

# Eddy M. Elmer, MA

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## Education

**2015 - present**

**Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam**

Ph.D., Social Gerontology

Dissertation: *Minority Stress and Loneliness Among Older LGBT Adults*  
I am examining mediators linking minority stress and loneliness in later life. This study is based on data I collected from 15,000 respondents around the world as part of a larger study on sexuality and mental well-being.

Supervisors:

Prof.dr. Theo van Tilburg, Professor of Sociology & Social Gerontology

Dr. Tineke Fokkema, Senior Researcher, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute, The Hague

**2009 - 2012**

**Simon Fraser University**

Master of Arts, Gerontology (Health & Aging Track)

Thesis: *Development and Initial Validation of a Scale to Measure the Latent Structure of Physical Attractiveness Among Young and Older Gay Men*

Supervisor: Dr. Norm O'Rourke, Associate Professor of Gerontology

**2000 - 2007**

**Simon Fraser University**

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology (Minor: Counseling & Human Development)

Bachelor of General Studies (Minor: Gerontology)

**1996 - 1999**

**University of Toronto, University College**

English and Psychology

## Research Interests

- ◆ mental health and aging
- ◆ evolutionary psychology of mental health
- ◆ causes and consequences of social isolation and loneliness
- ◆ sexuality and LGBTQ aging
- ◆ psychometrics and scale development

**Relevant Experience**

- April 2012 - Present**      **City of Vancouver Seniors' Advisory Committee**  
*Committee Member and Secretary*
- ◆ appointed by City Council to advise on issues affecting older adults
  - ◆ assist with City's efforts to gain World Health Organization status as a Global Age-Friendly City
  - ◆ provide research support for initiatives on social isolation and loneliness
  - ◆ record meeting minutes
  - ◆ edit motions and press releases
  - ◆ maintain Committee website and social media presence
- January 2013 - July 2014**      **City of Vancouver LGBTQ Advisory Subcommittee on Safe, Healthy and Engaged Communities**  
*Subcommittee Member*
- ◆ advised Council on health and safety issues affecting LGBTQ people
  - ◆ worked collaboratively with other civic committees on issues of mutual interest
- January 2012 - March 2012**      **QMUNITY, British Columbia's LGBTQ2+ Resource Centre**  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
*Intern*
- ◆ reviewed B.C. Ombudsperson's report on improving elder care
  - ◆ developed resources for professionals working with older LGBTQ clients (home support workers, residential care aides)
- August 2010 - December 2012**      **Simon Fraser University Men's Sexuality Study**  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
*Lead Researcher*
- ◆ co-ordinated study of factors related to mental and physical health of young and older gay men around the world
- May 2010 - June 2013**      **Simon Fraser University, Department of Gerontology**  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
*Research Assistant to Dr. Norm O'Rourke*
- ◆ conducted literature reviews
  - ◆ assisted with grant applications (SSHRC, CIHR, Michael Smith)
  - ◆ assisted with studies on depression and divorce in later life

- May 2009 - August 2009**      **Simon Fraser University, Department of Gerontology**  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
*Teaching Assistant for GERO 300: Introduction to Gerontology*
- ◆ facilitated online discussions
  - ◆ graded papers and exams
- January 2008 - April 2008**      **Simon Fraser University, Department of Psychology**  
Burnaby, British Columbia  
*Teaching Assistant for PSYC X99W: Brain, Mind & Society*
- ◆ taught writing process
  - ◆ graded papers and exams
- December 1998 - 2015**      **Self-employed, Hamilton, Ontario; Vancouver, British Columbia**
- ◆ edited and proof-read technical documents
  - ◆ consulted on Internet data collection
- May 1998 - December 1998**      **University of Toronto Health Services, Medical Division, Webmaster**
- ◆ managed website for student health information
- May 1996 - September 1999**      **Stanley M. Tick & Associates, Barristers & Solicitors, Hamilton, Ontario**  
*IT Manager*
- ◆ implemented and maintained firm's computer network
  - ◆ implemented new office management and accounting system
  - ◆ purchased hardware and software
  - ◆ trained staff on computer network
- September 1994 - September 1998**      **Stanley M. Tick & Associates, Barristers & Solicitors, Hamilton, Ontario**  
*Law Librarian, Research Assistant, Webmaster*
- ◆ maintained law library
  - ◆ retrieved and compiled case law
  - ◆ trained staff in electronic legal research
- September 1993 - June 1994**      **Williams & Johnson, Barristers & Solicitors, Hamilton, Ontario**  
*Law Librarian and Research Assistant*
- ◆ maintained law library
  - ◆ implemented electronic research system
  - ◆ retrieved and compiled case law

**Journal Articles**

Paterson, T. S. E., O'Rourke, N., Elmer, E. M., Shapiro, R. J., & Thornton, W. L. (2011). The Composition and Structure of Depressive Symptomatology in Renal Disease. *Canadian Journal of Behavioral Science, 43* (4), 318-327.

