



**forum canadien
de recherche
sur la sexualité**



**canadian
sex research
forum**

Spring/Summer Newsletter 2017

President's Message

On April 10, 2017, the Fundamental Science Review, written by nine experts in science and technology, was released to the public. The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Canada's Minister of Science, commissioned the review of federal support for science, the first of its kind over the last 40 years. The mandate included a review of all disciplines, basic and applied, which involved federal support and peer-review and a review of programs tailored to knowledge generation rather than industry or commercialization. The significance of this report, which has been named "The Naylor Report" (after Dr. David Naylor, former President of the University of Toronto) for the future of scientific funding cannot be overstated—this is the singular most important report to be completed in our scientific careers. This report was based on a comprehensive series of stakeholder interviews and 1275 written responses from researchers, institutions, and the general public. The main recommendation of the report called for increases in annual budgets for research monies to the four agencies (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC and CFI). The recommended increase in budget amounts to less than 1% of the Government of Canada's annual budget (a total increase of approximately \$1.4B over 4 years). If you have not had a chance to read the full 280 page report, you can read the executive summary, including its specific 35 recommendations, here: www.sciencereview.ca



Lori Brotto, PhD
President, CSRF

There is a strong emphasis in the Naylor Report on the protection of funding basic research, with more funding directed towards investigator-driven research at the expense of targeted priority-driven and partnership-oriented research. This represents a good proportion of the research carried out by our CSRF members. How is the Naylor Report and the Fundamental Science Review relevant to our work as sex researchers? Sex research funding outside of pharmaceutical companies continues to be akin to winning the lottery, and changes in CIHR over the past few years have resulted in record high numbers of outstanding researchers not receiving funding. I hope that as Canadian sex researchers, we can #SupportTheReport by advocating strongly for the value of sex research, and the value in all Canadian research.

What Can We Do?

- Use social media to spread the message to #SupportTheReport
- Attend meetings at your universities on Science Review of Funding
- Write your MPs and MLAs to thank them for funding support and indicate your support of the Fundamental Science Reviews Recommendations using personalized examples, such as the importance and relevance of your research on sexuality
- Invite MPs to your research laboratories to show them what science and research can do for society and the community as a whole. Stress or highlight the impact of local jobs and job opportunities within your laboratory but also in knowledge creation. A package with helpful tools to engage our MPs has been created by the Association of Canadian Early Career Health Researchers (ACECHR) and can be downloaded from: <http://www.acechr.ca/summerofsciencecan.html>
- Engage public interest to #SupportTheReport by personalizing your research, telling your research story to the public and highlighting the potential of fundamental science so that government and the public can better understand why sex research is so important
- Keep the message POSITIVE and support ALL of the recommendations of the Naylor Report

Outgoing President's Message

Thank you for six fantastic years.

It seems like yesterday when Sandi Byers emailed to ask if I would consider letting my name stand for the position of President-Elect of CSRF. She explained that it was a six-year commitment, but that it would not be a lot of work. She was partly right. The first two years were quite busy (the President-Elect is in charge of the conference program and conference planning), but I learned a lot and met great people and developed very precious friendships. The last four years were less busy. I remember thinking, after accepting the invitation, that when this is all done I will be over 50. It was hard to fathom. At the time, I was comfortable in a faculty position at the University of Lethbridge and looking for new challenges. So getting involved in a Canadian sex research group made sense. I never expected that I would move to the University of Ottawa only a year later. The preparation for the move happened while I was organizing the Ottawa conference. Lucky for me, Elke Reissing and Jocelyn Wentland were very effective local hosts.



Martin Lalumière, PhD
Past President, CSRF

I've noticed two changes in CSRF during those six years. First, the conference attracts more researchers and students, and has more cachet. At the same time, the conference has kept its friendly and welcoming feeling that has made CSRF so special for almost 50 years. Second, CSRF has modernized its activities, including getting online for membership and conference registration, and getting a slick website. I take no responsibility for these positive changes; many people deserve the credit, too many to thank here.

