



Association of
Counseling Sexology
&
Sexual Wellness

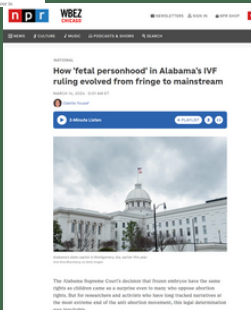
ACSSW Late Winter/Early Spring 2024 Newsletter

SEX



in the

News



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- ACSSW at 2024 ACA Conference in NOLA
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The mission of ACSSW, an Organizational Affiliate of ACA, is to promote sexuality as a central aspect of being human that includes the intersection of intrapersonal and interpersonal influences on sexual expression and experiences.

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Winter Newsletter
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Letter from ACSSW President...

by Shannon Shoemaker, PhD, LCPC, LMHC, NCC

Dear ACSSW Members,

Spring is blossoming all around us, bringing new energy and vitality. I hope this season finds you well and engaged in the important work of promoting sexual wellness.

I'm writing with several exciting updates for our association. These webinars will explore the latest research and clinical approaches to helping clients enhance sexual satisfaction and well-being. The series will feature expert speakers discussing topics such as the science of arousal, communication techniques for couples, and strategies for overcoming common sexual challenges. Stay tuned for registration details in the coming weeks.

In addition, I want to remind you about our association's gathering at the American Counseling Association Conference in Orlando on April 11th from 3pm-5pm in Grand Salon C – Section 13&16 at the Hilton Riverside Hotel. This will be a wonderful opportunity to connect with colleagues, discuss emerging issues in our field, and of course, enjoy each other's company.

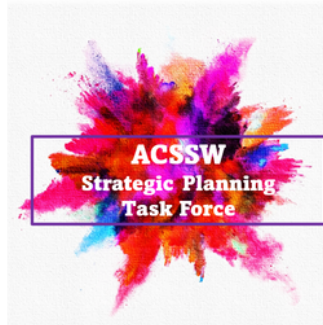
In addition to our upcoming events, I want to share an exciting update on the crucial work being undertaken by our Strategic Plan Task Force. This dedicated team is tirelessly crafting a comprehensive 5-Year Strategic Plan that will serve as a guiding light for our organization's growth and impact in the coming years.

The Task Force is focusing on two key areas: Organizational Identity and Organizational Structure and Governance. In terms of Organizational Identity, they are working to develop a clear and compelling mission and vision statement that captures the essence of who we are and what we aspire to achieve. They are also defining our core values and principles, which will serve as the foundation for all of our work. Additionally, they are exploring ways to enhance our branding and image to better communicate our unique value proposition to our stakeholders. The Task Force is also working to secure 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, which will open up new opportunities for funding and partnerships. Finally, they are committed to strengthening our diversity and inclusion policies to ensure that we are creating a welcoming and equitable environment for all.

In terms of Organizational Structure and Governance, the Task Force is taking a close look at the composition and roles of our Board of Directors, including the responsibilities of the Executive Committee. They are also working to clarify our committee structures, functions, and descriptions to ensure that everyone has a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. The Task Force is assessing our staffing and human resources needs to ensure that we have the right people in place to support our growth and development. They are also exploring ways to improve volunteer engagement and management to ensure that we are making the most of the incredible talent and dedication of our members. Building on our existing leadership development programs, the Task Force is looking for ways to provide even more opportunities for our members to develop their skills and take on leadership roles within the organization. Finally, they are working on implementing a succession planning process to identify and onboard future leaders to ensure a smooth transition and continuity of our work.

The Strategic Plan Task Force is committed to creating a roadmap for ACSSW's future that is both ambitious and achievable. As we move into this season of renewal, I'm inspired by the important work each of you is doing to promote sexual health, pleasure, and wellbeing for people of all ages and backgrounds. Your compassion and expertise uplift our profession.

Wishing you a joyful spring,
Shannon Shoemaker
President, Association of Counseling Sexology and Sexual Wellness



Call for Nominations: ACSSW 2025 Election



by Laurie Bonjo, President-Elect

As the President-Elect, I am honored to announce the call for nominations for the Association of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness (ACSSW), an Organizational Affiliate of the American Counseling Association (ACA), for positions to be voted on for the upcoming 2024-2025 year. Pursuant to the ACSSW bylaws, as the President-Elect, I am charged with seeking and selecting nominees for each of the positions to be elected for the next term. I will submit a slate of candidates/nominees for approval by the Board at the annual meeting which will take place virtually May 10, 2024.

Positions Open for Nomination ARE...

President- Elect:

The President-Elect shall perform the duties of the President in the absence or incapacity of the President as determined by the Board. The President-Elect shall assume the Presidency of ACSSW upon the death or resignation of the President. The President- Elect shall coordinate the nominations process for all elections except those expressly excluded by the Bylaws. The President-Elect, subject to confirmation by the Board, shall appoint members of committees and the Treasurer, in accordance with and except as otherwise specified in ACSSW Bylaws, policies and procedures. The term of office for the President-Elect is July 1st through June 30th. After which time the President-Elect will become President and serve a one-year term of July 1st through June 30th.

If you are an ACSSW member in good standing and wish to nominate someone for either or both of the open positions, send the nominees name and email to bonjoll@southernct.edu.

Graduate Student Representative:

The Graduate Student Representative is a voting member of the ACSSW Board of Directors. The Board meets a minimum of once per year, usually during the ACA Annual Conference. The Graduate Student Representative must be a graduate student in a counseling-related field as of July 1, 2024. The Graduate Student Representative may graduate during their term without losing their title, role, rights. The term of office for the Graduate Student Representative is a one-year term of July 1st through June 30th.

The deadline for submitting nominations is Friday, April 12, 2024. Nominees for both the President- Elect and Graduate Student Representative must be members of ACSSW as well as members of ACA in good standing. Please be sure to confirm this prior to making the nomination. Additionally, you will need to provide the nominees email.

Student Service Employees Discuss the Silence Surrounding Student Sex Workers

Julia Lancaster, PhD, LPC and Tracey Sagar, PhD

The Student Sex Workers Project (TSSWP) (Sagar et al., 2015) was a large-scale data collection and service study that spanned three years (June 2012 -June 2015), collecting questionnaire data from 6,773 students in Wales, England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. The primary aim of the study was to deconstruct stigma and stereotyping of university students in the sex industry. Research members collected the approximate number of students involved in the sex industry, their motivations, and perceived benefits and drawbacks all in efforts to better inform staff, faculty, and stakeholders about the needs of students engaged in the sex industry.

The project also provided a confidential forum and one-on-one counseling with a certified sexologist for the student project members engaged in the sex industry. Additionally, utilizing Freedom of Information Requests and semi-structured interviews, this was one of two studies to determine if a university policy exists to safeguard students working in the sex industry, similar to diversity, equity, and inclusion, from academic discrimination efforts (Cusick et al., 2009). Moreover, this was the first known published study focusing on student support service member's perceptions of sex work, their experiences with, and responses to disclosure (Sagar et al., 2015).

Literature Review

Much of the published literature on student sex workers centers on the phenomenological perspective of students including student sex workers and non-student sex workers. The literature shows investigations into the reality of social isolation due to stigmatization, and demographic data collection. With some studies reporting a higher frequency of cisgender male participants in the sex industry than cisgender females. The literature also underscores that students working in the sex industry have intersectional identities of LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC as well as various levels of physical ability. Additionally, there was variance when examining why students enter the sex industry. TSSWP measured three main reasons the majority of the students endorsed. They were to fund my lifestyle (63.5%), I thought I would enjoy the work (59.0%), and to fund higher education (56.9%) as the top three reasons (Sagar et al., 2015).

Additional studies follow faculty members who identify as either current or past sex workers experiencing "whoredemia", sex workers living lives of duality in academic spaces, choosing to remain silent or live openly and experience the consequences of nefarious attitudes, delegitimization, and more (Waring, 2022). In the same vein, Trueman et al. (2022) interviewed a student who was "outed".

Their academic supervisor started requesting “small favors” after discovering their employment as a sex worker. Reports too have surfaced of students being dismissed or bullied out of their educational programs when accrediting bodies question the students “fitness to practice” as being a sex worker is deemed immoral (Sagar et al., 2015). While the choice to disclose or not is voluntary, the side effects of the silence and stigma are problematic and increasingly becoming a higher education concern.

Stigma and Silence

Throughout the student sex work literature researchers and participants alike discuss stigma and silence. The silence often protects a highly stigmatized identity, but students can be immobilized when considering the accessibility of student support services such as health care and financial assistance. This widespread stigma has in part caused what the political scientist Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann (1974) termed “the spiral of silence.” The spiral of silence occurs when there is a divisive topic, a felt sense that others will reject the minority opinion, and a group whose opinions are unaffected by others’ opinions. When universities are overly concerned about disrepute and when academic programs attempt to categorize morality by creating character clauses that may expel students from courses, the risks of disclosure are high.

According to the spiral of silence the minority voice often goes unheard for fear of social isolation and chooses silence over exclusion. In a university setting being isolated from peers and others might be the lesser of the two evils when living more congruently comes with personal, professional, and academic consequences. The rampant silence due to stigma, victimization, and lack of institutional guidance leaves students distrusting student support. Sometimes expressing an outright skepticism saying student support members will not understand, be helpful or supportive (Stewart, 2021). While past research has shown student support to be unprepared to address student sex worker needs (Sagar et al., 2015) more recent research shows that some have had prior training and have had opportunities, sometimes multiple opportunities, to assist students in the sex industry (Lancaster & Sagar, 2024, manuscript in preparation). This research still confirms the need for training student service employees but it also shows a budding readiness for student sex worker support.

Methodology

In 2023 a small cross-national research study received IRB approval from respective universities in the UK and USA. With 16 participants, nine from the UK and seven from the USA, semi-structured interviews collected data regarding student support service member’s awareness of students working in the sex industry, prior training, and several questions touching on stigma, university policy, and future training needs (Lancaster & Sagar, 2024, manuscript in preparation). A qualitative and thematic analysis with semantic and latent themes followed. Near the ten-year anniversary of TSSWP, this research study also sought to understand current day perceptions and to ascertain whether the training created by the TSSWP research team needed updating. The training has been delivered to over 1000 professionals in the UK. Attendees include staff, faculty, and stakeholders such as health care workers and local law enforcement.

