

**Sexual Prejudice, Participatory Decisions, and Panoptic Control: Implications for Sexual Minorities in Sport**

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**Student Research Competition Runner-Up  
Presentation (25-minute)**

**Friday, June 1, 2007**

**10:00 AM - 10:25 AM**

The current study examines the influence of sexual prejudice on the participatory decisions of former and current athletes and parents asked to take part in a sport coached by a gay male or lesbian, respectively. Extrapolating from Foucault's conception of panoptic control, the powerful influence of sexual prejudice is also suggested to perpetuate the adherence to the norm of silence amongst gay, lesbian, and bisexual persons in sport. Findings extend the literature by demonstrating that sexual prejudice negatively influences the participatory decisions made by former and current athletes and parents toward teams coached by gay males and lesbians. Consistent with compulsory heterosexuality and gender-appropriate boundaries, these discriminatory decisions carry important managerial implications, particularly to extent that, in response to sexual prejudice and its negative consequences, GLB individuals fear psychological, physical, and professional consequences associated with their sexual minority status. Managerial considerations are offered, as are areas for future inquiry.