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**Project Title**

Social determinants, minority stress, and cognitive aging: A longitudinal study of three time points

**Project Summary**

This project will utilize data from the CLSA at three time points (Baseline, Follow-up 1 and Follow-up 2) to expand our understanding of cognitive decline among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) older Canadians. Research suggests that there are associations between minority stress, mental health and cognition. For example, there is existing evidence that members of sexual minority communities show greater cognitive decline and poorer mental health outcomes in comparison to heterosexual peers. It is hypothesized that these disparities stem from experiences of stigma and discrimination. The present project will explore changes in cognition over three time points and examine the contribution of biopsychosocial factors, emphasizing minority stress, mental health, and social support. By exploring the risks and resources in this population, this doctoral work will lay the foundation for a more comprehensive understanding of the ongoing experiences of LGBTQ+ older adults.

**Keywords**

sexuality, lesbian, gay, bisexual, aging, cognition