Description: What if male heterosexuality and masculinity are not always what they appear to be? Using data from 60 straight-identified men who have sex with men, I argue that sexual identities are not simply descriptors for sexual attractions or behaviors; they also reflect embeddedness in certain institutions and communities. Participants' rural and small-town contexts shaped their identification with heterosexuality and masculinity, which they saw as inseparable.

Tony Silva is a postdoctoral fellow at Northwestern University. His research and teaching interests include inequality, gender, sexuality, family, rural sociology, and qualitative and quantitative methods. Using interviews and nationally representative survey data, his research examines how social contexts and intersecting social identities affect how individuals identify their sexuality and gender and select romantic partners.