swingers' clubs do with monogamy. Polyamory doesn't rule out promiscuity but it doesn't implicate it either. And neither of both concepts obligates us to hop into bed with just any idiot that comes along - see example above.

I find it absurd to grant another person the absolute right to my body. And Notker can't imagine giving up his way of thinking out of love for a monogamous “dream girl”. “Then I'd have to leave you for her!” he says, horrified. “Besides, I could also turn it around on her. If I refused to get into a relationship with this woman it wouldn't just be because I prefer polyamory, it would be because a monogamous relationship meant more to her than a relationship with me.” The next morning I'm woken up by a huge cup of soy milk coffee under my nose. As always, Esther had gotten up while I was still half-asleep, to prepare her favourite drug. She pulls back the curtains, the morning light floods into the room.

Between sips I ask a meaningful question, “Do you think polyamory could make the world a better place?”

Esther takes the cup from my hands, steals a sip of coffee and thinks. "Monogamy," she says, "is one of the many ways people enslave themselves and others without realising it. If monogamy weren't the only alternative anymore, if other relationship structures would be considered normal, a lot of people would be freer." I snatch back the cup of coffee. "Yeah, I think so, too," I say, "But do you think it would make them happier?" "It depends," Esther says. "On how they deal with the freedom."

A lot of members of the poly community present their relationship concept as a kind of salvation. As a strategy to save long years of marriage but still be able to fall in love again, or as a way to attain spiritual perfection.

Others use polyamory to put their criticism of the capitalist property situation and institutions like monogamous heterosexual marriage into action.

"I'm not polyamorous because I want to make the world a better place," says John. "I'm polyamorous because I just like it better that way." He thinks for a second and then adds, "But I'd still say that polyamory is political. Because it questions norms just by existing. It's like a demonstration only in reverse."

John goes on demonstrations for political reasons, fun is just a pleasant side effect. Polyamory on the other hand, he engages in out of his own personal needs, but even by doing that he is forcing a change in society. The revolution, if one believes in it, doesn't only happen in one's own bed, neither is it present only in one's mind or heart. Being happily in love with many doesn't do anything for the climate change, world hunger, racism and sexism. But I can't picture utopia without looking at personal relationships at all.

Esther takes me to Mainz train station. As always I wistfully bid her goodbye. I know that I'll miss her dearly. On the other hand I'm looking forward to the next few days I'll be spending with John in Goettingen. Ester hugs me, kisses me on the nose and says, "Send my love to John."

Lisa Bendiek

Selfpresentation of Lisa Bendiek

I don't have the best word to describe my sexual orientation. What I do know is that there was a time that I was heterosexual. That time is over.

I grew up in a Catholic village in the South of Hesse. When I was fourteen and unable to fall for one of my male classmates like the rest of my friends, I thought I might be a lesbian. And then I thought, damn, this is going to make my life complicated in this homophobic world.

When I was 16 I did fall for one of my male classmates. During my first relationship – heterosexual, monogamous, flowers on valentines and all that jazz – I got used to the position of a heterosexual woman. And I resigned myself to it. But still I somehow felt that I wouldn't be heterosexual forever.

As I moved to Hamburg and began my studies at the University I started moving in queer feminist circles. It became clear to me that "man" and "woman" were

two insufficient sections of the broad spectrum of sexuality and gender identity. That is also the reason why I don't like to refer to myself as "bisexual". The term indicates that I'm only interested in cis men and cis women* and that anything beyond that does not exist.

But I'm into individuals. Whether they have a penis or breasts, or both or neither, whether they paint their nails or have a beard – I consider all these things secondary. I don't understand why "gender" is such a big factor for a lot of people in deciding on whether they feel sexually attracted to someone. I find it absurd that society expects me to settle on one gender to desire, and on precisely one person at any given point in time. After all, nobody ever asked me if I prefer people with big earlobes over people who are into computers.

As an openly ex-heterosexual queer feminist I am working on making the category "gender" become (more) meaningless.