Elmer, E. M., Kuyper, L., & Fokkema, T. (in prep). Sexual Orientation, Gender Nonconformity and Loneliness Among Older LGB Adults.

Elmer, E. M., van Tilburg, T., & Fokkema, T. (in prep). Mediators of Minority Stress and Loneliness in Older LGB Adults.

Elmer, E. M., & O'Rourke, N. (in prep). Development and Initial Validation of the Gay Men's Physical Attractiveness Scale.

**Reviewer Activities**

**2013 – Present** Psychology Division Abstracts for the Annual Scientific and Educational Meetings of the Canadian Association on Gerontology

**Other Writing and Publication**

**2003 – 2006** **International Society for Existential Psychology and Psychotherapy**  
*Webmaster, Writer*

**2000 – Present** Articles on variety of topics for community newspapers and websites: *Xtra!, Westender, Digital Queeries, Positive Living Newsletter, \*spark-online, The Stoney Creek News, The Hamilton Lawyer, SFU Peak*

**1997 – 1998** **Student Health Outreach Program, University of Toronto Health Services**  
*Newsletter Editor*

**1995 – 1998** **The Varsity, University of Toronto's Student Newspaper, Writer**

**Conference Presentations**

**July 25, 2017** Elmer, E. M. Validation of the Social Appearance Anxiety Scale with Older Heterosexual and Sexual Minority Men. Poster session at the 21st Annual World Congress of Geriatrics and Gerontology, San Francisco, CA.

**May 18, 2017** Elmer, E. M. van Tilburg, T., & Fokkema, T. Marginalization and Mental Health of Older LGB Adults: Mediating Roles of Loneliness and Stigma Preoccupation. Poster session at the 26th John K. Friesen & 20th British Columbia Psychogeriatric Association Conference, Vancouver, BC.

- March 22, 2017** Elmer, E. M. Measuring Sexual Orientation Disclosure vs. Concealment Across Age and Sexual Orientation Groups: Psychometric Properties of the Nebraska Outness Scale. Poster session at the 63rd Annual Meeting of the American Society on Aging, Chicago, IL.
- November 9, 2016** Elmer, E. M. Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: Age-Related Changes in Social Appearance Anxiety Among Sexual Minority Men. Presentation at the 12th Annual Gay Men's Health Summit, Vancouver, BC.
- October 22, 2016** Elmer, E. M. Mate Preferences Based on Age and Sexual Orientation: Testing an Evolutionary Hypothesis. Poster session at the 45th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association on Gerontology, Montréal, QC.
- March 22, 2016** Campbell, H., & Elmer, E. M. Loneliness & the Law: Rethinking the Right to Refuse Support and Assistance. Presentation at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the American Society on Aging, Washington, DC.
- November 13, 2015** Campbell, H., & Elmer, E. M. The Lonely Client: Identifying Psycholegal "Soft Spots" in the Solicitor-Client Relationship. Paper at the 2015 Canadian Conference on Elder Law, Vancouver, BC.
- November 5, 2015** Elmer, E. M. The Pain with Many Faces: Challenges in Identifying Chronic Loneliness in Older Gay Men. Presentation at the 11th Annual Gay Men's Health Summit, Vancouver, BC.
- October 25, 2015** Elmer, E. M. Loneliness Interventions for Older Adults in Perpetually Isolating Environments. Presentation at the 44th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association on Gerontology, Calgary, AB.
- March 25, 2015** Elmer, E. M. Sampling Older LGBT Adults via Social Media. Poster session at the 61st Annual Aging in America Conference, Chicago, IL.
- October 30, 2014** Elmer, E. M. Chronic Loneliness Among Older Gay Men: A Biopsychosocial Model. Presentation at the 10th Annual Gay Men's Health Summit, Vancouver, BC.
- March 11, 2014** Elmer, E. M. Measuring Internalized Homonegativity in Young and Older Gay Men. Poster session at the 60th Anniversary Meeting of the American Society on Aging, San Diego, CA.
- November 7, 2013** Elmer, E. M. Effects of Sexually-Explicit Material on Dimensions Underlying Gay Men's Physical Attractiveness Judgements. Presentation at the 9th Annual Gay Men's Health Summit, Vancouver, BC.

