

Fall Newsletter

Message from the President

At CSRF in Kelowna, almost 120 of Canada's leading sex researchers came together to share new knowledge. We may take for granted the importance of this type of knowledge sharing at conferences, especially at CSRF where it feels more like a gathering of good friends. But when we present our research findings to others, we are taking part in a fundamental exchange known as "Knowledge Translation" or KT. I'm not sure how many of you think critically about knowledge translation, but our Canadian granting agencies certainly do. The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) defines KT as "an iterative process that includes synthesis, dissemination, exchange, and ethically-sound application of knowledge to improve the health of Canadians".

Although CIHR's efforts at knowledge translation take on more of a health focus, KT can be applied much more broadly to refer to a spectrum of activities that move research from our research labs out to the public in a way that they can be practically used. On average, it takes 17 years for a scientific finding to make its way from the lab to clinical practice, and this unsettling fact is what has prompted Canadian funding agencies to pay much more attention to KT—encouraging researchers to plan out what they will do with their research findings both at the end of the study as well as integrated throughout a study's timeline.

Some of you will correctly point out that we are only engaging in the dissemination

stage of KT at CSRF, since we are not measuring how much information our conference attendees are encoding, nor are we tracking what they do with the new information learned. I have not personally attended a scientific conference where I



**Lori Brotto, PhD
President, CSRF**

was asked on an evaluation form what I plan to do with the information acquired or received a follow-up email to ask whether I followed through with my intended plans or not. This type of knowledge-to-action assessment is more common in workshop and seminar-style presentations, where a speaker makes a more deliberate effort to change a listener's practice or a policy or set of guidelines. Wouldn't it be interesting to find out what CSRF attendees do with the information learned? How many have used the new information to make a major change in their research, their practices, or their lives?

There was another form of KT alive and well throughout our

CSRF meeting. Thanks to local host, Jocelyn Wentland, news of our meeting (and our existence) made it to Kelowna's Daily Courier newspaper, CBC news, and a variety of online media outlets. Reading through the various comments posted to these online contributions suggests that readers engaged with the material as the coverage made them reflect (perhaps) on their own sexuality. Our After Dark guest, syndicated sex advice columnist Dan Savage takes KT to a whole new level with the amount of reach from his podcast and syndicated advice column, Savage Love. Echoing the experiences of many of Dan's readers and listeners, some of our own CSRF

attendees remarked about what an impact Dan's advice had on them at a time in their lives when they did not know where to go for answers. Dan engages actively in KT: he reads our research and folds it into the advice he gives to his callers and letter writers. Sometimes, that information changes their lives.

I look forward to my new role as your CSRF President, and I look forward to actively engaging with you in the process of sharing sexual knowledge among you and to the public!

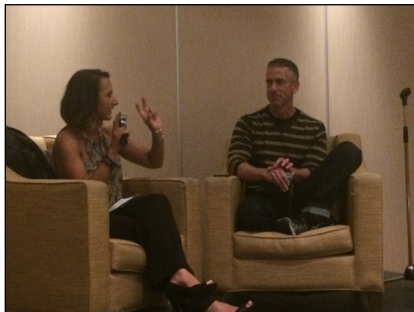
Dr. Lori Brotto is the President of CSRF and the Director of the UBC Sexual Health Laboratory at the University of British Columbia.

The CSRF Executive

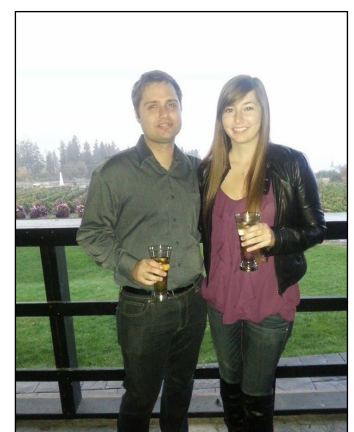
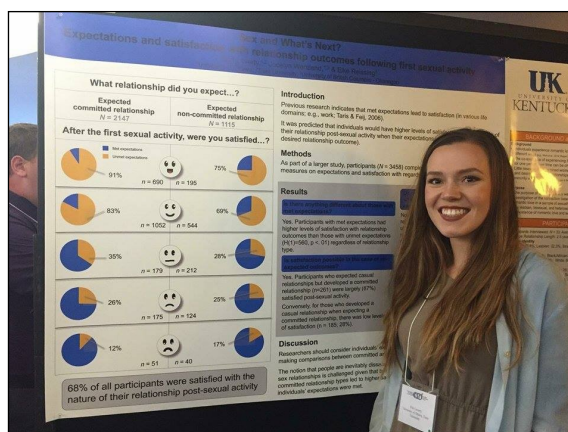
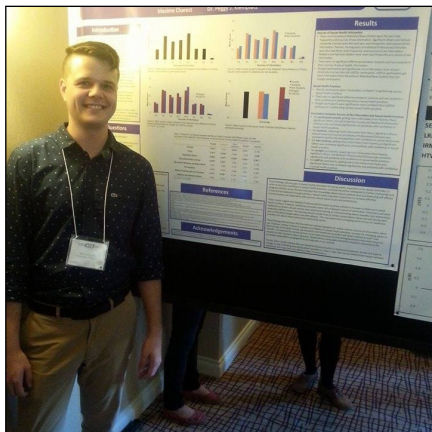
President	Lori Brotto
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Conference Pics! Kelowna, October 1-3, 2015



