



THE SOCIETY FOR THE  
SCIENTIFIC STUDY  
OF SEXUALITY

# SEXUAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2018



Volume 60, Issue 2

## UPDATE FROM SSSS PRESIDENT ERIC WALSH-BUHI: THE STATE OF THE SOCIETY

In our winter newsletter I implored you all to join me and ignite change in our fields, in our work, and in our world. And one way to provoke change is to start at home. Accordingly, I present to you the “State of the Society.” As SSSS members, you should know about the health of your organization and what it is doing.

### *Services and Finances*

SSSS has 3 primary services and sources of income: Membership, the Annual Meeting, and the *Journal of Sex Research*. Investment in these sources has left SSSS in good financial standing.

### *Membership*

In 2016, SSSS had 532 members, in 2017 membership increased to 580. What does the SSSS membership look like? The great majority (94%) of our members live in one of two countries: the US (482) and Canada (64). Eleven of our members live in European nations (3 in the UK, 2 in Sweden, 1 each in Finland, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, and Spain). SSSS also has members in Australia (11), Japan (3), India (2),

Indonesia (2), South Korea (1), New Zealand (1), Barbados (1), and Israel (1). However, SSSS has only 1 member living on the entire continent of Africa and no current members living in Mexico or Central America. This is something we hope to improve; SSSS needs to work harder to increase the diversity of the membership. For instance, Mexico is my neighbour (I live less than 20 miles from Tijuana) and I know Mexico has amazing professionals doing sexual science, sex education, and sex therapy work. SSSS members would benefit greatly from their presence and perspectives on committees, at Annual Meetings, and among our digital networks. SSSS must do more to strategically reach out and include others.

Regular members make up 47% of our membership, we also have a strong student membership (31%), 10% of our membership is classified as retired members and nearly another 10% are developing professionals. Since 2 out of every 5 SSSS members are early in their careers (either a student or a developing professional), there is a clear need to

provide membership services that cater to the needs of early and developing career members. The SSSS Advancing Sexual Science (or ASS) Committee was formed to meet just such a need. This past year the ASS committee planned 3 special sessions at the SSSS Annual Meeting and worked to plan the first SSSS Summer Research Institute, which will help strengthen the research skills of attendees. [Read more about the Summer Research Institute in this newsletter!] The Membership Committee is also continuing its efforts to create and develop Special Interest Groups (SIGs), based on member interest areas. The goal of these SIGs is to offer opportunities for members to connect based on common interests in order to foster collaboration and mentorship.

We want to hear from you: What can SSSS do to meet your continuing professional needs? What can SSSS be doing to recruit and retain new members across the globe?

**Eric Walsh-Buhi**

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Twitter: @ebuhi

Read more about “The State of the Society” on pages 2 and 3.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- What can you look forward to at the SSSS Summer Research Institute?
- More on the “State of the Society” from Eric Walsh-Buhi
- Your Member News, Award Opportunities, and more!



## The “State of the Society” Continued...

### *The 2017 Annual Meeting*

The 2017 Annual Meeting was a great success, thanks to the unwavering dedication of SSSS staff—namely Executive Director, Mandy Peters, and Dawn Olewnik—and its volunteers. The Annual Meeting is always an excellent opportunity to connect with (and make new) friends and colleagues, attend stimulating scientific sessions and get re-energized about sexual science. Due to multiple hurricanes, however, the SSSS Board of Directors made a difficult decision to relocate the meeting to Atlanta, Georgia. The 2017 Annual Meeting brought 369 total attendees—a number identical to 2016. This is amazing, given the short turnaround time necessary for moving the meeting from Puerto Rico to Atlanta, and in about one month’s time!

