

May 2016

Spring Newsletter

Message from the President

One of the things that I love about CSRF is our vibrant student community. Compared to many of the other scientific societies that I belong to, I believe that CSRF has a stronger student presence (at our meetings) and involvement (in the running of our organization). In my mind, students represent the future of CSRF, and so they must be supported so that they can continue to ensure that ours remains the best sex research organization that exists.

Thanks to the savvy financial planning of recent CSRF executive committees, CSRF is in a stable financial position and our financial future



Lori Brotto, PhD
President, CSRF

2016 meeting. Any student who has submitted an abstract (and with proof of student status) will be eligible to win one of four \$250 travel awards to attend the 2016 meeting in Quebec City. Awardees will be chosen randomly by an individual not involved in the abstract selection for the meeting, and for this first year of the program, we will not implement any other selection criteria, other than being a confirmed student who will be presenting at the meeting.

A recent poll of the CSRF student membership revealed that student members pay, on average, \$1,090 to attend one of our (fabulous, energizing, and inspiring) annual meetings. Over 60% of these students do not receive any financial support from their institutions, and for over half of our student members, the financial burden has prevented them from attending a CSRF meeting in the past.

looks bright. One of my goals as incoming CSRF president is to find creative and impactful ways of supporting our student members. Federal and provincial funds are scarce and competitive, and financial burdens associated with the cost of living are a reality for everyone, but particularly our students.

In the spirit of giving back, we are introducing a new student travel award program for the

As always, I am open to hearing your feedback about this program, and also to other methods of nurturing our robust student section.

I look forward to seeing many of you in charming Quebec City, September 22-24, 2016!

Lori Brotto, Ph.D. is the President of CSRF and the Director of the UBC Sexual Health Laboratory.

The CSRF Executive

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The Scientific Program Committee has been busily preparing for #CSRF2016 and we hope you're as excited as we are! Keynote speakers this year include Cynthia Graham, PhD, Editor-in Chief, Journal of Sex Research, and Fernand Labrie, MD, PhD, President, EndoCeutics.

CSRF Quebec City will be taking place September 22-24, 2016 at Hotel Le Concorde in downtown Quebec City, steps away (literally!) from the old city, the Plains of Abraham, and all of the best restaurants and bars. Not to mention the creperies, pouteries, and brasseries!

The call for papers is now closed and the response was overwhelming. We've smashed records for the number of abstracts submitted. We're now busily preparing the program, and we're especially excited about our new data blitz speaking format. Some of the most exciting work will be presented in the most exciting format we've ever featured: 5 minutes using only 5 slides. Don't worry, you'll still get all the science and data crunching details you love from our more traditional long talks.

For those of you already planning your travel, we anticipate keeping the format similar to that of recent CSRF conferences, with full days on Thursday and Saturday, and more free time than ever on Friday to take in the sights.

Registration and travel discount information will be up shortly at www.canadiansexresearchforum.com. Better yet, follow us on Twitter, @_CSRF, for the most up-to-date news and information.

See you in Quebec!

Jonathan Huber, MD, MSc, FRCSC
President-Elect, CSRF
Chair, Scientific Program Committee
CSRF Quebec City 2016

MEMBER UPDATES

- **Terry Humphreys** is the Conference Chair for the 2016 Sexual Consent Conference at Trent University in Peterborough, ON, June 2-3, 2016. This is an academic-community conference developed in collaboration with the Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre in Peterborough. He will also be presenting a plenary on "Attitudes and Beliefs of Sexual Consent". For more info please see: <http://www.sexualconsentconference.com>.
- **Amy Muise** recently accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in Social Psychology at York University starting July 1, 2016.
- In March 2016, **Jonathan Huber** appeared in an interview on CTV's current affairs and documentary program "W5", in a segment entitled "Desire deficit: Seeking answers and treatment for female sexual dysfunction" which focused on the lack of efficacy of new medications such as flibanserin. To watch online, go to: <http://www.ctvnews.ca/w5/seeking-answers-and-treatment-for-female-sexual-dysfunction-1.2813637>
- **Shayna Sparling** won a Mitacs grant to complete her doctoral research internship with the Ontario HIV Treatment Network focused on health literacy.
- **Lori Brotto** was promoted to Full Professor at the University of British Columbia where she was awarded a 5-year Canada Research Chair in Women's Sexual Health and received a Canadian Foundation for Innovation grant to expand her lab. She has also been nominated to Fellow with the Canadian Psychological Association and as of July 1, 2016, will become Executive Director of the Women's Health Research Institute for a 5-year term.
- **Silvain Dong** recently received a Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships Doctoral Scholarship through SSHRC for his project "The role of culture and interpersonal styles in the sexual functioning of Chinese-Canadian individuals".
- **Cara Dunkley** received a CIHR Doctoral Award which allows her to expand on her MA research which was presented at CSRF 2015 on "Disorder eating and genital pain: A mixed method study".