Informations about the author: Lisa is 24 years old and is working on her master in Ethnology in Halle an der Saale. She also writes journalistic and literary pieces, for TONIC among others.

Footnote:

* Cis people are people who identify with the sex that was assigned to them at birth. In contrast, trans* people feel a discrepancy between the gender that was assigned to them socially and that which they feel comfortable and identify with.

Fight for bi politics

Kiturak writes about previously unseen, unacknowledged discrimination against bisexuals under the working title "The reason why bi can't be an appendage of gay/lesbian movements". At first glance it reads a bit exaggerated until you realise – if you allow yourself to be open to the subject – that the arguments actually make a lot of sense. <http://kiturak.wordpress.com/2011/07/08/warum-bi-kein-anhangsel-schwuler-und-lesbischer-bewegungen-sein-kann> (German)
Short URL: <http://bit.ly/YGW9Yx>



TONIC – a home remedy against bigotry.

In the summer of 2010 13 school newspaper nerds from Bavaria, Hamburg, and Switzerland met up in Stuttgart to create a new magazine for young people. It was an idea born out of late adolescent pride – no question about it. Idea and concept were vague then, but the child grew and by June 2011 the website was up and the question "Who are we?" was beginning to find an answer.

TONIC wants to be a platform against the dictatorship of happiness and the cliché of youth that all the other magazines are cultivating. We want to surprise, far away from the logic of the market. What interest us will interest others as well.

TONIC decided to forego ads.

The backgrounds of the over 70 illustrators, photographers, and authors that are now working for TONIC differ, not all of them want to be journalists. It makes us less susceptible to hypes and keeps us off the beaten tracks.

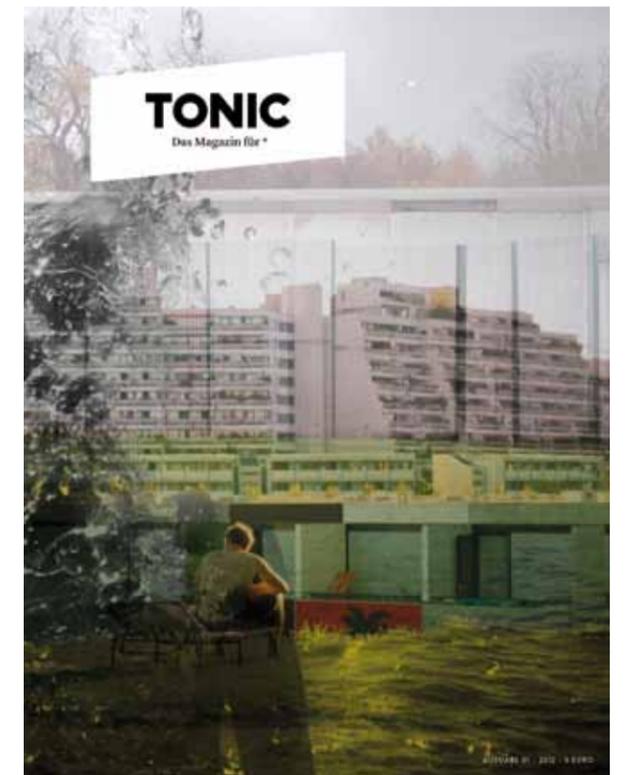
The EU programme Youth in Action offered TONIC some funding which allowed for the publication of the first printed issue towards the end of 2012. Lisa's polyamory article, a sketch of a repeatedly failed escape from Ghana, and a photo report from a juvenile detention centre were included in this issue among others.

"Spiegel Online" congratulated TONIC and spoke about its "outsider topics" – and we asked ourselves if this focus on the unconventional could be above all, evidence of a broader horizon.

The first issue is available online at www.tonic-magazin.de. It can also be purchased at individual stores in Berlin, München, Leipzig and Dresden. The price is up to the buyer.

The second issue will appear in November 2013.

