

8th Annual



WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY
FAIRMOUNT COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES
Department of Sociology



WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
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2021 Agenda at a Glance

- 9:00 – 10 am:** Opening Keynote: **Representative Stephanie Byers**
Moderator: Jodie Hertzog, WSU Sociology
Media Resource Center co-host: Ryan Chastain
- 10:15-11:30 am:** Breakout Session 1
- 1a: Dismantling "the Box"** [p. 4/5]
Moderator: Jodie Simon, WSU Sociology
MRC co-host: Ryan Chastain
- 1b: Gender, Sexuality, & Health** [p. 6/7]
Moderator: Jennifer Pearson, WSU Sociology
MRC co-host: Colton Wasinger
- 11:30-12:30 pm:** Lunch Break
- 12:30-1:45 pm:** Breakout Session 2
- 2a: Unpacking Gender-based Sexual Violence** [p. 8/9]
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- 2b: Agitating for Social Change** [p. 10/11]
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- 2:00 - 3:15 pm:** Breakout Session 3
- 3a: Gender through a Creative Lens** [p. 12/13]
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- 3b: Intimacy Beyond the Binary** [p. 14/15]
Moderator: Jennifer Pearson, WSU Sociology
MRC co-host: Colton Wasinger
- 3:30-4:30 pm:** Closing Keynote: **Shana Chivon, Social Activist**
Moderator: Jodie Hertzog, WSU Sociology
MRC co-host: Ryan Chastain

9:00 - 10:00 am

Opening Keynote: Representative Stephanie Byers

“It’s Easier to Be It, When You Can See It – Why Representation Matters”



Representative Stephanie Byers, She/Her/Hers (Kansas House of Representatives, 86th District) is the recipient of the GLSEN-Kansas state Educator of the Year and the GLSEN National Educator of the Year, and recently retired after 29 years of teaching for Wichita Public Schools. For 28 years, she was the award-winning director of Bands and Orchestras and Fine Arts Department Chair at Wichita North High School. Stephanie is an Oklahoman by birth, a member of the Chickasaw Nation, and has called Wichita home for the last three decades. She and her wife, Lori, own and operate a company that assists corporations, community groups and schools with understanding of working with diverse communities.

Since coming out publicly as a transgender woman, she has advocated about issues impacting the LGBTQ community. She has spoken at rallies on the steps of the Kansas State Capitol and given presentations to several local community organizations, as well as public school faculties and student bodies. Stephanie served as the Communications Director for Wichita Pride, the local organization that hosts Wichita’s local LGBTQ pride events, and has volunteered for a number of other local Wichita non-profits.

Representative Byers is not only the first, out, transgender person to serve in the Kansas Legislature, but also is the first transgender person of Native American descent ever elected to any state legislature in the United States.

Stephanie has a Bachelor of Music Education from Oklahoma Christian University (1986), and a Master of Music from Kansas State University (2015).

Breakout Sessions

10:15 – 11:30 am

Breakout Session 1a: Dismantling "the Box"

Weaponizing Women: Firearms Ownership and the Gender Gap in Gun Attitudes

Alexandra Middlewood, WSU

The rates of gun ownership among women are holding steady, even as ownership among men declines. Yet, very little research explores the effect gun ownership has on women. In this paper I examine the impact of women's gun ownership on feelings of safety about firearms in public spaces. Gun ownership sets women owners apart from other women, creating cleavages in a group that has traditionally been more gun adverse. There is in fact substantial variance among women which is often ignored in the gender gap literature. Women are not a monolithic group, and gender intersects other identities, like gun ownership, in complex ways. This paper focuses on the gun gap between women gun owners and non-owners, and explores the effect gun ownership has on the expected gender gap on gun issues.