#### 2016 Annual Meeting

185	Professional
0	Developing Professional (included in Professional)
12	Retired
161	Student
11	International*
<hr/>	
369	2016 TOTAL ATTENDEES
49	CE Participants

#### 2017 Annual Meeting

173	Professional
33	Developing Professional (1 <sup>st</sup> Year Offered)
13	Retired
141	Student
9	International*
<hr/>	
369	2017 TOTAL ATTENDEES
44	CE Participants

There were many excellent plenaries, oral presentations and poster sessions at the 2017 Annual Meeting. One truly awesome item of note, however, was the fundraiser for our friends and colleagues in Puerto Rico. In Atlanta, SSSS sold wristbands (“I stand with Puerto Rico”) and held a silent auction that raised more than \$4,500 for hurricane relief. Thank you to all who donated items for the auction and, of course, to all who attended and contributed! The SSSS Board of Directors is looking into returning to Puerto Rico, the next time the meeting location rotates back to the eastern portion of the U.S. (in 2020).

## LEARN NEW SKILLS AT THE SSSS SUMMER RESEARCH INSTITUTE!

This summer SSSS will be hosting its first Summer Research Institute, so I reached out to one of the co-chairs, Dr. Brooke Wells to find out why we should be excited.

Dr. Wells said that while there are several summer research institutes that budding sexuality scholars could attend, many of those are not specific to sexuality research and topics.

*“We think this summer research institute will be exciting because it combines rigorous methodological training with sexual science, making it an ideal fit for emerging scholars or more established scholars looking to expand their methodological repertoire.”*

There are so many exciting sessions planned—from big-picture ideas of reproducibility in sexual science, to the details of appropriately measuring sexual assault, and all kinds of ways to manage and analyse your data!

The program will include both qualitative and quantitative research methods, as well as sessions designed to help scholars translate research into practice and action.

### What can you expect from the SSSS Summer Research Institute?

There will be a range of methodological workshops. **Dr. Charlene Muehlenhard**, an award winning psychology professor from the University of Kansas, will be presenting a workshop discussing the methodological challenges to conducting research on sexual consent and sexual coercion. Charlene is a past president of SSSS, her work explores the constructions and intersections of sexuality, gender, consent, and coercion. Charlene’s workshop will

address topics like how recruitment strategies and selection criteria, as well as how subtle changes to the wording of your items can impact your results. This workshop will combine data based information, real-life examples, and group discussion to work through challenges and possible strategies for constructing strong research designs.

**Dr. Nic Grosskopf**, a public health professor and coordinator from York College of the City University of New York (CUNY), will present strategies to navigate institutional review boards when conducting sexuality research. Nic examines the intersection of health and technology, health equity, and health policy implications for sexual and gender minorities, as well as the ethical issues related to research with human participants. He currently serves as Chair of the CUNY University-Integrated Institutional Review Boards – he is well placed to give us great advice for navigating IRBs!

In a workshop about data collection in community settings, **Dr. Megan Simmons**, a research scientist at Widener University, will use examples from her family planning and reproductive health research to illustrate methodologies that align with justice-oriented scientific practice. Megan’s own work focuses on abortion decision making, contraceptive behaviours, and the diverse paths to parenthood across sexual identities. Her work emphasizes ecological frameworks and justice-oriented methods. Her workshop will show us how we can use justice oriented approaches in our research and practice to examine the socio-political contexts in which sexuality is expressed and enacted, which is essential to understanding the lived experiences and thus the needs of our populations of interest.

**Dr. Miguel Muñoz-Laboy**, of Temple University, will be running a session to build the foundational knowledge needed to conduct effective life history interviews – an ethnographic method that can produce rich qualitative data about a population of interest. This is an opportunity to build important interviewer skills!

There will also be a range of workshops designed to build advanced data analysis skills, particularly around issues common in sexual science, such as conducting regression with count variables, handling missing data, managing and conducting analyses in large datasets, and cutting edge strategies for meta-analysis!

**Dr. Tyrel Starks** will familiarize attendees with the procedures for logistic and count regression, including how to interpret output and present the results in a manner suitable for publication. Logistic regression is a powerful way to handle binary (yes/no) data, but interpreting the analysis output is a little less straightforward than typical linear regression – this is a great opportunity to learn from a pro.