MEMBER UPDATES

CSRF Members, Jessica Wood, Maria Tetro, Carm De Santis, Erin Watson, and Sophie Martin recently nominated **Robin Milhausen** for The YMCA/YWCA Woman of Distinction for Science and Research and she won! Congratulations Robin! This was a highly competitive category where the following needed to be demonstrated:

1. Individual Achievement a. how nominee has raised awareness and enhanced the lives of women and girls through her work on women's issues.
2. Promoting the Advancement of Women a. how nominee has raised awareness and enhanced the lives of women and girls through her work on women's issues.
3. Role Model & Leadership a. The nominee's activities, whether professional, volunteer, or personal, as a mentor to individual women. b. how nominee's activities, whether professional, volunteer, or personal have provided support and encouragement for female colleagues and successors. c. In her field, how has she demonstrated vision and leadership, or made a positive change or impact?
4. Contribution to the Well-being of the Community a. how nominee is involved in her community and how she has enhanced the lives of people in her community. Community can be geographic, ethnic, professional, spiritual, or social community.



Robin Milhausen completed her Ph.D. in Applied Health Science with a minor in Human Sexuality from the Kinsey Institute at Indiana University. Currently, she is an Associate Professor in the Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition at the University of Guelph. Her research interests include gender and sexuality, sexual problems and the experience of sexual pleasure, sexual and relationship satisfaction in couples, and condom use errors and problems. She supervises Ph.D. and M.Sc. students and created The Undergraduate Research Group in Sexuality to foster a love of research among students early in their university careers. Robin's research has been presented at national and international conferences and published in peer-reviewed journals. She is a past-president of the Canadian Sex Research Forum, associate editor of the Canadian Journal of Sexuality, and is a consulting editor for the Archives of Sexual Behaviour. Robin is co-chair of the Guelph Sexuality Conference, the largest and longest running sexuality conference in Canada. She was recently selected as one of Guelph's Top Forty Under Forty.

MEMBER UPDATES

News from Paul Vasey's Laboratory of Comparative Sexuality:

Paul Vasey was appointed a Board of Governors Research Chair in Organizations, Culture and Society for a five-year term. He coauthored a plenary address entitled "The development and evolution of male androphilia: Insights from over a decade of cross-cultural research," which Doug VanderLaan (brilliantly) presented at *Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality* conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. While in Albuquerque, Paul gave a talk in the Department of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico. He also attended the *Moving Trans* Forward* Conference in Victoria. Paul was appointed an Associated Editor of the *Archives of Sexual Behavior*. Dr. Ted Hewitt, the President of SSHRC, visited the Vasey lab and was regaled with tales of our research in Samoa and Juchitán. Vasey lab research was reported on various media outlets including *Natilus*, *Irish Times*, *Lateral Magazine*, *Vocativ*, *Washington Post*, *Medical Daily*, *Pacific Standard*, *Daily Mail*, and *TIME*.

Lanna Petterson was awarded a SSHRC CGS D3 Scholarship and a Board of Governors Scholarship to conduct her doctoral research on male sexual orientation in Samoa. She gave a podium presentation on the sexual orientation of men who have sex with *fa'afafine* at the *Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality* conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She published refereed articles in *Archives of Sexual Behavior* and *Psychology of Sexual Orientation & Gender Diversity*.

Scott Semenyina was awarded a SSHRC CGS D3 Scholarship and a Board of Governors Scholarship to conduct his doctoral research on inter-sexual mate competition in Samoa and Juchitán. He gave a poster presentation on bullying and physical aggression among Samoan men, women, and *fa'afafine* at the *Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality* conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Francisco Gómez complete two extremely successful fieldtrips to Juchitán, Mexico, where he collected data on Isthmus Zapotec men, women, and third-gender androphilic males known as *muxes*. He gave a podium presentation on male sexual orientation and recalled childhood separation anxiety in Isthmus Zapotec at the Sexuality Preconference of the *Society for Personality and Social Psychology* in San Diego.