I strongly recommend getting involved in the executive of CSRF. It is a very friendly and welcoming group. The work is rewarding and you get to meet the best sex researchers in Canada. I would like to thank all members of the Executive Committee (past and present) and the Executive Directors who made my involvement 'totally worth it' (as my students would say). I wish to give a special thank you to Robin Milhausen and Lori Brotto, who made the experience very enriching.

See you all in Fredericton!

Martin Lalumière



CSRF 2017 - FREDERICTON, NB

Welcome to Fredericton, the capital city of New Brunswick! Fredericton is home to two universities and hosts the labs of CSRFs members Drs. Sandra Byers, Lucia O'Sullivan, and Scott Ronis.

Downtown Fredericton is a wonderful place to explore and easy to navigate on foot (although cabs are plentiful and pretty cheap). Our conference hotel, the Crowne Plaza, is right beside the newly renovated Beaverbrook Art Gallery and within a 20-minute walk to over 40 cafes, bars, and restaurants and many locally owned shops. The city has a vibrant food and drink scene. If you are a lover of spirits a trip to the Lunar Rogue, considered one of the best whiskey bars in

Canada, is a must. Our hotel also boasts its very own rooftop garden and honeybee colony, as well as three restaurants where you sample these delicious local goods. The craft brewing industry is booming in Fredericton and fortunately our hotel also houses the James Joyce, a traditional pub with a constantly rotating tap selection of New Brunswick craft beer and cider.

If you are more of the outdoorsy type, Fredericton is surrounded by nature that is just waiting to be explored. Odell Park, a 432-acre year-round park, is located in the heart of the city and includes a duck pond, arboretum, and botanic garden as well as 16-km of trails that are perfect for a relaxed hike. Our hotel is located on the beautiful St. John River and connected to the extensive (152km) multi-use trail system. Bike rentals are available but the trails are also perfect for a morning run or a late afternoon stroll over the river.



To experience the city like a local a Saturday morning a trip to the Boyce Farmers Market is a must. The market has 250 indoor and outdoor local suppliers and a mouth-watering line-up of outdoor food stands. Also within walking distance is the Cultural Market that brings food and crafts from different cultures from around the world together under one roof.

Final details for our social event are still being confirmed but we promise a chance to take in the beauty of the city in the Fall while sampling some of the delicious things that Fredericton has to offer. We can't wait to see you in Fredericton this October!

Jonathan Huber and Sarah Vannier

CSRF Student Representative Profile

Drake Levere

I am currently a second-year Master's student in the Health Psychology program at the University of British Columbia. Currently I am doing research in the Centre for Health and Coping Studies under the supervision of Dr. Anita DeLongis. My research interests predominantly focus around the impact of stress on interpersonal relationships. My Master's work focuses on the impact that perceived stress and rumination have on post-traumatic stress disorder symptomology in a sample of at-risk individuals. Currently, I am working with Raymond McKie on a study examining sexual consent understanding and sexual boundary negotiations in a population of Ontario prison inmates. I am also a primary investigator on a project assessing gay and straight male friendships in a North American sample. I hope to complete my Master's next year and advance into the PhD program while continuing to actively contribute to Canadian sexuality literature.



I was elected as the student representative during the 2015 Kelowna conference and worked alongside Chelsea Kilimnik and Stephanie Gauvine in my junior and senior student representative positions respectively. As a student representative, I continued to facilitate the student mentorship program and expand the student blog space. The mentorship program continues to help connect eager junior students with experienced graduate students in the CSRF community allowing for new students to feel welcomed and more involved in Canadian sex research. The student blog is a great resource (especially for new graduate students) that you should check out if you haven't already!