**Dr. Shayna Skakoon-Sparling** will walk attendees through the process of diagnosing missingness and imputing missing data when you're stuck with a wonderful dataset that has a few holes in it (like when someone misses a question in a survey or skips a day in a longitudinal study).

**Dr. John Sakaluk** will help attendees plan a rigorous meta-analysis, taking into consideration factors like effect size and artifact correction. John will also talk about coding moderators, fitting and interpreting fixed-effect and random-effect models, data visualization, and the standards for reporting your results. It is this writer's personal opinion that John is a meta-analysis wizard, so this is sure to be an action-

packed session, full of practical tips.

**Dr. Jane Fu** will teach attendees how to manage and analyse large datasets – using the National Survey of Sexual Health and Behaviour as an example. This sessions promises to offer insight into how national probability surveys are designed and conducted and how to manage the methodological and statistical challenges that come along with this type of data.

The program also includes sessions designed to help sexual scientists translate research into practice and action, such as **Dr. Sofia Jawed-Wessel's** session discussing the ways in which sexual scientists can use their skills to inform policy conversations and decisions at various levels.

Sofia has a public health background and researches the sexual health of women and sexual behaviours of couples as they transition into parenthood. She has successfully organized and argued in favour of comprehensive sex education in Omaha Public Schools and fights against restrictive anti-choice legislation in Nebraska. Sofia's workshop will train attendees to better understand the importance of scientist-policymaker partnerships and the many different levels at which sex scientists can use their research and communication skills to effect change.

Intrigued? You can learn more about the upcoming SSSS Summer Research Institute here: <https://goo.gl/b5nkkX>

Excited? You can login and register to attend the SSSS Summer Research Institute here: <https://goo.gl/EKRMwp> Registration closes July 23rd and space is limited!

Hope to see you there this summer!



## The “State of the Society” Continued...

*The Journal of Sex Research (JSR)*

Who makes JSR run?

**Six Associate Editors (Christian Grov, Osmo Kontula, Lucia O'Sullivan, Zoe Peterson, and Margaret Rosario).** At the 2017 Annual Meeting, **Dennis Fortenberry, was presented with the Distinguished Service to SSSS Award for his work as an Associate Editor** for the journal from 2006 to 2016 (thank you, Dennis!). In April it was announced that **Dr. Brian Willoughby** would join the associate editor team at JSR. Brian replaced **John Wincze**, who stepped down (after 20 years!!). We'd like to thank John for his service to JSR and also welcome Brian to the team! **Sari van Anders is in her third year of a five-year term as ARSR Editor.** There are currently **42 Consulting Editors** on the editorial board, including **two statistical consultants (Devon Hensel and John Sakaluk).** And, of course, our **editor in chief, Cynthia Graham.**

From January 1 to October 31, 2017, JSR received 412 new manuscripts and 186 revised manuscripts. The mean turnaround time (from submission to first decision letter) was 53.23 days (range 23 to 113 days), compared with 53.9 days during this same period in 2016.

What is JSR's overall impact and reputation? The 2016 Impact Factor was 2.902 (an increase from 2015, which was 2.862). The journal was ranked 1st out of 96 journals in the *Social Sciences, Interdisciplinary* category and 28th out of 121 journals in the *Psychology, Clinical* category.

I thank Cynthia Graham for her work on and dedication to JSR. As far as I know, 2018 will be her 10th year as editor. Needless to say, Cynthia has given a lot to SSSS and JSR. JSR is in good hands in 2018. Please follow/connect with her on Twitter at @cygraham\_graham and be sure to follow the latest JSR news via the hashtag #JSexResearch. Lastly, JSR has a new website, courtesy of Taylor and Francis. Please visit <https://goo.gl/y7YxG9> for all things JSR.

END

**Have you seen the new design of the SSSS Website?!**  
<http://sexscience.org>



## Developing Clinical Practice Guidelines for Working with Kinky Clients

Since the early 2000s, calls for clinical practice guidelines for working with BDSM clients have been published periodically. But recently there has been an increase in the number of empirical studies and case presentations that address therapeutic concerns when working with kink-identified clients and patients. In addition, there has been an increase in the number of continuing education training workshops, online educational offerings, and conferences that address the need for kink competence in therapy. Given these changes, an appropriate next step in developing this area of competence is the creation of proposed clinical practice guidelines for therapists and counselors.

A number of clinicians and researchers, each who have been working in this area for the past 13-30+ years, has formed a working group to propose practice guidelines. The working group has taken up the task to review (1) the current state of the empirical literature on kink sexuality and on the state of the professions in addressing this population; (2) the gaps in the empirical literature about BDSM/kink sexuality, where the science is cutting edge; and (3) the clinical issues that confront therapists and counselors when working with kink-involved clients and patients.

The working group includes several SSSS members - they will be presenting this work at AASECT and APA in 2018, and they have sent a proposal for SSSS 2018.

The practice guidelines are aspirational. They are meant to articulate goals and standards that professionals can strive for, to guide their own professional development and to increase the quality of services they offer.

**If you are interested in the project, contact Richard Sprott at [richard.sprott@csueastbay.edu](mailto:richard.sprott@csueastbay.edu)**



**This April the SSSS Board of Directors met at San Diego State University (SDSU) to discuss the near and distant future of the organization. The meeting was very successful!**

The "Sexuality Research Across Disciplines" Symposium was on April 20, also at SDSU. It was jointly sponsored by SDSU Graduate School of Public Health and Center for Research on Sexuality and Sexual Health (SASH) and The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (SSSS)



**Dr. Karin Coyle on Neuroscience and Sex Ed.**

**Dr. Rose Hartzell-Cushmanick on Sexual Dysfunction**



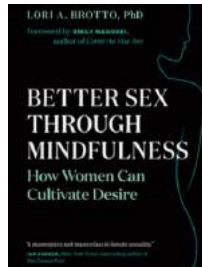
**Dr. Zoë D. Peterson (left) and Dr. Kristen N. Jozkowski (right) discussing college students and sexual consent.**



# Member News!



**Lori Brotto** has published a book on how women can improve desire, arousal, and sexual satisfaction: ***Better Sex Through Mindfulness***. A pioneer in the use of mindfulness for treating sexual difficulties, Lori Brotto has helped hundreds of women cultivate more exciting, fulfilling sexual experiences. In this book, she explores the various reasons for sexual problems, such as stress and incessant multitasking, and tells the stories of many of the women she has treated over the years. She also provides easy, effective exercises that readers can do on their own to increase desire and sexual enjoyment, whether their goal is to overcome a sexual difficulty or simply give their love life a boost.



**Michael Perelman and the MAP Education and Research Foundation** recently presented their first Sexual Tipping Point Award. The award was given to Jennifer Bossio. On April 21<sup>st</sup> the certificate and a \$500 prize were awarded at the Annual Meeting of the Sex Therapy and Research in Philadelphia. This award was in recognition of her presentation title “Development of a Mindfulness-Based Group Therapy Manual to Improve Couples Intimacy After Prostate Cancer Treatment.” More information about MAP can be found here: <http://www.mapedfund.org/>



**Sasha Canan** leads the new Sexuality Education & Attitudes Lab (SEAL) at Monmouth University in the Health & Physical Education Department. After her first cohort of undergraduate research assistants Spring 2018, the lab is attracting more students interested in sex research. Follow the lab's work on Twitter (@SEALstudy).



**Paul Abramowitz**, from Cape Town in South Africa, is currently in the final editing stages of a book that he hopes will be a resource for therapists and the general public. This book will look at decoding the hetero- male sexual hardwiring, with a deep dive into aspects of both the biological and emotional. It also offers a workbook for men and their partners. Paul hopes this book will fill a hole by looking at non-pathologised male sexual enquiry.

**Frank Farley**, Ph.D., of Temple University, Philadelphia, and SSSS Fellow, was interviewed in February on Michigan radio “Michigan’s Big Show” carried in 7 stations, on love, and in April appeared in many Canadian newspapers, such as The National Post, on gender and violence.