Is it a Man's World? Female Sport Managers Acclimating to a Male Dominated Industry

Bobby Berry & Ricki Ellison, WSU

Globally, the sport industry significantly impacts the society, while simultaneously being embedded within it. (Coakley, 2017). Sport impacts fashion, music, marketing, and purchasing habits or trends for a number of populations. Since the beginning, the sport industry was a dominantly male-occupied space. In a report by Women in Sport, "stated that 40 percent of women that were surveyed in the sports industry felt that their gender could have a negative impact on the way they're valued by others at work (Women in Sport Survey, 2018)". Women have slowly progressed in the industry with recent high-profile examples including the hiring of Jen Welter, in 2015, as an assistant coach for the Arizona Cardinals NFL team and the hiring of Kim Ng, in 2020, as a general manager of the Miami Marlins.

Women are breaking barriers in sport and continue to confront individual, structural, or societal norms (Franks & O'Neil, 2016). As a result, the purpose of our study is to measure perceptions of female sport management students. Specifically, the research will examine expectations as they enter into not only a male dominated academic program, but also industry. The theoretical framework used is Surprise and Sensemaking. Surprise and sensemaking is a framework that considers how a newcomer experiences a new organizational context. The model was created by M.R. Louis in 1980 and emerged from the turnover and socialization literature in business. It is still useful for exploring how newcomers, such as female students, cope with transitions and reconcile the surprising misalignment of expectations and actual experiences. This framework considers the expectations newcomers bring to a new organizational context, in addition to five types of surprises (Warner & Brown, 1995).

Methods: Using quantitative data, researchers distributed an electronic survey instrument. This instrument was developed and sent to undergraduate Sport Management majors at Wichita State University. Questions were created based upon the previous literature associated with Surprise and Sensemaking. Presenters will address the following main themes (conscious expectations, self-expectations, unanticipated features, internal reactions, and cultural assumptions).

Breakout Session 1a: Dismantling "the Box" continued

Gendered Trends in Public Archaeology: an analysis of Archaeology Magazine (1948-1982)

Zoe Blair & Crystal Dozier, WSU

As a STEM and field-based discipline, archaeology has often been associated with masculine actors despite the majority of archaeology graduates being female since the 1970s. We explore gendered trends in the presentation of archaeology to the general public through an analysis of Archaeology Magazine, the most popular public publication for the discipline. We reviewed all articles in the first 34 years of the publication, 1948-1982, for data about authorship, images of archaeologists, and prominence of laboratory versus field highlights. In this presentation we examine our preliminary findings on gendered trends in the magazine and interpretations on how those publication choices may have influenced public views of archaeology.

Gender Discrimination in the Computing Jobs

David Hazelwood, K-State

Computer technology jobs are dominated by men, creating a culture that discriminates against women. This fosters the belief, held by men in these fields, that women are less qualified. According to the National Center for Women and Information Technology, women only make up 26% of computer technology-related fields and only 20% of computer programming jobs. Jobs that deal with computer technology -- such as IT technician, computer programmer, and web developers -- have higher expectations for women than they have for men. These expectations are that women should have higher professionalism than men due to the sexist belief that women are better at "soft skills", and that women are less equipped to handle the competitive nature of the field. In this way, women are seen as either competent or well liked, but never both. This is one of the major causes for women to be passed up for promotions. Another reason women are often overlooked for promotions in this field is that men are typically promoted for their potential skill growth, while women are expected to first demonstrate their skills in order to be considered for the promotion. While there is a movement to get more women into technology-related occupations, the masculine culture that dominates the field pushes better qualified women out for less qualified men.

10:15 – 11:30 am

Breakout Session 1b: Gender, Sexuality, & Health

The Body Misogyny

Amina Soneviseth, WSU

In her book *Down Girl*, Kate Manne addresses several aspects of our culture that stem from or contribute to the development of misogyny. In this context, misogyny refers to the systems that interchange and prolong the subordination of women. I will argue for the connection between misogyny and issues related to disordered food/bodily perceptions. This will be done in several parts including the give and take model as Manne references. Another part of this presentation will cover the disgust associations between others and the self, with an emphasis on eating disorder behaviors in women. A common theme in eating disorder culture, (as well as diet culture) the impact of disgust from the self, as well as the disgust society projects to those who struggle with eating disorders. Typically, in cases where the behaviors or mental state of the individual is not conveniently aligned to the romanticized notion of eating disorders in pop culture, disgust and cringe is our common cultural response. The focus of this talk will connect the social conditions of being a woman to the harmful experiences in disordered eating/eating disorders. The final conclusions will discuss commentary on gender by addressing the role of femininity, which can have toxic effects when presented as a singular ideal. The research findings suggest an approach to physical shape as body neutrality to have freeing benefits for women.

