

sExploration 2015

Exploring the Intersections of Sex & Power



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Sexual issues can be as difficult for clinicians to address as they are for clients to share. While it is easy for them to go unrecognized, they are ever present. **sExploration** is designed as a catalyst for discussions on integrating sexuality issues into all levels of our work: assessment, consultation, research, clinical practice, and teaching.

TEAM

Testimony Site Kathryn Jones, B.S.

Poster Fair Ashley Jacob, B.S.

Community Day Leslie Crampton, M.A. & Kathryn Jones, B.S.

Flat Screen Messaging Leslie Crampton, M.A.

Library Liaison Ashley Jacob, B.S.

Colloquium Programs Leslie Crampton, M.A.

PASD Executive Director Braden Berkey, Psy.D.

PARTNERS



The Military Group



CSOPP LIBRARY



Celebrating 25 years



SCHEDULE

Testimony Display

4th Floor Reception Area - Merchandise Mart

Monday, March 2nd - Friday, March 20th

Who are you as a sexual being? PASD strives to explore, educate and advocate for diverse sexual identities and cultures. In an effort to continue this work, and demonstrate the diversity within our community, we have constructed a safe space where we invite you to share your experience and/or understanding of what makes you a sexual being. Leave a word, a story or even an artifact - anything that is significant to your journey of identification.

While visiting the site, please consider signing the pledge board:

I pledge to be an advocate for sexual empowerment, to help others regain their voice, their identity, and their strength. And in times of difficulty and repression, I pledge to offer my voice as a beacon of support, to never again allow victims to be muted by their suffering.

I pledge to fight for the equality of all individuals to say no when they need to and yes when they want to. To never stop educating my community, and myself and to continue to collaborate and understand how to make our world a safe place

Poster Fair

Monday, March 9th - Friday, March 13th

Poster presentations on Wednesday 12-1 pm

Scholarly posters created by students and faculty across academic programs will be on display in the 4th floor reception area at the Merchandise Mart. Poster authors will be present for discussions on Wednesday, March 11th.

Community Day

Thursday March 12 12 noon-2 pm

Campus and community agencies will gather to provide information and resources on addressing sexuality in your work. Stop by the 4th floor reception area at the Merchandise Mart to chat with representatives and pick up materials. Snacks provided!

Scheduled participants include:

AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Apna Ghar
CSOPP Library
Erie Teen Center
The Military Group
PRIDE Group
Rape Victim Advocates
S.A.F.E.
The Women's Group
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

COLLOQUIA

NOTE: All colloquia are scheduled from **12 noon to 1:00 pm** in the **325 North Wells** facility.
Due to the limited time please for presentations please plan to arrive early for seating.

Reclaiming Sexuality after Sexual Violence

Monday, March 16th

Room 515

Sexual Violence, including harassment, stalking, molestation, rape, and sexual trafficking, can leave a traumatic impact on many areas of a survivor's functioning. Among the myriad of clinical issues survivors of sexual violence may seek counseling for, many struggle to reclaim their sexuality as a healthy, pleasurable and non-threatening aspect of their lives, relationships, and identities. This presentation will explore the impact of cultural constructs around sexuality and how counselors can help empower survivors to reclaim their own sexuality. The objective of this presentation is to help participants understand the different struggles of survivors of sexual violence as related to sexuality as well as to use trauma-informed strategies on how we can help them heal. **Presented by Beth Enterkin, MAAT, LCPC from Rape Victim Advocates and Ruchi Ray, MA, LPC from Apna Ghar, Inc.**

Fifty Shades of Gray: Feminist Perspectives on BDSM*

Wednesday, March 18th

Room 412

Presented by The Women's Group and The Pride Group

*If you don't know what BDSM is, don't be afraid to ask.

An Intervention Program Addressing Inter-partner Violence in the Lesbian Community

Monday, March 23rd:

Room 720

Ann Diamond, M.A., a predoctoral intern at Miami University in Ohio, will discuss her dissertation work on a post-modern analysis of lesbians who abuse their partners, and a proposal for a culturally competent intervention program.

