With an ageing population, dementia is a growing social concern. An estimated 44.35 million people worldwide were living with dementia in 2013 and this is predicted to rise to 75.62 million by 2030 and 135.46 million by 2050.

Given that ‘dementia does not discriminate’, a significant proportion of people with dementia, and their families, friends and carers, are lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or trans* (LGBT*). While LGBT* people living with dementia share many of the experiences and concerns of non-LGBT* people, theirs are also informed by the social marginalisation associated with the intersecting social positions of ‘LGBT*’. They are also informed by the readiness, or not, of services to recognise, understand and meet their needs.

Dr Sue Westwood, University of Oxford, outlines the key issues and good practice guidelines, based on the new international edited collection ‘Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans* People Living with Dementia: Concepts, practice and rights’ of which Sue is lead editor.