Lanna, Scott, Paul, and Francisco in San Miguel Mission

Vasey lab members (and our favourite sex researcher, Doug VanderLaan) went on an extremely well deserved retreat to Santa Fe following the SSSS meetings in Albuquerque. Here's the Vasey lab in the San Miguel Mission, the oldest church in the USA. Much time was spent drinking very fancy cocktails in posh bars, shopping for turquoise, and Francisco had his first snowball fight.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Bailey, M.J., Vasey, P.L., Diamond, L., Breedlove, M., Villain, E. & Epprecht, M. (2016). Sexual orientation, controversy and science. *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*, 17: 45-101.
- MacFarlane, G.R. & Vasey, P.L. (2016). Promiscuous primates engage in same-sex genital interactions. *Behavioral Processes*, 126: 21-26.
- Vasey, P.L., VanderLaan, D.P., Hames, R. & Jaidee, A. (2016). A problematic test of the kin selection hypothesis among the Urak-Lawoi of Ko Lipeh, Thailand: Commentary on Camperio Ciani, Battaglia, & Liotta (2015). *Journal of Sex Research*, 53: 149-152.
- Petterson, L.J., Dixon, B.J., Little, A.C., & Vasey, P.L. (2016). Reconsidering male bisexuality: Sexual activity role and sexual attraction in Samoan men who engage in sexual interactions with *fa'afafine*. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 3: 11-26.
- VanderLaan, D.P., Petterson, L.J. & Vasey, P.L. (2016). Femininity and kin-directed altruism in homosexual men: A test of an evolutionary developmental model. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 45: 619-633.
- Leca, J-B. Gunst, N., Huffman, M.J., & Vasey, P.L. (2015). Effect of female-biased sex ratios on female homosexual behavior in Japanese macaques: Evidence for the "bisexual preference hypothesis". *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 44: 2125-2138.
- Muehlenhard, C., Humphreys, T.P., Jozkowski, K., & Peterson, Z. (2016). The complexities of sexual consent among college students: A conceptual and empirical review. *Journal of Sex Research: Annual Review of Sex Research*. Advance online publication (invited).
- McKie, R.M., Milhausen, R. R., & Lachowsky, N. J. (2016). "Hedge your bets": Technology's role in young gay men's relationship challenges. *Journal of Homosexuality* (online ahead of print). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2016.1172883>
- Muise, A., Boudreau, G. K., & Rosen, N. O. (2016). Seeking connection versus avoiding disappointment: An experimental manipulation of approach and avoidance sexual goals and the implications for desire and satisfaction. *The Journal of Sex Research*. Advanced online publication.
- Muise, A., Kim, J. J., McNulty, J. K., & Impett, E. A. (2016). The positive implications of sex for relationships. In C. R. Knee & H. T. Reis (Eds.), *Advances in Personal Relationships*, Vol. 1: Positive Approaches to optimal relationship development. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press

Student Update

We hope that everyone is enjoying a wonderful spring, wherever that may be! We are looking forward to reuniting with the student membership this fall in Quebec City. Similar to last year, we will be having a student meeting at the 2016 conference in which a new junior student representative will be elected. If you are passionate about making future CSRF conferences even better than before you could be the newest addition to the CSRF Executive Committee! If being a junior student representative is not of interest, we hope that you will make an informed vote during the Quebec City conference. We will be making an early call (via e-mail) for those interested in running for junior student representative. In August, we will ask all interested students to submit information about their affiliated institution, supervisor, year of study, research area, and a brief statement on why they believe they should be the incoming student representative. More information on the required information and format will be provided when we send out the call for interested students.

The student mentorship program is live and running well! We are continuing to connect junior student members (undergraduate students and new student members) with senior student mentors (graduate students, post-doc fellows, and long standing student members) as a part of the student mentorship program. If you are not currently a part of the mentorship program and would like to be please contact us through email so we can match you! Be sure to check out our new CSRF student blog (e-mail Chelsea or Drake if you need access)! The student blog has videos and blog posts from senior CSRF members on crucial topics that are pertinent for all young researchers. If you want contribute to the student blog, contact your student reps to post about something educational and informative, exciting new opportunities, or interesting reads. Lastly, in response to some student feedback we received on conference evaluations we have planned a great student evening for the Quebec City conference, including the traditional student dinner and a new student networking event!

