2019 GENDER & SEXUALITY IN KANSAS CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, MARCH 29
RHATIGAN STUDENT CENTER

FEATURING A KEYNOTE PRESENTATION BY DR. MONIQUE MORRIS

decolonizer

PUSHOUT
The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools
MONIQUE W. MORRIS

ALPHA KAPPA DELTA · ESTD 1920 · SOCIOLOGY HONOR SOCIETY · Partially funded by AKD

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Gender & Sexuality Conference at a Glance

8:30-9:00am   **Registration**

9:00-10:15am   **Welcome & Session 1**
room 261   Breakout 1A
room 262   Breakout 1B

10:30-11:45am   **Session 2**
room 261   Breakout 2A
room 262   Breakout 2B

12:00-1:00pm   **Lunch (on your own)**

1:00-2:30pm   **Keynote Presentation: Dr. Monique Morris**
room 233   *Education is Freedom Work (And Other Critical Reflections About Responses to School Pushout for Black Girls)*

2:45pm-
4:00pm   **Session 3**
room 261   Breakout 3A
room 262   Breakout 3B

4:15-5:00pm   **Session 4**
room 266   Roundtable Discussions

All Day
room 265   *Relaxation Lounge*: Grab some coffee, take a break, and/or interact with other attendees

Information Tables: Pick up information and interact with campus and community based agencies focused on gender & sexuality related issues

Welcome and Session 1
9:00-10:15 am

Breakout option 1A

Being an Ally: Older Gay Men
  Christine Fuston, Laura Luke, McKinzey Porter, Chris Jayne, and Sue Jacobs
  (Oklahoma State University)

There remains a need for more research and advocacy for older gay men and other LGBQ+ and Trans older adults. More than 2.5 million U.S. older adults identify as LGBTQ with very limited research about them (Czaja et al., 2016; Choi & Meyer, 2016). Although these individuals are part of the Aging Tsunami (exponential increases in older adults), they are given little attention by counselors, LGBTQ+ activists, or policy makers.

This presentation will discuss data from older gay men (age 50+) as part of a larger, ongoing qualitative study focused on positive factors that may impact the health and well-being of LGBQ+ and Trans older adults. Among other structured interview questions, participants were asked to consider three times in their lives (younger, mid-life and recently) that they experienced something positive about their sexual identity and three times they experienced something negative. We aim to contribute to the understanding of the health and well-being of older gay men. We focus on themes important for allies to consider in providing support and advocacy for and with them. Factors such as acceptance and social support, being "out", connectedness to the LGBTQ+ community, socioeconomic status, religion, and race/ethnicity, may contribute to positive LGBTQ+ identity, health, and well-being.

Promoting Black Women's Gatherings as a Source of Support and Therapy for Black Women
  Aonya Kendrick Barnett (Wichita State University)

Navigating the duality of blackness and womanhood reveal how structures create vulnerabilities for black women. Certain intersections present specific challenges as it relates to the ramifications of racism, sexism, inequity and injustice. It is at these intersections that the need for interventions that create spaces for support, exploration and therapy are essential. In various treatment studies, research has found that black women's gatherings within the context of sister circles create a kinship network and camaraderie between black women and offer culturally-focused programs to help women explore and address their racial and gender identities (Neal-Barnett et al., 2011). Research has found that friendships for black women and white woman drastically differ (Greif & Sharpe, 2010). The trauma and stress that black women encounter--some internal, others external-have damaging and life-altering consequences. Black women have been the victims of negative stereotyping based on antiquated, pernicious tropes created within mainstream American culture. As a result, black women are perceived as aggressive and unreasonable; are depicted negatively in media; suffer disproportionally lower health outcomes; are significantly over represented in the criminal justice system; and have yet to move up the income ladder.

This presentation will address the supporting research while revealing the gaps within the data and research that do not wholly reveal how the sacred spaces of sister circles allow black women to bravely reclaim their agency and dignity. Sister circles make a positive impact on black women's lives while allowing black women to explore the fullness of black womanhood. Further research is needed to study the impact and methodologies of sister circles as a form of support and therapy for black women.

