Systemic Approaches to Therapy with the Sex Work Population

*Presenters: Katie Bloomquist, MS, MA & Eric Sprankle*

**Katie Bloomquist, MS, MA,** is a mental health clinician in Minneapolis providing systemic psychotherapy for individuals, couples and groups in the LGBTQI+ and sex work communities who are struggling with mental health, relational and/or sexual health concerns. She is kink and poly-positive and competent and is affirmative of ALL consensual unconventional sexual behaviors. She has several sex work research publications and presents academically on the sex workers rights movement, sex work stigma and the minority stress of sex work at sexual health and therapy conferences. She completed her practicum at the Pride Institute and is dedicated to and passionate about providing quality care for the queer community. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Sex Workers Outreach Project, USA and is passionate about destigmatizing and decriminalizing all consensual sexual behavior between adults.

**Dr. Eric Sprankle** is an Associate Professor at Minnesota State University, Mankato where he serves on the faculty of the clinical psychology graduate program and the sexuality studies undergraduate program. He is also a licensed clinical psychologist in the state of Minnesota, and an AASECT-certified sex therapist. Dr. Sprankle received his doctorate in clinical psychology from Xavier University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Minnesota Medical School's Program in Human Sexuality. He currently leads the Sexual Health Research Team at MSU examining sex work stigma, the effects of sexually explicit material, older adult sexuality, and the intersections of sexual health and genital piercings.

Understanding Women’s Sexuality in Therapy: From the Science to the Spiritual

*Presenter: Renee Divine, MA, LMFT*

**Renee Divine** is a Relationship & Sex Therapist with her own practice in South Minneapolis. She works with couples and individuals who are experiencing sexual and relationship challenges. Her passion it to help people explore their sexual selves in order to create healthy individuals and healthy relationships. She became a parent right before her 44th birthday, which fuels another passion: supporting later in life first-time parents who are experiencing a similarly crazy, exciting, terrifying, yet immensely rewarding transition.
Sex, Couples & Communication: The Struggle is Real!

Presenter: Jennie Hilleren, LMFT, CST & Anne Bauers

Jennie has presented at regional and national conferences on the topic of sexuality. She is an adjunct professor at St. Mary’s University Graduate School, and has been practicing therapy for twelve years.

Anne specializes in working with couples that present with sexual issues.

Shifting Oppressive Power Dynamics in Couples Therapy

Presenter: Rachel Martin, MS, LAMFT

Rachel Martin, MS, LAMFT does community engagement and program development for Kente Circle Training Institute, a Minneapolis nonprofit dedicated to creating a more diverse and culturally responsive mental healthcare workforce and community. She volunteers in a middle school classroom, facilitates cross-cultural relationship trainings for classroom volunteers, and has experience co-leading a mindfulness program for young children. Rachel is starting a couples-focused private practice in Saint Paul.

Winning the Sexual Tug-O-War: Treating Couples' Sexual Desire Discrepancy

Presenter: Abby Girard, MA, PsyD & Beatrice "Bean" Robinson

Dr. Abby Girard is the primary investigator, and the post-doctoral fellow in Couples Sexual Health at the Center for Sexual Health/Program in Human Sexuality located within the department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Minnesota Medical School. Dr. Girard received her PsyD. in Marital and Family Therapy from Alliant International University, and received her Master of Arts in Marital and Family Therapy from the University of San Diego. Her dissertation research focused on the role of infidelity typologies in predicting attachment anxiety and avoidance. Her clinical training has included psychotherapy experience in community counseling centers, outpatient sexual medicine clinics, and treating individuals and couples in private practice. Dr. Girard's areas of interest include sexual health and functioning, sexual desire discrepancy, compulsive sexual behavior, gender and sexual identity development, couples/relationship intimacy concerns, sexual trauma/abuse recovery.

Dr. Beatrice “Bean” Robinson has worked for the Program for Human Sexuality at the University of Minnesota since 1991 and has received NIMH funding for sexuality-related research on multiple occasions. Dr. Robinson is currently the Clinic Director at the Center for Sexual Health and the Program Director of the Relationship and Sex Therapy program. Bean Robinson, PhD, associate director at the Center for Sexual Health, received her BA in sociology from the State University of New York at Binghamton. She received her MA in counseling psychology and her PhD in family social science from the University of Minnesota. She received NIMH funding to complete a postdoctoral training in Asian-American mental health and research methods at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. She is currently a Minnesota licensed psychologist, licensed marriage and family therapist, and an associate professor at
the Program in Human Sexuality. Prior to coming to PHS in September 1991, she was the senior researcher at the Wilder Research Center (1984-1991) and, concurrently, was the consulting psychologist for the White Bear Lake Area Community.