Keep your eye out for information and updates over the next few months! In the meantime, if you have questions or comments feel free to contact Chelsea and Drake. Have an excellent summer and we will see you in the fall!

All the best,

Your devoted student reps!

Chelsea Kilimnik, Senior Student Representative
Drake Levere, Junior Student Representative



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Featured Member Profile:

Kate Rancourt
PhD Candidate
Dalhousie University



I received my BSc Honours in Psychology in 2011 from the University of Alberta. I conducted my honours thesis in the field of psychosocial oncology, where I studied the influence of couples' communication on their marital and psychological adjustment to gastrointestinal cancer. This project motivated me to pursue a degree in Clinical Psychology that would allow me to continue studying how chronic health problems influence, and are influenced by, individuals' intimate relationships.

I began my PhD in the fall of 2011 at Dalhousie University, under the supervision of Dr. Natalie Rosen. I am now in my fifth year of my program (I am perpetually stunned by how quickly the time has flown by me!) Over the years, I have benefited greatly from a strong alignment between my clinical and research interests in health, relationships, and sexuality. The research I am conducting with Natalie centers on both verbal and nonverbal communication in couple relationships where the woman is affected by a sexual problem. My comprehensive research was a really exciting project: We used an experimental design to examine whether women with sexual problems differed from women without sexual problems in their cognitive, behavioural, and affective responses to affectionate and sexual touch from romantic partners. Stay tuned for that paper!

My doctoral research involves couples where the woman is affected by provoked vestibulodynia (PVD; a subtype of vulvovaginal pain). My overarching goal is to better understand how couples' sexual communication influences women's pain, and women's *and* their partners' psychosexual adjustment to PVD. My first doctoral study examined the cross-sectional associations between the perceived *quality* of sexual communication and couples' adjustment to PVD, whereas my second study will examine the associations between couples' negative versus positive *patterns* of sexual communication (i.e., *how* they talk about sex) and their adjustment. For my last study, I plan to examine whether couples' sexual communication patterns change over the course of a couples' intervention for PVD, and whether such changes predict better treatment outcomes for women and partners.

Featured Member Profile:

**John K. Sakaluk, PhD
University of Victoria**

My research career and introduction to the CSRF community began nearly 10 years ago, when I was an undergraduate at the University of Guelph and a member of Dr. Robin Milhausen's Undergraduate Research Group in Sexuality (URGiS). I then went to the University of Kansas, where I completed my doctoral degree in Social Psychology, with a minor in Quantitative Psychology, where I studied under the supervision of Dr. Monica Biernat. This past year, I have served as a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, working with Dr. Emily Impett in her Relationships and Wellbeing (RAW) Lab. I was recently hired as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Victoria, where I will be continuing my research program, and teaching advanced statistics courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. I also serve as the Statistical Consultant for our *Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality*.

Though my research interests have evolved over the years, I continue to be interested in the study of relationship and sexual norms—the “rules” created within groups (e.g., cultures, romantic dyads, etc.) to govern our relational and sexual

conduct. I am currently interested in what features of a given norm make it more likely to be followed (i.e., “Norm Strength”), such as whether a norm is easy to understand, explicitly negotiated by relationship partners, and to what extent deviance from the norm is tolerated or punished. In collaboration with members of the RAW lab, my research in this area has explored the association between Norm Strength and Relationship Quality at particular points of relationship transition (e.g., to homeownership, marriage, and/or parenthood), and across different types of relationships (e.g., monogamous romantic, casual sex, and/or consensually non-monogamous). As a relatively new construct in the relationship/sexual science literature, I view the study of Norm Strength as a cornerstone of my research moving forward, and I am excited to pursue new directions to study it.

Now with my own laboratory at UVic, I am hoping to increase the impact, replicability, and transparency of my research through different methodological strategies. For example, I am beginning to feature more “real-time” and “real-world” methods of data collection, such as using technological devices, such as iPods and FitBits, to collect ecologically valid data from participants in the field (e.g., audio from their social interactions, exercise levels, sleep quality, daily-diary responses). I am also increasingly interested in the use of meta-analysis for synthesizing large literatures (e.g., on the association between self-esteem and sexual health), in order to provide powerful tests of psychological, relational, and sexual science theories. Research in my lab will also entail regular use of tools designed to promote Open Science, such as research material sharing (e.g., data, hypotheses, materials) via the Open Science Framework, and data-analysis with *R*.