You can listen to the episode here: <https://goo.gl/s3rYHX>

**Sari van Anders**

is moving! Dr. van Anders is currently Associate Professor of Psychology, Women’s Studies, and Neuroscience at the University of Michigan, and will be moving back to Canada. At Queen’s University, Dr. van Anders will be Professor of Psychology, Gender Studies, and Neuroscience, and also the Canada 150 Research Chair in Social Neuroendocrinology, Sexuality, and Gender/Sex!



**Harrington Park Press** has released a new book by Kimberly Acquaviva called ***LGBTQ Inclusive Hospice & Palliative Care***. It won the book of the year award in the category of Palliative & Hospice Care. <https://goo.gl/6KuQgc>

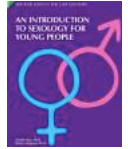


**Stella Resnick** is looking forward to re-connecting with friends and colleagues. “For the last two and a half years I’ve been devoted to researching and writing my new book, ***Body-to-Body Intimacy: Transformation through Love, Sex, and Neurobiology*** to be launched by Routledge in September. I continue to do two seminars a year at Esalen in Big Sur, CA—the spring training in Embodied Relational Sex Therapy was in early May this year. The annual summer couples’ workshop I co-lead with my husband, ***Embodying Your Love: Explorations in Intimacy for Couples*** is being offered this year **Sunday, July 22 to Friday, July 27.** Therapists and other health professionals attending can gain skills relevant to clinical practice and earn 26 CE credits for AASECT, APA, MFT, and most other licenses For more info or to register, please visit: <https://goo.gl/mqsbWY>

**Yael Rosenstock** has two exciting projects coming up! ***BodyLove: Vulva Edition*** and her ***Diverse Bodies Project***. BodyLove is workshop aimed at building body positivity and exploring sexuality through conversation, you can read more about the event here: <https://goo.gl/vBmABW> The Diverse Bodies Project is currently recruiting owners of diverse bodies in NYC who are interested in being photographed and interviewed to create a coffee-table book and/or a website. You can learn more about these and Yael’s other projects on her website: <https://goo.gl/Rf41n9>

# MORE MEMBER NEWS...

**Stanley Krippner** (SSSS Fellow) has co-authored (with Jennifer Iljas) *AN INTRODUCTION TO SEXOLOGY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE*, published by Sentia Publishing Company. Designed for high school juniors and seniors, and for college freshmen and sophomores, the book contains exercises to empower its readers to become "junior sexologists." It can be described as feminist, LGBTQ-friendly, and inter-cultural (Dr. Iljas uses the book for her classes at Laney College in Oakland, CA, which contains students from a variety of ethnic groups and cultures). Complimentary copies are available for those instructors considering using it for their classes. [Sentia Publishing - Innovators in Higher Education Publishing]



**Chelsea D. Kilimnik**, M.S., won the Scholars in Women's Sexual Health research grant from the International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health for her research proposal on a cognitive bias modification intervention for sexual avoidance in women with sexual trauma. Great work Chelsea!

**Stephanie Buehler**, MPW, PsyD, CST-S announces the publication of her new book *Counseling Couples Before, During, and After Pregnancy: Sexuality and Intimacy Issues*



**Jane Ussher, Janette Perz, and Simon Rosser** (Dr. Rosser is a SSSS Fellow) have edited a new book called *Gay & Bisexual Men Living with Prostate Cancer* it is now available: <https://goo.gl/nDwaTu>

**Patricia Goodson's** book *Becoming an Academic Writer: 50 Exercises for Paced, Productive, and Powerful Writing* recently won the 2018 Textbook & Academic Authors Association's Textbook Excellence Award!