Fabian



In every issue we give you an overview about the bi-friendliness of swinger clubs in a specific postal code area. This time we're covering postal code area 3.

Are swinger clubs in postal code area 3 bi-friendly?

ADVENTURE 2 bei Magdeburg
Haldensleber Str. 17
39179 Ebendorf b. Magdeburg
www.adventuretwo.de

Every 1st Wednesday of the month at 5pm is the Goldfisch – Bisex Only Party (current entrance fees: women - free, men - 49 €): "If you enjoy same-gender sex this is the right place for you. Here, your most secret desires will come true. ... perfect for bisexual men, couples, women, and trans* with a sense for eroticism and discretion. An insider's tip for beginners and the bi-curious, too!"

CASA 69 / Swinger Fulda
Aspenstr. 19a
36119 Hauswurz
www.swingerfulda.com

Bi parties are being held here on (most?) Thursdays. Sometimes it's called Bi night, sometimes Backdoor man and bi party (current entrance fees: women 15 €, men 110 €, couples 60 €). There's a separate smoking area. There is said to be a new owner soon.

Club Swing
Halle-Kasseler Str. 100b
37318 Hohengandern
www.club-swing.de

Sometimes they've got A different type of men's evening with Kati and partner (current entrance fees: women 10 €, men 80 €, couples 40 €). "A very special evening because Kati and her partner want to be spoiled by a lot of nice men".

Feelings Swingerclub
Warburger Str. 36
34246 Vellmar
www.swingerclub-feelings.de

"Bi activities by men are welcome at our bi parties. On other days, it depends on the people. It is definitely tolerated, especially within the week." Smoking allowed (current entrance fees: men 75-95 €, women free, couples 20-45 €).

La Envie
An der Marburger Str. 33
35117 Münchhausen/Simtshausen
www.la-envie.de

Every last Friday of the month they've got the Bi party for her and him (current entrance fees: women free, men 100 €, couples 30 €, transvestites 40 €). The philosophy of the club, however, states that nobody is excluded. "Regardless of whether you're hetero-, bi-, or homosexual: If you treat others with respect you're welcome here!" There is a separate room for smokers.



La Envie
French wall
Gyn chair

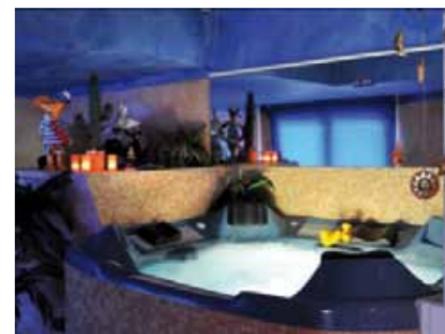


LUNA
Maschmühlenweg 50
37081 Göttingen
www.club-luna.de

On a Saturday every two months there's a bi party (current entrance fees: women free, men 60-75 €, couples 20-45 €). "For bi-curious couples, women, and single men that want to meet similar people in an erotic ambience. Whether women want to be amongst themselves in a special room, make erotic contact with men, or have an exciting experience as a three(or more)some, everything is allowed so long as everyone enjoys. [...] since there are also women who like to watch their man have an erotic experience with another man." They also have gay parties (current entrance fees: 30 €, trans* free) every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, "for all gay and bi men that want more". There is only one room beside the bar where smoking is allowed.



LUNA
Room
Whirlpool



Swingerpark Extra-3
Im Niedernfeld 21
31542 Bad Nenndorf Hannover
www.swingerpark.com

They've got the TundCausH 2.0 party (current entrance fees: women 15 €, men 90 €, couples 70 €) with bracelets that among others can also indicate bisexuality. Every six weeks the Bi-InJecTion-Party is held as well. "2012 we've been very successful in creating a new meeting place for bi/trans* couples and men..." Tina is a gay transvestite and has brought these parties to life, since she didn't see her life as a drag queen happening in adult movie theatres – much too negative an environment. The well-attended parties (60-120 people, 50 % couples, 25 % TV or single women, 25 % men) have specific mottos, hotspots like the fireplace room for smokes (everything else is non-smoking), and men and friends only group sex rooms.