Examining the Wounds of War: Sexual Trauma in the Military

Tuesday, March 24th

Room 407/412

The Military Group will conduct a brief screening and reflection on clinical issues exposed in the documentary, *The Invisible War*, about military sexual trauma. "This investigative and powerfully emotional documentary is about the epidemic of rape of service members within the military, the institutions that perpetuate and cover up its existence, and its profound personal and social consequences." –IMBd

Empowering Women through Effective Clinical Responses to Individuals that Disclose Sexual Violence

Wednesday, March 25th

Room 719

Many clinicians are unsure as to how to appropriately respond to survivors of sexual violence. This presentation aims to educate participants on how to empower women through utilizing comprehensive services including medical and legal advocacy and additional community linkages. **Presented by Kerianne Burke and the YWCA Metropolitan Chicago**

POSTER FAIR PRESENTATIONS

These participants were scheduled as of March 1st.

1

Hungry for Sex: The Evolution of Sex Addiction in America

Jacqueline Riley, Kristal Samson, & Chelsea Rhinehart

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What's in a name? That which we call sex addiction did not have a name until the mid-1970's when Free Love began to make its appearance on the cultural stage. Not long after the term sex addiction began its ascent into the American consciousness. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual wavered between framing sexual addiction as pathological, but most recently has settled on the term hypersexual disorder as the term du jour. Sex addiction is associated with sexual behaviors, but speaks more to a cultural paradigm shift and less of pathology. This poster intends to inform about the history of sex addiction, the current culture of sex in America, stigmas and disempowering aspects to sex addiction, and finally future directions which include psychotherapy, psych education, and public policy initiatives necessary to serve clients drawn to compulsive sexual acts.

2

Sacred Sexuality: The Eclipse of Mother Earth by Father Sky

Alexis Abern aia4578@ego.thechicagoschool.edu

This presentation addresses and explores how various cultures and religious traditions understand sexuality to be intertwined with spirituality. From the beginning of recorded human history, there is evidence that sex and sexuality were present in all early cultures' religion. In addition to tracing sacred sexuality's standing through time, this presentation highlights how sexuality's separation from religion and spirituality coincides with the separation of woman and man, body and spirit. The dualistic ideas influencing this split have historically preferred religion, men and the spiritual world; while sexuality, women, and physicality have been defamed. This presentation also points to current scientific research linking sexual experiences to biochemical reactions congruent with mystical experiences in women, displaying that these dualistic concepts are constructed. This presentation is a part of a larger dialogue about gender, sexuality, spirituality, and power dynamics.

3

The Eroticization of Pain: A Critical Metabolic

Vanessa Hicks, M.A. vah3564@ego.thechicagoschool.edu

Sadomasochism is a sexual culture that is often viewed as immoral and pathological. This deviant paradigm within which sadomasochism is often understood is likely a result of the inability to imagine pain—an element commonly associated with sadomasochism—as anything other than aversive. The research outlined in this poster will reflect that of my dissertation, in which I explore the phenomenon of erotic pain. I engage the phenomenon using a critical metabolic method that explores power relations in discourse and relational practices that have resulted in creating conditions for the current situation of eroticized pain. I end the dissertation describing a number of implications of the research, including the liberation of constricted, pathological views of erotic pain, which may aid practitioners in providing more informed therapeutic care for individuals engaging in activities categorized as “sadomasochistic.”

4

How Consent Supersedes the Element of Cruelty in the Practice of BDSM

Kat Jones kxj5371@ego.thechicagoschool.edu

There has been much discussion and curiosity surrounding the practice of BDSM, specifically in regards to the nature of such activities. Observers quickly compare the practice to abusive situations or submissive states of sexualization. As a consequence the outsider can conclude that such practices are unusual, strange and even cruel. The goal of this poster is to explain the impact that consent has in this dynamic, essentially removing motivations of cruelty, and replacing them with healthy and sanctioned sexual behaviors.

5

Gender & the POWER of Reinforcement

Chelsey Brown ctb6851@ego.thechicagoschool.edu

Have you ever thought about how you know what your gender is? Or why boys are supposed to play with trucks and girls are supposed to play with dolls? Have you ever thought about why society has such developed such strict gender roles over time? Have you ever considered how bizarre it is that there are 6 billion people in the world, but only two genders with which to identify? Well, one possible answer is: reinforcement. From the moment we are born, our verbal community reinforces stereotypical gender-norm behavior. We say "good job" to little girls that do ballet and little boys that play football. Meanwhile, boys who do ballet and girls who play football, or people who identify as transgender, are often judged as confused or atypical. Let's explore how gender-norms continue to prevail in an evolving, progressive society. Let's explore the power of reinforcement.