"I chose not to shave my legs": Strategies Used for Goal-Congruent Sexual Decision Making

Alli Smith & Charlene Muehlenhard, KU

Introduction: Individuals often have reasons for both wanting and not wanting to engage in sex. In some cases, engaging in sex could be congruent with an individual's short-term goals (e.g., having fun) but incongruent with the individual's long-term goals (e.g., avoiding a negative reputation). Sometimes individuals employ strategies to promote behavior that is congruent with their goal of avoiding sex. The present study examines ambivalence in sexual situations and the strategies that individuals reported using to decrease the likelihood they would have sex. This presentation will explore different types of reported strategies and how strategy use was related to individual's desires for the act of sex or the outcomes of sex. Method: Participants (N = 576) completed an online questionnaire that asked if they had ever used a strategy to decrease the likelihood they would have sex, what strategies they had ever used, and to describe a situation in which they had used a strategy. Responses of 287 participants were analyzed using thematic analysis to determine qualitative themes within the data. Results: A majority of participants (65.2%) reported having used a strategy to decrease the likelihood of having sex. These strategies included, but were not limited to, using an excuse or lying, masturbating, not grooming or shaving, and wearing unattractive undergarments. Participants' desire for the act or the outcome of sex was reflected in their strategy use: Some reported utilizing strategies to increase personal resolve in the face of desiring the act of sex, but not the outcomes; whereas others reported utilizing strategies that signaled to others they did not want the act of sex but sought to avoid negative outcomes associated with not wanting sex. These results build on previous models of ambivalence and offer new insights into the use of strategies to decrease the likelihood of sex.

Breakout Session 1b: Gender, Sexuality, & Health continued

Queering Biology

Sam Sharpe, K-State

Although biology is often presented as value-neutral and divorced from culture, without understanding how eugenics and white supremacy have influenced historical understandings of biological sex, gender, and sexuality, we cannot effectively challenge the biased and binary misunderstandings of human diversity that continue to frame heterosexual, cisgender, endosex genders, bodies, and relationships as the only ones that are “real”, natural, or correct. My presentation will bring together ideas from evolutionary biology and gender studies to discuss biological sex, gender, sexuality, and self-identification within a cultural context. I will provide an overview of the complexity of biological sex, including the role of gametes, chromosomal variation, and sex differentiation in humans and across taxa. I will explore the dynamic and co-constitutive relationship between sex and gender in humans, with an emphasis on the role of cultural norms in shaping how we understand bodies as gendered. I will discuss the role of eugenics in establishing the paradigm of medicalization and stigma to which trans and intersex people are subjected, and how this has affected both individuals within these communities and the larger cultural perception of them. I will conclude the presentation with time for questions, feedback, and discussions of how we can incorporate these ideas into increasing the inclusivity of our work and teaching.

Primary Care of Transgender Patients: A Guide for Providers

Chelsea Rausch, Emily Hemphill, D'ambra Hinsley, & Megan Reaney, WSU

This project sought to create a centralized, cohesive resource for primary care providers to assist in the care of transgender patients. A literature review was conducted using multiple databases, including Cochrane, PubMed, and Google Scholar. It was discovered that primary care providers reported a lack of comfort and knowledge in caring for transgender patients. In addition to systemic healthcare barriers, transgender patients also experience other barriers, such as financial burdens, lack of social and familial support, insurance problems, and stigma. To address this issue, the authors created a succinct, centralized document that primary care providers could easily access during clinical practice. This document is a compilation of definitions, screening guidelines, and patient education for clinicians to utilize when taking care of a transgender patient. The author's utilized guidelines set forth by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) to advice on screening guidelines, referral recommendations, minimizing risk factors, and establishing the standards of care. The goal of this project is to reduce barriers of provider discomfort and lack of education, thus improving access to quality healthcare for this vulnerable population. The next step would be to distribute this resource to primary care providers. Future research could evaluate the clinical impact of this resource.