Swingerpark Extra-3
Disco for foam party
Tina



Michas-Swingertreff

Gewerbestr. 10a
31275 Lehrte
www.nordharz.net/michas_swingertreff/mod/cms/

One of the parties at Michas Swingertreff is the bra-
celet party, where yellow indicates an interest in wo-
men, men, and couples, and the bi party (current
entrance fees: men 70 €, women 15 €, couples
45 €). The second party says: "A little bi won't hurt
... for all women and men who want to act on their bi
tendencies with like-minded people. Of course trans*
are welcome as well".

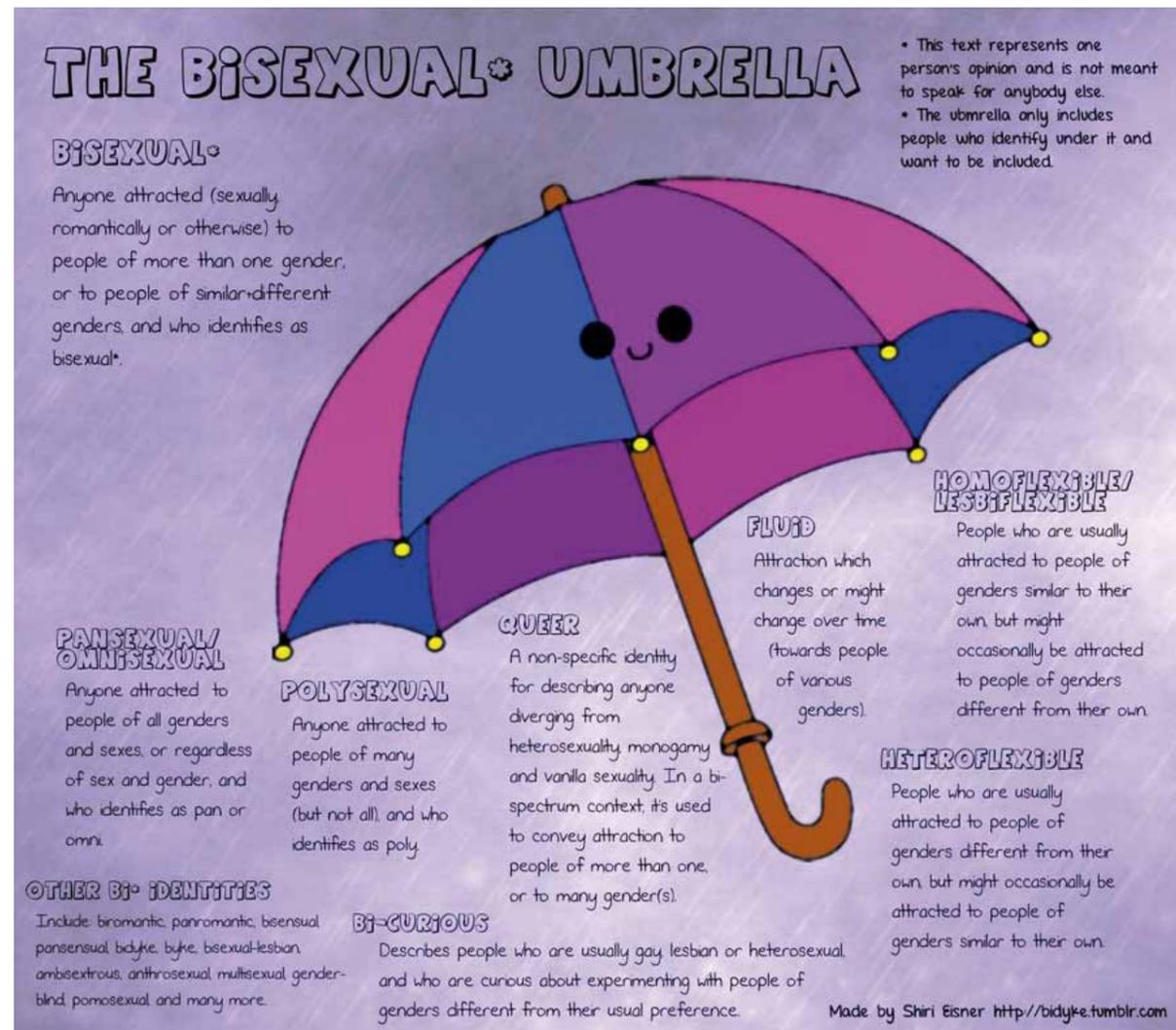
Swingerclub Harz-Heide

Osterfeld 3
38159 Vechelde
www.swingerclub-harz-heide.net/
"The bisexuals that come to our club do live out their
tendencies and it hasn't bothered anyone so far. We
have a lot of non-smoking areas," but smoking isn't
entirely prohibited (current entrance fees: men 60-
80 €, women 15 €, couples 35-45 €)

Weißes Haus

Häuserstr. 13
39418 Staßfurt
www.weisseshausstassfurt.de

Every Thursday at 4pm is "Men's night" (current ent-
rance fees: men 39 €) for bi- und homosexual men.



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Bi group in Tübingen now meets on Fridays: TüBisch-Gruppe - every 2nd Friday of the month at 8pm at the Saints & Scholars Irish Pub, Wilhelmstr. 44, 72074 Tübingen, Contact: bi-treffen-tuebingen@web.de (Schedule changes are announced via email.)





Infos

The **Bisexual Network** (BiNe e.V.) has been around since 1992 and, as the name already says, aims to network bisexuals with one another (through group listings, their website www.bine.net, nation wide bi meetings, etc.). It stands for awareness and tolerance, conducts counseling, supports bi activities (e.g. at CSDs) and makes the existence of this magazine possible.