Discernment Counseling

Presenters: Steven M. Harris, PhD, LMFT & Bridget Manley Mayer, MS, LMFT

Steven M. Harris, PhD, LMFT, is currently Professor and Director of the Couple and Family Therapy Program at the University of Minnesota. Prior to living in Minnesota, he was an MFT faculty member at Texas Tech University for 13 years. He has been practicing as an MFT for over 27 years. Dr. Harris also serves as the Associate Director of the Minnesota Couples on the Brink Project. He and his co-author, Dr. William J. Doherty, released the first textbook on Discernment Counseling in April 2017.

Bridget Manley Mayer, MS, LMFT is the Project Coordinator and a Discernment Counselor on the Minnesota Couples on the Brink Project. For nearly 10 years, she has worked closely with Bill Doherty, PhD, and Steve Harris, PhD, to create, refine and disseminate the discernment counseling protocol. She also has a private practice called Mindful Connections in St. Paul, MN, where she provides discernment counseling, couples, and individual therapy.

Therapy with Polyamorous Clients: Gaining Cultural & Clinical Competence with a Marginalized Population

Presenter: Martha Kauppi, MS, LMFT, ACST (AASECT certified sex therapist)

Martha Kauppi, MS LMFT, ACST, is a marriage and family therapist, educator, AASECT-certified sex therapist, and AAMFT-approved supervisor. She has a private practice in Madison, Wisconsin, specializing in couple therapy and a broad variety of sex-related issues, as well as alternative sexualities and alternative family structures. Martha is passionate about the importance of non-specializing therapists including discussion of sex in the regular course of therapy. To this end, she developed and teaches a 16-week online curriculum for therapists in which she offers a unique way of thinking about sex issues, and extremely practical skills participants can use immediately in their practices. She has presented to the public on issues ranging from alternative sexualities to improving orgasmic function, and to therapists on every conceivable topic related to sex and sexuality.

The Art of Brief Assessment: From Convoluted Story to Coherent Treatment

Presenter: Martha Kauppi, MS, LMFT, ACST (AASECT certified sex therapist)

Martha Kauppi, MS LMFT, ACST, is a marriage and family therapist, educator, AASECT-certified sex therapist, and AAMFT-approved supervisor. She has a private practice in Madison, Wisconsin,
specializing in couple therapy and a broad variety of sex-related issues. Martha is passionate about the importance of non-specializing therapists including discussion of sex in the regular course of therapy. To this end, she developed and teaches a 16-week online curriculum for therapists in which she offers a unique way of thinking about sex issues, and extremely practical skills participants can use immediately in their practices. She has presented to the public on issues ranging from alternative sexualities to improving orgasmic function, and to therapists on every conceivable topic related to sex and sexuality.

____________________________________

Sexual Trauma and Relationships: Working with Partners

Presenter: Anney Lyons, MA, LAMFT, Doctoral Candidate

Anney works at Cedar Hill Therapy as a sex and relationship therapist. She sees couples and individuals working through sexual difficulties, and has taken an interest in the impacts of sexual trauma on relationships. She received her master’s degree in Counseling and Psychological Services at Saint Mary's, and is currently working on her doctorate in marriage and family therapy with a concentration in sex therapy at Argosy University. Anney is an LAMFT working towards full licensure.

____________________________________

Identifying and Addressing Destructive Masculine Ideology in Couple's Therapy:

An Attachment Perspective

Presenter: Anthony Mielke, MA, LAMFT, Doctoral Student

Anthony is a Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist and received his MA in Marriage and Family Therapy from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota in 2013. He is currently a student in the Doctorate of Marriage and Family Therapy program at Argosy University. Anthony’s current academic emphases include the application of multi-systemic and philosophical perspectives to masculine identify formation, ecological factors in therapy, and the application of psycho-historical principles to assessment and treatment of individuals and families. Anthony’s professional experience includes inhome therapy, intensive adolescent day treatment, outpatient, and school-based therapy. Throughout his professional experience, Anthony has worked extensively with adolescent and adult male clients in individual, couple, family, and group therapy. Anthony has also delivered multiple professional presentations and lectures on theories of family therapy, ecological systems theory, and existentialism in family therapy.

____________________________________

The Principles of Pleasure:

Four Important Skills to Help Therapists Work with the Good Stuff

Presenter: Laura Rademacher, MA, LMFT, CST
Laura Rademacher, MA, LMFT, CST, is a sex and relationship therapist who got her start as a sex-positive sexual health educator. She is the author of The Principles of Pleasure: Working with the Good Stuff as Sex Therapists and Educators. Laura has presented workshops nationally for: AASECT (American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists), Minnesota Reproductive Health Update Conference, MnATSA, Southwestern College, Blind Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People, The Smitten Kitten, Teenwise MN, and Pride Festival in Stockholm Sweden. Laura’s workshop, Teaching Pleasure; Best Practices was awarded the 2014 Schiller Prize by AASECT.