MEMBER UPDATES

- Dr. Nathan Lachowsky has been hired as an Assistant Professor in the School of Public Health and Social Policy at the University of Victoria starting July 2016. He will teach within the Social Dimensions of Health program, which is a research-intensive graduate program with an innovative approach to interdisciplinary health research (thesis-based MSc & PhD; <http://web.uvic.ca/sdhealth/>). Nathan's research interests include sexual health, HIV/AIDS prevention and care, LGBTQ+ populations, community-based research, and health equity. If interested in working together, you can reach out to him at nlachowsky@cfenet.ubc.ca
- Terry Humphreys became President of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (SSSS), November 14, 2015. His term as President is one year.
- Karen Blair has been hired as an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at St. Francis Xavier University.



- The Sex, Crime, and Evolution Research Laboratory, directed by Dr. Martin L. Lalumière, and has been in operation since January 2013 at the University of Ottawa. It includes five graduate students in clinical psychology, as well as several undergraduate honours students and volunteers. We currently conduct research on the origins of the paraphilias, the causes of sexual crimes, sex differences in physiological sexual arousal, new methods to measure sexual interests, the role of anxiety in sexual arousal, and terrorism. For more information check out our new website: <http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/sex-crime-evolution/>
- CSRFers Natalie Rosen and Lori Brotto were warmly welcomed by Dr Rafael Garcia and the Instituto de Sexualidad Humana in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic to give a one day workshop and integrate some great Canadian sex research findings to about 80 sex therapists. Natalie and Lori were rather happy to leave the frigid Halifax and Vancouver weather for some warm Dominican sun! (Picture at left.)

MEMBER UPDATES

News from Paul Vasey's Laboratory of Comparative Sexuality:

Paul Vasey co-organized (with Kelly Suschinsky & Jean-Baptiste Leca) the bi-decadal *Puzzle of Sexual Orientation* conference in Lethbridge, Alberta. A total of 58 attendees participated. The conference was supported with a SSHRC Connection Grant (\$25,000). Articles about the conference appeared in the *Boston Globe* and the *Globe & Mail*. Paul was invited to speak at Brock University as part of their SSHRC mentorship program and he took the opportunity to tour Dr. Tony Bogaert's lab. He spent much of the semester travelling and collecting data in Osaka and Samoa.

Lanna Petterson successfully defended her MSc thesis on male bisexuality in Samoa. She received a Student Research Development Award from the *International Academy of Sex Research*. For her doctoral research, Lanna will expand on her MSc thesis work by employing additional psychophysiological measures of male bisexuality in Samoa.

Scott Semenyna successfully defended his MSc thesis on bullying and aggression in Samoa. He became the student representative for the *International Academy of Sex Research*. Scott's doctoral research will focus on examining inter-sexual mate competition in humans.

Francisco Gómez joined the Vasey lab and will be studying third gender males, known as *muxes*, in Juichitán, Mexico.

We presented seven podium presentations and eleven posters at various conferences including: *Canadian Sex Research Forum*, *International Academy of Sex Research* and the *Puzzle of Sexual Orientation*.

We published four refereed articles and one book chapter:

- 2015 Semenyna, S. & Vasey, P.L.
Victimization due to bullying and physical aggression in Samoan men and women. Personality and Individual Differences, 87: 85-89.
- 2015 Ottenheimer Carrier, Leca, J.-B., Pellis, S. & Vasey, P.L.
A structural comparison of female-male and female-female mounting in Japanese macaques (*Macaca fuscata*). Behavioural Processes, 119: 70-75.
- 2015 Leca, J.-B. Gunst, N., & Vasey, P.L.
Comparative development of heterosexual and homosexual behaviors in free-ranging female Japanese macaques. Archives of Sexual Behavior, 44: 1215-1231.
- 2015 VanderLaan, D.P., Petterson, L.J., Mallard, R.W. & Vasey, P.L.
(Trans)gender role expectations and childcare in Samoa. Journal of Sex Research, 52: 710-720.
- 2015 Vasey, P.L. & VanderLaan, D.P.
Evolutionary developmental perspectives on male androphilia in humans. In: Zeigler-Hill, V., Welling, L.M., Shackelford T.K. (eds.), Evolutionary Perspectives on Social Psychology, pp. 333-343. NY: Springer.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Sánchez-Fuentes, M. M., Santos-Iglesias, P., Byers, E. S., & Sierra, J. C. (2015). Validation of the Interpersonal Exchange Model of Sexual Satisfaction Questionnaire in a Spanish Sample. *The Journal of Sex Research*. Online before print.
- Cohen, J.N., & Byers, E. S. (2015). Minority stress, protective factors, and sexual functioning of women in a same-sex relationship. *Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*. Online before print.
- Moyano, N., Byers, E. S., & Sierra, J. C. (in press). Content and valence of sexual cognitions and their relationship with sexual functioning in Spanish men and women. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*.
- Döring, N., Daneback, K., Shaughnessy, K., Grov, C., & Byers, E. S. (in press). Online sexual activity experiences among college students: A four-country comparison. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*.
- Lachowsky, N. J., Saxton, P. J. W., Hughes, A. J., Dickson, N. P., Milhausen, R. R., Dewey, C. E., & Summerlee, A. J. S. (2015). Frequent condom use with casual partners varies by sexual position among younger gay and bisexual men in New Zealand: National behavioural surveillance 2006-2011. *Sex Health*. Online ahead of print.
- Rosen, N. O., Bergeron, S., Sadikaj, G., & Delisle, I. (in press). Daily associations between male partner responses, pain during intercourse, and anxiety in women with vulvodynia and their partners. *The Journal of Pain*.
- Bois, K., Bergeron, S., Rosen, N. O., Mayrand, M.-H., Brassard, A., & Sadikaj, G. (in press). Intimacy, sexual satisfaction and sexual distress in vulvodynia couples: An observational study. *Health Psychology*.
- Rosen, N. O., Muise, A., Bergeron, S., Impett, E. & Boudreau, G. (2015). Approach and avoidance sexual goals in women with provoked vestibulodynia and their partners: Associations with sexual, relationship and psychological well-being. *The Journal of Sexual Medicine*, 12, 1781-1790.
- Bergeron, S., Corsini-Munt, S., Aerts, L., Rancourt, K., & Rosen, N.O. (2015). Female sexual pain disorders: A review of the literature on etiology and treatment. *Current Sexual Health Reports*.
- Impett, E., Muise, A., & Rosen, N. O. (2015). Is it good to be giving in the bedroom? A prosocial perspective on sexual health and well-being in romantic relationships. *Current Sexual Health Reports*. 7, 180-190.
- Boerner, K. & Rosen, N. O. (2015). Pain acceptance in couples with provoked vestibulodynia. *The Journal of Sexual Medicine*.
- Rosen, N. O., Sadikaj, G. & Bergeron, S. (2015). Within-person variability in relationship satisfaction moderates pain estimation among couples with vulvodynia. *Pain*, 156, 703-710.
- Muise, A., Schimmack, U., & Impett, E. A. (in press). Sexual frequency predicts greater well-being, but more is not always better. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*.
- Muise, A., Kim, J., McNulty, J. K., & Impett, E. A. (in press). The positive implications of sex for relationships. In C. R. Knee & H. T. Reis (Eds.), *Positive Approaches to Optimal Relationship Development*.
- Levaque, E., Sawatsky, M. L., & Lalumière, M. L. (in press). Hypersexualité chez des étudiants universitaires hétérosexuels. *Revue canadienne des sciences du comportement*.
- Fairweather, A., Kingston, D. A., & Lalumière, M. L. (2015). Nudity as a disinhibiting cue in a date rape analog. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*. Online ahead of print.
- De Santis, C. & Serafini, T. (2015). Classroom to Community: Reflections on Experiential Learning and Socially Just Citizenship. T. Light, J. Nicholas, and R. Bondy (Eds.), *Feminist pedagogy in higher education: Critical theory and practice*. Wilfrid Laurier University Press, Waterloo, ON.
- Serafini, T. and De Santis, C. (2014). *Enhancing personal and relational sexual well-being*. Lymphoma Canada

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Barlow, D. H., Durand, V. M., Stewart, S. H., & Lalumière, M. L. (2015). *Abnormal psychology: An integrative approach* (4th Canadian edition). Toronto, Ontario: Nelson Education.
- Dawson, S. J., Bannerman, B. A., Lalumière, M. L. (Online First). Paraphilic interests: An examination of sex differences in a nonclinical sample. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*.
- Dawson, S. J., Sawatsky, M. L., & Lalumière, M. L. (2015). Assessment of introital lubrication. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 44, 1527-1535.
- Fairweather, A., Kingston, D. A., & Lalumière, M. L. (in press). Nudity as a disinhibiting cue in a date rape analog. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*.
- Mishra, S., Son Hing, L. S., & Lalumière, M. L. (2015). Inequality and risk taking. *Evolutionary Psychology*, 13. doi:10.1177/1474704915596295
- Sawatsky, M. L., & Dawson, S. J., & Lalumière, M. L. (Online First). Consensual victim-perpetrator intercourse following nonconsensual sex: The impact of prior relationship. *Journal of Sex Research*. DOI: 10.1080/00224499.2014.996279
- Seto, M. C., Harris, G. T., & Lalumière, M. L. (in press). Psychopathy and sexual offending. In C. Gacono (Ed.), *The clinical and forensic assessment of psychopathy: A practitioner's guide* (2nd edition). New York, NY: Routledge.
- Seto, M. C., Stephens, S., Lalumière, M. L., & Cantor, J. M. (in press). The revised Screening Scale for Pedophilic Interests (SSPI-2): Development and criterion-related validation. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*.
- Blair, K. L., & Pukall, C. F. (2015). Family matters, but sometimes chosen family matters more: Perceived social network influence in the dating decision of same-and mixed-sex couples. *The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality*. Online ahead of print.

MEMBERS IN THE MEDIA

- Work by Shayna Sparling on the effects of arousal and risk taking was feature in Playboy magazine: <http://www.playboy.com/articles/ex-risk-taking>
- Lori Brotto chatted with Newstalk AM601 with Larry Feboruk about women's sexual health and medications: <http://www.610cktb.com/shows/lfedoruk/episodes.aspx>
- Lori Brotto has also been a health advisor to the Globe and Mail since January, writing a monthly column focused on sexual health. Click the titles below to follow the links:
 - [October 2015, "How cancer treatments affect your sex life"](#)
 - [September 2015, "Attitudes outweigh hormones in preserving sexual desire"](#)
 - [August 2015, "Sexual orientation is more complex than straight, gay, or bisexual"](#)
 - [June 2015, "Women's sexual pleasure is beyond the G-spot"](#)
 - [June 2015, "Female viagra wont help many, but that's not stopping the drug company"](#)
 - [April 2015, "Understanding changes in the brain key to treating vulvodynia"](#)
 - [March 2015, "Understanding what it means to be asexual"](#)
 - [February 2015, "How a raisin can save your sex life"](#)

Student Research Feature:

**Morag Yule, University of British Columbia, CSRF Student Award Winner, Oral Presentation
Sexual Fantasy among Asexual Individuals: An In-Depth Exploration**



Morag Yule
University of British Columbia

Rationale: Asexuality is defined as lifelong lack of sexual attraction, and 1% of the population self-identify as asexual. Despite a professed lack of interest in sexual activity, previous research has shown that asexual individuals masturbate at rates similar to sexual individuals. Asexual individuals are significantly more likely than non-asexual individuals to report never having had a sexual fantasy or having sexual fantasies that did not involve other people. What these asexual individuals fantasize about is an important question that has yet to be explored in depth, especially as sexual fantasy is often seen as an indicator of sexual orientation.

Research Questions: This study examined quantitative and qualitative measures of sexual fantasy in asexual and sexual men and women.

Method: Five hundred forty-six participants (322 self-identified asexual and 224 sexual) completed online questionnaires assessing masturbation and sexual fantasy. Among other measures, participants completed the 62-item Sexual Fantasy Questionnaire (SFQ) and were then given the opportunity to describe in detail any sexual fantasy they had engaged in that was not included on the SFQ. Content analysis was carried out to identify themes and patterns in the qualitative data and these were compared between sexual and asexual participants.

Results: Seventy-one percent of asexual and 95% of sexual participants reported masturbating at least monthly. Thirty-two percent of asexual participants endorsed the item “I have never had a sexual fantasy” compared to 1% of all sexual participants. Eight percent of asexual participants endorsed the item “My sexual fantasies do not involve other people” compared to none of sexual participants. Compared to sexual participants, asexual participants were more likely to complete the qualitative section for “other” sexual fantasies, suggesting that the extensive number of options on the SFQ did not adequately describe their fantasies. Of note, asexual participants often described having sexual fantasies that involve other people, but do not include themselves, that include “romantic” or emotional content rather than sexual content (e.g. “intense cuddling”), or that include fictional characters or people.

Implications: That some asexual people do not have sexual fantasies in the same way that sexual people have them might have implications for how we conceptualize asexuality, and perhaps in how we conceptualize the relationship between sexual fantasies and sexual attraction. It has long been thought that sexual fantasies are indicative of one’s sexual proclivities. However, if it is the case that asexual individuals do have sexual fantasies, but are not interested in engaging in sexual activity of any kind, this long-standing view is brought into question.

Student Research Feature:

Shayna Sparling, University of Windsor, CSRF Student Award Winner, Pecha Kucha Presentation
 The Impact of Sexual Arousal on Elements of Sexual Decision Making: Sexual Self-Restraint, Motivational State, and Self-Control

In order to help curb the spread of sexually transmitted infections it is essential that we gain a better understanding of the factors that can affect condom use decision making during sexual encounters. One factor in particular that I have focussed my research upon is sexual arousal. My past work investigating sexual arousal has shown an impact on both men and women, such that sexually aroused individuals display greater intentions to engage in risky sexual behaviours as well as an increase in impulsivity and behavioural risk-taking (Skakoon-Sparling, Cramer, & Shuper, 2015). More research is needed in order to further explore how it is that sexual arousal has this kind of influence on behaviour and sexual health decision-making. My recent line of research investigated the impact of sexual arousal on different elements of sexual decision-making in two studies.

Participants in both studies were shown either sexually explicit or non-sexual video clips before responding to scale items. This manipulation was successful; across both studies participants in the sexual video condition reported significantly greater subjective sexual arousal than participants in the control condition.