**Ann Turoczy** completed her Dissertation defense in July of 2017 and earned a PhD in psychology. Her Dissertation "The Process of Developing Functional Relationships within the Context of BDSM (Bondage-Discipline, Dominance-Submission, Sadomasochism): A Grounded Theory Study" has now been published: <https://goo.gl/di16tN>

Stay tuned! Drs. **Amy Moors** and **Heath Schechinger** proposed a Consensual Non-monogamy task force within Division 44 (Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity) of the American Psychological Association. The task force was unanimously approved by Division 44's Executive Board. It's the first known task force within APA to advocate for consensually non-monogamous relationships. In our next issue of the Sexual Science Newsletter, Amy and Heath will discuss the mission and goals of the task force as well as ways for interested folks to get involved in projects related to research, practice, training, and public awareness. They can be reached at: [Div44CNMTaskForce@gmail.com](mailto:Div44CNMTaskForce@gmail.com).



**Do you want to meet other SSSS members who have specific research interests? Consider joining a SIG (Special Interest Group)!**

The existing SIGs include: Intersectional Sex Science, LGBT Research, Transgender Health/Sexuality, Sex Research Methods, Sexual Communication, Sex Work, BDSM/Kink, Sexual Coercion/Aggression, Sexual Health/Sex Risk, Sex and Technology, and Sex in Relationships. If you would like to join an existing SIG, suggest a new SIG, or have any questions about SIGs, please contact Jay Irwin ([jirwin@unomaha.edu](mailto:jirwin@unomaha.edu)). And be on the look out for a special SIG event at the upcoming 2018 Annual Meeting!

## The Bonnie and Vern L. Bullough Book Award

This award is given annually by the Foundation for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (FSSS) for the most distinguished book written for the professional sexological community published during the previous year. A prize of \$500 and a plaque are given to the recipient. The book must be an original work, that is, not a new edition or an anthology from multiple authors. Its primary audience must be professionals working in the field of sexology, from any disciplinary perspective.

To submit nominations, the author(s) or their publisher, or any individual acting with the author's consent should submit one copy of the work, accompanied by a cover letter indicating that the book is being submitted for consideration for the award. An administrative nonrefundable fee of \$20 must be enclosed for each book nominated, check payable to FSSS. Copies of reviews and publicity material should be submitted with the book when possible.

**The deadline for nominations for this year's competition is June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.**

For more info, see <http://foundationsss.org/awards/> or contact Herb Samuels, Ph.D., [hsamuels@lagcc.cuny.edu](mailto:hsamuels@lagcc.cuny.edu)







A special thank you to SSSS member **Mark Schoen**, his film / editing crew, and his volunteers for creating the SSSS 60th anniversary video. The video can be viewed here:  
<http://sexscience.org/events/annual-meeting/>



## OPPORTUNITIES!

**Nathan Lachowsky** at the **University of Victoria** is now accepting applications for prospective **MA, PhD., or postdoctoral research fellows**, who are interested in joining his new program of research focused on the health and wellbeing of gay, bisexual, two-spirit, queer, and trans men. Dr. Lachowsky will provide funding via research and teaching assistant positions. If you are interested in a position, please send a cover letter and your curriculum vitae to Bernie Paillé, the Research Program Manager at [berniepaille@uvic.ca](mailto:berniepaille@uvic.ca). References are not needed at this stage. If you have questions, feel free to write to [nlachowsky@uvic.ca](mailto:nlachowsky@uvic.ca) or call at +1(250)472-5739.

## Upcoming...

**June 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> – 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Guelph Sexuality Conference.**

*More info:*

<http://www.guelphsexualityconference.ca/>



**PREACHING TO THE CHOIR**  
AN INTERNATIONAL LGBTQ PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE

**MONTREAL, CANADA**  
**JUNE 2018**

An International LGBTQ Psychology Pre-Conference at ICAP. June 24- 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Registration is open! [www.LGBTQpsychology.com](http://www.LGBTQpsychology.com)



**July 17<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>**

IASR Annual Meeting in Madrid, Spain.

<https://goo.gl/BMw9sz>



**July 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> - SSSS 2018 Summer Institute**

at Widener University.

<https://goo.gl/oQmdLx>



**Oct 11<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> – CSRF Annual Meeting** in Toronto, Ontario, Canada

<https://goo.gl/MBrWCC>



**November 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**SSSS 2018 Annual Meeting**  
In Montreal, Quebec, Canada!

<https://goo.gl/p7YXVM>