Become a member and support BiNe e.V.: www.bine.net/mitglied

Logo of BiNe e.V.



Meetings 2013/2014/2015:

31.1.–3.2. 2013	Bi men's meeting	Waldschlösschen Göttingen
8.–10.3. 2013	Concept seminar	Syke
26.–28.4. 2013	Bi seminar (commercial)	z-bi Berlin
9.–12.5. 2013	Open bi meeting	Butzbach
18.–21.7. 2013	Bi-Con	Edinburgh, Scotland
8.–11.8. 2013	Bi women's meeting	Altenbücken
14.–15.9. 2013	Bi Berlin camp	Berlin
23.9. 2013	Bisexuality day	worldwide
??.?? 2013	Low budget treffen	Fredelsloh
3.-6.10. 2013	Open bi meeting	Meschede
6.–9.2. 2014	Bi men's meeting	Waldschlösschen Göttingen
29.5.–1.6. 2014	Open bi meeting	Belzig
23.9. 2014	Bisexuality day	worldwide
2.–5.10. 2014	Open bi meeting	Butzbach
14.–17.5. 2015	Open bi meeting	Meschede

More info at <http://www.bine.net/treffs/?lang=de>
(not available in English).

Registration for the bi women's meeting: bi-frauentreffen@web.de

Regional groups can be found at

<http://www.bine.net/gruppen/?text=bigruppen>
(not available in English).

You can have a look at our **book list** at

www.bine.net/literatur/bineliteratur.pdf

and the **movie list** at

<http://www.bine.net/literatur/> (page not available in English, but English series and films are listed)



International Bi flag

There is an online version of the Bisexual Journal on our website:

www.bine.net/bijou.

For Germany only:

If you need help, call the bi counseling hotline:

Tel.: 0 700 – B I B E R A T U N G (24 23 72 88 64)

Costs in Germany depends on mobile provider

(landline approximately 12.3ct/min)