Study 1 – 119 undergraduate students between the ages of 18 and 26 participated in this pre-post test designed study. At least 24 hours before their in-lab session, participants completed a set of scales designed to assess their sexual self-efficacy, general self-efficacy, and their motivational state balance (between a playful and enjoyment oriented state versus a future thinking and goal oriented state). A comparison of pre versus post-test scores for participants in the sexual arousal condition revealed no significant differences in either measure of self-efficacy, but did show a significant change in motivational state balance ($t(58) = 4.42, p < .001, d = .74$); participants showed a significantly stronger shift to the playful state once they were sexually aroused. Additionally, when comparing the sexual arousal condition with the control condition; no significant difference was found on pre-test scores of motivational state, but a significant difference was found at post test – sexually aroused participants showed a significantly stronger shift to the playful oriented state than control participants ($t(133) = 3.80, p < .001, d = .73$). These findings suggests that while sexual arousal does not seem to cause individuals to feel unable to engage in condom negotiation, it may shift them into a state where they are simply unmotivated to do so. (Skakoon-Sparling & Cramer, 2014)

Study 2 – This study is still in progress, but thus far 58 undergraduate participants between the ages of 18 and 25 have been recruited. Participants in this study engaged in the video clip manipulation described above and responded to items assessing their self-control, sexual self-restraint, and motivational state balance (between a social norm conforming state versus a social norm defying state). Preliminary findings suggest that sexual arousal might deplete our internal stores of self-control and reduce our sexual self-restraint – such an effect would make it difficult to engage in condom negotiation, particularly with a resistant partner. Additionally, a shift to a more rebellious motivational state could mean that a sexually aroused individual may find it more exciting to engage in risky sexual behaviour, simply because they know it is contraindicated.



Shayna Sparling
 University of Windsor

Student Research Feature:

Marie Faaborg-Andersen, Ryerson University, CSRF Student Award Winner, Poster Presentation

Erectile dysfunction, childhood emotional abuse, and coping strategies in gay men:

A meditational framework



Marie Faaborg-Andersen
Ryerson University

I was excited to share some of the HIV Prevention Lab's research on the sexual functioning of gay and bisexual men at CSRF this year. Gay men report experiencing higher rates of childhood emotional abuse (CEA) compared to heterosexual men (Corliss et al., 2002). In addition, compared to gay men without a history of CEA, survivors experience significantly higher rates of erectile dysfunction (ED; Siebel et al., 2009), which is associated with poor mental health outcomes (Althof, 2000). The use of avoidant coping strategies following CEA has been linked with poorer psychological functioning (Gratz et al., 2007) and may be associated with poorer sexual functioning (Hoyt et al., 2015). Despite the increased rates of CEA among gay men, the majority of the literature that focused on the relationship between CEA and sexual dysfunction has examined heterosexual populations. As such, we sought to examine whether the use of avoidant coping strategies at a three-month follow-up would mediate the association between CEA at baseline and increases in ED at a six-month follow-up, in a sample of gay and bisexual men.

As part of our larger Gay Strengths Study, we recruited 365 gay and bisexual men, aged 18 to 82, to complete a battery of questionnaires. The Childhood Trauma Questionnaire, a revised version of the International Index of Erectile Function for men who have sex with men, and the Coping Strategies Index were completed at baseline, and at a three- and six-month follow-up. Our hypotheses were tested through mediation analyses using bias-corrected bootstrap samples, controlling for the effects of age.

Results showed that reporting more CEA at baseline was associated with more avoidant coping at the three-month follow-up ($a = .22, p < .01$) but CEA was not directly associated with changes in ED at the six-month follow-up ($p = .44$). Avoidant coping at the three-month follow-up mediated the relationship between CEA at baseline and ED at the six-month follow-up. A bias corrected bootstrap confidence interval for the indirect effect ($ab = -.05$) based on 10,000 bootstrap samples was significant (95%CI = $-.1016, -.0061$), accounting for 5.23% of the variance in ED.

As such, the results supported our hypothesis, as increased use of avoidant coping strategies mediated the relationship between CEA and increases in ED in gay and bisexual men. The lack of a direct effect between CEA and ED suggests that CEA impacts the use of avoidant coping strategies, which influences changes in ED.

This study highlights the importance of addressing the use of avoidant coping strategies among gay and bisexual men who are survivors of CEA, presenting for treatment of ED. Gay and bisexual men who are survivors of CEA may benefit from behaviour therapies that decrease avoidant coping and potentially promote problem-focused coping as an alternative. Specifically, components of cognitive-behavioural therapy such as assertiveness skills training and problem-solving skills should be used to target the use of avoidant coping strategies.

Student Research Feature:

Jennifer Pink, Simon Fraser University, CSRF Student Award Winner, Poster Presentation

“Our sex life isn’t great, but it’s not so bad”: Sexual satisfaction and dissatisfaction uniquely contribute to relationship quality

In previous research, sexual satisfaction and dissatisfaction have largely been assumed to fall at opposite ends of a single continuum. Recent work by Shaw and Rogge (2013) suggests that this assumption is incorrect and that sexual satisfaction and dissatisfaction are in fact distinct constructs. Although it is well-established that sexual satisfaction predicts relationship satisfaction and stability (Sprecher & Cate, 2004), prior research has not examined the possibility that satisfaction and dissatisfaction uniquely contribute to relationship outcomes.