11:20-12:30 Lunch Break

12:30-1:45 pm

Breakout Session 2a: Unpacking Gender-based Sexual Violence

Types of Sexual Coercion Experienced by Gay and Bisexual Men: When Gender and Sexuality Are Used as Coercive Tools

Johanna Ramirez, Charlene Muehlenhard, Eddie Wen, Jeremy McLeod, Raphael Cruz, KU

INTRODUCTION: Numerous studies have found that gay and bisexual men are more likely than heterosexual men to experience sexual coercion (the NISVS; Walters et al., 2013; the AAU Campus Climate Survey; Cantor, 2015). In this presentation, we present (a) data on the relative frequency of various types of coercion among gay and bisexual men and (b) qualitative descriptions their experiences.

METHOD: We recruited a sample of gay and bisexual men via social media platforms and snowball sampling. We sought “volunteers (age 18 or over) who identify as gay and bisexual men to fill out an anonymous online survey about your sexual experiences.” Participants filled out an online survey asking about several types of sexual coercion, ranging from physical forced to psychological pressure.

RESULTS: From the larger sample, we identified 186 men who reported having been sexually coerced.

Of those who reported having been coerced,

69% reported that someone just did something sexual to them without asking;

61% reported that they had felt coerced, pressured, or obligated to engage in sexual activity;

54% reported that someone more experienced took advantage of their inexperience;

45% reported some other type of unwanted sexual experience that had a negative impact;

33% reported having been physically forced against their will; and

32% reported having been incapable of agreeing to or resisting sexual activity.

Some were coerced by men; some were coerced by women.

Some of the men’s coercive experiences seemed gender-neutral, in that the coercion could have been experienced by anyone, regardless of their gender.

Other coercive experiences were gender specific, such as when the perpetrator used gender or sexuality as coercive tools. For example, some men reported having been taunted by someone claiming that if they refused or resisted, it would mean that they were gay or inadequate as a man.

Breakout Session 2a: Unpacking Gender-based Sexual Violence continued

Fritz After Dark: Rape Trauma Syndrome in High Soft Lisp

Janet Federico, WSU

On the back cover, High Soft Lisp is billed as “one of Hernandez’s sexiest, funniest, and most freewheeling story collections.” Contrary to the description on the back cover, this book is neither sexy nor funny. It’s a tragic tale of a woman who is violated and abused and her desperate attempts to regain her “self.” High Soft Lisp is not a “chronicle of her lives and loves” it is the story of Fritz’s rape, her journey through Rape Trauma Syndrome, and her suffering from domestic violence at the hands of her three husbands.

In addition to two instances of “grey rape” (Stepp), Fritz is gang-raped in this book. As a result of these sexual assaults, we see her journey through the aftereffects of the rapes in the form of Rape Trauma Syndrome. We see her attempt to control the effects of her victimization through suppression, alcoholism, hypersexuality, and suicidality. Fritz’s story is not one of a sexualized woman owning her feminine power, but rather one of a woman desperately trying to take back what was stolen from her: her power and her sexuality.

Research Methodologies: The text, High Soft Lisp, was analyzed using scholarly articles on Rape Trauma Syndrome, other scholarly works on trauma and its symptomology, the Duluth Model of the Power and Control Wheel, and other government-issued resources on Rape Trauma.

Sharing Our Stories

Lydia Humphreys, WSU

Yxta Maya Murray professor of law at Loyola Law School wrote in an article regarding Tracy Emin and Post Rape Trauma that asserts, “we ought to study art and Literature made by women who have been sexually assaulted, as the work made by such survivors delivers a new perspective on victims otherwise unpublished responses.” This is due to the consistent problems in courts regarding rape cases. There is an evident disconnect in society’s understanding of people who have encountered sexual trauma.

My goal is to assist in alleviating the disconnect by lifting the voices of those who have not been heard, by providing various cathartic activities of participation. Consent, bodily autonomy, and control are elements that are undermined through a traumatic sexual encounter. My work restores bodily autonomy through my collaborative process of Body Printing, where I assist the individual in documenting and reclaiming the pose, they were assaulted in. The Recorded Dialogue and anonymous Sharing Your Story provide individuals a space where they regain control of their narratives by choosing what to share and how to frame it. Throughout each process I ask for consent and in turn give the individual control on whether the artwork is shown or sold. This control lasts for as long as the artwork is in my possession.