My experience as both junior and senior student representative has positively influenced the way I perceive academia. Being deeply involved with the executive committee for two CSRF conferences has made me appreciate the difficulty and hard-work that goes on behind the scenes of an established Canadian conference. For me, CSRF has always been a welcoming, warm, and thought-provoking conference that showcases the best sexuality research Canada has to offer. I consider myself very lucky to be a part of such a tight-knit and constantly growing community. I want to thank the executive committee for being exceptional role models to me and for the student members for allowing me to represent them for the previous 2 years. I am excited to pass the senior student representative position onto Stephanie, where I know she will continue to a great job as the voice of CSRF students. Lastly, I am looking forward to seeing what scholars will run for the junior representative position!

News and Announcements

Nathan Lachowsky

Interested in graduate study, a research staff position or a post-doctoral fellowship in gay men's health and sexuality? Nathan Lachowsky was recently awarded a three-year CIHR Project Grant "Addressing Recent Trends in HIV Among Gay, Bisexual, and other Men Who Have Sex with Men in Vancouver, British Columbia". This work is part of the Momentum Health Study (www.momentumstudy.ca) and part of Dr. Lachowsky's research program with various other research projects focused on sexuality and health equity for sexual and gender minority populations. Please contact him if you are interested in a future position or collaboration in this area at nlachowsky@uvic.ca!

And a special congratulations to Nate for receiving a 2017 Research Scholar Award from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research for his Addressing HIV/AIDS, sexual health and substance use among gay and other men who have sex with men project.

Chelsea D. Kilimnik

I received a Doctoral Fellowship from the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) for my research examining a new treatment intervention for the sexual well-being of women who have experienced childhood or adolescent sexual violence.



Stephanie Montgomery-Graham

Stephanie Montgomery-Graham

I was honoured to win the Sandra Leiblum Student Research Award from the Society for Sex Therapy and Research (SSTAR).

Vasey Lab News

The proceedings from the 2015 Puzzle of Sexual Orientation conference organized by Paul Vasey and Kelly Suschinsky were published in a special issue of the *Archives of Sexual Behavior*. The special section was co-edited by Paul Vasey, Doug VanderLaan and Kelly Suschinsky. It contains 32 contributions by 54 authors. The Vasey lab's Samoan *fa'afafine* research received coverage in the January 2017 "Gender Revolution" issue of *National Geographic* magazine. Our Zapotec *muxes* research was reported on in a variety of print outlets including *Scientific American*, the Mexican newspaper *El*

Imparcial, and the Spanish newspaper *El País*. Paul was interviewed by the American journalist, Katie Couric, for the *National Geographic* documentary, *Gender Revolution*, which aired in February 2017. In April, Paul gave the Brian Harder keynote address at the University of Alberta. He also gave talks at Northwestern Feinburg School of Medicine in Chicago and Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. Paul was interviewed *en français* by *Radio-Canada* about his Samoan *fa'afafine* and Zapotec *muxes* research as part of a story on the Alberta government's recent decision to have a neutral gender option on birth certificates. Lanna Petterson published three articles in the *Archives of Sexual Behavior*. She was awarded a University of Lethbridge Graduate Students' Association Student Service Award. Scott Semenyna published three articles in *Archives of Sexual Behavior* and *Developmental Psychobiology*. Francisco Gómez published his first article in the *Archives of Sexual Behavior*. He was named a National Geographic Young Explorer in recognition of his work with Zapotec *muxes*, an honour which came with research funding. Francisco was also awarded a Sigma Xi Grant-in-Aid of Research to support his work in Mexico. Lucas Court left the Vasey lab after successfully completing his Masters degree. He's now working in Jacques Balthazart's behavioral neurobiology lab in Liège, Belgium. Francisco and Paul spent November and December of 2016 in Juchitán, Mexico, collecting data. In May 2017, Paul headed back to Samoa for more fieldwork.