An Introduction to Counseling Kinky Couples

Presenter: Hannah Rogak, MS & Jennifer Vencill

Hannah Rogak is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with a Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy from St. Cloud State University. She also has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. During her training, she completed an undergraduate research project and a Master’s thesis exploring factors that contribute to couples relationship satisfaction. Hannah has experience providing outpatient, school-based, and in-home therapy for clients 3 years old and up. Her main clinical interests are: finding integrative approaches to healing trauma; couples conflict; depression and self harm; and alternative sexuality and gender concerns (including LGBTQA, transgender, poly and kink). She uses a range of modalities to suit the needs of her clients, including solution-focused therapy, expressive art therapy, play therapy, and sandtray therapy.

Jennifer A. Vencill, PhD, is an assistant professor, licensed psychologist, and co-coordinator of the Relationship & Sex Therapy program at the University of Minnesota Medical School's Program in Human Sexuality. Her research interests include health disparities and minority stress in marginalized sexual communities, mixed orientation relationships, and women’s sexual health. Dr. Vencill’s clinical work has included psychotherapy and assessment experience in community clinics, university counseling centers, and both inpatient and outpatient medical settings. Her clinical interests include sexual health and functioning, gender and sexual identity development, couples/relationship concerns, and sexual trauma/abuse recovery. Dr. Vencill sits on the editorial board of the Journal of Positive Sexuality and is past president of the Society for the Psychology of Women’s Section on Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns. She received her PhD in Counseling Psychology from Texas Tech University and was the first Michael E. Metz Postdoctoral Fellow in Couples' Sexual Health at the Program in Human Sexuality.

Un-Learning Jealousy in Ethical Non-Monogamy

Presenter: Carise Rotach-Beard, MA, LMFT

Carise Rotach-Beard, MA, LMFT: “I am a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) specializing in sexuality and relationships. I have five years of experience working with polyamory, kink, queer, and
LGBTQA-specific dynamics. I also specialize in helping individuals reclaim sexuality following religious/spiritual abuse. As a special interest, I offer public education on a variety the topics including polyamory, body image and sexuality, overcoming purity culture and sex-negativity, feminism and BDSM, gender inclusivity and awareness, and un-learning jealousy.”

50 Shades and Beyond: Understanding Erotic Play with Power

*Presenter: Ben Snyder, PhD, MEd, MSW, LICSW, Angela Callais*

**Ben Snyder** is a certified sex therapist and has been practicing for 9 years. He is a skilled and experienced educator with a wide array of knowledge and experience with topics related to human sexuality and mental health. He is passionate about building awareness and acceptance in professional communities for sexually diverse people.

**Angela Callais** is in her final year of the Masters of Social Work program on at the University of Minnesota in the Clinical Mental Health concentration and working as an intern at Walk-In Counseling Center, and also holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Individualized Studies in Human Sexuality from Metropolitan State University. You can find her in “Stories from the Polycule: Real Life in Polyamorous Families” by Dr. Elisabeth Sheff, and co-host of the “Poly in the Cities” podcast ([www.polyinthecities.com](http://www.polyinthecities.com)). Angela also enjoys her work as a Sex Educator at Smitten Kitten in Minneapolis.


*Presenter: Dr. Lucas Volini, DMFT, LMFT*

**Dr. Volini** is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, AAMFT Clinical Fellow and core faculty in the COAMFTE-Accredited MFT Program at Saint Cloud State University. As part of his scholarly agenda, Dr. Volini’s original research on the development of Global Family Therapy has been published in The American Journal of Family Therapy and presented at both local and national professional associations. Dr. Volini is also the author of a study guide geared toward preparing professionals to pass the national licensing exam in marital and family therapy. On a part-time basis, Dr. Volini is the clinical director at Being while Becoming, a private practice group in Waconia, MN where he sees clients and provides clinical supervision to both practicum students and pre-licensed professionals.
Sexless Marriages: The New Epidemic

Presenter: Lisa Yee, MS, LMFT, CST

Lisa Yee, MS LMFT CST, is a Marriage and Family Therapist and AASECT Certified Sex Therapist practicing in Madison, WI. Lisa specializes in working with couples and sexual issues in her private practice, especially in the areas of infidelity, sexless marriages and desire discrepancy, divorce, and sexual trauma. Her special interest is helping couples regain intimacy and connection. Lisa Yee’s professional memberships include American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, Wisconsin Association of Marriage and Family Therapy and American Association of Sexual Educators, Counselors and Therapists (AASECT).

Helping Couples Overcome Sexual Pain, Sexual Anxiety, and Sexual Dysfunction: Step-by-Step

Presenter: Dr. Kyle Zrenchik, Phd, ACS, LMFT

Dr. Zrenchik is a couples and sex therapist practicing in St. Louis Park. His work has been featured in various academic journals, and local and national media. As a former host of Sex Talk Radio (KBOO, Portland, OR), contributing author in the book Intimate Relationships, and the recipient of various awards including from AAMFT and SAMHSA, Dr. Z brings a fresh, informed, and invigorating perspective that defines his passion for couples.