Psychological and sociological research has provided essential insights into how stigma operates to disadvantage the social groups who are affected by it. At the same time, stigma research has been criticized for being too focused on the perceptions of stigmatized individuals and on micro-level interactions, rather than attending to structural forms of stigma. Our research project seeks to quantify the levels of sexual and gender minority-specific structural stigma across place and time, in North America in recent decades. Using the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex (LGBTI) Association (ILGA) Index, first designed and implemented by Rainbow Europe, data were extracted from credible governmental reports, informational policy sources and historical archives to identify the dates when specific social and legal protections were enacted for LGBTI individuals federally, in Canada and the USA, and across the 13 provinces and territories of Canada. We specifically examined laws and policies that have a direct impact on the LGBTI people’s human rights across six categories, namely equality and non-discrimination, family, bias-motivated speech/violence, legal gender recognition, freedom of assembly, association and expression, and asylum, were examined through the sources. Ultimately, we hope the result of our project will contribute to reducing stigma and discrimination toward sexual minorities.

Themes:
Check (highlight) the most applicable theme according to the abstract.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Innovation and Technology</th>
<th>Health and Wellness</th>
<th>Culture and Society</th>
<th>Sustainability and Conservation</th>
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Comments:

This sounds like a fantastic research project! Nice work collecting the data and identifying how policies have changed over time.

I encourage you to be clear in your presentation how stigma operates in this context and how policies can reduce stigma.