- October 19, 2012** Elmer, E. M. & O'Rourke, N. The Latent Structure of Internalized Homonegativity Among Young and Older Gay men. Poster session at the 41st Annual Scientific and Educational Meeting of the Canadian Association on Gerontology, Vancouver, BC.
- October 19, 2012** Elmer, E. M. & O'Rourke, N. The Latent Structure of Physical Attractiveness Judgments Among Young and Older Gay Men. Poster session at the 41st Annual Scientific and Educational Meeting of the Canadian Association on Gerontology, Vancouver, BC.
- August 2, 2012** O'Rourke, N., Elmer, E. M., & Polchenko, N. Between-Sex and Within-Couple Patterns of Depressive Symptoms Among Long-Wed Husbands and Wives. Poster session at the 120th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Orlando, FL.
- May 30, 2011** O'Rourke, N., & Elmer, E. M. Depressive Symptoms Among Older Husbands and Wives Over Time. Paper at the 5th Annual International Conference on Psychology at the Athens Institute for Education and Research, Athens, Greece.

#### **Invited Talks and Panel Discussions**

- October 12, 2014** Loneliness: A Biopsychosocial Perspective. Guest lecture for PrimeTimers, Vancouver, BC.
- October 1, 2014** The Paradox of Loneliness. Public lecture for National Seniors' Day, Vancouver Public Library, Central Branch.
- May 30, 2014** Loneliness: From Genetic Predisposition to Social Perception. Guest lecture for the West End Seniors' Network Volunteer Training Program, Vancouver, BC.
- April 30, 2014** Loneliness: A Biopsychosocial Perspective. Guest lecture for the Gay and Gray, The Roundhouse Community Centre, Vancouver, BC.
- March 3, 2014** Discussant, National Seniors Council of Canada Regional Roundtable on Social Isolation and Seniors, Vancouver, BC.
- November 30, 2011** Disparities Among Older Gay Adults in the Healthcare System. Guest lecture for Simon Fraser University Health Ethics Club.
- June 15, 1992** Interview on Canadian unity, *TalkLine* with Roy Green, AM900 CHML, Hamilton, ON.

### Guest Lectures

**2011-Present** Guest lectures on mental health and sexuality in the Department of Gerontology, Simon Fraser University:

- GERO101: Aging and Society
- GERO300: Introduction to Gerontology
- GERO400: Applied Gerontology
- GERO408: Families Over the Life Course
- GERO410: Sexuality and Aging

### Community Service

**March 2014 - August 2014** **W.E. Are SAFE, Advisory Committee Member**

- ◆ federally-funded New Horizons for Seniors project to educate businesses and individuals in Vancouver's West End about financial abuse of older adults

**January 2003 - May 2004** **Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of British Columbia**  
*24-Hour Crisis Line Counsellor*

- ◆ 230 hours providing emotional support to callers in distress
- ◆ suicide intervention
- ◆ referring callers to appropriate resources

### Technical Skills

Survey & scale development, online data collection, structural equation modeling, SPSS, AMOS, Qualtrics

### Additional Languages

French: conversant, written; Serbo-Croatian: conversant

### Awards and Scholarships

**2015** Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, 4-Year Doctoral Fellowship

**2015** Canadian Association on Gerontology Student Travel Grant

**2012** Canadian Association on Gerontology, Student Poster Competition: Top-Ranked MA Student Poster (Psychology Division)

<b>2012</b>	Canadian Association on Gerontology Student Travel Grant
<b>2009</b>	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, CGS Master's Fellowship
<b>2009</b>	Isabel Dawson Memorial Award in Gerontology
<b>2008</b>	Simon Fraser University Graduate Fellowship
<b>2008</b>	New York University MSW Entrance Scholarship (Declined)
<b>2006</b>	Simon Fraser University Honour Roll, Summer and Fall
<b>2002</b>	Gold Key International Honour Society
<b>2002</b>	Simon Fraser University Honour Roll, Spring and Winter
<b>1995</b>	United Steelworkers of America Scholarship
<b>1995</b>	J.S. McLean Memorial Scholarship, University of Toronto
<b>1995</b>	United Steelworkers of America: John Lennie Memorial Scholarship
<b>1995</b>	Stelco Scholarship
<b>1995</b>	Ontario Scholar Award
<b>1994</b>	Dofasco Partners in Education Award
<b>1993</b>	Henry Birks & Sons Medal for Proficiency in English
<b>1993</b>	Canadian Clubs Centennial Conference Writing Award
<b>1992</b>	Stoney Creek Youth Ambassador

### **Memberships**

**Canadian Association on Gerontology**, Psychology Division, Student Member

**American Society on Aging**, Student Member

**American Psychological Association**, Student Member

**Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality**, Student Member

**Human Behavior and Evolution Society**, Student Member