

Impact of a Film on Medical Professional and Trainees' Views on LGBTQ2SIA+ Identity, History, and Medical Discrimination, with a Focus on Conversion "Therapy"

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Context

Most healthcare professionals and trainees are unaware of the impact of historical medical discrimination on modern-day homophobia and transmisia.

Aims

To assess the value of a film screening and panel discussion about LGBTQ2SIA+ identity, history, and discrimination for medical professionals and trainees.

Research Methods

- Medical professionals, staff, and trainees at Stanford University voluntarily participated in a 2-hour screening and panel discussion of "CURED," a documentary about conversion "therapy" and the effort to de-pathologize "homosexuality."
- Pre- and post- survey assessed comfort/confidence working with LGBTQ2SIA+ colleagues/patients and understanding of conversion "therapy"

Results

Participant Characteristics

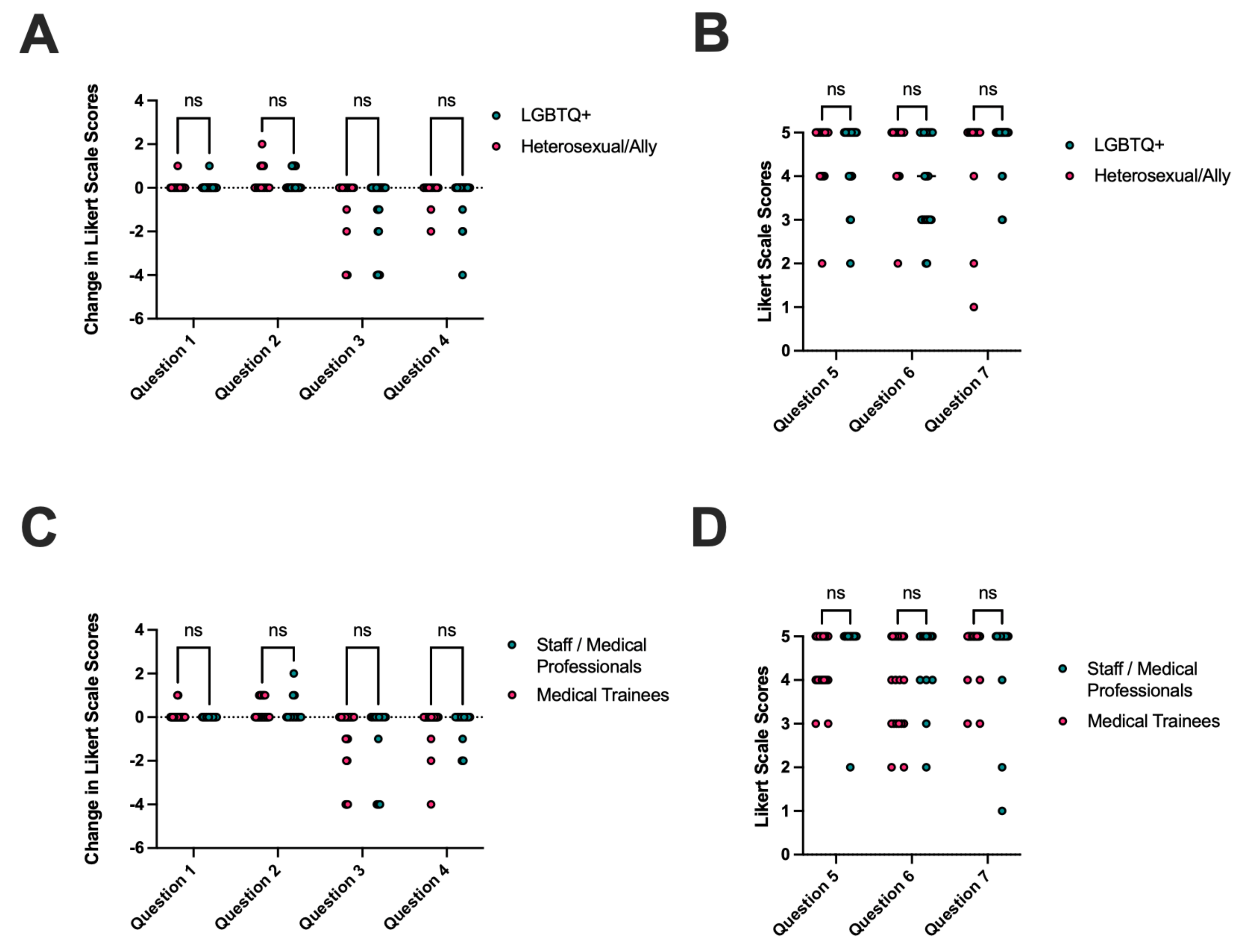
- 55 pre-, and 43 post-film screening and panel discussion survey responses
- Incomplete and duplicate responses removed
- 40 pre- and post- film screening and panel discussion survey responses were included