We examined associations between sexual satisfaction and dissatisfaction and relationship quality in a community sample of cohabiting couples. Heterosexual cohabiting couples ($N = 95$) completed a measure of sexual satisfaction and dissatisfaction (Quality of Sex Inventory; Shaw & Rogge, 2013), and relationship quality (Couples Satisfaction Index; Funk & Rogge, 2007). Path analyses using an actor-partner interdependence framework indicated that as predicted, men’s and women’s sexual satisfaction was positively associated with relationship satisfaction. In contrast, sexual dissatisfaction was negatively associated with relationship satisfaction – for men this effect was marginally significant. For men and women, there was a moderate negative correlation between sexual satisfaction and dissatisfaction. There were no significant partner effects or gender differences in the associations between sexual and relationship quality.

These results suggest that the presence of positives (e.g., pleasure) and the existence of negatives (e.g., disappointment) in the sexual relationship may uniquely influence partners’ overall relationship quality. Sexual satisfaction and dissatisfaction may be distinct constructs, activated by different individual, relationship, and environmental factors, and differentially affecting sexual and relationship outcomes. It may therefore be important to distinguish between sexual satisfaction and dissatisfaction constructs in sexuality and relationship research. These findings also suggest that for a more accurate and complete understanding of couples’ sexual relationships and how sexual quality contributes to relationship quality, clinicians should assess indicators of both sexual satisfaction and dissatisfaction. Furthermore, when working to improve couples’ relationships, it may be beneficial to not only give couples tools to build more satisfying sexual experiences but also address sources of sexual dissatisfaction. It is possible that improving sexual satisfaction does not address issues of sexual dissatisfaction, which could continue to negatively influence a couple’s sexual and relationship quality.



Jennifer Pink
Simon Fraser University

Student Update

The Kelowna conference was a huge success with amazing student presentations and social events. The student dinner at BNA brewing had a large turn out and provided a great opportunity for socializing over delicious food and drink at a local hot spot in Kelowna. Thanks to everyone who came out and kept us company!

There have been a lot of new developments for students this year in hopes of encouraging a cohesive and supportive student membership. We tried out a new student voting process for student representatives to be more inclusive to students who could not attend the conference. We launched our new student mentorship program to get junior members in the field paired with more experienced members for guidance and mentorship. We have also begun to further develop the student section of the CSRF website with the Video Series initiative. Keep an eye on the student section of our website for videos from senior students and early professionals on tips and tricks of navigating the process of progressing in the sex research field.

The mentorship program is off to a good start with fifteen matches made between senior and junior student members. We are eager to hear some feedback on how this has been going for those of you participating. A feedback survey will be sent out in January to follow-up with students on how the program has been working for them and suggestions for things they would like to see done or changed. If you are interested in becoming involved in the mentorship program as a mentee or mentor, please contact your student representatives for more information.

Farewell to Ray

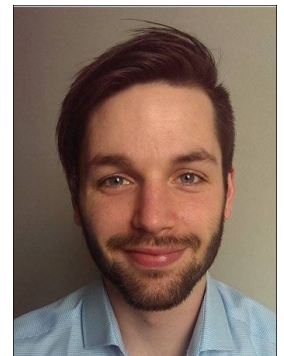
With the end of our Kelowna conference we said farewell to Raymond McKie who made a large impact on the student membership of CSRF with his efforts in helping launch the student mentorship program and beginning the Video Series initiative. Ray was an integral part of the CSRF Executive Committee and we are all incredibly fortunate to have had his input and leadership for the past two years. Ray is currently completing his doctoral studies in Community Psychology at Wilfrid Laurier University with Dr. Robb Travers. We wish him the best of luck and look forward to seeing his research endeavours progress.

Introduction to Drake

Drake Levere was elected as the new Junior Student Representative during the student meeting at the 2015 Kelowna conference. Drake completed his Honours BA at the University of Ottawa under the supervision of Dr. Celine Blanchard in June 2015. He presented two posters at CPA in June 2015 on gender differences within a competitive, socially-reliant environment. Additionally, Drake has been working alongside Dr. Jocelyn Wentland at the University of Ottawa since the summer of 2014 as a member of the Sex and Relationship Research (SRR) group. Their projects examine safer sex practices during the first sexual encounter with an individual's most recent sex partner, a qualitative analysis of modern dating, and the stigma associated with online dating application use. Currently, Drake is working with Raymond McKie on a project within the Ontario prison system that examines sexual consent understanding and negotiating sexual boundaries among convicted sex offenders. Drake is excited to be holding this position with CSRF and is looking forward to supporting and representing the student membership.



Chelsea D. Kilimnik, M.Sc.
Senior Student Representative
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Drake Levere, B.A. Hons
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Featured Member Profile: Carm De Santis

Carm De Santis, PhD (C), RMFT returned to the University of Guelph in 2011 to work on her doctoral degree in the Family Relations and Human Development program with Dr. Robin Milhausen and Dr. Olga Sutherland. Having gained her Master's degree in the Couple and Family Therapy Program in 1997 and undergraduate degree in Sociology in 1994, Carm's research is focused on aspects of erotic pleasure both orgasmic and sensory. Her research evaluates the ways in which the perception of pleasure is constructed and experienced, and the significance of autobiography within that dynamic. Carm's extensive clinical practice of more than twenty years is a significant factor in shaping and inspiring her research.