When the researchers asked participants "What do you imagine might be the possible effects, good or bad that come from students actually disclosing sex work to university support services?" two responded as follows:

The more students do disclose, the more there becomes an awareness. I guess not only within a university support service, but within a broader university setting and then you know, thinking even more broadly kind of across society and that can feed into education and legislation, whether that's targeting things within local authorities or government, but it would actually raise awareness. (Participant 1, UK, Lancaster & Sagar, manuscript in preparation)

In the current climate, I think universities with certain topics, there is an element of fear around how to most appropriately address things. (Participant 1, UK, Lancaster & Sagar, manuscript in preparation)

I think there would be folks that would preach and that's not fair. You have an individual who's trying to make a living, to try to put themselves through school and feed their kids or whatever they might be doing, and I think the impact at this institution might be a little bit of preaching. Now if you want to say an urban school like where my daughter goes to school, there might be a little bit less of that, maybe a lot less of that. But in a place like this, I think the conservative nature might come out. (Participant 14, USA, Lancaster & Sagar, manuscript in preparation)

The research continued to bare out examples of student support who want to help students engaged in the sex industry and who realize the systemic silence and complexity of this heavily stigmatized topic.

Discussion

The researchers cross-national data indicates the need to offer student support and faculty training and guidelines when supporting students working in the sex industry. In addition to reconsidering program's disciplinary actions such as fitness to practice as it applies to basing competence on subjective ideas of morality. Without an atmospheric change in universities the spiral of silence will persist when students with marginalized identities like those in the sex industry feel misunderstood and judged by their universities. Staff and faculty need institutional approval and a sense of security to discuss the myriad of topics related to student sex work. While the choice to disclose or not is always the individual's right, creating an accepting atmosphere based on knowledge is slowly becoming available. A whole sector approach can start with reassurance that speaking up will not be penalized.

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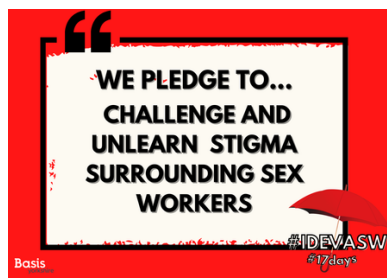
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Empathy and Understanding: Fostering a Safe Space for Parents as Children Explore Their Sexual Identities

Sarah Evans Zalewski, Ph.D., NCC, BC-TMH, ACS, LPC

All children struggle with feeling as if they are different from their peers, and at times, this can be one of the great difficulties of adolescence. Adolescence is even more complicated for children struggling to figure out their diverse sexual identities in a world that can be non-representative, confusing, and very binary. Close to half of all LGBTQ youth have seriously considered ending their lives in the past year (The Trevor Project, 2022). Difficulties with peers and struggles within educational systems are pervasive and natural things that some children deal with, but perhaps the most challenging thing for many stems from the feelings of acceptance and caring they hope to experience in their homes. Feeling supported by their parents is a protective factor for the mental well-being of children who are experiencing gender nonconformity (MacMullin et al., 2021). This article hopes to offer counselors doing so much outstanding work with children some concrete tools to use with the parents of these children.

First and foremost, parents need to learn about what their children are experiencing. Psychoeducation is well within the wheelhouse of a clinician, and parents may be eager to learn; recent research by The Trevor Project indicates that 72% of all adults would be understanding and supportive of their child if they came out as gender diverse or trans (2022). In the words of a parent I worked with, "I just don't understand, and I desperately want to." We provide parents with tools in many other situations, and working with children exploring their sexual diversity is no different.

Parents often lack the language and knowledge needed to support their children, and often, their children lack this same information, particularly regarding their feelings (Schimmel-Bristow et al., 2018). As the counselor, you can provide both the child and parent with feeling words that they can use to describe, to themselves and each other, the immense and sometimes confusing feelings they are processing. In addition to the language surrounding their feelings, perhaps even more important is providing parents with the terms their child would like them to use to describe their identity. This includes helping parents be more comfortable with the names and pronouns their child is using. Using these names and pronouns is one of the most supportive things parents did for adolescents in a study that examined this (Hale et al., 2021). Clinicians can help parents by providing glossaries found online on sites such as the Human Rights Campaign (Human Rights Campaign, 2023) and PFLAG (PFLAG, n.d.).

Clinicians need to be aware that this is difficult for parents to process, and it may bring up many thoughts, memories, and feelings from their own past experiences. Parents will experience many emotions during this process, including feelings of grief and loss. They may also need to address fears and concerns about potential stigma and its impact on their children and themselves (Dunlap et al., 2023). These fears and concerns can be compounded by their own beliefs, including religious beliefs (Reed et al., 2020).

There are many situations that parents need to navigate during this journey, and ongoing support may be needed for the parent and child. Parents must develop strategies for navigating conversations with family and friends and healthcare systems. Parents may need support in advocating for their children in the face of legislation that may be discriminatory, as living in the presence of such legislation can be detrimental to a healthy life (Nelson et al., 2023). Clinicians can provide this support and can also act as advocates for LGBTQ+ rights (Jackson et al., 2023). Clinicians can facilitate parents joining with community activism groups, as well as national organizations. We can also model what community activism looks like by joining with such groups, including ACA divisions such as SAIGE.

Clinicians need to be able to hold the Rogerian skills of unconditional positive regard, accurate empathy, and congruence with their clients and their parents during this time of processing and learning. To join helpfully with parents, the clinician must first take some time to consider their feelings and backgrounds, as well as their own biases and prejudices. Clinicians hold space for their clients' parents and lead them through some challenging discussions, using empathy and unconditional positive regard. Clinicians should also consider if it would be better for the child and parent if the parent were to do this work in conjunction with their own therapist and be able to provide referrals for this. Parents can also be served by being connected with support groups, which can be helpful for some parents (Dunlap et al., 2023). Clinicians can utilize 211 as well as community networks to locate these groups.

Clinicians are incredible support to children who are exploring their identities and are instrumental in supporting parents who are watching their children navigate this process. Parental support is essential for all children and may be even more so for children struggling to understand their identity in a nonrepresentational, judgmental world. Through psychoeducation, joining with parents in a Rogerian fashion, and providing helpful referrals, clinicians can help their child clients have a strong relationship with their parents, providing their clients with a crucial protective factor.

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Response to Death of Nex Benedict

by Jeff Strozier, PhD, LCPC

ACSSW Newsletter Contributing Editor & Social Justice Committee Co-Chair

A school community should be a safe and supportive environment for all youth including those who identify as LGBTGQIAP+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender expansive, queer, intersex, asexual, pansexual+). Unfortunately, this is not the case for many youths who identify as LGBTGQIAP+ including Nex Benedict. On February 8, 2024, Nex Benedict was pronounced dead one day after a reported violent fight within the restroom of Owasso High School in Oklahoma. Nex was reportedly subjected to ongoing bullying and harassment by peers due to their gender identity which culminated in the reported fight. We mourn the loss of Nex, 16 years old, who enjoyed drawing, reading, and playing Minecraft. This tragic incident highlights ongoing concerns of the LGBTGQIAP+ community including the effects of bullying and harassment and the lack of support many youth find within schools to address this issue.

In 2022 the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) conducted a survey of 13,000 LGBTQ+ youth ages 13-18 on issues related to safety at school (Human Rights Campaign, 2023). The results for trans and gender-expansive youth are especially troubling and highlight ongoing challenges within school systems. The study showed trans and gender-expansive youth experience high rates of bullying at school (62.6%), feel unsafe at school (53.9%), and have experienced some form of physical violence in the last 30 days at school (20%). Additionally, schools do not provide support when bullying and violence occur. Of trans and gender-expansive youth who experienced bullying only 25% were able to report this to school officials and of those who did 50% were not provided adequate assistance by the school.

Increasingly aggressive political narratives and bills targeting those who identify as LGBTGQIAP+ exacerbate vulnerabilities for the community resulting in higher rates of bullying and long-lasting effects on mental health. In Oklahoma alone there were 50 bills introduced in the last legislative session targeting the LGBTGQIAP+ community (The Oklahoman, 2024). And overall, in 2023 there were 500 bills introduced across the US targeting LGBTGQIAP+ with more than half of those targeted at LGBTGQIAP+ youths (Williams Institute, 2023).

Regardless of legislative status of these bills, the introduction and political discourse surrounding these bills leaves lasting effects on the health and well-being of LGBTGQIAP+ identities. A national survey of shows that 93% of transgender and nonbinary youth worry about being denied access to gender-affirming medical care, 91% worry about being denied bathroom access, and 83% worry about being denied the right to play sports due to state or local laws (The Trevor Project, 2022). And as of January 2024, nearly 1 in 3 LGBTQ youth said their mental health was poor most of the time or always due to anti-LGBTQ policies and legislation (The Trevor Project, 2023).

In alignment with our organization's mission, the Association of Counseling Sexology and Sexual Wellness (ACSSW) unequivocally stands in solidarity with the LGBTGEQIAP+ community. ACSSW remains committed to advocating and fighting alongside our friends, family, coworkers, peers, and community members impacted by violence, bullying, and divisive, harmful bills.

ACSSW is devoted to providing support, resources, and education that promotes the health and wellbeing of these populations. We condemn all violence and discrimination directed at LGBTGEQIAP+ identities and adamantly oppose legislation threatening these communities. These bills stand in direct opposition to our core values, ethical codes, and professional responsibilities as healthcare providers. ACSSW will continue working to improve standards, delivery of care, and access for LGBTGEQIAP+ populations and remains steadfast in our collective fight against oppression.

We know reading reports of violence against can be difficult. If you have experienced violence or need support, please see the resources listed below.

- The Trevor Project: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>
- Trans Lifeline: <https://translifeline.org/>
- GLAAD: <https://www.glaad.org/transgender/resources>

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Supporting LGBTQ+ Clients

by Katrina Ramirez, LPC
Assistant Editor

LGBTQ+ folks have often been targeted in many political agendas and hate crimes. When aiding LGBTQ+ identifying clients, many may express fear, experiences with microaggressions, and/or trauma from a hate crime. As a counselor, we may be unsure on how to support LGBTQ+ identifying clients and they may be seeking more and more support as hate crimes are reported more. Below are some ways to support LGBTQ+ clients:

Identify Our Biases

Regardless of our own identities, we can hold biases on our identities and others. According to Kort (2018), we may be prone to countertransference with our own understanding of the LGBTQ+ community. Kort (2018) encourages counselors to reflect on their own transphobia/homophobia, internalized transphobia/homophobia, and homo-avoidance. Often, we may fall into the trap of one or more of these in the form of microaggression and/or uniformed comments/question.

Examples can include comments/questions such as "Who is the bottom in the relationship?", "That's too gay.", "If you have sex with men, you must be gay.", "How can you be a female with a penis?" or "Clearly, I'm a female; you should know my pronouns." In addition to microaggressions and uniformed comments/questions, one may engage in actions that express internalized transphobia/homophobia and homo-avoidance.

Examples of these may include not asking a client their gender or sexual/affectional identity due to fear of offending them, discomfort in LGBTQ+ slang (i.e. queer, gay, trans), not wanting to talk about LGBTQ+ clients' gender and/or sexual/affectional orientations (Kort, 2018). Being able to understand these biases can better help us support LGBTQ+ clients.

The following are some ways we can address our biases: naming to ourselves and/or clients "I sometimes struggle with internalized transphobia/homophobia.", discussing biases with supervisor and/or our own therapists, educating ourselves on LGBTQ+ community, put self in spaces with more LGBTQ+ folks, using gender neutral terms and check in with clients around feeling heard in their identities.

Interventions

Interventions between teen LGBTQ+ folks and adults can vary. When working with LGBTQ+ teens, many face bullying (virtual or physically), isolation, and difficulty seeking safety within peers, school, and/or family (Kort, 2018). It is important to be as LGBTQ+ affirming with language and consent. LGBTQ+ teens often don't feel there are safe spaces to express themselves (Kort, 2018; Kocet, 2014). Creating a safe space is important for all LGBTQ+ folks. Using gender neutral language with clients can show our competence in the LGBTQ+ community. For example, using the word "partner" instead of "boyfriend" or "girlfriend" or introducing yourself with your pronouns and asking client's pronouns can be ways to show your support and understanding within the LGBTQ+ community.

When creating safety with LGBTQ+ teens, it is prevalent to go over confidentiality in detail. This not only creates trust but clear boundaries of what may or may not be shared with parents/caregivers (LGTBQ Equality, n.d.). Additionally, we may want to check in with our adult LGBTQ+ clients with what they would like shared once signing an ROI (release of information) with other practitioners. Some clients may not be comfortable sharing their identities outside of therapeutic relationship. We also need to honor how the client self-identifies (Kort, 2018). This goes back to our own biases and not assuming our client's identity (LGTBQ Equality, n.d.).

According to Human Rights Campaign (Luneau, 2023), gender-based hate crimes are up 30% and sexual orientation-based hate crimes are up 13% from 2022. LGBTQ+ folks experience harassment, discrimination, violence, and hate crimes which can lead to trauma, depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, and constant fear (Kocet, 2014). Symptoms may also include self-blame, avoidance, hopelessness, confusion on identity, fear of abandonment, fear of being hurt, hyper-/hypo-sexualization, and disassociation (Kort, 2018). These mental health symptoms may be reasons LGBTQ+ clients may reach out for help. When working with LGBTQ+ folks, we sometimes need to ask "hard" questions (LGTBQ Equality, n.d.). These questions can include topics such as suicidal ideation, sexual health, harm reduction, and physical and mental safety. A trauma-informed approach is a must when navigating supporting LGBTQ+ clients.

As hate crimes increase, LGBTQ+ clients may start to seek more mental health support. As counselors, it is our job to support these clients. If supporting this population and/or the mental health symptoms are out of our scope of work, we are to refer out to a clinician that is competent in LGBTQ+ affirming care (ACA, 2014).

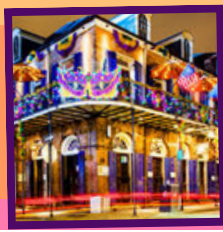
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ACA CONFERENCE
& EXPO **2024**

APRIL 11—13 | NEW ORLEANS



Association of
Counseling Sexology
&
Sexual Wellness



MEET'^N
GREET

*The Association of Counseling
Sexology & Sexual Wellness*

will host a Meet'N Greet
at the ACA Conference in New
Orleans, LA



Join ACSSW Co-Founders
Angie Schubert & Fran McClain

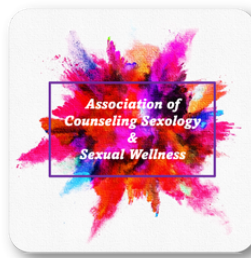
YOU'RE
INVITED!

If you are already a member or just want to know more
about ACSSW you are welcome! Bring your friends.

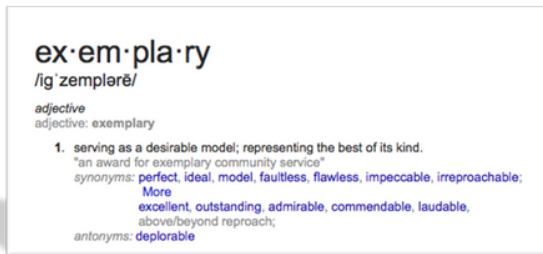
Thursday, April 11, 2024

3:00 - 5:00p

**Grand Salon C – Section 13 & 16
at the Hilton Riverside Hotel**



At the ACA Conference, New Orleans, LA, the Exemplary Practices for Counseling Sexology and Sexual Wellness, which were developed by the ACSSW Research & Scholarship Committee and endorsed by the Association of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness Board of Directors, will be introduced for the first time.



Exemplary Practices for Counseling Sexology and Sexual Wellness
Friday, April 12, 2024, 4:00 PM-5:00 PMCT
Amber L. Pope, Clark D. Ausloos, & Juliana Lytle

The Research and Scholarship Committee of the Association for Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness will introduce the Exemplary Practices for Counseling Sexology and Sexuality Counseling. The presenters will provide context and discuss the need for the exemplary practices and briefly introduce each practice area. Throughout the presentation, attendees will be asked to engage in self-reflexivity and identify strategies for improving their own practice in sexuality counseling.

ACSSW Research & Scholarship Committee

Amber L. Pope, Committee Chair
Clark D. Ausloos
Juliana Lytle
Bianca Augustine
Brean'a Parker

JOIN US ACSSW BIPOC COMMITTEE

We are looking for BIPOC individuals dedicated to research and competencies that include indigenous, spiritual, and community healing practices, which promote the importance of sexuality, education, advocacy, and scholarship in the counseling and mental health field.



Anisa Brazier-Stewart

Psychotherapist at Growing Boundlessly in the Bronzeville neighborhood of Chicago. Anisa is dedicated to working with individuals, couples, and relationships, members of the LGBTQ community, with a focus on sexual trauma, and holistic healing practices.

Dr. Monica Boyd-Lane

Associate professor at Adler University and private practice owner of Pierce Counseling. Dr. Boyd-Layne is dedicated to working with members of the LGBTQ community, trauma healing practices, and older adults of color.



INTERESTED? EMAIL US!



anisa@growingboundlessly.com
or
drmonica@piercecounselingservices.com

Sex Positivity & Sex Advocacy

Therapist & Educator

sex worker, writer, producer, provocateur, and abolitionist

Raquel Savage



Sex Worker Affirming Clinical Care

April 19, 2024

8:00AM-10:00AM PDT / 10:00AM-12:00PM CST /
11:00AM-1:00PM EST

SEX POSITIVE, NEURO-AFFIRMING COUNSELING



July 19, 2024

8:00AM-10:00AM PDT / 10:00AM-12:00PM CST /
11:00AM-1:00PM EST

Robyn Flores, LMFT, LPC, NCC, ACS (she/her) is a licensed marriage and family therapist, AAMFT supervisor candidate, licensed professional counselor, and approved clinical supervisor.

NEIL CANNON, Ph.D.



Dr. Neil Cannon is a nationally known master therapist treating issues around relationships and sex.

Pleasure & Pain: Understanding and Treating Kinky Clients

June 21, 2024

8:00AM-10:00AM PDT / 10:00AM-12:00PM CST /
11:00AM-1:00PM EST

Addressing Adolescent Sexuality Without Shame

*#Shamefreeexed
from Womb to Tomb*

August 16, 2024

8:00AM-10:00AM PDT / 10:00AM-12:00PM CST /
11:00AM-1:00PM EST



Dr. Lexx
The Sex Doc

Dr. Lexx Brown-James

Dr. Lexx Brown-James, LMFT, CSE, CSES is the premiere sexologist leading the field of sexuality with #shamefreeexed and innovative sex therapy skills. As an AASECT certified sexuality educator and supervisor, Dr. Lexx provides education and therapy from womb-to-tomb through her practice, The Institute for Sexuality & Intimacy, LLC. As a multiple time Amazon best seller and creator of [Dr. Lexx's Relationship Tune Up Cards](#) and [The Black Girls' Guide to Couple's Intimacy](#), Dr. Lexx is an international sexologist featured in Essence, The New York Times, Scary Mommy, NPR, multiple news outlets, Vice, Buzzfeed, multiple journal publications and books.

ACSSW webinars are scheduled for October 18th & December 20th. Watch for announcements with additional information on speakers. All webinars will be offered to ACSSW members for \$10.

The Office of Continuing Education at The Chicago School is now a Continuing Education Provider for the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists (AASECT).

The webinars, when attended in their entirety, offers 2.0 CEs for Psychologists, 2.0 IL CEUS for Counselors and Social Workers, 2.0 BBS California CEUs for LPCCs, LPSWs, and LMFTs, or 2.0 AASECT CEs for Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists.



Did you graduate from your counseling master's program in the past 5 years?

Want to learn more about LGBTGEQIAP+ affirming counseling?

Interested in free CEs and Amazon gift cards?

Consider participating in an upcoming research study!



https://wmsas.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6zjigXkoMRUJ1oa

Complete this interest survey and you will be contacted the last week of March with instructions on how to participate.

Contact: Dr. Amber Pope, alpope@wm.edu
William & Mary IRB # EDIRC-2023-11-07-16659-alpope

See Next Page for More Information...

Study Invitation

Interested in free CEs and \$20-50 gift cards? Sign up to participate in our LGBTGEQIAP+ affirming Counseling Training!

Are you interested in learning more about affirming counseling with LGBTGEQIAP+ communities? How about free CE hours and gift cards for completing the training?

We are seeking early career professional counselors (within 5 years of graduation from your master's program in counselor education) to participate in an IRB-approved research study to explore the effectiveness of a 5.5 hour online asynchronous training in LGBTGEQIAP+ affirming counseling. Your participation will begin on April 1, 2024.

You are eligible to participate in this study if you are a) a pre-licensed or fully licensed professional counselor and b) you graduated from your master's program in counseling within the past 5 years.

If interested in participating in the LGBTGEQIAP+ affirming counseling training and this research study, complete this survey by Thursday, March 28:
https://wmsas.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6zjgXkoMRUJl0a

You will be contacted by April 1 with specific information about participation.

We are seeking two groups of participants:

Group	Tasks to Complete	Upon Completion, will Receive:
Group 1: Experimental	Participants will complete the required pre-test survey (April 1 - 8). Over the course of 6 weeks (April 8 - May 20), participants will complete the online asynchronous LGBTGEQIAP+ affirming counseling training. Participants will complete the required post-test survey (May 20 - 28).	<u>5.5 (five and a half) free NBCC-approved continuing education hours</u> <u>A \$50 Amazon gift card</u>
Group 2: Control	Participants will complete the required pre-test survey (April 1 - April 8). Participants will complete the required post-test survey 6 weeks later (May 20 - 28).	<u>A \$20 Amazon gift card</u> The option to complete the LGBTGEQIAP+ affirming counseling training for the <u>5.5 (five and a half) free NBCC-approved continuing education hours</u> .

We appreciate your time and consideration. It is only through the help of counselors like you that we can enhance the quality and accessibility of counselor preparation in LGBTGEQIAP+ affirming counseling.

Many thanks,

*Amber Pope, Principal Investigator
Assistant Professor
Department of School Psychology & Counselor Education
William & Mary*

*Co-Investigators:
Bianca Augustine
Noelle St. Germain-Sehr
Amanda St. Germain-Sehr
Tai Lexumé
Jeff Moe
Stefan Vasic
Kelli Hartzell*

*THIS PROJECT WAS APPROVED BY the W&M PROTECTION OF
HUMAN SUBJECTS COMMITTEE (Phone 757-221-3966) ON 2023-11-10
AND EXPIRES ON 2024-11-10.*



William & Mary
School of Education



**WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING MANUSCRIPT
SUBMISSIONS FOR THE
ACSSW SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER.**

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS
APRIL 30, 2024.**



Submissions must be no more than 1500 words, grounded in peer-reviewed research/content, and may not have been previously published, nor be forthcoming in an archival journal or book (print or electronic). The ACSSW newsletter is not a peer reviewed journal, but we do have editors who review the submissions for grammatical errors and ensure the article is in keeping with ACSSW principles and guidelines. We will publish articles that promote sexual wellness, research studies, and conceptual articles. The ACSSW newsletter editorial team requires that all authors follow the most current ACA Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice. All manuscripts must conform to standards detailed in the most recent edition of the APA Publication Manual. The newsletter supports the use of gender-neutral pronouns, including the singular “they.” Manuscripts should be concise, yet with enough detail to provide clarity.

**Send submissions to Frances McClain at
fmccain@thechicagoschool.edu**

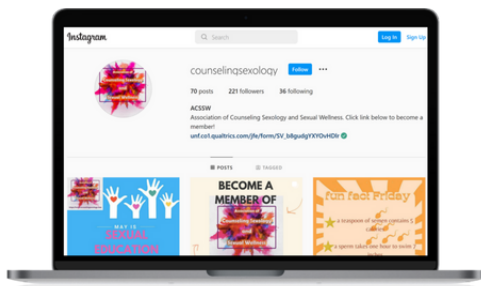
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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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Cameron Chaikin, Social Media Coordinator

Sexuality Resources

<https://www.zurinstitute.com/resources/human-sexuality-resources/>

Human Sexuality

- [American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists](#) – AASECT members common interest is in promoting understanding of human sexuality and healthy sexual behavior.
- [American Sexual Health Association](#) – ASHA programs include: the ASHA Research Fund, HPV Cervical Cancer Prevention Resource Center, Cervical Cancer Prevention Project, ISALSA! (STDs, Adolescents and Latinos: Sexual Health Awareness), Herpes Resource Center, ASH-Net (Adolescent Sexual Health and the Internet), Herpes Foundation, and Viral Hepatitis Education and Training.
- [American Society of Reproductive Medicine](#) – ASRM is an organization devoted to advancing knowledge and expertise in infertility, reproductive medicine and biology.
- [Association of Reproductive Health Professionals](#) – AHRP is a multidisciplinary association of professionals who provide reproductive health services or education, conduct reproductive health research, or influence reproductive health policy.
- [Foundation for the Scientific Study of Sexuality](#) – FSSS' mission is to promote funding for conducting scholarly, scientific research related activities to further the understanding of all aspects of sexuality.
- [The Alan Guttmacher Institute](#) is focused on sexual and reproductive health research, policy analysis and public education.
- [The International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health](#) is an academic and scientific organization that provides opportunities for communication among scholars, researchers and practitioners about women's sexual function and experiences, and supports high standards of ethics and professionalism in research, education and clinical practice of women's sexuality.
- [Kinsey Institute](#) – The Institute's mission is to promote interdisciplinary research and scholarship in the fields of human sexuality, gender, and reproduction.
- [Sexuality Information and Education Council of the US](#) – SIECUS develops, collects, and disseminates information, and promotes comprehensive education about sexuality.
- [The Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health](#) provides information about sex addiction for lay persons as well as clinicians.
- [The Society for Sex Therapy and Research](#) is composed of a range of professionals who have clinical or research interests in human sexuality. SSTAR aims to facilitate communications among clinicians who treat problems of sexual identity, sexual function, and reproductive life.

Gender Identity

- [The World Professional Association for Transgender Health](#) – The Association is devoted to the understanding and treatment of gender identity disorders, and provides opportunities for scientific interchange among professionals through its biennial conferences and publications.
- [International Foundation for Gender Education](#) – IFGE is an advocate and educational organization for promoting the self-definition and free expression of individual gender identity.
- [Intersex Society of North America](#) – The ISNA's "Medical Treatment of Intersexuality" page includes recommendations for treatment of intersexed children.

Sexual/Affectional Orientation

- [American Academy of Family Physicians' Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Information](#) – This page contains links to sexual orientation sites for physicians and their patients.
- [Association for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues in Counseling](#) – The mission of the Association for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues in Counseling is to educate mental health service providers about issues confronting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) individuals.
- [Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists](#) – The AGLP provides networking and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered psychiatrists, and education and advocacy on GLBT mental health issues.
- [Gay and Lesbian Medical Association](#) – GLMA members include lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered physicians, medical students, and other health care professionals, as well as patients throughout North America.
- [National Association of Lesbian and Gay Addiction Professionals](#) – The Association is dedicated to the prevention and treatment of alcoholism, substance abuse, and other addictions in GLBT communities.
- [National Gay and Lesbian Task Force 2000 Census and Same-Sex Households](#) – The Census 2000 reporting statistics released by the US Census Bureau have continued to show an increase in the number of reported same-sex partner households across the United States.
- [Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Issues, Division 44, American Psychological Association](#) – Division 44's goals include: advancing the contribution of psychological research in understanding lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues; promoting the education of psychologists in matters of lesbian, gay, and bisexual concerns; and informing psychologists and the general public of relevant research, educational, and service activities. The site includes a newsletter, Guidelines for Psychotherapy with Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Clients, and a list of member's publications.
- [It Gets Better](#) – TAKE THE PLEDGE: Everyone deserves to be respected for who they are. I pledge to spread this message to my friends, family and neighbors. I'll speak up against hate and intolerance whenever I see it, at school and at work.

Sexual Abuse

- Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers – ATSA was founded to foster research, further professional education and provide for the advancement of professional standards and practices in the field of sex offender evaluation and treatment.
- Child Welfare Information Gateway – Child Sexual Abuse: Intervention and Treatment Issues – This manual is intended to address the needs of professionals who encounter child sexual abuse in the course of their work.

Sexual and Reproductive Health

- CDC's Reproductive Health Information Source – Resources cover: assisted reproductive technology reports; unintended pregnancy; women's reproductive health; men's reproductive health; surveillance and research; racial and ethnic minorities; scientific and technical assistance.
- Consortium for Improvement in Erectile Function – CIEF is a membership organization comprised of multidisciplinary healthcare practitioners who share an interest in developing and participating in a variety of educational and interactive programs designed to enhance the clinical outcomes of erectile dysfunction therapy.
- The National Vulvodynia Association (NVA) is a nonprofit organization created in 1994 to improve the lives of individuals affected by vulvodynia, a spectrum of chronic vulvar pain .

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)

- AIDSInfo – Links to regional training centers; cultural and gender resources; management of HIV complications; maternal-child transmission; information for exposure to HIV and how to prevent it; and treatment consultation.
- American Foundation for AIDS Research – AmfAR's mission is to prevent HIV infection and the disease and death associated with it and to protect the human rights of all people threatened by the epidemic of HIV/AIDS. amfAR has active programs in basic and clinical research, public and professional education, public policy, prevention science, and global initiatives.
- Center for AIDS Prevention Studies – CAPS conducts interdisciplinary research on methods to prevent HIV infection and its consequences. The site includes a list of current research projects, links to model prevention programs, intervention curricula, and survey instruments.
- HIV/AIDS Bureau – Health Resources and Services Administration – oversees the CARE Act, which funds primary care and support services for individuals living with HIV who lack health insurance and financial resources for their care.
- HIV InSite – Medical Issues includes information on epidemiology, diagnosis, management, transmission and prevention, treatment resources, antiretroviral management, interactions database treatment guidelines, treatment access & advocacy, patient fact sheets, conference abstracts and summaries, and links to medical newsletters for clinicians.

- NIH – Division of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome – “Research Resources and Programs” cover AIDS-related data sets; a database for anti-HIV compounds; an HIV / OI therapeutics database; an HIV sequence database; an HIV molecular immunology database; the NIAID/NCI inter-institute program for development of AIDS-related therapeutics; the NIH AIDS research and reference reagent program; a resource guide for the development of AIDS therapies; and links to reagent programs and repositories. Click on “Resources for Patients, Physicians, and Investigators”
- STD Prevention – Centers for Disease Control provides national leadership through research, policy development, and support of services to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and their complications. The site contains information on funding, program guidelines, research, surveillance, statistics and treatment guidelines.

Journals

- Archives of Sexual Behavior
- Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality
- Contemporary Sexuality
- Culture, Health & Sexuality
- Gender & History
- Gender and Development
- Gender and Society
- Gender Issues
- Gender, Work, and Organization
- Journal of Black Sexuality and Relationships
- Journal of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness
- Journal of Gay & Lesbian Psychotherapy
- Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services
- Journal of Homosexuality
- Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy
- Journal of Sex Education & Therapy
- Journal of Sex Research
- Journal of Women’s Health & Gender-Based Medicine
- Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Psychology, Evolution & Gender
- Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity
- Sexual Science
- Sexuality & Culture
- Sexuality and Disability
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Studies in Gender and Sexuality
- Theology & Sexuality

Other electronic Journals

- Electronic Journal of Human Sexuality

