



WHO ARE WE? The Sexuality, Women, and Gender Project (SWG) was co-founded in Fall 2012 by three professors in the Counseling and Clinical Psychology Department, Drs. Aurelie Athan, Melanie Brewster, and Riddhi Sandil with funding from a Teachers College Provost Investment Grant. Athan, Brewster, and Sandil were joined by Dr. Gregory Payton (Point Scholar and Lecturer at Teachers College) in 2015. The SWG founders each lead large and active teams of masters- and doctoral-level students in cutting edge research projects to promote the needs of LGBTQ individuals and women. Further, SWG has an **executive advisory board** composed of Drs. Tom Rock (Associate Provost) and Marie Miville (Director of the Counseling and Clinical Psychology Department). With the mentorship of this board, SWG keeps a pulse on diverse student recruitment, retention, and integration of our mission throughout Teachers College.

MISSION. SWG was created to envision and implement the next wave of theories and practices to improve well-being for **LGBTQ** individuals and **women**. SWG's mission is to play a vital role in the creation of research initiatives, innovative curriculum, and institutional programming on campus and with partners beyond the Columbia University network.

THREE BRANCHES. The goals of SWG are threefold: (1) to promote learning through innovative pedagogy and implementation of LGBTQ and gender-specific coursework, (2) to provide intensive research mentorship and production, and (3) to apply gender and sexuality theories into practice settings across New York City and the tri-state area such as local schools, mental/health facilities, and community organizations. SWG will work across departments within TC and schools of CU to **promote the trans-disciplinary dialogues needed to solve complex, real-world problems:** Education, Counseling & Clinical Psychology, Public Health, Gender and Queer Studies, Reproductive Psychiatry, Sociology, and Law, among others.

OUR WORK THUS FAR. SWG's immediate agenda has been to organize didactic lectures, events, and colloquia open to students, faculty, and the broader New York City community. We have planned and hosted a number of large, well-attended (200+ people) events including a screening of the Oscar-nominated documentary *How to Survive a Plague* and panel discussion with director, David France, and world-renown HIV scholar, Dr. Perry Halkitis; this event highlighted community enthusiasm for LGBTQ issues. We also hosted *Domestic Violence, Gender, and Culture: Shining a Light*, which featured specialists in the field of violence against women including Sujata Warriar, Director of the NYC Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence; Jennifer DeCarli, Executive Director Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence; and mental health practitioners from around the city.

CERTIFICATE AND CONCENTRATION. SWG now offers a NY State Approved masters- and doctoral-level certification programs. Moreover, we actively collaborate with TC departments to integrate sexuality and gender lenses into course offerings, and networking with organizations outside of TC to establish new fieldwork and internship placements (e.g., Sakhi, Seleni, Museum of Motherhood). We currently have an MA concentration in Clinical Psychology established and have developed the first graduate level course on transgender issues in NY state, as well as TC's first permanent course on LGBTQ Issues and Maternal Psychology.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE. The long-term vision of SWG is to develop a *Sexuality, Women, and Gender Center* that will generate and disseminate theory as well as attract cutting-edge scholars who will teach new classes, lead workshops, conduct symposia, and engage our students in community-based research and service initiatives. Further, we would like to create scholarship programs and funding opportunities to student scholars invested in furthering the needs of LGBTQ individuals and women. Such initiatives would place Teachers College at the forefront of promoting these critical issues within social justice movements, mental health training, and education.