African American Women's Breast Cancer Prevention Beliefs and Perceptions of Physician's Cultural Competency

Haley Cooper (University of Kansas)

The American Cancer Society ranks breast cancer the second most common cancer among women in the United States, and the second leading cause of death among African American women. African American women have the highest mortality rates from breast cancer of all racial/ethnic groups. Genetic testing is a tool that can predict breast cancer risk, but African Americans have less exposure to and knowledge of genetic testing. Physicians are less likely to recommend genetic testing to African American women than white women, despite their elevated risk of cancers predicted by genetic mutation--which also tend to have poorer prognoses than other subtypes.

The present study investigates African American women's perceptions of their physician's cultural competency, and whether these perceptions influence their beliefs about genetic testing. A pre-focus group survey was administered, and one focus group was conducted with African American women from Kansas City, Kansas. Themes from the focus group revealed that this population was unaware of genetic testing for breast cancer, and that they perceived physicians as more culturally competent when their gender or race matched that of the participants. Experiences with cancer drawn from familial and lived experience and influence of doctor attitudes were also themes that emerged. Diversifying staff and implementing cultural competence training may allow healthcare systems to better meet minority patient needs and improve communication about breast cancer prevention to African American women.

Cooking Up Differences: The Gendered World of Meth Cooking

Jacob Erickson (Iowa State University)

Domestic methamphetamine production is largely done by mom and pop operations cooking small batches for personal use and to turn a small profit. Meth production is a highly gendered practice which sees women in a subordinated position. Drawing on semi-structured interviews with 33 former meth cooks I discuss how gender is important to the meaning meth cooks construct around their cooking and themselves. I find that all participants viewed their participation positively and universally appreciated a context in which cooking and using meth was the organizing activity. Further, they enjoyed a perceived status increase, sense of belonging, and pride associated with cooking. The specific form of these intangible rewards and the value ascribed to them varied by gender. For instance, while men were apt to discuss the easy availability of sexual partners as a redeeming feature of cooking, women viewed their cooking as a way to avoid degrading practices for drugs. Additionally, women who cooked alone suggested gender was inconsequential to the quality of a cook, while women who cooked with boyfriends and husbands tended to believe women were incapable for pulling off a cook successfully and were better suited to serve as assistants to a male cook.

Considering Intersectionality in Correctional Contexts: The Experiences of Women at the Margins under Correctional Supervision

Breanna Boppre (Wichita State University)

The United States is the world leader in the imprisonment of women. Since the 1980s, the number of women under community and institutional supervision in the United States has risen dramatically. When disaggregating women's imprisonment rates, alarming disparities are revealed. Women of Color (Black women, Latinas, and Native American women), as well as lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women are incarcerated at disproportionately higher rates in comparison to White/heterosexual women. Importantly, disparities are heightened with multiple forms of marginalization, such as being a woman of Color and transgender.

Through this workshop, participants will gain valuable information on the composition of the U.S. correctional population and how marginality is related to system-involvement. This workshop will provide the following information to participants in an interactive, self-reflective format. First, the workshop will briefly present research on disparities in women's imprisonment. Second, the implications of mass incarceration on women at the margins will be discussed, including a summary of research examining women's experiences within systems of sanctioned social control. Dr. Boppre's own qualitative research with women on community supervision will be presented to describe the impacts of normative biases and values on contexts of correctional supervision. Finally, the workshop will conclude with tangible policy recommendations to increase inclusivity in U.S. correctional settings. Resources for activism and advocacy will also be provided.