Carm De Santis
University of Guelph

As a practicing sex and relational therapist, Carm has a keen regard for the dominant discourses which influence the narratives clients tell about their sexuality, and how certain discourses have interfered with, and negatively impacted clients' sexual and relational wellbeing. Over the years, Carm has witnessed her clients' abilities to reclaim their sexuality; in the process of those reclamations, Carm has observed her clients' capacities to create new approaches through which to experience erotic, sensual, and sexual pleasure in ways that free them from the shaming and pathologizing discourses that tend to grip the lives of those who have experienced sexual abuse and violence, and those whose sexual expressions and behaviours are less typical. Carm also champions the need for inclusive research, drawing attention to the importance of expanding and extending our knowledge construction of human sexuality in order that all sexual beings may be better understood over their lifetimes.

In partnership with Dr. Sarah Murray, Dr. Taylor Kohut and Dr. Robin Milhausen, Carm completed a project on the impact of a sex toy to achieve partnered sexual satisfaction. The team discovered that regardless of how quantitatively positive and satisfied couples were in their relationship, qualitatively they had more to add, suggesting good can get better! The submitted manuscript for this research is currently under review. Carm is now working with Dr. Robin Milhausen, and Dr. Serge Desmarais on a project led by Jessica Wood, PhD (C); this is a new project looking at multi-partnered relationships with specific focus on the motivations for, and experiences of consensually non-monogamous relationships. In partnership with Dr. John Sakaluk, they are working on an article on the practices of excluding sexual minorities from quantitative research, an article which they hope to have the opportunity to present at a future CSRF meeting.

Although passionate and committed to the sexuality field, Carm also values her time and engagement in teaching and learning. Carm's collaboration with Dr. Toni Serafini, has produced the chapter *Classroom to community: Reflections on experiential learning and socially just citizenship* has just been published in **Feminist Pedagogy in Higher Learning** (Penny Light, Nicholas, & Body, 2015). Together they have conducted research on transformative learning in higher education and collected data from students and faculty. Carm is currently working on a research project with other graduate students, and their instructor, on the topic of "Becoming an Interdisciplinary Scholar"; it is hoped that the article concerning this project will be out by next year.

Carm promotes the interaction of research, teaching, and practice, weaving these aspects together to form her professional identity. She is a supervisor-in-training with the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapist, working to attain Approved Supervisor Status (AAMFT) and she is committed to supporting professional development for sex and relational clinicians. She has been teaching sessionally at St. Jerome's University in the Department of Sexuality, Marriage, Family Studies since January 2005, primarily teaching the therapy stream and practicum courses. Since 2011 Carm has taught the graduate Intensive Sex Therapy course through the University of Guelph, a summer program for which she brings together various experts (e.g. Peggy Kleinplatz, Anna Toth, Julia Fiorelli) to enrich the learning process for practicing and training clinicians, and health care providers interested in sex therapy. Her teaching experience also includes teaching in the undergraduate Family Relations and Human Development program at the University of Guelph and in the Child and Youth Work program at Humber College.

Featured Member Profile: William Fisher

William Fisher is Distinguished Professor in the Department of Psychology and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Western University, and Co-Founder and Research Affiliate of the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention at the University of Connecticut. Dr. Fisher received his BA at Tel Aviv University and his M.S. and Ph.D. at Purdue; he has been a National Health Scientist, Health Canada, and he is a Fellow of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality and Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. Dr. Fisher's editorial work has included serving as associate editor of the *Journal of Sexual Medicine* and *Sexual Medicine Reviews*, consulting editor of *Archives of Sexual Behavior* and *Journal of Sex Research*, and membership on the editorial board of *Health Psychology*. He has been awarded the Hellmuth Prize for Research, the Pleva Award for Excellence in University Teaching, and the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award. Dr. Fisher has published over 250 peer reviewed papers concerning basic models of the social and psychological determinants of sexual and reproductive health behavior, effects of pornography on attitudes and actions, and sexual function and dysfunction, including work on the development of PDE5 inhibitors and flibanserin. Dr. Fisher's research has been supported by the U.S. National Institutes of Health for the past two decades, as well as by research grants from SSHRC and CIHR.



