The current picture of people who differ in their gender identity and/or their sexual orientation from the social norm, which is marked by gender dichotomy & heterosexuality, is characterized by clichés. A good ten years after the introduction of the general Equal Treatment Act, deviations from heteronormativity still need to be clarified. For many people, prejudices, preoccupations & discrimination are still the way of dealing with their "foreign". Even today individuals who differ from the heteronormative social norms make a conscious decision against an open & visible life with their gender identity &/or sexual orientation, & thus remain invisible.

Besides the traditional development tasks adolescents have to cope with, which also include dealing with their sexual orientation & the consolidation of their gender identity, there are more & more possibilities to (not) position themselves in their gender & sexuality nowadays (Fig. 1). In a certain sense – analogous to the trend of the de-structuring of biographies – one can speak of a de-structuring & de-standardization here too.

The sample consists of experts (educational staff working with LGBTIQ+people) & LGBTIQ+people (cis: lesbian women, gay men, bi- & pansexual men & women; trans*: transwomen, transmen).

How I got to it: I distributed self-made flyers (Fig. 2) at CS&Ds & in relevant meeting points, & spread the flyer digitally on the internet using a pyramid system.

To gain more knowledge about circumstances & ways queer adolescents need counseling, interviews with experts (consultants who are already active in the queer field), but mainly with LGBTIQ+people were conducted. This should give indications about situations & structures (in dealing with themselves, family members, friends, partners &/or institutions) which felt particularly critical or supportive.

By means of so-called "problem-centered interviews" (Witzel, 1982), methodologically assigned to Symbolic Interactionism & the Grounded Theory (GT) (Fig. 3), the interviewees should be encouraged to reconstruct their experiences, perceptions, interpretations & reflections on the given subject area. There's always the possibility to set subjective emphases beyond the subject-matter focused by the interviewer, whereby the life & everyday relevance & aspects of each individual narrative can be classified into a social framework & a reference between individual & social levels.

The interviews were recorded & transcribed literally to evaluate & analyze them according to GT. Social phenomena are to be systematically worked out in order to design a plausible, dense & subject-related theory that allows new insights & above all, practical use. The research process follows an iteratively cyclical streamlined basic structure (Strübing, 2004). Data collection, evaluation & theory formation don't necessarily follow each other sequentially, but take place in repetitive & changing loops.