Breakout option 2A

Mind the Gap: Love, Sex, and Commodifying of Masculinity
    Connor Dougan (University of Kansas)

As Japanese society continues to develop and innovate, the structure of understanding surrounding the complex of masculinity is modifying to be inclusive of different body types, careers, and personality traits. This project examines the relationship between masculinity and host clubs within Japan from the 1980s through present day to identify how the complex of masculinity is changing through a Japanese entertainment district medium. The identification of a shift in socially perceived masculinity stands in conjunction with Japanese men using the male body as an investment tool in the workplace by turning to grooming and showing more compassion to others. Feminist Standpoint Theory allows for the dissection of masculine traits in Japanese society while also maintaining the value of experiences of all men, allowing for future research and discussion to take place. Google Street View provides up to date billboards and advertising materials allowing for thematic coding of masculine traits such as hairstyle, build of body, and posture to pair with secondary data which illustrates the public perception of masculinity. The contrasting of visual and analytical data allows for common trends in society produced masculinity to be revealed. How the complex of masculinity in Japanese society continues to develop and be more inclusive is proven through the analysis of current data and former research. The research offers prospective hope in the development of societies and how populations, and the mindsets within, are changing over time to be more inclusive of concepts surrounding women, gender, and sexuality.

Who Likes Whom Redux: A Follow-up to 2017's Presentation
    Darin Challacombe (Fort Hays University)

There is no secret that homosexual males have preferences, especially well-defined ones. These preferences often involve race and ethnicity (Trott, 2017), body type (Welch, 2016), age (Gobrogge et al., 2007), masculinity (Moskowitz, Turrubiates, Lozano, & Hajek, 2013; Wilson, 2017), muscularness (Varangis, Lanzieri, Hildebrandt, & Feldman, 2012), and even hairness (Moskowitz et al., 2013). The preferences vary so greatly that it is often hard to predict who likes whom. Two studies were conducted using similar methodologies and on a similar population. Using data from two these studies, we found significant prejudices these studies demonstrate. Participants in both studies had strong views about factors relating to age, race, body type, etc. Results from the first study were presented at the 2017 conference. This updated presentation will focus on the results of these two studies, as well as review the many limitations for study design. Additionally, the presentation will discuss data collection procedures using the online web forum Reddit.

Sexual Consent in the Age of Grindr
    Nicolette Zangai and Charlene Muehlenhard

Dismantling the Gender Binary through Design
  Anna Rayburn (Kansas State University)