Sexual Science Focus

I have aimed to conceptualize and test basic theoretical models of the situational and individual difference determinants of personally and socially consequential sexual behaviors. The work that I do strives to be conceptually driven, generalizable, and ecologically valid. As a graduate student at Purdue University, working with Donn Byrne (there were giants in those days), a chance observation that participants in pornography research who had the most negative affective responses to sexually explicit stimuli, also had the most children, led to conceptualization of the antecedents, measurement, and consequences of erotophobia—erotophilia, trait negative to positive affective responses to sexual cues, and to the conceptualization of sexual and reproductive health behaviors such as contraceptive utilization as involving performance of a complex sequence of approach responses to sexual cues. This led to a decade of programmatic research concerning erotophobia—erotophilia as a personality dimension and determinant of accepting one's sexuality, acquiring information about contraception, discussing contraception with a partner, acquiring contraception, and using it effectively and consistently, as well as work concerning erotophobia—erotophilia and the professional practice choices of physicians and health educators, summarized in Fisher, Byrne, White, and Kelly (1988), *Erotophobia—Erotophilia as a Dimension of Personality*, *Journal of Sex Research*, 25, 123-151. When HIV/AIDS emerged as a poorly understood and uncontrollable health threat in the early 1980s, I conceptualized the Information—Motivation—Behavioral Skills (IMB) Model of HIV Preventive behavior, together with my partner in crime, and brother, Jeffrey Fisher. The IMB model asserts that action oriented sexual and reproductive health information, personal and social motivation to act on this information, and behavioral skills for acting on it effectively, are the core determinants of sexual and reproductive health behavior, including HIV prevention and a range of other sexual and reproductive health practices. The IMB model has served as the foundation of three decades of HIV/AIDS prevention prediction and intervention research with diverse samples that include Canadian university students, US inner city minority high school pupils, US and South African HIV-infected individuals, and Indian truck drivers, discussed at tiresome length in Fisher & Fisher, 1992, *Changing AIDS Risk Behavior*, *Psychological Bulletin*, 111, 455-474, and Fisher, Fisher, & Shuper (2014), *Social Psychology and the Fight Against AIDS, An Information—Motivation—Behavioral Skills Model for the Prediction and Promotion of Health Behavior Change* *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology*, 106-193.

Featured Member Profile: William Fisher, Continued



William Fisher
Western University

Occasional Heresies

As a committed sexual scientist and unreconstructed 1960s student radical, I have always been wary of the political hijacking of sexual science, as has regrettably often been the case in our field, and this has inclined me to commit an unbroken series of politically incorrect heresies about which I unaccountably feel no remorse. These heresies include research conducted in reaction to the 1970s certainty that women cannot become aroused by sexually explicit stimuli, in which I found equivalent male and female sexual arousal responses to love, casual sex, and lust theme erotica (Fisher & Byrne, 1978, Sex Differences in Response to Erotica? Love versus Lust, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 36, 117-125), as well as finding that both male and female erotophobic individuals react to sexually explicit stimuli with sharp spikes in their post-exposure sexual behavior (Fisher & Byrne, 1978, Individual Differences in Affective, Evaluative, and Behavioral Responses to an Erotic Film. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, 8, 355-365). Additional politically suspect research failed to replicate classic pornography and aggression findings and demonstrated that exposure to violent pornography does not provoke aggressive behavior by males, if they have been provided with nonaggressive response options (Fisher & Grenier, 1984, Violent Pornography, Antiwoman Thoughts, and Antiwomen Acts: In search of Reliable Effects. *Journal of Sex Research*, 31, 23-38). Heresies continued with a randomized controlled double blind study which found that administration of Viagra-type ED drugs has positive effects on the female partners of males who are treated with these drugs compared to placebo (Fisher, Rosen, Mollen, Brock et al., 2005, Improving the Sexual Quality of Life of Couples Affected by Erectile Dysfunction: A Double-Blind, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trial of Vardenafil, *Journal of Sexual Medicine*, 5, 699-708). A recent review of all published HIV/AIDS prevention intervention research which documented the nearly complete absence of HIV/AIDS prevention intervention research with HIV-infected participants who are actually capable of transmitting the virus to others (Fisher, Fisher, & Kohut, 2009, AIDS Exceptionalism? The Social Psychology of HIV Prevention Research, *Social Issues and Policy Review*, 3, 45-77) rounds out these illustrations of scientific skepticism which—together with examples of theory-making and theory-testing, round out my checkered sexual science career. For those with insomnia, further confessions of heretical sex research are recounted in Fisher (1997), Sex Psych Prof Taking Heat: Fear and Loathing on the Research Trail, In Brannigan, Allgeier, & Allgeier (Eds.), *The sex scientists*. New York: Harper-Collins.

In My Spare Time

While I cannot imagine why anyone would be interested, in my spare time I and my wife take long annual hikes in the Swiss Alps, short hot desert hikes to unexcavated archeological sites in Israel, and we collect American folk music, Scotch whiskey, and Israeli art. We are a two professorial career, three child family, and we enjoy listening to the music, drinking the whiskey, and looking at the art together.

Upcoming Conferences!



- January 28, 2016: Sexuality Pre-Conference at SPSP Annual Meeting, San Diego, California
- February 25-28, 2016: ISSWSH Annual Meeting, Charleston, SC
- April 14-17, 2016: SSTAR Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
- May 5-6, 2016: Biennial Western Canadian Conference on Sexual Health, Calgary, Alberta
- June 8-12, 2016: AASECT Annual Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- June 23-24, 2016: Guelph Annual Sexuality Conference, Guelph, Ontario
- June 26-29, 2016: IASR Annual Meeting, Malmo, Sweden
- **September 22-24, 2016: CSRF Annual Meeting, Quebec City**
- November 17-20, 2016: SSSS Annual Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona