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**Ideal Homes? Class, Gender and Sexuality in the Lesbian and Gay Home**

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Meanings and experiences of 'home' have been a key focus for social scientist academics since the 1960s. Everyday meanings of home vary from defining the private, to shelter, identity affirming, safety and security, through to the setting of the (heterosexual) family unit. Such understandings are limited and have been critiqued by theorists who have drawn attention to problematic understandings of the public/private binary. In offering more complex understandings of 'home', the paper will draw on a number of key studies focused upon lesbians and gay men's experiences of home. In so doing it will answer calls for more attention to be given to everyday home spaces and meanings of home for lesbians and gay men. The paper will draw on data from twenty-three in depth semi-structured interviews with lesbians and gay men in Newcastle. Through focusing on their experiences of 'home', the complex intersections of home with sexuality, gender, age and socio-economic class will be theorized. It will be argued that the lesbian or gay home represents a number of contradictions which problematises the public/private binary and taken for granted everyday assumptions concerning the home.

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