6

Power & Its Effect on Attribution of Homosexual Male Couples

Hector Torres, Psy.D., Corina Ratz, & Jared Day jsd0139@ego.thechicagoschool.edu

Research supports that attribution is related to couple's satisfaction. For couples, attributions refer to the way a person explains their partner's behavior. Justifiably Gottman's treatment model relies on the role of attributions in couples' satisfaction. Gottman proposes that couples rely on their "emotional bank account" to face criticism and avoid hostile behaviors towards one another. However, the challenges due societal stigma and internalized homophobia add an extra layer of complexity to homosexual men couple's attribution. The authors propose that Power as it relates to race/ethnicity in a relationship where both individuals hold male privilege is another factor that differentiate homosexual men couples' attribution from those of heterosexual couples. Based on the limited literature on the association between race/ethnicity, gender, power, and couple's satisfaction among homosexual males, this poster will theorize on possible interactions among these factors and how they impact gay couples' attribution.

7

Shifts in Culture Around the Idea of Same-Sex Marriage

Danielle Zohrob dmz5397@ego.thechicagoschool.edu

The definition of marriage has undergone many changes in recent years with a move toward equal rights for same-sex couples across the United States as well as in countries around the world. The changes occurring at state and federal levels as well as the changes in public opinion signify a widespread sociopolitical shift in support for same-sex marriage. The present study will add to the

growing body of research on the phenomenon of same-sex marriage, during a time where equal rights for same-sex couples continues to change. This study will address differences among individuals of different ages, who have made the choice to legally marry his or her same-sex partner. Through quantitative and qualitative measures, this study will seek to answer the following questions: What are the effects of legal marriage on relationship satisfaction and social support of individuals within same-sex relationships? Are there differences in these effects among different ages of gays and lesbians? Is there a relationship between marital satisfaction and social support? The findings of this study will contribute valuable information for clinicians working with gay and lesbian individuals as well as same-sex couples of all ages. Additionally, this study may offer further insight into the impact of cultural shifts in attitudes toward same-sex marriage on the gay population.

8

Sexual Assertiveness in Heterosexual Couples

Ashley Jacob amj5242@ego.thechicagoschool.edu

Sexual Assertiveness can be defined as the sexual communication and initiation deriving on the ability to voice preferences and desires in a sexual relationship. There are two identified aspects of sexual assertiveness: voicing one's needs or desires and understanding that sex should not be coerced without consent. The purpose of this presentation is to investigate how sexual assertiveness is represented in men versus women.

9

Overcoming Male Sexual Victimization: Taking Back Power & Claiming Your Identity

Vincent Sperduto vxs7495@ego.thechicagoschool.edu

This victim-survivor of Catholic clergy sexual abuse will capture the heart of this topic through a phenomenological approach. Phenomenology is the study of one's experience from the first-person point of view. It explores an event or series of events and how the individual makes meaning of a given experience. This presentation will describe the four traumagenic dynamics of childhood sexual abuse: sexualization, betrayal, stigmatization, and powerlessness. It will address the confusion about sexuality that victims experience. The potential that transparency and open honest dialogue have for healing and shifting the power base will also be demonstrated. Results of the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study will be included.

10

Military Sexual Trauma

The Military Group, at the Chicago School

Melissa Marsh, Elizabeth Gunnell, & Marie Siggie St. Clair

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Sexual assault and trauma are prevalent problems in the military. Two factors that contribute to military sexual trauma are power and sexual identity. Individuals who are perceived as having low organizational power (i.e. fewer years of service, lower pay grade) or low sociocultural power (i.e. less education, lower age, non-White) are considered to be at higher risk for sexual harassment and assault (Harned, Ormerod, Palmieri, Collinsworth & Reed, 2002). Further, men may experience confusion regarding their sexual identity if the perpetrator is a male (Garnets, Herek & Levy, 1990) leading to greater sexual trauma. Victims of sexual trauma may experience barriers to care, and men, in particular, may experience perceived barriers to care, related to issues of gender and stigma.

11

Domestic Violence in the Military

The Military Group, at the Chicago School

Melissa Marsh, Elizabeth Gunnell, Marie Siggie St. Clair

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Domestic violence in the military is so frequent, the Defense Department launched a National Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign in 2010. However, the procedure set in place meant to handle issues of domestic violence is quite shaming for both parties involved, making it hard for victims to report such abuse. Typically, the spouse of the alleged abuser wants the abuse to stop, but does not want to hurt their spouses' career, stopping them from making an official report. An article on domestic violence stated that although some military women believe that routine screening for domestic violence is warranted, some military women fear that such measures may increase the risk of further domestic violence. Specifically, military women who have been abused are wary of strict screening and reporting procedures. These women see potential danger in reporting abuse to one's commanding officer, whereas non-abused women who tend to view this as beneficial.