Designers create every aspect of the reality we experience. As such, it is the responsibility of the design profession to lead the cultural discussion about eliminating the limiting and harmful boundaries of gender in our physical environments and products we use in an effort to build a more gender-inclusive world. As humans we have a tendency to categorize and label our world, particularly through false dichotomies, in order to make sense of it. Design thinking is no exception: as designers, our job is taking a complex problem and finding the most simple solution. In our education, design concepts are presented as a series of opposing ideas. It emphasizes that we should achieve clarity in our work through the contrast of these opposites, and rarely presents the opportunity to think critically about whether these ideas are true or necessary.
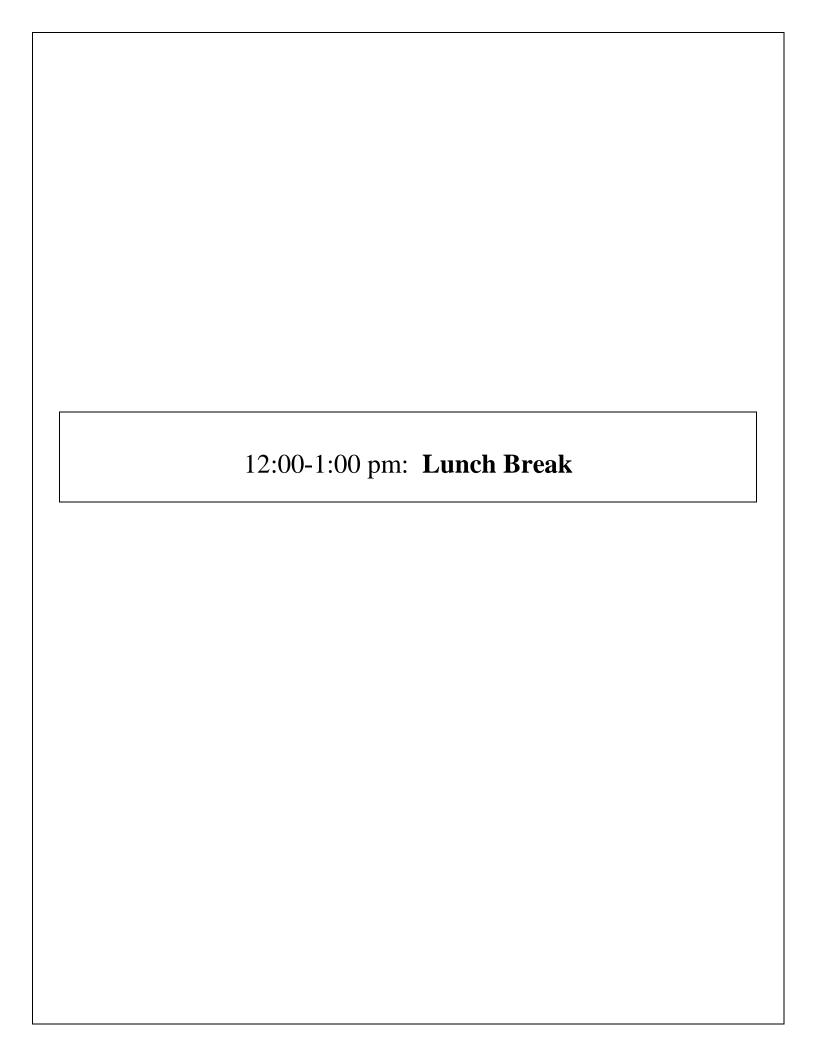
This workshop will look at examples of gendered visual language in the world around us and discuss how we have formed those associations with that language, such as the colors pink vs. blue. It will explore possible strategies for breaking outside of that binary language and the challenges associated with doing that by looking at examples such as bathroom design. Most importantly, it will emphasize the necessity of embracing complexity in order to move forward with the creative opportunity of designing a gender-inclusive world.

Understanding Community Climate among Transgender Youth in the Midwest
  Megan Paceley, Jacob Goffnett, and Patricia Sattler (University of Kansas)

Community climate is the level of support in a community for sexual and gender minority individuals and includes factors such as a supportive political climate, the presence of other SGM people, open and affirming religious organizations, and SGM-inclusive non-discrimination policies (Oswald et al., 2010). Climate is directly related to the well-being of SGM young people; SGM youth living in hostile climates are more likely to attempt suicide than those living in supportive climates (Hatzenbuehler, 2011). Understanding the role of community climate and how it enacts or mitigates stigma and victimization toward SGM people may help researchers and practitioners identify community-level interventions to improve climate and the well-being of SGM people. However, very little research has centered the voices of transgender youth in predominantly rural states in understanding community climate.

Therefore, this study sought to explore the indicators of hostile and supportive climates among transgender young people in two Midwestern States. Qualitative interviews were conducted with 19 transgender youth (42% transgender boys/men, 16% transgender girls/women, and 42% non-binary individuals) ages 13-24 (M=18). Participants were 74% white, 16% multiracial, 5% Black, and 5% Latinx. Interviews were conducted in-person or via video conferencing. All youth received a $20 gift card for their time. A transgender youth advisory board assisted with recruitment for the study, as well as provided feedback on interview questions and analyses. Preliminary findings will be shared in this presentation and include transgender youth 1) conceptualizations of community; 2) perspectives on hostile and supportive aspects of their communities; and 3) suggestions for change at the community level. Implications for community-level interventions and future research will be discussed.

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

Dr. Monique Morris

Education is Freedom Work (and Other Critical Reflections About Responses to School Pushout for Black Girls)

Monique W. Morris, Ed.D. is an award-winning author and social justice scholar with nearly three decades of experience in the areas of education, civil rights, juvenile and social justice.

Dr. Morris is the author of the forthcoming book, *Sing A Rhythm, Dance A Blues* (The New Press, 2019), which explores a pedagogy to counter the criminalization of Black and Brown girls in schools. She is also the author of *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* (The New Press, 2016), *Black Stats: African Americans by the Numbers in the Twenty-First Century* (The New Press, 2014), *Too Beautiful for Words* (MWM Books, 2012), and worked with Kemba Smith on her book, *Poster Child: The Kemba Smith Story* (IBJ Book Publishing, 2011).

Dr. Morris is the Founder and President of the National Black Women's Justice Institute (NBWJI), an organization that works to interrupt school-to-confinement pathways for girls, reduce the barriers to employment for formerly incarcerated women, and increase the capacity of organizations working to reduce sexual assault and domestic violence in African American communities. She served as an adjunct associate professor for Saint Mary's College of California between 2013-2018 and has taught at the University of San Francisco and California State University, Sacramento. Dr. Morris is a 2012 Soros Justice Fellow, the former Vice President for Economic Programs, Advocacy and Research at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the former Director of Research for the Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice at the UC Berkeley Law School. Dr. Morris' work has been profiled by MSNBC, CSPAN2, The Washington Post, The New York Times, NPR, and PBS, among other national and local print, radio, and television media. Her research intersects race, gender, education and justice to explore the ways in which Black communities, and other communities of color, are uniquely affected by social policies.

Session 3
2:45-4:00 pm

Breakout option 3A

Gal 9000: A Discussion on Blatant Sexism & Criminalized Feminism in Reactions to Female Sex Robots

Derek Wilson (University of Kansas)

Violence towards women has been an issue within our society for quite some time. Although movements and legislation have come forth to stop some of this violence, it always seems to find another form. Some of the more recent creations within technology include female sex robots. These sex robots are created as full-size dolls that offer exaggerated sexual features and anatomical parts that allow for simulated sexual intercourse. Primarily, the market demand for these sex robots are men desiring to purchase female sex robots. With these mechanized lovers soon to be available on the market, the question of 'What would the introduction of these sex robots do to the issue of violence against women?' starts to form. This research project utilizes content analysis methods to examine comment-responses to the most viewed female sex robot news report on YouTube. Specific results reported in this presentation suggest that many comments react in one of two ways: comments attributing sex robots as a means to end the feminism movement or comments expressing blatant sexism towards the female sex robots in the place of real women.

Pornography Consumption Motives Measure

Katie Adams, Co-presenters: Omri Gillath, Ateret Gewirtz-Meydan
(University of Kansas)

Most research on pornography consumption 'defined as media used or intended to increase sexual arousal' focuses on its prevalence and effects, with little attention as to why people consume pornography. We suggest that (1) pornography may be consumed for reasons more complex than is currently assumed and (2) different motives may play a central role in shaping whether the outcomes will be positive or negative (or both). The purpose of the current study was to generate a comprehensive list of reasons for why people watch porn in order to create a new measure: The Pornography Consumption Motivation Measure (PCMM). Participants ($N = 456$) completed an online survey answering whether they consumed porn, and how often they did so for each of the 160 motives provided. We used Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) to discriminate between items and identify major motive categories. Our main factors represent four overall motivations for individuals to watch pornography: to help regulate private & social pressures, enhance or relieve sexual urges, improve sex lives with partners, and for sexual novelty. Our next step will be to validate the PCMM as a statistically robust measure using Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) with a new sample. Future studies will use the PCMM to test whether specific motives for consuming pornography mediate the correlations between attachment styles, sexual behaviors and attitudes, gender, and relational outcomes.

Sexual Consent in BDSM/Kink Relationships
Renae Mitchell and Charlene Muehlenhard (University of Kansas)

Coercive Control, Ungendered and Undomesticated
> *Susan Castro (Wichita State University)*

Efforts to curb domestic violence have recently shifted focus from the (now) obvious wrong of physical abuse to the wrong of non-physical abuses and the psychological tactics used to dominate domestic partners (typically women), e.g. strategies to isolate, intimidate, silence, and degrade. In the stereotypical gender-binary domestic context these strategies intersect with analogs for race, gender, and class oppression, and their efficacy is not constrained by the putatively private domestic context.

