

## Biography

Niolyne Jasmin Bomolo applies intersectional and postcolonial perspectives to innovate traditional sociological theories and applies them to complex social issues that influence well-being. Her research focuses on the dynamics between social embedding and agency of sexual and gender minorities. The research explores how these dynamics interact with subjective well-being while considering the intersectionality of possibilities and limitations of agency beyond belonging to a sexual and gender minority. She aims to advance the understanding of how social embedding informs about access to different kinds of capital and unequal distribution of life chances, which have relevance to subjective well-being and, based on this, suicidality. She is undertaking her research in a Ph.D study within an SNSF-funded research project hosted by the ZHAW Institute of Public Health and is writing her dissertation in Sociology at the University of Fribourg.

## Abstract

The reported higher prevalence of suicidal behaviours of sexual and gender minorities (SGMs) compared to the majority society is a significant matter to study. Qualitative sociological research approaches on this topic are scarce; therefore, there is a missing understanding of the social dynamics that underlie the suicidality of SGMs. This PhD addressed this gap by examining how social embedding mattered for the suicidality of SGMs, building on Durkheim's initial theses on the governing social forces of suicide. Critical suicidology guided the choice of methodology and the theoretical and analytical framework, which helped define intersectionality as research ontology. The study aimed to research how social vulnerabilities, defined as limited power to act, of a minority group were constructed. SGM were investigated as examples while highlighting their experienced specificity of discriminations or privileges. By doing so, this study helps to understand better how socially constructed vulnerabilities lead to suicidality and how these vulnerabilities are connected to suicidality. The study answered the question of *how relational agency was experienced in the context of suicidality among sexual and gender minorities*. Qualitative egocentric network analysis and biographical methods were combined into a reconstructive personal network analysis, and the data was collected through individual interviews during two meetings with SGMs who tried to end their lives, experienced suicidal ideation or showed no experience with suicidality. Secondary data was added, collected through problem-centred interviewing that focussed on suicide attempt processes of SGMs that tried to end their lives accompanied by the perspective of their social environment. The different data collected from the various participant perspectives and

experiences were triangulated to enhance the depth of analysis and the depiction of the phenomenon.