

46TH ANNUAL MEETING

SSTAR 2021

**SEX, RELIGION, AND POLITICS:
UNDERSTANDING AND CHALLENGING THE
BELIEFS THAT SHAPE OUR EXPERIENCES**

April 29 – May 2, 2021

Virtually

WELCOME LETTER

Welcome to the 46th Annual meeting of SSTAR, which is being held virtually! In our 46th year as an organization, we continue to celebrate our commitment to excellence in the field of human sexuality — in research, clinical practice, education, and training—as well as our commitment to the principle that people from all ages and backgrounds have a right to healthy sexuality, a right to sex therapy treatment, and access to scientific discovery informing their sexual health and wellbeing.

We have been living in the most unusual times, and although the virtual format of this Annual meeting is obviously different, we hope you will see from the conference schedule that we have attempted to create an experience that closely resembles a typical in-person SSTAR Annual meeting. We are excited to share this opportunity to hear from many dynamic speakers across a variety of different areas and disciplines in clinical sexuality about the complex ways in which sex, religion, and politics intersect to influence our experiences with ourselves and each other.

In addition to the scientific stimulation that our meeting provides, there will be *virtual* opportunities to foster your own connections with colleagues and friends. Specifically, we are offering two interactive poster sessions on Thursday and Friday afternoon/evening. Not only can you interact live with the poster presenters (which we highly encourage because there is some great work being presented!), you can also use this format to meet up virtually with friends and colleagues right there in the virtual conference room! We know it is not exactly the same as an in-person meeting, but we hope it still fosters connection among SSTAR members, students,

and first-time attendees and provides an opportunity to create the collegial and welcoming atmosphere that makes SSTAR such a great organization!

Here are some of the other highlights you can anticipate at this meeting:

- There will be three different workshops offered on Thursday with topics including black women and sexuality, working with gender-diverse clients, and supervision in sex therapy. You won't want to miss these presentations by our dynamic and knowledgeable presenters!
- Engaging conference sessions will involve live and interactive poster presentations, data blitzes, and in-depth research and clinical addresses on exciting new sexuality research. As always, these sessions are a balance of invited and peer-reviewed talks that reflect a wide variety of topics and cutting-edge research in human sexuality and the treatment of sexual and relational difficulties.
- Our popular clinical case presentation will be on Friday and will provide an exciting opportunity for discussion amongst our attendees on the treatment of two complex clinical cases involving the navigation of differences in cultural perspectives between a clinician and two of her couples' therapy clients.
- Graduate and postdoctoral fellows are invited to participate in a lunch and learn on Saturday with both an experienced sex therapy clinician and sex researcher to discuss career and personal development, academia, and clinical work in human sexuality.
- On Sunday morning, our ethics workshop will address issues of confidentiality in discussions around sexuality.

Whether you are a student, newcomer, or regular attendee, we are eager to welcome you to this 46th Annual SSTAR meeting! We look forward to seeing you virtually to engage in lively discussions, collegial debates, and knowledge translation in sex therapy and research. The annual SSTAR conference provides us all with the opportunity to connect with one another and actively contribute to the continued growth and success of our organization and our field. This conference also gives newcomers the chance to see firsthand what makes SSTAR so unique — the warmth, respect, and openness we share with one another in our collective goal of improving lives through excellence in sex research and clinical practice.

See you there!

Stephanie W. Kuffel, PhD
2021 Scientific Program Chair

Jennifer Vencill, PhD
2021 Scientific Program Co-Chair

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This program is designed for a broad range of medical and mental health professionals with an interest in the care of people with sexual concerns, as well as for sex researchers/scholars and trainees in sexology, psychology, and other medical and mental health disciplines.

The Society for Sex Therapy and Research is the premier international professional organization solely focused on sexual disorders.

SCHOLARSHIPS

SSTAR is foremost committed to fostering clinical sexuality practice and research. In order to fulfill this mission, SSTAR is dedicated to being a welcoming and inclusive environment for all who work in the field of human sexuality, including Black, Indigenous or other Persons of Color (BIPOC), individuals from the LGBT2SQ+ communities, and students as well as early career professionals.

SSTAR recognizes that payment of conference registration fees can be an economic hardship and is therefore offering 3 scholarships for the 2021 Annual Conference of up to \$825 each to attend 3 preconference workshops, the annual meeting on Friday and Saturday and post-conference Ethics workshop on Sunday. Applicants need not be SSTAR members. Click [here](#) to see the specific criteria and to apply. Those who apply for a scholarship are asked to wait to register until they have received a reply from the Scholarship Committee, which will be prior to April 1.

**Please note that all times are listed in the Central Daylight Time Zone (CDT)
Corresponding start times are listed below:**

9:00 am Eastern Daylight Time
8:00 am Central Daylight Time
7:00 am Mountain Daylight Time
6:00 am Pacific Daylight Time (+Arizona)

THURSDAY, April 29

PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOPS ADVANCED PRACTICE IN SPECIAL SUBJECTS

8:00 am - 10:00 am ***Workshop #1***

The Black Woman and Sexuality: Cultural Humility in Practice
Presenter: Ruby Bouie Johnson, LCSW

10:15 am - 12:15 pm ***Workshop #2***

Pleasure Oriented Sex Therapy with Gender Diverse Clients: The Gender Affirmative Lifespan Approach
Presenters: Katie Spencer, PhD & Nic Rider, PhD

12:15 pm -1:00 pm *Lunch Break*

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm *Workshop #3*

Leading Conversations about Sex Therapy Supervision
Presenter: James Wadley, PhD

3:15 pm - 4:15 pm *Poster Presentations on Gather.Town*

4:30pm – 5:30pm

Student/ECP Social

Moderators: Leiszle Lapping-Carr, PhD and
Alice Girouard – **contact the SSTAR office to register for this
event - info@sstarnet.org**

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Corresponding start times are listed below:

8:50 am Eastern Daylight Time
7:50 am Central Daylight Time
6:50 am Mountain Daylight Time
5:50 am Pacific Daylight Time (+Arizona)

FRIDAY, April 30

MEETING SCHEDULE

7:50 am - 8:05 am

Welcome

SSTAR President: Sophie Bergeron, PhD,
Scientific Program CoChairs: Stephanie W. Kuffel, PhD and
Jennifer Vencill, PhD
Continuing Education Officer: Arva Bensaheb, PhD

8:05 am - 9:05 am

Plenary 1

Black Women Be Knowin': Pleasure, Eroticism, and Sexual
Politics
Presenter: Candice Hargons, PhD

9:05 am - 9:15 am

Break

9:15 am - 10:00 am

Paper Presentations #1: Arousal, Desire, and Eroticism

1. Desire emerging from arousal: Factors influencing responsive sexual desire in women with and without sexual difficulties
Presenter: Meredith Chivers, PhD
2. Destined or doomed? A longitudinal study of sexual growth and destiny beliefs in the transition to parenthood
Presenter: Meghan Rossi, BSc
3. Integrating eroticism into a long-term relationship
Presenter: Barry McCarthy, PhD

10:00 am -10:10 am

Break

10:10 am - 10:40 am

Concurrent Data Blitz Sessions

Data Blitz 1: Sex and Pregnancy

1. Caution, bump ahead: Attitudes toward sex during pregnancy and the link with expectant parents' sexual well-being
Presenter: Samantha Dawson, PhD

2. It's better to focus on the positive: Links between attention to sexual cues during sex and sexual desire among expectant parents
Presenter: Sonia Milani, BA
3. Examining the link between sexual self-schemas and couples' sexual and relationship satisfaction in pregnancy
Presenter: Jackie S. Huberman, PhD

Data Blitz 2: Sexual Well-Being Among Couples and Singles

1. On the prospective association between sexual and relationship satisfaction in long-term couples: What is the role of intimacy?
Presenter: Noémie Beaulieu, BSc
2. A dyadic longitudinal study examining associations between responses to positive events and sexual well-being among diverse couples
Presenter: Myriam Bosisio, BSc
3. A prospective, longitudinal analysis of sexual well-being among single individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic
Presenter: Kayla Mooney, MSc

10:40 am - 10:50 am	<i>Break</i>
10:50 am - 11:10 am	<i>Sandra J. Leiblum Student Research Award</i> Empirical Evaluation of Rainbow Reflections: A Comic Book Anthology on Body Image for Queer Men Awardee: Stéphanie Gauvin, MSc
11:10 am - 11:40 am	<i>ISSWSH Invited Presentation</i> Presenter: Becky Lynn, MD
11:40 am - 12:00 pm	<i>SSTAR Consumer Book Award</i> Magnificent Sex: Lessons from Extraordinary Lovers Awardees: Peggy J. Kleinplatz, PhD & A. Dana Ménard, PhD
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	<i>Lunch Break</i>
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	<i>Plenary 2</i> Come All Ye Faithful: How Religion and Morality Shape Beliefs About Pornography Use Presenter: Josh Grubbs, PhD
2:00 pm - 2:10 pm	<i>Break</i>

2:10 pm - 2:40 pm

Concurrent Data Blitz Sessions

Data Blitz 3: Sex and Postpartum

1. Should we be worried? Change in the sexual concerns of new parents from three to twelve months postpartum
Presenter: David Allsop, MS
2. How changed is couples' sexual life after having a first baby? A mixed-method study
Presenter: Marie-Andrée Binet, BA
3. From couple to family: Romantic attachment predicts changes in commitment in new parents (and vice versa!)
Presenter: Rose Lapolice Thériault, BA

Data Blitz 4: Reactions and Factors Impacting Sexual Well-being

1. Exploring the link between autoimmune disorders and painful sex in ova-having bodies
Presenter: Karen Washington, LMFT
2. Attachment insecurities and sexual coercion in same- and cross- gender couples: The mediational role of couple communication patterns
Presenter: Caroline Dugal, PhD
3. Responses to sexual rejection and relationship well-being for women with sexual interest/arousal disorder and their partners
Presenter: Grace Schwenck, BSc
4. A penny for your (sexual) thoughts: Qualitative analysis of women's and men's self-described reactions to sexual and nonsexual stimuli
Presenter: Trinda Penniston, BAH

2:40 pm - 2:45 pm

Break

2:45 pm - 4:15 pm

Case Presentation

Sex Therapy and the Mythical C-Spot

Presenter: Arva Bensaheb, PhD

Discussant: Marta Meana, PhD

4:15 pm – 4:30 pm

Break

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Interactive Poster Presentations on Gather.Town

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8:50 am Eastern Daylight Time
7:50 am Central Daylight Time
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SATURDAY, May 1

8:00 am - 8:30 am

Member Meeting

8:30 am - 9:30 am

Plenary 3

*"I'm fine with the way I am, but I'm not gonna go broadcasting it:
Considering the consequences of microaggressions among
diverse bisexual men."*

Presenter: Wendy Bostwick, PhD, MPH

9:30 am - 9:40 am

Break

9:40 am - 10:25 am

Paper Presentations 2: Cognitions, Emotions, and Motivation

1. Cognitive processing of sexual cues in asexual individuals and heterosexual women with desire/arousal difficulties
Presenter: Natalie Brown, MA
2. Downregulation of negative emotion during sexual conflict discussions is associated with sexual well-being: A dyadic observational study
Presenter: Justin Dubé, BSc
3. Associations between pornography use frequency, pornography use motivations, and sexual wellbeing in couples
Presenter: Beáta Bóthe, PhD

10:25 am - 10:45 am

Masters & Johnson Award

Awardee: Sandra Byers, PhD

10:45 am - 10:55 am

Break

10:55 am - 11:25 am

SMSNA Invited Presentation

Transgender healthcare and surgery: A proposed biopsychosocial model for a new era

Presenter: Maurice M. Garcia, MD

11:25 am - 11:55 am ***Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy Young Investigator Awards***

1. An objective measure of vaginal lubrication in women with and without arousal concerns
Awardee: Ariel Handy
2. What does research tell us about women’s experiences, motives, and perceptions about masturbation within a relationship context? A systematic review of qualitative studies
Awardee: Dilan Kilic Onar

11:55 am - 1:10 pm ***Lunch Break***

12:10 pm- 12:55 pm ***Lunch and Learn for Students***

Moderators: Stephanie Kuffel, PhD (Clinical) and
Audrey Brassard, PhD (Research)

1:10 pm - 2:10 pm

Plenary 4

Building Bridges – Women of Faith as Connectors
Presenter: Manal Omar, CEO Across Red Lines

2:10 pm - 2:20 pm

Break

2:20 pm - 3:05 pm

Paper Presentations 3: Mindfulness, Sensate Focus, and Self-Compassion

1. A randomized trial comparing group mindfulness-based cognitive therapy with group supportive sex education for the treatment of female sexual interest/arousal disorder
Presenter: Lori A. Brotto, PhD
2. “How do I get past this?” Trauma informed use of sensate focus with survivors of sexual trauma
Presenter: Linda Weiner, MSW, LCSW
3. Combining mindfulness and self-compassion to address treatment challenges in sexual dysfunction
Presenter: Rami Nijjar, PhD

3:05 pm - 4:05 pm

Plenary 5

Landmines and Lifesavers in Modern Mormon Sexual Health
Presenter: John Dehlin, PhD

4:05 pm - 4:15 pm

The Sexual Tipping Point Award presented by the MAP Education and Research Foundation (mapedfund.org)

4:15 pm - 4:30 pm

Farewell and passing of the torch to Jennifer Vencill, PhD

SUNDAY, May 2

ETHICS POSTCONFERENCE WORKSHOP

9:00 am – 12:00 pm *Talking about Sex: Protection or Erosion of Confidentiality?*

Presenters: Peggy J. Kleinplatz, PhD and Dan Watter, EdD

LATE FEE & CANCELLATION POLICIES

Late Fee: A late fee of \$50 for Friday/Saturday registrations, across all registration types, goes into effect April 1, 2021. Please see the registration form for pricing.

Cancellation: All requests for cancellation refunds must be submitted in writing prior to Thursday, April 15. Please include the name of the registrant and the name of the conference. See below for the office contact information. A \$25 USD administrative fee will be charged. Cancellations made after April 15 will not be eligible for any refunds.

Emergency Illness or Death of Registrant or Immediate Family Member: Refunds may be granted if an attendee is unable to attend the Conference due to a family death, illness, or other extraordinary circumstance. In such a circumstance, the SSTAR Office must be contacted prior to the meeting. The Executive Council will review the reason, there is no guarantee it will be granted. No refunds will be granted for any reason after the Conference has begun.

Cancellation requests are to be submitted to the Society for Sex Therapy and Research (SSTAR):

Phone: (847)647-8832

Email: info@sstarnet.org

Mail: 8120 Lehigh Avenue, Suite 100

Morton Grove, IL 60053

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS OR ACCME ACCREDITATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, CONTINUING EDUCATION ACCREDITATIONS & APPROVALS:

The SSTAR 2021 Annual Meeting is being planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through joint sponsorship with The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). ACOG has approved the program to receive CE credits for AASECT, APA and NYSED. The exact breakdown of CE credits is under consideration by these accrediting bodies and will be posted soon.

For questions regarding CE credits, please contact Arva Bensaheb, PhD, at (702) 204-7513 or acitycbt@gmail.com.



SSTAR 2021 VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING – April 29 – May 2, 2021
REGISTRATION FORM

- 1. Online Registration:** Registration is available to all attendees online. Simply visit <https://sstarnet.org/meetings/> to register
- 2. E-Mail:** Please complete information below (Please print) and email to robind@celticchicago.com
- 3. Mail:** Please complete information below (Please print) and submit, with payment information, by mailing to: SSTAR – 8120 Lehigh Ave, Suite 100, Morton Grove, IL 60053

Registrant Full Name _____
 Degree(s) _____ License# _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____ Phone _____

All Pricing and Payment are in US Dollars All times are Central Daylight Time

Late fee of \$50 for Friday/Saturday registrations, goes into effect April 1, 2021

****Please circle the fee of your Member Status for each event in which you want to attend/register**

	ASSOCIATE /FULL MEMBER	NON-MEMBER	ECP MEMBER	ECP NON-MEMBER	STUDENT MEMBER	STUDENT NON-MEMBER
REGISTRATION FEES – (US Dollars only)						
Thursday Workshop #1 – 8:00am – 10:00am (CDT)	\$75	\$100	\$50	\$75	\$30	\$50
Thursday Workshop #2 – 10:15am – 12:15pm (CDT)	\$75	\$100	\$50	\$75	\$30	\$50
Thursday Workshop #3 – 1:00pm – 3:00pm (CDT)	\$75	\$100	\$50	\$75	\$30	\$50
Friday/Saturday Annual Mtg - 8:00am – 4:30pm (CDT)	\$325	\$425	\$125	\$150	\$75	\$100
Sunday Ethics Workshop – 9:00am – 12:00pm (CDT)	\$90	\$120	\$90	\$120	\$90	\$120

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS						
CE Fees for ACOG		ACOG \$75				
CE Fees - \$30 for EACH designation chosen (Circle all needed)		AASECT \$30	APA \$30	NASW \$30	NYSED (SW) \$30	NYSED (PSY) \$30

TOTAL FEES (USD) \$ _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION - Check (made payable to SSTAR in USD only) - Credit Card

Cardholder Name _____

Card Billing Address _____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration date _____ Security Code _____