

LGBTQ in Hong Kong: Sense of place and LGBTQ-friendly space in Urban Hong Kong

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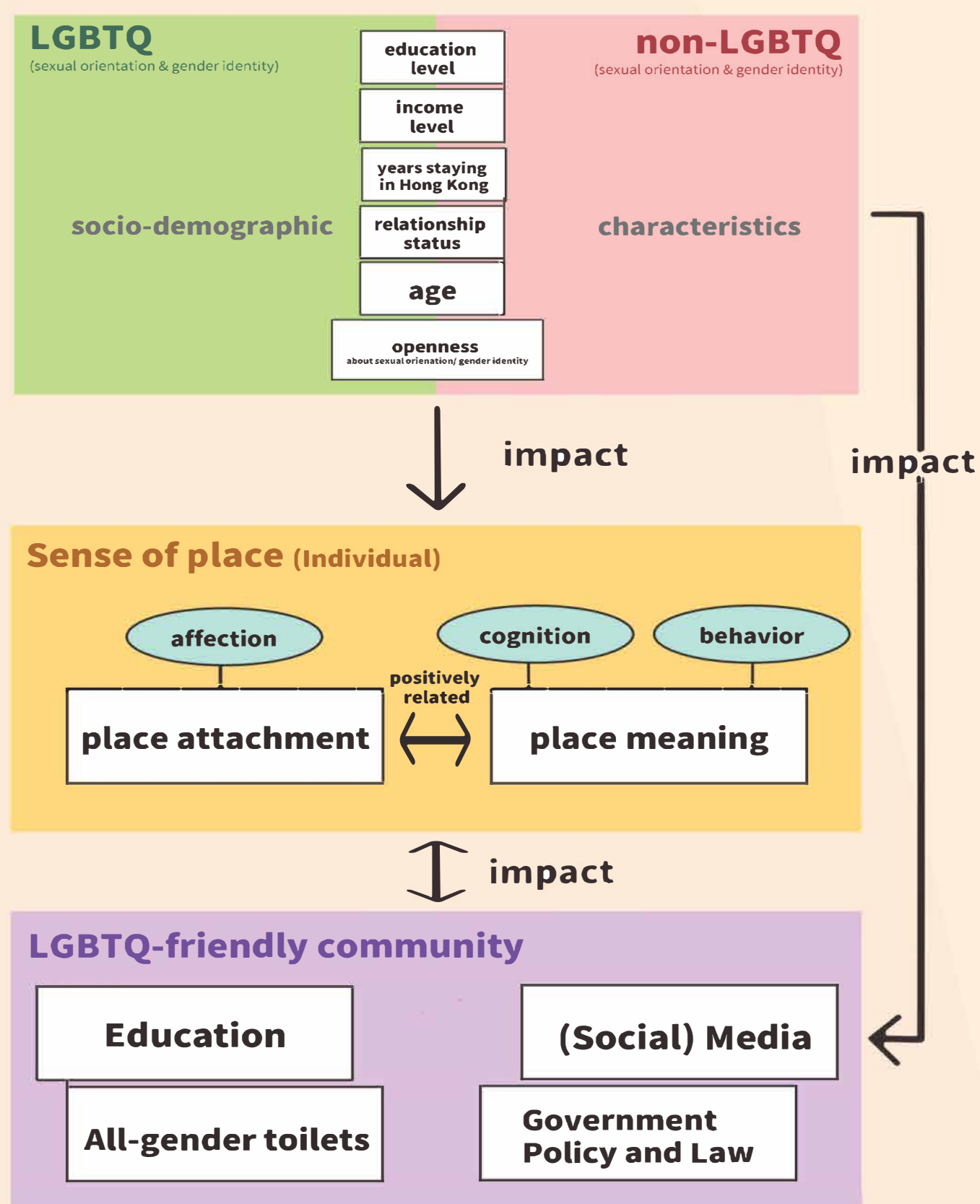
Background

- Growing discussion on the recognition of LGBTQ groups
- Hong Kong will be co-hosting the gay games in 2023
- LGBTQ groups are undoubtedly part of Hong Kong society; perception and acceptance are still controversial within HK
- Understand the sense of place of LGBTQ & non-LGBTQ groups, development of a more LGBTQ-friendly society

Objectives

- Scrutinize the development of the sense of place among people of different sexual orientations within Hong Kong
- Investigate factors affecting the sense of place of LGBTQ & non-LGBTQ
- Find out the current development of LGBTQ-friendly places in Hong Kong; suggest methods to encourage society to have more acceptance of LGBTQ community

Conceptual Framework



Methodology

- Questionnaire Survey (n=88, >18 years old)
- Semi-structured Interview (5 interviews, 9 interviewees)
- Site Observation (4 sites)
 - CUHK
 - ONEBOOKHALF Gender Safe Space
 - Blessed Ministry Community Church
 - Tai Kwun



Major Findings & Discussion

- LGBTQ has a lower rating in sense of place than non-LGBTQ
 - but age, educational level and career is the main factor affecting sense of place
- Factors affecting sense of place
 - Uncomfortableness
 - Connection with close ones
 - Age
 - Educational level
 - Universality of Sex/gender Issues in Public Education
 - Political Concern
 - Supportive Environment that Encourages Changes
 - Heteronormativity
 - Filial Piety as Core Value
- LGBTQ-friendly elements of the sites
 - Hardware facilities (gender-friendly toilets)
 - Privacy
 - Understanding from neighbours
 - Exhibition
- Possibility of developing Physical LGBTQ Space
 - Hong Kong: 'high land price' policy
 - the mode of LGBTQ neighborhoods in the West could be not copied and reproduced in Hong Kong

Suggestions

- Education (against prejudice, acceptance of family members being LGBTQ)
- (Social) Media (exposure to on-screen gay characters favors equality endorsement; social media: develop gender and sexual identity)
- All-gender Toilets
- Government Policy and Law (address discrimination within the law; legislate protections for the LGBT community by studying foreign examples)

