

Gender, Sexuality and Identity

Doctor's Office - Video 4

Mikiki:

I think that I have totally been treated differently because of my sexual orientation and I also know a number of other people - I also know a number of other people who are close to me or that I've worked with who are queer-identified or LGBT-identified that have had not pleasant experiences, or just different or othering experiences within the healthcare system. I think one of the things that happens is everything is related to sexual activity - everything gets kind of collapsed into - like any problem that I have, I'm going to get - "Oh, it's a stomach issue? Oh I'm going to get you tested for STIs because we want to just rule that out." That happened to a friend of mine that had travelled internationally and who ended up with like a parasite that was being misdiagnosed and misdiagnosed, and he just kept getting tested for STIs every time he went to the doctor. So I feel like that's a thing where sexual orientation is linked to sexual activity and therefore that is the lens in which healthcare providers see us.