In the end my work functions as a symbiotic relationship between me and the participant that provides a potential cathartic experience for them, while simultaneously creating educational information for others. To view artwork, go to: www.lydiahumphreys.com

12:30-1:45 pm

Breakout Session 2b: Agitating for Social Change

Queer, Suicide, Contagion

Rachel Levitt, K-State

In response to heartbreaking reports that the election of Trump spurred several transgender suicides, many demanded no one talk about these tragedies otherwise more would follow because of “suicide contagion.” While seemingly benevolent, I argue appealing to this logic of contagion works to locate queer livability in a future conditioned on silence. Linking an unruly archive of hate crimes legislation, cinematic regulations, LGBT organizations, "No Homo Promo" policies, banning doctor's treatment of trans youth, and ACT UP's activism reveals suicide contagion to be an extension of older instantiations of “queer contagion,” maintaining queerness as a problem of unmournability/deferred livability to a future that never comes.

Queer Men in Suits: ACT UP, TAG, and AIDS

Samantha Leyerle, KU

The AIDS crisis was a major cause of a new wave of gay rights activism. With the AIDS crisis, the activist community saw groups like ACT UP and the Gay Men's Health Crisis emerge. As the crisis grew we saw the breaking off of groups into more specialized activist groups like the Treatment Action Group. The Treatment Action Group or TAG was founded in 1991 during the epidemic. At the time of its founding AIDS was the leading cause of death in men ages 25 to 44. There were also no FDA approved combination treatments for AIDS/HIV at this time. This organization's goal was to help fund treatment and watch over trials to ensure they were ethical and safe. However, during the time before TAG, activists and government officials were having difficulty working together for various reasons. Treatment Action Group's use of assimilation activism rather than queer activism allowed them to be a part of the government response to the disease. By analyzing the tactics of TAG versus ACT UP, this paper presents a contemporary analysis of how the use of assimilation activism by the Treatment Action Group benefited the group much more in receiving government response than the use of queer activism by organizations like ACT UP.

Breakout Session 2b: Agitating for Social Change Continued

LGBT Activism in Hong Kong

Cody Skahan, K-State

The LGBT movement in Hong Kong is facing particular struggles that are somewhat unique to Hong Kong. The authoritarian Chinese government, traditional Asian values, lingering effects of being a British colony, well-funded Christian organizations, COVID-19, and an ineffective Equal Opportunities Commission have all contributed to the desperate situation in Hong Kong. In some ways, the struggles of the LGBT movement mirror that of the pro-democracy movement, with activists often wearing multiple hats and being involved in both movements. The movement is spread thin, forcing priority away from trans individuals, the youth and elderly, sex workers, and migrant domestic workers, who are the most vulnerable.

There is a gulf between local grassroots and middle-class groups that are striving for political change. On the one hand, these middle-class groups are making strides to gain rights and acceptance, but more marginal individuals with intersectional identities are being kept on the margins socially and politically. Despite several attempts and support by both the majority of the public and a large portion of the legislative council of Hong Kong members, attempts to enact same-sex marriage laws or sexual orientation discrimination laws have always failed, leaving activists to resort to the courts to fight for concessions, and their progress has been slow. These marginal groups are really suffering, with local groups playing a very important role in highlighting these issues and attempting to provide for these individuals despite their limited resources.

This is a virtual research project culminating in a research paper, comprised of reading academic research on the LGBT movement in Hong Kong, viewing online materials activist organizations have created and keeping up with online events they have held, and interviewing prominent activist leaders to educate the world on the situation of LGBT rights and activism in Hong Kong, and Asia more broadly.