In this talk I describe how the gendering and domestication of our coercive control paradigm enables or empowers a subset of abusers to use these strategies to dominate and control people in public contexts like the workplace, and to do so against a broader class of targets. This poor fit between experienced domination and theoretical paradigm is exploited by undomesticated abusers. Current policy tacitly grants abusers safe haven in public contexts, so long as it cannot be proven that a legally protected class was targeted. The burden of undomesticated abuse nevertheless falls most heavily on the vulnerable, e.g. women and transgender people. The extension of the domestic violence model to the current coercive control model thus leaves us with an important gap where activism and better policy are needed.

More specifically, I will discuss: a) (non-historical) erasing as a strategy of marginalization, b) straw manning as a form of epistemic injustice, and c) hypocrisy as a strategy of destabilization. To characterize these, erasure trades on social identity, whereas straw manning is dishonest and hypocrisy is a threat to security. Sociality, honesty, and security represent three dimensions of moral value that extend our understanding of the wrong of coercion beyond its classic narrow understanding as assault on individual autonomy. Coercive control is often experienced by its targets as a pervasive existential threat. This is not well captured by appeal to individual autonomy. Theorizing from lived reality and functional analysis of the salient patterns of behavior presents better prospects for effective intervention.

Societal and Individual-Level Factors Influencing Domestic Violence Perceptions
> *Michelle Oboro (University of Kansas)*

In this experimental study we examined impact of racial category - both perceiver and target - on, and perceptions of domestic violence. African American and European American women (n=130) completed an online survey in which they read a vignette depicting escalating violence between a heterosexual couple. We manipulated the identity of the couple by describing them as either African American or European American. Our results demonstrate a main effect of severity of violence in a romantic relationship on perceptions on domestic violence in participants. Findings also indicate that, regardless of experimental condition, African American women rated verbal and physical violence more typical than did European American women. Our results suggest some influence of race on perceptions of domestic violence, but were inconclusive regarding our primary hypothesis. In the discussion section, we speculate about some reasons for observed patterns.

Kava-Normal: Shifting Perceptions of Sexual Assault After the Confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court
> *Kaitlyn Helmstetter, Co-presenters: Jason Miller, Thomas Ball, Charlotte Moser*
> *(University of Kansas)*

Our primary research question involves how significant cultural events can shift cultural norms of sexual assault, and how those norms are linked to changes in norms of sexual assault, as well as perceptions of beliefs in a just world and victims in general.

We studied these processes during the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court of the United States. His confirmation was controversial, as three women accused him of sexual assault, and these accusations were widely publicized. We hypothesized that, should he be confirmed, his confirmation would normalize sexual assault and harassment behaviors, meaning that Americans would perceive them as more socially acceptable after his confirmation than they had before his confirmation. Furthermore, we hypothesized that his confirmation would lead people to perceive more distributive justice in the world around them, and hold victims of sexual assault to higher moral standards compared to before his confirmation.

We administered measures of social norms about gender interactions, beliefs in a just world, and moral obligations of victims to the same participants before and after the Kavanaugh confirmation. We collected the first wave of data between October 4th and October 5th. Kavanaugh was confirmed to the Supreme Court the morning of October 6th. We collected the second wave of data between October 17th and October 23rd.

Consistent with our hypotheses, results indicate that Americans saw sexual assault and harassment behaviors are more acceptable after the confirmation than they did before, and the effect was marginally significant. Participants perceived significantly more distributive justice after the confirmation than they did before, and participants held victims of sexual assault to a significantly higher moral standard after the confirmation than they did before.

Session 4
4:15-5:00 pm

Roundtable Discussions

Special Thanks & Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the presenters, facilitators, and presiders for helping to make this year's conference a success.

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