2012

ALTERNATIVE SEXUALITIES CONFERENCE

CULTURAL COMPETENCE AND CLINICAL ISSUES

De-Pathologizing Alternative Sexualities

Fifth Annual Conference

Adler School of Professional Psychology

Chicago, Illinois

2012 CONFERENCE TEAM

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Fifth Annual Alternative Sexualities Conference

Cultural Competence and Clinical Issues

May 24, 2012

Leather, kink, BDSM, polyamory, alt sex… Non-traditional sexual practices, lifestyles and identities have become increasingly visible in recent years. With more portrayals on television and in movies, as well as in literature and music, clients are feeling increasingly comfortable about bringing "forbidden" sexual issues to psychotherapy.

Today's conference has been designed to provide clinical perspectives, empirical data and opportunities to discuss the challenges encountered in clinical work with individuals and relationships in the alternative sexuality communities. It is the result of a partnership between the Community-Academic Consortium for Research on Alternative Sexualities (CARAS) based in San Francisco and Projects Advancing Sexual Diversity (PASD) centered in Chicago.

Continuing Education Credits & Conference Objectives

The Conference meets the qualifications for 6.5 hours of continuing education credit for MFT, LPCC, LCP/LCPC and LSW/LCSW as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences and the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation. The Conference is also credentialed for 6.5 continuing education credits by the American Association of Sex, Educators, Counselors and Therapists. Five presentations (one in each section) have been accredited by the American Psychological Association for one CEU each.

At the conclusion of the conference, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the social and clinical contexts within which the concept of "sexual addiction" has evolved.
2. Identify a minimum of three specific issues or concerns present in clinical interactions with kinky/BDSM identified clients.
3. Identify a minimum of three specific issues or concerns present in counseling with alternative relationship structures (polyamory, consensual nonmonogamy, defined power exchanges).
4. Identify at least two resources for learning more about work with individuals and relationships with alternative sexuality
5. Identify some of the gaps in research on alternative sexuality identities and communities, and how these impact the development of practice guidelines.

Conference Schedule

9:00 – 9:30 AM Registration and Breakfast 15th Floor Lobby and Community Hall

9:30 – 9:40 AM Opening Remarks Community Hall

Welcome – Dr. Raymond Crossman, President
Adler School of Professional Psychology
Conference Opening – Dr. Braden Berkey, Conference Co-Director
Plenary Introduction – Dr. Richard Sprott, Conference Co-Director

9:40 – 10:30 AM Opening Plenary Community Hall

The Myth of Sex Addiction: How the Concept of Sex Addiction Stigmatizes Nontraditional Sexual Behavior – Dr. David Ley

10:30 – 10:35 AM Schedule Overview Community Hall

10:40 AM - 12:00 PM Break Out Sessions

A1	A2	A3
Kinkophobia: The Feared "Other"	**Longevity & Intimacy in Polyamorous Relationships**	**How Does BDSM Fit Into DSM?**
Caroline Shahbaz	Martha Kauppi Nick Wittwer	Richard Sprott
		APA 1 CEU ***webcast***
Classroom 16-118	Board Room - 16th Floor	Community Hall

12:00- 12:30 PM Poster Session & Lunch Pick-Up Community Hall

12:30 -1:20 LUNCH PROGRAMMING

Positive and Accurate: Community Hall
Portrayals of BDSM Relationships in Romantic Fiction – Panel

Kink-Identified Clinicians Discussion Group Classroom 16-118
Note: Only open to practitioners in licensed professions who Identify as members of an alternative sexuality

1:30 - 2:50 PM Break Out Sessions

B1	B2
KROP: Community Perspectives and An Appraisal of Human Sexuality Textbooks Benjamin Graham Ryan McGraw APA 1 CEU **Board Room - 16th Floor**	**Using the D/s Dynamic to Reach Therapeutic Goals In & Out of Session** Jasmine St. John W. Jay Blevins ***webcast*** **Community Hall**

3:00 - 4:20 PM Break Out Sessions

C1	C2	C3
AgePlay: Not Just Adult Babies Paul Dohearty **Classroom 16-118**	**Beyond Consent: A New Paradigm for Domestic Violence an Master/Slave Relationships** David Rodemaker Caroline Shahbaz APA 1 CEU **Board Room - 16th Floor**	**Mapping Relationship Networks: Clinical Tools for Mental Health Practitioners** Constantina Karathanasis ***webcast*** **Community Hall**

4:30 - 5:30 PM Closing Plenary — Community Hall

Creating Clinical Practice Guidelines for Work with the Kink Community: First Steps

Dr. Braden Berkey, Executive Director, PASD
Ariel Gaines and Candice Moran

5:30 - 6:00 PM Closing Remarks & Evaluations — Community Hall

Dr. Richard Sprott

2012 Presentation Descriptions

Notes on content level…

Presentations are given with particular experience levels in mind. Designations are provided as general guides for participants. **Beginner** level suggests attendees have little or no knowledge of BDSM/poly/etc. **Intermediate** level suggests some exposure to the issues being addressed, or experience working with at least one client who holds an alternative sexuality identity. **Advanced** level assumes attendees are proficient with these populations and have worked with 5 or more clients and/or have conducted research or fieldwork with these populations.

Opening Plenary

The Myth of Sex Addiction – How the Concept of Sex Addiction Stigmatizes Nontraditional Sexual Behavior

David Ley, Ph.D.

Dr. David Ley presents the cultural history, moral judgments and junk science underlying this alleged disorder. He exposes the subjective values embedded in the concept, as well as the significant economic factors that drive the label of sex addiction in clinical practice and the popular media. Ley outlines how this label represents a social attack on many forms of sexuality--male sexuality in particular--as well as any alternative and nontraditional sexualities, including BDSM, polyamory, swinging, etc.. Going against current assumptions and trends, Ley debunks the idea that sex addiction is real and details the many social and professional risks that are posed by the concept of sex addiction.

After completion of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Identify the lack of scientific evidence for sex addiction, and the contradictory evidence that is ignored by the sex addiction community.
2. Describe and understand the subjectivity and lack of precision in the sex addiction concept.
3. Describe the moral and cultural influences and limitations of sex addiction.
4. Articulate how those moral and cultural influences create and support stigma and shame, particularly in non-mainstream sexualities.

Session AI

Kinkophobia: The Feared "Other"

Caroline Shahbaz, BBSc (Hons), MPsych, MA

At some point in our lives we are all wounded as "the other", set outside the group. It is in crossing the border between being in the world with others to being 'the other' psychological professionals have the choice to enable 'others' experience their authentic selves or, collude to pathologize them.

This presentation explores the phenomenon of pathologizing the other by philosophically and historically situating it in the Depth Psychological tradition. The effects of *other-ing* in society will be highlighted, with a particular emphasis on the phenomenon of "kinkophobia." The psycho-social implications of pathologizing the suffering experienced in marginalized alternative sexual minorities will be discussed through the lens of Depth Psychological research and therapeutic practice. Participants will be invited to explore their own feelings of "other-ing" and kinkophobia by consensually participating in an experiential exercise.
RECOMMENDED as ADVANCED LEVEL

After completion of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Define, historically situate and discuss the construct of the "other" and its negative impact in society by outlining common mechanisms through which other-ing occurs. \
2. Understand "othering" as the tool used by psychological professions to collude in pathologizing the suffering experienced in marginalized alternative sexual minorities due to professional unconscious kinkophobia.
3. Argue for education about kinkophobia and understanding it as a form of "othering" as a platform for transformative healing in the broader psychological community.

Session A2

Longevity and Intimacy in Polyamorous Relationships

Martha Kauppi, MS MFT
Nick Wittwer, MS MFT

As part of our graduate studies, we conducted preliminary research investigating intimacy levels and relationship length in consensually open relationships. In addition to our findings about intimacy and relationship length, we also gathered demographic data that has been very helpful in understanding this population.

We will be presenting these research findings, which indicate that people in consensual, negotiated polyamorous relationships have both high levels of intimacy and long term relationships. Also, only a small minority of people in our sample indicated a desire for more sex as a significant motivating factor in their relationship structure. We also found that primary/secondary relationship structure appears to be the most common, but not the only viable relationship structure for polyamory. RECOMMENDED as BEGINNER LEVEL

After completion of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Challenge accepted cultural biases about intimacy and longevity in polyamorous relationships.
2. Form a more inclusive understanding of individual motivation for engaging in polyamorous relationships.
3. Identify trends in the number of partners and the structure of polyamorous relationships.

Session A3

How Does BDSM fit into DSM?

Richard Sprott, Ph.D., moderator

The presentation will review both the history of the organized BDSM subcultures in America, and the history of paraphilias in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association (DSM). The current proposed changes to the Paraphilias section in the DSM-5, set to be published in May 2013, will also be reviewed in this context. Some of the continuing problems and questions still unresolved around diagnosing paraphilic disorders will be examined, and arguments against inclusion in the DSM will be presented. The impact of pathologizing BDSM activities will also be highlighted in the presentation.

After completion of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Describe at least one argument against the inclusion of paraphilias in the DSM.
2. Articulate how the proposed changes in the DSM-5 differ from previous editions of the DSM.
3. Identify at least two sources for continued discussion and examination of the issues around BDSM activities and psychiatric diagnoses.

LUNCH PROGRAMMING

Positive and Accurate: Portrayals of BDSM Relationships in Romantic Fiction

Sarah S. G. Frantz, Ph.D.
Heidi Cullinan
James Buchanan
Lori A. Witt
Edmond Manning
Annabel Joseph
Carrie Lofty/Katie Porter

Many BDSM-themed romance novels provide their readers, most of whom are not BDSM-identified, with positive exposure to and depictions of BDSM relationships, characters, identities, communities, and activities. These are novels in which two (or more) characters meet, fall in love, overcome barriers to their relationship, and achieve a happily ever after, all through the medium of BDSM sexual exploration. The recent blockbuster success of E.L. James' *Twilight*-inspired, BDSM-themed *Fifty Shades of Grey*, however, shows that not all BDSM romances depict the BDSM lifestyle positively or accurately.

This panel will consist of a five minute introduction by the moderator of the conventions, benefits, and drawbacks of BDSM romance literature. This will be followed by a panel discussion by six authors of BDSM romance: Heidi Cullinan, James Buchanan, L.A. Witt/Lauren Gallagher, Edmond Manning, Annabel Joseph, and Carrie Lofty/Katie Porter. These authors write about many varieties of BDSM relationships (gay, straight, and ménage), identities (male and female dominant and submissive, sadist, masochist, fetishist), and practices. All the authors are committed to positive and accurate psychological and experiential depictions of BDSM lifestyles, practices, identities, and relationships.

Kink-Identified Clinicians Discussion Group

Braden Berkey Psy.D. & Richard Sprott, Ph.D. moderators

This discussion group serves as a safe space for clinicians to have open and candid exchanges regarding the unique challenges they face serving members of marginalized communities that they identify with. Conversation typically involves issues related to professional boundaries, community affiliations and personal self-disclosures.

Medical practitioners, nurses, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, counselors and students pursuing advanced degrees in these fields are welcome. **The group is only open to clinicians in license-eligible professions who identify as members of an alternative sexuality community.**

Session B1

The Kink Representation Outreach Project (KROP): Community perspectives and an appraisal of human sexuality textbooks

Benjamin Graham, Ph.D.
Ryan McGraw, B.A.

The social sciences are influenced by, and can in turn influence, how the experience of BDSM is understood within larger social discourse. Within higher education, human sexuality textbooks are typically the first opportunity that students have to learn about how the social sciences frame BDSM. The purpose of this study is: 1) to facilitate community voice to describe the role that BDSM communities play in the lives of members; and 2) provide a descriptive content analysis of BDSM representation in current top-grossing human sexuality textbooks.

The research team conducted workshops with BDSM community groups using Nominal Group Technique (Moore, 1994) to determine what members view as the most important aspects of BDSM community experience. Top grossing human sexuality textbooks were collected and analyzed for both descriptive content (approaches to sexual diversity, space devoted to BDSM, description of BDSM communities) and whether or not the characteristics articulated by BDSM communities were present. This session will report descriptive and community-derived data, as well as the process of creating partnerships within community-based research. RECOMMENDED as INTERMEDIATE & ADVANCED LEVEL.

After completion of this activity, participants will be able to:

1) Describe three types of social marginalization that exist regarding BDSM, and how each links to the role of human sexuality textbooks in higher education;
2) Describe community-derived appraisals of the role of BDSM communities in the lives of focus group members.
3) Articulate descriptive and community perspectives on how BDSM is currently represented in human sexuality textbooks.

Session B2

Using the D/s Dynamic to Reach Therapeutic Goals In and Out of Session

Jasmine St. John, MS, LMFT
W. Jay Blevins, MSMFT, MBA

Traditional therapy often views power dynamics and exploration of sexual fetishes as unhealthy and/or abusive. This session looks at furthering the use of sex-positive, strength-based therapeutic interventions by integrating an existing D/s dynamic into both counseling sessions and the client's life in a way that supports and potentially accelerates achievement of goals. By aligning structure and expectations with client goals, along with implementing strength based rewards and discipline, the client is incentivized to make the desired changes. This structure can be mirrored with therapeutic techniques in session to further support the change process.

Some therapists have begun to work from a supportive, strength-based stance to facilitate an interaction that is healthy and empowering for all individual and relationship needs. Instead of eliminating the power dynamics or fetish focus within self or relationship in an effort to rid negative features, the focus is to build on the positives of the desire or relationship to naturally improve the client's overall satisfaction and well-being. RECOMMENDED as INTERMEDIATE LEVEL.

After completion of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Recognize opportunities to integrate client's D/s relationship into achievement of the client's personal goals.
2. Use therapeutic techniques in session to leverage client's preference for D/s dynamic to support achievement of therapeutic goals.
3. Develop strength based reward/discipline structure for implementation in client's D/s relationship.

Session C1

Ageplay: Not Just Adult Babies

Paul Dohearty, M.A. *(aka Paul Rulof)*

Ageplay is either age related role-playing or an individual emphasizing child-like personality traits. We'll talk about what age play is and isn't, how and why participants identify with baby, little, and adult traits/roles, and provide information regarding how and why participants get into an altered state of consciousness called "headspace." This presentation will explain this population of ageplayers using participant observation, illustrative quotes from a survey, and sections of interviews. RECOMMENDED as BEGINNER LEVEL.

After completion of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Described what ageplay is, as well as the stigma and judgments that people make about this specific type of personality trait emphasis or role-playing.
2. Comprehend why individuals and a caregiver or partner might choose to engage in ageplay.
3. Discover the different ways individuals engage in ageplay activities, the goals for scenes, and how they manage relationships with their partner(s).

Session C2

Beyond Consent: A New Paradigm for Domestic Violence and Master/slave Relationships

David Rodemaker, Psy.D., CH
Caroline Shahbaz, BBSc (Hons), MPsych, MA

In clinical work, mental health professionals are often asked to evaluate or testify on the "health" of a relationship or individual in an effort to address fears of abuse or domestic violence. Relationships that fall under the broad umbrella of Dominance and submission (D/s) (such as Master/ slave, Owner/property, Daddy/girl, Sir/boy, etc.) are commonly perceived as more difficult to evaluate than relationships that involve general Leathersex or BDSM. This presentation will explore guidelines, language, and theory to guide professionals and laypeople through an evaluative process. Various elements of D/s relationships seem to generate the most difficulty, often because they directly contradict and explicitly challenge the prevailing professional and cultural narratives around consent and power. The prevailing mythology in mental health denies not only the possibility of constructive suffering, but pathologizes the very notion that pain and suffering have any positive transformative power. Issues that will be addressed include, but are not limited to; 24/7 Lifestyle, Total Power Exchange (TPE), Family and Children, Non-Monogamy, and Safewords. The constructs of Gender, Race, and Consent will also be examined and addressed as part of the perceptions of what makes up a "healthy" or "unhealthy" relationship in a D/s context. RECOMMENDED for ALL LEVELS.

After completion of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Better discern the difference between abuse and constructive pain or suffering when evaluating D/s relationships
2. Better able evaluate their own counter-transference issues when working with D/s relationships.
3. Use new language and frameworks to depathologize D/s when working with other professionals as well as clients.

Session C3

Mapping Relationship Networks: Clinical tools for mental health practitioners with clients who have multiple concurrent romantic and sexual relationships

Constantina Karathanasis, MSW

This presentation will introduce a new mapping tool which is a combination of genograms, ecomaps, and process mapping, developed by the presenter in early 2012. This tool was developed in collaboration with Western Michigan University School of Social Work faculty, and incorporates input from members of the polyamorous community. It offers a method for creating visual assessments of client relationships, ordered by impact on the client's life and types of involvement. This new tool may ease some of the difficulties faced in making concise case notes for clients who are currently engaged in open or polyamorous relationships. It also offers a visual tool which clients may use to reflect on their romantic relationships. RECOMMENDED for INTERMEDIATE LEVELS.

After completion of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Create a visual map of multiple concurrent intimate relationships experienced by a client.
2. Identify the four dimensions of loving relationships and assess relationships across these scales.
3. Articulate a basic understanding of some fundamental polyamorous terms and relationship structures.

Closing Plenary

Creating Clinical Practice Guidelines for Work with the Kink Community: First Steps

Braden Berkey, Psy.D.
Ariel Gaines, MA
Candice Moran, MA

There are well-defined communities, identities and relationship structures under the umbrella of "alternative sexualities." None of the professional organizations charged with training, educating and regulating mental health practitioners (or health care providers in general) provide professionals with guidelines for conducting their work with these populations. Why does this matter?

Those who self-identify as "experts" may, or may not, be culturally competent to work with kink/BDSM/poly/etc. clients. They can impact policy and regulatory issues, service delivery systems, training models and the health and welfare of marginalized people. Without practice guidelines there are no standards for clinicians and social service agencies to reference, and "what's right" is open to speculation.

This presentation will explore the areas that may be impacted by established practice guidelines, and the path to developing these.

After completion of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the population of focus, and why specific kink practice guidelines are needed.
2. Discern between "practice" and "treatment" references to "standards" and "guidelines."
3. Identify gaps in research, and their impact on the development of recognized practice guidelines.

POSTER SESSION

A Content Analysis of Pictorial Depictions of Couples Engaged In BDSM Within Human Sexuality Textbooks

Joanna Smith
Benjamin Graham, Ph.D

BDSM remains a stigmatized and marginalized sexual status in American society. Domains in which BDSM is still stigmatized include legal, clinical, and media realms. Within human sexuality textbooks, pictures of couples representing marginalized sexual minorities tend to be depicted in a positive light. It is important to understand how couples who engage in BDSM are visually depicted. Given the marginalization that still exists regarding BDSM, this study examined the way that couples engaged in BDSM are currently depicted in human sexuality textbooks. The top 10 human sexuality textbooks in the United States were accumulated and images were selected based on their affiliation with BDSM. Of the 9 pictures of couples identified (no pictures of three or more people existed), what we found was that the vast majority of images showed heterosexual couples. Additionally, within the dynamics of these couples the men were always in roles of submission while the women were always in roles of dominance. Also, very rarely were the women's faces shown. Findings from this descriptive content analysis raise important questions for future qualitative research and consideration regarding how couples exchange is depicted in human sexuality textbooks for the sexually marginalized status of BDSM.

An Exploratory Comparison of Sexual Behavior Frequencies in Female Sex Workers and Non-Sex Workers

Fawna Stockwell, PhD, BCBA
Ann Sturtz, MA, BCBA
Dena Valentino, MA, BCBA

Existing research on adult orgasm frequency is sparse and often employs rating scales such as ‘never,’ ‘occasionally,’ or ‘very often,’ making concrete estimates of daily human orgasm frequencies difficult. In the current study, a small sample of female participants (both sex workers and non-sex workers) were asked to self-record their use of erotic material and orgasms experienced on a daily basis. Results of this exploratory study will include information on the duration of time that participants viewed erotic materials each day and its relation to daily self-reported orgasm frequencies. The relationship between daily orgasm frequency and various environmental factors (e.g., illness, job loss, vacations, relationship changes) will also be examined.

Unfaithful Individuals are Less Likely to Practice Safer Sex Than Openly Nonmonogamous Individuals

Constantina Karathanasis, MSW

The results of research conducted through the University of Michigan’s Psychology department, in the faculty labs of Dr. Terri Conley, will be presented. A peer-reviewed article on this research is currently in press with the Journal of Sexual Medicine. It includes a comprehensive review of the sexual health practices of individuals within and outside of their primary dyadic relationships. Findings suggest that individuals with nonmonogamy agreements are significantly more likely to take sexual health precautions than ostensibly monogamous individuals. This suggests new directions in safer sex education for individuals and couples.

CONFERENCE BIOGRAPHIES

Braden Berkey, Psy.D. is an Associate Professor in the Clinical Psy.D. Program at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. He coordinates the program's diversity courses, and he created its Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Concentration (SOGIC). Dr. Berkey has a certification in Nonprofit Management through the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois at Chicago. During the past academic year he founded Projects Advancing Sexual Diversity. Dr. Berkey served as the Director of Behavioral Health and Social Services at Howard Brown Health Center for six years, during which time he expanded graduate training opportunities and developed a comprehensive substance abuse program. In 2006 Dr. Berkey joined the Center on Halsted, where he served as the founding director of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Institute. For nearly twenty years his private practice (www.prairiepsychological.com) has focused on serving sexual minorities and those impacted with HIV/AIDS. Recognizing the unique clinical dilemmas faced by providers within the leather community, Dr. Berkey created the Kink-Identified Clinicians Discussion Group thirteen years ago. The Alternative Sexualities Conference is an outgrowth of this initiative.
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W. Jay Blevins, MSMFT, MBA is a Marriage and Family Therapist with a private practice in Madison, WI. Jay earned his Masters of Science Degree from Edgewood College in Madison Wisconsin. He specializes in alternative sex therapy, alternative spirituality therapy and working with adolescents. Jay frequently presents workshops on alternative sexuality and contributes articles to various therapy publications. In addition, Jay has an MBA and has owned numerous small businesses.
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James Buchanan is an award winning author of more than a dozen gay romance novels and single author anthologies. James' *Hard Fall* (Honorable Mention 2010) and *All or Nothing* (Finalist 2011) were both honored by the National Leather Association-International's *Pauline Réage* Novel Awards, which recognizes positive portrayals of the Leather Lifestyle in fiction. An independent dominant in a gender non-conforming relationship, James imbues books with a deep respect for those with alternate sexual tastes who navigate otherwise normal lives in a vanilla world.
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Heidi Cullinan is the author of ten LGBT romance novels, eight of which deal directly with BDSM or BDSM elements. She is active in LGBT rights in her home state of Iowa, and she is passionate in the positive power of sexuality no matter what the orientation or type of safe, consensual practice. Her novels frequently address sexual topics/practices mainstream American culture views as shameful, opening the bedroom (and other room) doors wide to show the satisfaction and normality within as well as the powerful healing to be found in claiming one's true self and desires.
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Paul Dohearty, MA (aka Paul Rulof) is an education and the author of Ageplay: From Diapers to Diplomas. Paul teaches classes and throws parties that allow people the opportunity to explore and accept aspects of their sexuality. These classes are mainly in three different concentrations: Emotional Play, Ageplay, and General Alternative Sexuality. He has presented throughout the U.S., including DomCon (Los Angeles) and Kinky Karnival.
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Sarah S. G. Frantz, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of English at Fayetteville State University, NC. She has published academic articles on Jane Austen, on popular romance authors J.R. Ward and Suzanne Brockmann, and on BDSM romance author Joey W. Hill—the first academic article on BDSM romance ever. She is President of the International Association for the Study of Popular Romance. She has co-edited (with Katharina Rennhak) *Women Constructing Men: Female Authors Write Their Male Character, 1750-2000* (Lexington, 2010) and (with Eric Murphy Selinger) *New Perspectives on Popular Romance Fiction: Critical Essays* (McFarland, 2012).
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Ariel Gaines MA is a doctoral student in clinical psychology at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. She earned her master's degree at the University of Chicago, where she presented a thesis documenting the changing approaches in research on lesbian populations from the 1920's to the present. She worked for four years as a counselor for children and adolescents with severe mental illness at the Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School. Ariel is a cofounder of the Chicago School of Professional Psychology's Women's Group, and she is a member of the Projects Advancing Sexual Diversity (PASD) inaugural team.
Chicago, Illinois

Benjamin Graham, Ph.D. is a community psychologist and human sexuality instructor at DePaul University. He has practiced as a licensed clinician in community mental health contexts prior to his research degree, and has conducted research on sense of community, self-help therapeutic communities, immigrant worker rights policies, student wellness issues on college campuses, and inclusive education for students with disabilities. For the past four years, he has extrapolated his experience working with marginalized communities to address issues of marginalization for BDSM-identified individuals and communities. He currently leads the Kink Representation Outreach Project, a qualitative study which provides participatory community voice in the way that BDSM is represented in human sexuality textbooks.
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Annabel Joseph is a multi-published BDSM romance author and lifestyle submissive. She is known for writing emotionally intense storylines with characters who seem real—even flawed—so readers can more easily relate to them. She also enjoys nudging BDSM out of the dungeon and into everyday life and relationships to see what happens.
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Martha Kauppi, MS, MFT is a recent graduate of the Marriage and Family Therapy master's program at Edgewood College in Madison, WI. Martha has worked in the field of health and sexuality for over 25 years, and currently works as a therapist in a private practice in Madison. She is working on completing certification with the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT).
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Constantina Galatea Karathanasis, MSW has been involved in polyamory research since 2008, when she joined a lab at the University of Michigan looking at safer sex behaviors in negotiated nonmonogamy. She completed her Masters of Social Work at Western Michigan University, with a focus on program planning, evaluation, and clinical intervention planning. Constantina is interested in promoting sex positive culture through education, outreach, and research.
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David J. Ley, Ph.D. is a clinical psychologist in practice in Albuquerque, New Mexico where he oversees a large mental health clinic. Dr. Ley has been a guest on the Anderson Cooper Show, the Dr. Phil Show, numerous radio shows and has written for the London Telegraph and The New York Post. Interviews with this controversial, award-winning author and expert have appeared in Glamour Magazine, Salon, Huffington Post, CNN, and his work has been referenced in Playboy Magazine and in newspapers and magazines around the world. He is the author of *the Myth of Sex Addiction (2012)* and *Insatiable Wives: Women Who Stray and the Men Who Love Them* (2009).
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Ryan McGraw, BA has served as a team member for the Kink Representation Outreach Project at DePaul University for the past year. He is completing his master's degree in Disability Studies and his work has focused on health promotion for persons with disabilities.
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Candice N. Moran, MA is a 4th year student in the Clinical Psy.D. Program at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. She received her M.A. in Clinical Psychology in 2010 and is scheduled to graduate with her doctorate in June 2013. She graduated from the University of Iowa with a B.A. in Women's & Gender Studies, a B.S. in Psychology, and a Certificate in Sexuality Studies. She will be defending her dissertation, "'Whatever it is, It's Not Lesbian Sex! Transmen and Their Partners: A Conversation about Labels, Transitioning, Sex and Sexuality" in June 2012. She will begin her pre-doctoral internship at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill in the Counseling and Wellness Services in August 2012.

David Rodemaker, Psy.D., CH, is a graduate of the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. His dissertation, *Altsex: A Clinician's Guide to BDSM*, is an interdisciplinary guide for mental health professionals for working with members of the Leather and BDSM communities as an issue of cultural competency. Dr. Rodemaker presents on sexual minority issues from LGBT topics to consensual non-monogamy and polyamory to Master/slave relationships and works in private practice in the Chicago suburbs.
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Caroline Shahbaz, BBSc (Hons), MPsych, MA is a qualified clinical psychologist in Australia, a member of the Australian Psychological Society and currently enrolled in a Doctoral Program in Depth Psychology at Pacifica Graduate Institute in California. In the past thirty years she founded and ran an independent Management Consulting company applying business, depth psychological and archetypal principals to leadership and organizational transformation and development. Her dissertation extends her life's work in changing paradigms by examining the relationship between politically structured language and power and its impact on management behavior. She has written and presented extensively on Master slave dynamics in the USA and Australia.
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Richard Sprott, Ph.D. is a research psychologist specializing in human development, earning his doctorate in developmental psychology from UC Berkeley in 1994. He is the first Executive Director of the Community-Academic Consortium for Research on Alternative Sexualities (CARAS). Dr. Sprott teaches in a counseling psychology program (MFT program) at a SF Bay Area private university and also in the Department of Human Development and Women's Studies at California State University, East Bay. As a researcher he has focused on the interconnections of social development and language acquisition, sociolinguistics, and the impact of stigma and prejudice on interactions between counselors/ therapists

and members of stigmatized groups. Dr. Sprott has examined in detail the relationship between professional identity development and the development of professional ethics in medical doctors, ministers and teachers. In addition, he has a long history of conducting program evaluations for educational programs for migrant farm-worker families, which highlight the ways in which social organizations and communities help and hinder the educational achievement of migrant farm-worker children. All of these efforts highlight the ways in which stigma, prejudice, minority dynamics, language, identity development and community development all intersect and affect each other.
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Joanna Smith is an undergraduate student majoring in psychology at DePaul University. She has been a member of Dr. Benjamin Graham's Kink Representation Outreach Project for a year. Currently, under Dr. Graham's guidance, she has taken up an independent research opportunity to study and evaluate how couples who engage in BDSM are pictorially depicted and represented within human sexuality textbooks.
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Lori Witt is an erotic romance author who also spent a year working for an adult film company specializing in sex-positive porn. She started writing BDSM fiction when she realized how negatively and inaccurately it was often portrayed. To ensure accuracy in her work, she has worked closely with a Dom and sub with 20+ combined years of kink experience, and aims for healthy, safe, sane, and consensual portrayals of kinky dynamics and relationships. Lori publishes under the names L. A. Witt, Lauren Gallagher
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The Alternative Sexualities Conferences are produced by CARAS and PASD

Community-Academic Consortium for Research on Alternative Sexualities (CARAS) was founded in 2005 at the 9th Leather Leadership Conference with the intent to increase awareness, understanding, and visibility of alternative sexualities from a responsible and healthy perspective in scientific research, academic discourse, and clinical practice. SOGI was formed in 2007 with the mission to expand national access to high quality culturally competent mental health care for sexual minority individuals and their families. This is accomplished through the development and provision of educational programs for healthcare providers, using live and web-based formats. The Institute also advances clinical practice through the promotion of research on LGBT life course development issues.

Projects Advancing Sexual Diversity (PASD) is a new initiative that was launched last fall. PASD works to further the understanding, and acceptance, of diverse sexual and gender identities, behaviors and cultures. Through the application of innovative research and interventions, PASD strives to create sustainable change in conditions impacting the welfare of sexual and gender minority individuals, families and communities.

Projects Advancing Sexual Diversity

Notes on… ALTERNATIVE SEXUALITIES CONFERENCE

2013

SAVE
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Sixth Annual
Alternative Sexualities Conference

Saturday, September 22
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