12

Call for Action: Addressing Sexual Assault in U.S. Sex Education Paradigms

Leslie Crampton, MA lac5920@ego.thechicagoschool.edu

This presentation will analyze literature on the history of sex education models in the U.S. and its controversial curriculum due to differences in political, community, and family values. The history of sex education in America is dominated by two factions; abstinence-only-until-marriage (AOUM) and comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) (Lamb, 2013). Over the past 30 years, abstinence-only paradigms have been shifting toward a harm-reduction model, although the vast majority of programs do not address sexual assault. According to Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN), 44% of sexual assault victims are under age 18. Considering this statistic, the education system is the place and now is the time for comprehensive sexuality education that empowers students with language and knowledge around the reality of adolescent sexual experiences.

13

Get PrEPed!- Stopping the Spread of HIV with Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis

Michael Jones mwj4102@ego.thechicagoschool.edu

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a medication that when taken consistently every day reduces the risk of HIV infection in people who are at high risk for contracting the virus by up to 92%. People who are at high risk for the transmission of HIV via sexual intercourse include: anyone who is in a long term relationship with an HIV+ partner, men who have sex with men without condoms and heterosexual women who regularly have sex without condoms with partners of unknown HIV status. Safer sex practices, such as using condoms and knowing one's partner's status, in conjunction with taking PrEP as prescribed is considered to be the safest defense against contracting HIV. Although the drug is relatively new, knowledge is power in stopping the spread of HIV with PrEP as an option.

14

The Empowerment of Sex Workers to Decrease HIV in Their Community

Ashlee Stumpf ars7158@ego.thechicagoschool.edu

A sex worker is a person who provides sexual or sexual related services in exchange for money or other goods. This includes street workers, escorts, strippers, burlesque dancers, phone sex operators, etc. Over the past couple decades, sex workers have united to form organized communities with the purpose of decriminalization and access to services in the legal, medical, and mental health field. Sex workers are a high risk population for contracting the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Research supports a decrease in the sex worker population getting and/or dying from HIV when members take an active role in helping others in the community. Essentially, they become their own advocates. Some examples of how they accomplish this consist of learning about the virus, educating other sex workers, and obtaining free condoms and HIV testing.

15

The Intersection of Pornography and Sex Trafficking

Michelle Horner, Meredith Quarello, & Kimberly Loucks
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The American Psychological Association's 2014 Report on the Task Force on Trafficking of Women and Girls identified the need for future research on the link between the making and use of pornography in the sex trafficking industry. This presentation will examine this through understanding three key aspects of pornography and sex trafficking. The use of trafficking victims for creating pornography, and the ways in which pornography is used by traffickers to increase the demand for sex trafficking will be presented. For example, Wells, Mitchell, Ji's 2012 article describes case examples in which victims are being used to create pornography to increase the demand for sexual exploitation. Also, the use of pornography as a means to increase the demand of trafficking will be explored. For instance, a 2005 article by Chase and Statham noted that some victims are trained or groomed to entice them into the trafficking industry.

16

Sexual Satisfaction in the Transgender Community

Greg Mendelson gam0948@ego.thechicagoschool.edu

The purpose of this study was to address the lack of research related to sexual satisfaction in the transgender community. This qualitative research study included a face-to-face semi-structured interview that elicited in-depth information about the interviewee's lived experiences. The themes that emerged from the nine interviews were; Sex being less about penetration and the expansion of the concept of sex, being more in-tune sexually with partner, an increase in sexual satisfaction, level of comfortableness with body, shift in what is pleasurable, kink and B.D.S.M themes, dominant and submissive themes, physical side effects, with HRT or since orchiectomy lower libido/has sex less frequently, not currently being sexually active with penetrative or genital sex, change in experience of orgasm, orgasm and ejaculation no longer being the goal, shift in masturbation, shift in fantasies, shift or expansion in sexual orientation, shift in gender roles or stereotypes, and a shift in expression of emotions.

17

Locked In: A Look at the Issues of Being Transgender in the Criminal Justice System

Benjamin Carter, Breanne Taylor bgc0564@ego.thechicagoschool.edu

The goal of the poster will be to help clinicians understand the unique issues faced by the Transgender community when navigating the criminal justice system. We will conduct this research by examining this issue in three ways. First, we will explore issues specific to the Transgender community within the general population. Second, we will examine how being Transgender and being in the criminal justice system intersects to create a unique, and often times hostile environment. We will conclude by looking at clinical implications of this research, and how clinicians can utilize this information in order to be more competent when working with this population.