DEMOGRAPHICS	n (%)	Profession/Level of training	
Gender/sexual identity		Attending physician	7 (17.5%)
Gay	11 (27.5%)	Nurse	2 (5%)
Ally	9 (22.5%)	Hospital staff	5 (12.5%)
Heterosexual	5 (12.5%)	Resident physician	2 (5%)
Queer	4 (10%)	Post-doctoral student	1 (2.5%)
Bisexual	3 (7.5%)	MD or PA student	6 (15%)
Nonbinary	2 (5%)	Other graduate student	6 (15%)
Pansexual	2 (5%)	Masters student	3 (7.5%)
Lesbian	2 (5%)	Post-bac gap year	1 (2.5%)
Asexual	1 (2.5%)	Undergraduate	4 (10%)
Questioning	1 (2.5%)	Others not in medical field	3 (7.5%)
Attendance			
Both	38 (95%)		
Film only	1 (2.5%)		
Panel only	1 (2.5%)		

Survey Results

Perception Statements in Survey	Pre-mean(SD)	Post-mean (SD)	p value
Q1: I feel comfortable working with a colleague who identifies as LGBTQ2SIA+.	4.90 (0.38)	4.95 (0.22)	0.1599
Q2: I feel comfortable working with a colleague who identifies as LGBTQ2SIA+.	4.40 (0.84)	4.68 (0.66)	0.0014**
Q3: Some people can change their gender identity and/or sexual orientation if they really want to.	2.75 (1.85)	1.90 (1.57)	0.0007***
Q4: Published scientific evidence supports the efficacy of "reparative therapy" as a treatment to change one's gender identity or sexual orientation.	1.63 (0.20)	1.33 (1.02)	0.0265*

Post-event Questionnaire in Survey	Mean response (SD)
Q5: On a scale of 1-5, how much do you feel that participating in the CURED screening and discussion deepened your understanding of LGBTQ+ history?	4.53 (0.82)
Q6: On a scale of 1-5, how much do you feel that participating in the CURED screening and discussion deepened your understanding of the history of medicine	4.15 (1.03)
Q7: On a scale of 1-5, how much would you recommend health care professionals participate in similar CURED screening events at other schools?	4.65 (0.89)



Thematic Analysis



PARTICIPANT REACTIONS TO EVENT

Theme	Supporting Themes	Representative Quotes
Gratitude	Gratitude for LGBTQ+ advocates	"I feel thankful for the work of the generations before me"
	Gratitude for present-day conditions	"I feel fortunate to live in a time I can be my true self privately and publicly." "I feel grateful for the advocates and activists!"
Empathy	Heightened empathy for LGBTQ+ individuals	"I learned about the power of labeling someone with a diagnosis."
	Positive feelings towards LGBTQ+ history and community	"I learned how much pain this community has endured."
Awareness	Greater awareness of LGBTQ+ history and experiences	"I learned about what my community in the past had to go through."
	Greater awareness of advocacy	"I learned the history of APA in regards to attempts to cure homosexuality."
Anger	Negative emotions (disgust, anger, hopelessness) towards homophobia	"I feel appalled at the history of medicine's role in this" "[It] is hard to see some people just don't change their opinions (false facts)"
	Pride and connection with LGBTQ+ community	"I think there is a long way to go, I feel optimistic about our generation continuing to do the work needed." "I am inspired to continue the advocacy with my generation."

PARTICIPANT SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE EVENTS

Theme	Supporting themes	Representative quotes
Engaging Event	Format of the event (film + panel + Q&A) was engaging and relevant	"The firsthand accounts and footage of what LGBTQ folks had to go through and how they fought the APA was very powerful to learn and witness through film."
Event Suggestions	Participants wanted more opportunity to engage with the material	"A follow-up conversation about gender dysphoria and modern notions of mental illness would be appropriate."
Film Suggestions	Participants wished for more representation and historical elements in the film	"There was very little minority reference of lgbtq psychology represented. Photos of individuals were shared as well as the passing quote of being black and gay...."
Dissemination	Participants express that they would like to see the film shared and disseminated widely	"I think that this film should be shared with the student, the blue collar worker, the pastor, the sales manager; everyone needs to know this history and this film can be digested by all humans." "Would be a great thing to have a kid friendly companion way to tell story, a kids [sic] book of this inspired history, etc"

Conclusions

A 2-hour film screening and panel discussion of "CURED" was a highly effective and engaging intervention that reduced anti-LGBTQ2SIA+ bias among Stanford medical professionals and trainees and helped them feel more comfortable caring for LGBTQ2SIA+ patients.