The Evolution of LGBTQOI Rights and Rites in Modern Neo-Pagan Movements

Bruce Blank, Community Organizer

The acceptance of different sexual orientations and gender assignment identifications within modern pagan faiths and practices has been a movement of challenges, confrontations and increasing acceptance. However, unlike many of the other established spiritual traditions, the acceptance and inroads for inclusion from queer community among pagans was felt almost immediately and caused profound changes in how the vast majority of pagans practice their faith(s). In this presentation, I will attempt to chart some of the major influences, activists, clergy and practitioners who embraced diversity and LGBTQ+ acceptance from 1951 to 2020, thus causing the pagan faiths to emerge from relative obscurity to quickly become among the World's fastest growing religious movements. The presentation will consist of a seven minute video, followed by three related topics of interest and further contact resources.

2:00 - 3:15 pm

Breakout Session 3a: Gender through a Creative Lens

The Evolution of Vulva Art

Samantha Carter, WSU

How has vulva art changed over time? Male artists have been fascinated by nude women and their genitalia for centuries. Women Artists in the late 1960s and early 70s took this fascination into their own hands to shock, to take back some power. Starting from second-wave feminism, this thesis examines women and nonbinary artists' use of the vulva in their work up to today. Second-wave feminists brazenly acknowledged what they saw as the only separation from the men in their field—their genitalia. The use of vulva imagery changed in the 90s with Cyberfeminist artists, who saw these initial ideas as essentialist. They used this imagery to critique technology and the medical field. Other artists outside of cyberfeminism and up to today also use vulval imagery to critique the medical field, the art historical canon, or the concept of gender itself. Society's fascination with the vulva has real-life consequences for those whose genitalia do not meet their parameters. Using a queer lens to examine these different uses of the vulva in art from the late 1960s to now and trans theory to establish a concept of gender, this thesis tracks what it means to be a woman and how that concept has evolved.

Visual Misogyny in the Canon of Art History

Nellie Elliott, WSU

This presentation will consider the canon of Western art history from a feminist theoretical framework. I will engage feminist philosopher Kate Manne's award winning 2017 book *Down Girl: The Logic of Misogyny* in my consideration of famous works of Western art. In her book, Manne argues that misogyny is an enforcement mechanism utilized within the patriarchy to keep women in their place. There are three primary components to Manne's argument relevant to my discussion: her distinction between misogyny and sexism, her development of the give and take model of gender relations, and her understanding of the relationship between misogyny and sexism. I will apply Manne's ideas to an analysis of gender relations in paintings in the Western art historical canon – those paintings deemed masterpieces, and those that have garnered the most cultural fame and scholarly attention. In particular, I will consider the prevalence of scenes of sexual assault and rape in Western painting, focusing on paintings such as Rubens' *The Rape of the Daughters of Leucippus*, Gentileschi's *Susanna and the Elders*, and Poussin's *The Rape of the Sabine Women*. I will then analyze how such paintings fit into Manne's notion of misogyny as an enforcement mechanism. Ultimately, I will argue that a consideration of such works of art supports Manne's ideas regarding the distinction between misogyny and sexism and her notion of the "give and take" model. However, Manne's ideas regarding dehumanization fail to account for the routine depictions of sexual violence against women in Western art.

Breakout Session 3a: Gender through a Creative Lens continued

Kansas Lineage: Memories in Words and Dance

Twyla Hill, WSU

This interdisciplinary collaboration between Sociology and Dance faculty, students, and older women in assisted living facilities is an innovative attempt to meld oral history, social science research, and dance. The project explores identity associated with place based on matrilineal heritage in Kansas. This mini-workshop will discuss the process and preliminary results. Ten undergraduate female students interviewed 19 older women residing in Wichita, Kansas area assisted living homes. The interviews were transcribed and entered into qualitative data software to find recurring themes. Students will create dance movement phrases inspired by the discovered themes. An approximately hour-long dance will be choreographed and filmed, which will be shared with all the interview subjects and students.

