

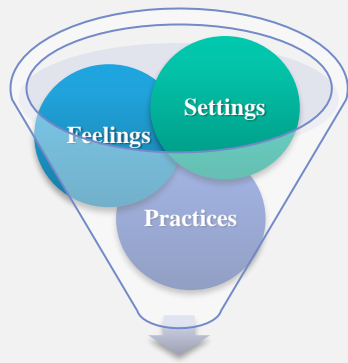
# A Homing Journey: Notions of Home during the COVID-19 pandemic

## Research Question

How notions of home among the current LGBTQI+ Erasmus Mundus master students have been shaped during the COVID-19 pandemic?

## Theoretical Framework

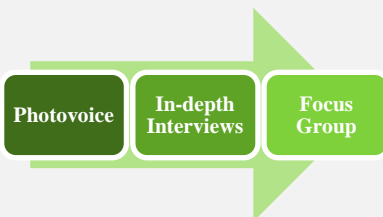
**Queer** → Serves to provide a reinterpretation and a critique of the home's heteronormative model.



### Homing

Where people attach a sense of home

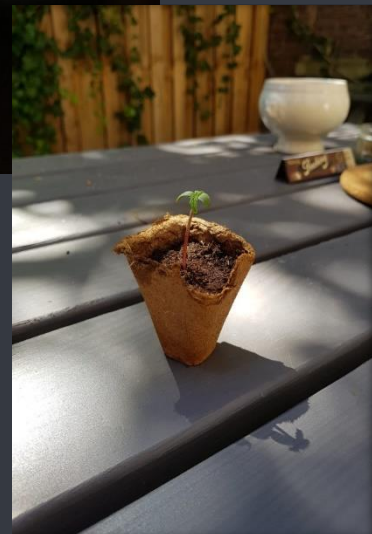
## Methodology



Sophie, 2020



Martha, 2020



Emine., 2020

## Findings

1. The COVID-19 pandemic created a new space for some of them to understand and review how they lived their sexual orientation during their home experience with themselves and their families. Homing functions as a process of inclusions and exclusions that build up what they can define as home or not to subvert and resist heteronormative patterns.
2. The COVID-19 pandemic deconstructs the usual romanticized and positive connotation of home by adding a constant feeling of fear and discomfort, limiting their homing options as they wanted. The government's mobility and migration restrictions illustrated how external circumstances shape the process of homing and might create forced experiences. They created new meanings of inhabiting internal and external spaces by finding belonging, safety, control, and familiarity in old and new practices.
3. They engaged with support dynamics with their loved ones over the distance to cope with the emotions (anxiety, fear, uncertainty) that the COVID-19 pandemic brought into their lives. Due to the COVID-19 measures, memories became a way to recreate and bring up home-like elements from their past that were lacking in their present. In this way, they tried to seek their own sense of home by adding and subtracting symbolical meanings to objects, places, relationships, and memories.
4. They embodied home through reflections and understandings of the importance of the body during the COVID-19 pandemic, placing the body as an active agent that creates new sites of attachments.