Shayna Sparling



I just returned from assisting Dr. Justin Lehmiller with a two week study abroad course in Amsterdam, Netherlands. The course was focused on sexuality and cultural diversity. As the Canadian member of the team, I presented information on sex work and sexual education in Canada, but I also greatly enjoyed having the opportunity to learn about how these topics are handled in the Netherlands. One of the highlights of the trip was a workshop and tour of the Red Light District with a Dutch sex worker who greatly enjoys the therapeutic work she does with her clients.

On June 1st I officially convoked from the University of Windsor with my PhD. in Applied Social Psychology. I am currently completing a Mitacs funded postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. Robin Milhausen at the University of Guelph and Dr. Abigail Kroch at the Ontario HIV Treatment Network.

Heather Armstrong

I just received a CIHR postdoctoral fellowship award working with the Momentum Health Study for a longitudinal analysis of substance use and mental health among bisexual men who have sex with men in Vancouver.

CSRF Member Research Feature

Doug VanderLaan, PhD

Q: In a few sentences, can you tell CSRF about your new research in Thailand?

A: Thai culture has a unique array of sexual orientation and gender identity categories. By studying this diversity, the overall goal is to expand understanding of sexual orientation and (trans)gender identity, particularly in terms of the interplay between biological and sociocultural influences.



Q: How does gender representation in Thailand compare to Samoa and/or other locations you've studied in the past?

A: The most striking difference is the sheer variety of identity categories that are socially tolerated and visible. In addition to straight men and women, Thai culture includes several categories that would fall within the realm of what Thai people consider "third gender/sexual." These include gay, lesbian and bisexual individuals similar to what we find in Western culture as well as feminine birth-assigned males

known locally as *sao prophet song* (literally "a second kind of woman") and masculine birth-assigned females known locally as *toms*, a term that is taken from the Western term "tomboy." There's also the category *dee* (taken from the English word "lady"). *Dees* are women in romantic or sexual relationships with *toms*, and their *dee* identity is contingent on being in such a relationship. In contrast, the other cultures where I've worked have had less diversity in identity categories, and less visibility and social tolerance of certain categories.

Q: How do Thai people differ in their perception of gender compared to Canadians?

A: Where we draw conceptual boundaries to form gender and sexual orientation identities is largely arbitrary and socially constructed. The most obvious difference is that Thai culture has a non-binary view of gender, whereas Westerners have traditionally held a binary view—although recently Western views seem to be moving somewhat more toward the non-binary. As I became more familiar with Thai culture, I noticed some subtler differences. In Thai culture, sexual orientation and gender identity are conflated in a way that differs dramatically from Western





culture, giving rise to some considerable differences in how gender is perceived. For example, in Canada, a man is considered a man regardless of his sexual preference. In Thai culture, where sexual orientation and gender are conflated, a gay is often not considered a man because the category of “men” is reserved for heterosexual males. As an added level of complexity, whereas most Canadians would perceive Thai gays and *sao praphet song* as distinct, many Thai people would view them as being a similar type of “third gender/sexual.” That said, many Thai people who are themselves LGBT or somehow allied with the LGBT community would recognize the distinction. So, perceptions of gender differ both between Thailand and Western culture as well as among different segments of Thai society.

Q: What is the most challenging part of conducting cross-cultural research?

A: It’s difficult to pinpoint one aspect as most challenging. The answer is going to vary depending on who you’re asking. Many challenges involve practical things such as extreme weather, being far from loved ones for extended periods, and culture shock. Then there’s managing actual research challenges like finding suitable field assistants, getting written research materials accurately translated, and obtaining permits from foreign governments. Much of this work has to be accomplished from the other side of the planet. But, for me, the most challenging aspect is

that there’s a short window of opportunity each year for data collection. When the field season starts, you have to be prepared to hit the ground running and make the most of your time. That leaves little-to-no room for error.

Q: What was the highlight of your field season in Thailand?

A: I read a book on Thai third genders 10 or so years ago and wanted to conduct research there ever since. After many years of work, that dream became a reality. I was interviewing Thai people face-to-face, asking questions I’d been thinking about for years. I felt extremely fortunate.



Member Publications

- Barlow, D. H., Durand, V. M., Hofmann, S. G., & Lalumière, M. L. (2018). *Abnormal psychology: An integrative approach* (5th Canadian edition). Toronto, Ontario: Nelson Education.
- Behavior problems and psychiatric diagnoses in girls with gender identity disorder: A follow-up study. *Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy*.
- Card, K. G., Lachowsky, N. J., Cui, Z., Shurgold, S., Armstrong, H. L., Rich, A. J., ... & Hogg, R. S. (2017). An Event-Level Analysis of the Interpersonal Factors Associated With Condomless Anal Sex Among Gay, Bisexual, and Other Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM) With Online-Met Partners. *AIDS Education and Prevention*, 29(2), 154-174.
- Card, K. G., Lachowsky, N. J., Cui, Z., Shurgold, S., Gislason, M., Forrest, J. I., ... & Hogg, R. S. (2016). Exploring the role of sex-seeking apps and websites in the social and sexual lives of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men: a cross-sectional study. *Sexual Health*.
- Drummond, K. D., Bradley, S. J., Peterson-Badali, M., VanderLaan, D. P., & Zucker, K. J.
- Gómez, F.R., Semenyna, S., Court, L. & Vasey, P.L. (2017). Recalled childhood separation anxiety in Istmo Zapotec men, women, and muxe. *Archives of sexual behavior*, 46(1), 109-117.
- Muise, A., Bergeron, S., Impett, E. A., & Rosen, N. O. (2017). The costs and benefits of sexual communal motivation for couples coping with vulvodynia. *Health Psychology*. Advanced online publication.
- Muise, A., Rosen, N. O., Kim, J. J.*, & Impett, E. A. (2017). Understanding when a partner is not in the mood: Sexual communal motivation in couples transitioning to parenthood. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*. Advanced online publication.
- Petterson, L. J., Wrightson, C. R., & Vasey, P. L. (2017). Recalled gendered behavior in childhood: A comparison of androphilic men, gynephilic men, and androphilic women in Japan. *Archives of sexual behavior*, 46(1), 119-127.
- Rich, A., Scott, K., Johnston, C., Blackwell, E., Lachowsky, N., Cui, Z., ... & Roth, E. (2017). Sexual HIV risk among gay, bisexual and queer transgender men: findings from interviews in Vancouver, Canada. *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, 1-13.
- Rosen, N. O., Bailey, K., & Muise, A. (2017). Degree and direction of sexual desire discrepancy are linked to sexual and relationship satisfaction in couples transitioning to parenthood. *The Journal of Sex Research*. Advanced online publication.
- Semenyna, S. W., Petterson, L. J., VanderLaan, D. P., & Vasey, P. L. (2017). A comparison of the reproductive output among the relatives of Samoan androphilic fa'afafine and gynephilic men. *Archives of sexual behavior*, 46(1), 87-93.
- Semenyna, S. W., VanderLaan, D. P., & Vasey, P. L. (2017). Birth order and recalled childhood gender nonconformity in Samoan men and fa'afafine. *Developmental Psychobiology*, 59(3), 338-347.
- VanderLaan, D. P., Blanchard, R., Zucker, K. J., Massuda, R., Fontanari, A. M. V., Borba, A. O., ... Lobato, M. I. R. (2017) Birth order and androphilic male-to-female transsexualism in Brazil. *Journal of Biosocial Science*, 49, 527-535.
- VanderLaan, D. P., Petterson, L. J., & Vasey, P. L. (2017). Elevated kin-directed altruism emerges in childhood and is linked to feminine gender expression in Samoan fa'afafine: A retrospective study. *Archives of sexual behavior*, 46(1), 95-108.
- Zucker, K. J. (in press). Epidemiology of gender dysphoria and transgender identity. *Sexual Health*.