18

Advocating for a Paradigm Shift in clinical Work with Queer Relational Subjectivity

Hilary Green, Gideon Litherland Hilary.h.green@gmail.com

Significant research has been completed which has conceptualized, proposed, and advanced relationship-based interventions for heteronormative couples struggling with sexual issues in relationships. The presenters claim that the role of the therapist is to critically examine the appropriateness of such research-based interventions in clinical work with queer individuals and relationships. Because sex remains a taboo topic culturally as well as within psychology training, often clinicians are lacking understanding and comfort surrounding discussion of sex. Discomfort can lead clinicians to avoid the topic or to minimize the importance and impact of sexual function in a relationship. This minimization invalidates a source of very real pain and can lead to guilt or shame for the client. Presenters offer up considerations for clinical work grounded in the conviction to honor the lived experiences of queer subjectivity within relationships and sexual experiences.

19

Influence of Transgender Identity on Interpersonal Relationships

Logan Stohle lx1133@ego.thechicagoschool.edu

This presentations looks at the role transgender identity plays in friendship specifically in relation to power dynamics and social factors that shape both the transgender identity and the relationships. A definition of the term transgender is provided, along with popular social psychology theories on attraction and friendship. This information is then used to describe the social influences on transgender individuals' friendships. Analysis of transgender characters in current television shows highlights the disempowering aspects of their portrayed relationships.

20

Sex after 65: Decreasing Stigma & Promoting Comprehensive Care

Samantha Tippy stippy@my.adler.edu

It is widely assumed that adults over 65 are unattractive, not interested in sexual activity, do not have a sexual desire, or should not engage in sexual activity. These stereotypes about the sexual activities and desires of the older adult population are sometimes encouraged by health care professionals who do not ask their clients about sex after age 65. This intentional or unintentional absence of questioning on clinical intake ignores potential health risks and psychological distress clients faced by

clients who are struggling with sexual satisfaction. With the aging of the baby boomer population, a call for comprehensive sexual care in order to combat potential psychological distress, health risks, and perpetuation of stigma is required. While the literature available on the age-specific sexual challenges faced by older adults remains limited, increased awareness of issue can promote healthy sexual practices in later life.

21

Ageless Eroticism: An Exploration of Sexual Relations in the Geriatric Population and the Power Struggle between Client Autonomy & Client Caregivers

Brittany Nelson bnm7701@ego.thechicagoschool.edu

Contrary to popular belief, sexual desires and relations do not disappear when we age. This poster will explore sexual and intimate relationships in the geriatric nursing home populations, and the impact caregivers have on the ability to form intimate relationships. Much debate arises in deciding the cognitive ability to consent within this population, while the stigma of sex within the geriatric population leaves the topic too taboo to be considered by caregivers, children, and professionals. How do we find the balance between cognitive deficits, sexual needs, and decreased autonomy? The issue of power is raised legally, psychologically, and socially when someone moves into a long-term care facility. Together, we can bring more focus to this hot topic and improve the psychological well-being of this population by providing a vital aspect of human connection safely!

22

Sexuality & Disability

Brian Kruse bxk7394@ego.thechicagoschool.edu

Maintaining a healthy sexuality can be a challenge for anybody in today's hectic society, in part due to a dearth of accurate information and a generalized lack of openness to discuss certain issues of sexuality. This is particularly true for individuals living with physical disability. Couples where an individual or both individuals have a physical disability are often invisible in the literature therefore leading them to face numerous challenges on their own. This presentation will analyze previously published literature relating to this subject, as well as discussing areas of study where research is lacking."

LIBRARY GUIDE

Many thanks to the professional staff in our library who created a LibGuide for sExploration 2015. Please use this link to explore more information on the topics presented in this year's program.

<http://tcsedsystem.libguides.com/sExploration2015>



MISSION STATEMENT: Projects Advancing Sexual Diversity applies the practice of psychology to further the understanding and acceptance of diverse sexual and gender identities, practices and cultures. We explore narratives of healthy, normative development in these populations. Utilizing innovative research and interventions, PASD also strives to create sustainable change in conditions impacting the welfare of sexual and gender minority individuals, families and communities.

www.ProjectsAdvancingSexualDiversity.org

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