Featured Member Profile: Amy Muise, PhD
York University

I attended my first CSRF nearly 10 years ago. My first meeting was in Ottawa in 2006 when I was a new graduate student. At the time, I was working on my Master's degree in Family Relationship and Human Development at the University of Guelph. I included a picture of me at my first meeting (you might also recognize a few other familiar faces in this picture). It was at this meeting in 2006 that I gave my first ever academic conference presentation (I was *very* nervous). Now, 10 years later, I have presented my work every year at CSRF, I have completed a PhD in Applied Social Psychology at the University of Guelph, a long stint as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Toronto, a brief stint as a postdoctoral fellow at Dalhousie University and am about to start a tenure-track position in Social Psychology at York University.

Here's a few things I have learned in the 10 years since my first CSRF meeting.



My research has been focused on answering questions about how couples maintain desire and satisfaction over time in their relationships. To answer these questions, I primarily apply social psychology theories (I am trained as a social psychologist) and I use dyadic and longitudinal methods to understand how these processes play out in couples' daily lives and over time in their relationships. During my PhD, I began looking at when sex in relationships is most beneficial and when sex might detract from relationship quality. I found that the reasons people engage in sex with their partner has important implications for their desire and satisfaction. On days when a person has sex with their partner for *approach goals* (i.e., to feel closer to a partner), both partners reported higher sexual desire and in turn, felt more satisfied with the sexual experience and the overall relationship. In contrast, on days when a person has sex for *avoidance goals* (i.e., to avoid disappointing their partner), not only did they feel lower desire and satisfaction, but their partner reported lower desire and satisfaction as well. This means that pursuing sex simply to "get it over with" or to avoid disappointing a partner may not work and instead is associated with costs, not only for oneself, but also for their partner. Notably, people who engaged in sex more for avoidance goals over the course of the diary study had partners who feel less sexually satisfaction and less committed to the relationship four months later.

Featured Member Profile: Amy Muise, Continued

After I completed my PhD in 2011, I began a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Toronto Mississauga, where I worked with Dr. Emily Impett in the Relationships and Well-being (RAW) lab. Together we tackled questions about why some couples maintain high desire over time whereas other couples struggle to keep the spark alive. In this line of work, we found that people high in *sexual communal strength* (i.e., those who were highly motivated to meet a partner's sexual needs) reported higher sexual desire and maintained higher desire over time (whereas people low in sexual communal strength declined in desire over time). That is, people high in sexual communal strength benefit from being motivated to meet their partner's sexual needs. The partners of people high in sexual communal strength do in fact perceive them to be more responsive to their sexual needs and feel more satisfied and committed to their relationship as a result.

One of my goals is to extend my work to clinical populations so that my findings can have real world implications and impact couples for whom it might matter the most. At the beginning of this year, I began a postdoctoral fellowship at Dalhousie University working with Dr. Natalie Rosen in the Couples and Sexual Health (CaSH) lab where I am applying my work on sexual motivation to clinical samples of couples coping with provoked vestibulodynia (PVD), a women's sexual pain condition. We now have evidence that both engaging in sex for approach goals and being high in sexual communal strength has important implications for couples with PVD. Not only are approach sexual goals and high sexual communal strength associated with higher sexual and relationship satisfaction in this population, but they are also associated with important health and clinical outcomes, such as better sexual function and less intense pain during intercourse. Our long-term goal is for these findings to inform clinical interventions that will improve the lives of couples coping with sexual dysfunctions.

Recently one of my long-time dreams came true—I was offered (and accepted) a tenure-track position in Social Psychology! Starting this July, I will be an Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department at York University. I am looking forward to building a lab and will be taking graduate students in the Fall of 2017. Please reach out to me if you are interested and visit my website to learn more about my research: www.amymuise.com. I plan to spend the next 10 years (and beyond) continuing to answer questions about how couples can maintain desire and satisfaction over time in their relationships, among other questions about sexuality and relationships.



Upcoming Conferences!



- 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
- February 23-26, 2017: ISSWSH Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA