

Esther Rothblum is Professor of Women's Studies at San Diego State University and LGBTQ Studies advisor. She is editor of the *Journal of Lesbian Studies* as well as *Fat Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Body Weight and Society*. Her research and writing have focused on LGBT relationships and mental health as well as on the stigma of weight. Esther has edited 27 books, including *The Fat Studies Reader* and *Preventing Heterosexism and Homophobia*.

Esther has compared lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals to their heterosexual siblings, as well as transgender to cisgender siblings. There has been little research on sexual orientation and gender identity that uses appropriate comparison groups. An ongoing longitudinal project compares same-sex couples who were united in a civil union during the first year this legislation was available in the U.S. (in the State of Vermont, July 2000 to July 2001) with their same-sex coupled friends who did not have civil unions, and with their married heterosexual siblings. Our research team focused on demographic and relationship information, presence of children, social support from friends and family, conflict, and mental health. Esther is also interested in ways that women connect with each other in non-sexual ways. She has edited the books *Lesbians Ex-Lovers*, *Lesbian Friendships*, and *Lesbian Communities* and is currently studying asexuality.

Esther has also conducted research on the stigma of weight, including weight and employment discrimination, women's weight in an international context, and the ways in which women cope with the stigma of weight.