2:00 - 3:15 pm

Breakout Session 3b: Intimacy Beyond the Binary

From Closet to Conversation: Beyond Coming Out

Azariah Liron & Skyler Wittaker, ESU

The narrative of coming out is one of the initial lenses through which society views LGBTQIA+ culture. However, active participation in queer spaces across the USA has revealed that the singular 'coming out' narrative is often inadequate for those whose identities are fluid, multifaceted, or complex. This project explores an alternate language of invitation, with the aim of providing new tools to those in our community who wish to invite others into knowledge of their gender or sexuality. This will be accomplished by examining our cultural assumptions about coming out, reflecting on who we've invited (or not invited) into our experience and building a bridge between the pseudo-binary of 'out' and closeted. Furthermore this mini-workshop provides a hands-on space to explore our stories and consider who, if anyone, you desire to share it with. At the meta-level we will also explore the tools needed to develop a counter-narrative when the accepted queer story fails to describe your experience. Leaving the closet behind we embrace the life-long process of conversation and identity. Whether you're LGBTQ, an ally or both, here is a space beyond binary assumptions about openness and ourselves. This is a space where we can all explore new ways to write the next chapter in our story.

Who Likes Whom: A MSM Perspective Evaluating Three Studies

Darin Challacombe & Nicolas Perdomo, FHU

Attraction research has largely focused on heterosexual pairings, often overlooking sexual minorities. Males who have sex with males (MSM) often have well-defined attraction preferences (e.g., race and ethnicity [Trott, 2017], body type [Welch, 2016], age [Gobrogge et al., 2007], masculinity [Moskowitz et al., 2013; Wilson, 2017], muscularness [Varangis et al., 2012], and hairiness [Moskowitz et al., 2013]). That said, MSM studies have been limited in scope due to sample size and inclusiveness. In order to expand the research on gay male dating preferences, a series of studies were conducted online via survey. This presentation will examine the results of the most recent survey (2020), as well as summarize key findings in the previous two studies (2015 and 2017).

Breakout Session 3b: Intimacy Beyond the Binary continued

LGBTQ Youth and the Pursuit of Intimacy

Dawna Raehpour, WSU

This presentation will explore some of the barriers and protective factors for intimate relationships among LGBTQ youth. Social ecological models provide a lens for understanding how challenges faced by LGBTQ people in identifying, forming, and maintaining relationships are brought to bear by external forces. LGBTQ youth face an uphill battle when it comes to forming healthy intimate relationships. They seldom see their gender identities or sexual orientations represented in sex education curriculum, school leadership, family ties, or the media. As they struggle with issues of identity, marginalization, and coming out, they may also face challenges in exploring romantic relationship possibilities. In addition, LGBTQ youth can struggle with family rejection of their identities. As they become emerging adults, this population may have no roadmap to relationship formation in the midst of minority stress. Further complicating intimacy is the ever-changing landscape of historical forces that have traditionally been at work against legitimizing LGBTQ relationships. Because of the lack of norms or relationship role models, LGBTQ people have often leaned on a network of chosen family for support, encouragement, exemplar intimate connections, and a sense of community. Navigating love, intimacy, sex, and heteronormative relationship norms often requires LGBTQ people to blaze their own paths.

3:30 – 4:30 pm

Closing Keynote: Shana Chivon

“Queering the Culture: Blackness, Binaries & Being”



Shana Chivon is a multi-passionate change agent that carries a mandate for liberation, a heart for progress and a desire to disrupt the status quo. She is a Veteran of the United States Air Force where she worked as a maintainer on the KC-135 Tanker at McConnell AFB in Wichita, Kansas.

Currently, Shana Chivon works as an IT leader for a Wichita based private company. In addition to her day job, she runs a successful consulting practice where she provides education, resources and training centered around defying the myth of black inferiority and dismantling the oppressive power systems (including but not limited to racism, anti-blackness, privilege, the patriarchy, colonialism, homophobia and white supremacy) that still enslave many of us today.

Shana Chivon serves on multiple non-profit boards and believes in supporting and building the local community through organizing, programs and initiatives geared towards empowerment, leadership, economic stability and education.

Known to be a voracious reader and researcher, Shana Chivon is also an author, the founder of the Shana Chivon Social Justice Book Club and a creator on Patreon. She believes that where you find diverse and meaningful literature, you will also find liberation. Shana Chivon strives to cultivate engaging environments for people to grow and thrive by going beyond love and light towards freedom and equity through education, self-care practices and community engagement.