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Another successful IASR conference has come to a close. This year we were graciously hosted in Madrid, Spain by Dr. Antonio Guillamon. This issue of the newsletter is dedicated to reflections on the conference—to finding out more about conference award winners and reviewing social and scientific highlights. We also wanted to use this space to thank all of those who made the conference such a resounding success, including the local team lead by Antonio Guillamon and BCO Congresos, with Veronica Puigdengolas and Esther Lopez. Finally, thank you to Eric Vilain, Jane Ussher, Ken Zucker and J. Dennis Fortenberry for their preconference presentations on Controversies in Sex Research. These individuals’ tireless work behind the scenes was essential and clearly evident in the success of IASR Madrid 2018!

Thank you to the IASR Executive and the generous sponsors who helped make the 2018 IASR conference possible!
International Academy of Sex Research

AWARDS FROM MADRID!

Student Research Development Award (SRDA)

KIFFER CARD

I work with the Momentum Health Study at the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS and with the School of Public Health and Social Policy at the University of Victoria under the mentorship of Drs. Robert S. Hogg and Nathan J. Lachowsky. Broadly, my academic and research interests focus on the biopsychosocial production of risk-related behaviours in gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men. While my PhD dissertation explores some of the more social and contextual foundations of risk, the project I have proposed for my IASR Student Research Development Award aims to understand better the role that cognitive escape plays in facilitating substance use and sexual risk. Traditionally, it has been held that escapism arises from rigorous social norms and demands.

However, in recent years several “please neutral” biomedical (e.g., Treatment as Prevention, Pre-exposure Prophylaxis) prevention strategies (as opposed to behavioural ones) have emerged.

Understanding this research area is important given that many therapeutic approaches for gay and bisexual men target escape motive (or the cognitive mechanisms associated therewith) as a means to reducing risk when, in fact, assessments of the relationship between substance use and sexual risk have produced mixed findings. Creating a stronger evidence base for the factors associated with escapism and the mechanisms underlying cognitive escape can therefore help us to refine therapies, tailor health promotion messages, and optimise service delivery to gay and bisexual men. In any case, I appreciate the support of IASR for this project and am confident that conducting this research will be a rewarding experience.
I am a third year biological anthropology graduate student at Pennsylvania State University working with David Puts. Broadly, my work focuses on the short-term (activational) and long-term (organizational) effects that hormones have on psychology and behavior in humans. Extending upon prior experimental studies in hamsters, my dissertation project assesses whether pubertal timing affects sex-typicality of phenotypes in adulthood, including phenotypes related to sexual orientation, sexual desire, and sexual behavior. To do this, we are recruiting a sample of typically-developing men and women, as well as a sample of men and women with Congenital Hypogonadotropic Hypogonadism (CHH), a genetic condition in which sex hormone production is severely blunted or absent from birth. As patients with CHH require hormonal replacement therapy to initiate puberty, we are able to pinpoint the exact timing of sex hormone exposure in the pubertal window, rendering CHH the perfect ‘natural experiment’ to examine the link between pubertal timing and adult phenotypes. Understanding the long-term, permanent effects of pubertal timing across adulthood has significant clinical implications for patients contemplating taking either puberty-inducing or puberty-blocking medications, and more generally, for understanding the sources of intra-sex variation in sexuality-related phenotypes.
SARAH CHADWICK

I am a PhD student in the Joint Program in Psychology and Women’s Studies at the University of Michigan, working with Dr. Sari van Anders. My research focuses on how sexual scripts create gendered expectations that influence people’s sexual behaviors and experiences, specifically related to orgasm and sexual desire. At this year’s IASR conference, I presented the work I’ve done with Dr. van Anders on “bad orgasm experiences”; that is, orgasm experiences during consensual sexual encounters that are negative or non-positive in some way. Our findings showed that 55% of our participants across diverse gender and sexual identities have had at least one bad orgasm experience, and that these experiences were often characterized by having an orgasm during undesired sex (i.e., coerced sex or consensual but unwanted sex) and/or feeling pressured (i.e., internally or by a partner) to have an orgasm. Notably, many of our participants reported that the negative affect associated with their bad orgasm experience(s) diminished or negated the physiological and psychological pleasure of orgasm – for example, they described their orgasm as weak, forced, mechanical, or unsatisfying – and some implied that their bad orgasm experience(s) had lasting negative effects on their relationship, sexual satisfaction, and/or mental health. Overall, our findings challenged the notion that orgasms are unilaterally pleasurable and reflective of a desired, arousing, enjoyable sexual encounter and highlighted how bad orgasm experiences might lead to lasting negative outcomes in ways that have yet to be explored.
**Best Student Poster: Runner up**

**A learning experience? Orgasm at coital debut predicts women’s sexual desire in adulthood, and mediates sex differences in affective ratings of first coitus.**

**Diana Peragine**

Diana is a PhD student at the University of Toronto with an interest in science outreach, women’s health, and developmental psychology. She works with Dr. Gillian Einstein and Dr. Doug VanderLaan to study sexual differentiation from a biopsychosocial perspective, asking how one’s social position “writes on the body” to alter reproductive physiology and behavior. Prompted by a large animal literature on sexual learning, and her early graduate work on social determinants of sexual maturation in caste-differentiated species, Diana’s dissertation examines whether an experience-based model of human sexual response is tenable. At this year’s meeting, she presented findings demonstrating that sex differences in affective ratings of first coitus might be better understood as orgasmic differences, and that the quality of one’s coital debut might inform sexual motivation for years to come.

Off the clock, Diana enjoys bringing science out of the lab and into the streets with Science Rendezvous, the Royal Ontario Museum, and her own outreach initiatives, including Sexuality Interest Network (SIN) Talks and the SEXposium Science Outreach Conference.

*Years attending IASR meetings: This was Diana’s first IASR!*
Best Student Posters

Sarah Chadwick and Diana Peragine with their posters at IASR 2018.
PREVENTING SEXUAL AGGRESSION AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN GERMANY: FIRST RESULTS OF AN INTERVENTION STUDY

PAULINA TOMASZWESKA

Paulina finished her PhD at the University of Potsdam, Germany in 2015, working under the supervision of Prof. Barbara Krahé. Her research interest focuses on sexual aggression among young people in Europe. The core aspect of her work is examining the prevalence of sexual aggression victimization and/or perpetration from both female and male perspective, and factors facilitating its occurrence. In her research, she particularly considers the role of sexuality-related cognitions, such as risky sexual scripts, as guidelines for risky sexual behaviour and sexual aggression victimization and perpetration. Alongside her PhD, she worked on a European Project that addressed youth sexual aggression and victimization (YSAV; 2010-2013). This project revealed that prevalence rates of YSAV varied widely in terms of the conceptual and methodological approaches across the European countries, indicating that more harmonized research is needed. Recently, together with her colleagues, Isabell Schuster and Barbara Krahé, she has started to work on an online-based intervention against sexual aggression perpetration and victimization. The intervention aims to change risky sexual scripts and risky sexual behaviors, as well as reduce acceptance of sexual coercion. It also aims at promoting a critical use of sexuality explicit media and strengthens sexual self-esteem as well as refusal assertiveness. The work is underscored by the belief that to prevent young people from sexual aggression, it is key is to enhance their sexual competency. In addition to her scientific work, Paulina is in her 2nd year of psychotherapy training with a focus on cognitive-behavioral therapy.
EXPLORING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHOCK-INDUCED ANXIETY AND SEXUAL AROUSAL IN THE LABORATORY

LISA DAWN HAMILTON

I am an associate professor of Psychology at Mount Allison University in tiny Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada. The poster I (and my student coauthors, Monica Zahl and Allie Russell) won the runner up award for is part of a line of research focused on the relationship between stress/anxiety and sexual desire and arousal. This particular study was experimental and we induced anxiety in a laboratory setting using an established protocol to understand the psychological and biological changes that occur in response to an anxiety-provoking environment and how all of these factors affect sexual arousal. I am interested in the mechanisms that explain why stress or anxiety can facilitate or inhibit sexual response because it seems to vary across people and across situations. In addition to this line of research, I also study monogamy and nonmonogamy.
Best Brief Communication

COGNITIVE BIASES AND SEXUAL FUNCTION: USING THE OPEN-ENDED SCENARIO TASK TO MEASURE BIASED INTERPRETATIONS OF AMBIGUOUS SEXUAL SITUATIONS.

JULIA VELTEN

Julia Velten, Ph.D., is currently a research associate at the Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy at the Ruhr University Bochum, in Germany, where she has started her work in sex research as a graduate student in 2012. Her main research interest is women’s sexual health, with a focus on the etiology of sexual difficulties as well as predictors of sexual arousal. For her dissertation, which she finished in 2016, she investigated the predictive value of sexual excitation and sexual inhibition for sexual risk-taking, sexual function, and sexual arousal concordance in women. With her colleagues and collaborators, she has since published several papers on sexual satisfaction in couples, the role of mindfulness and interoceptive awareness in women’s sexual function, and the temporal stability of sexual concordance. In addition to her work in sex research, Julia is also actively involved in the planning and evaluation of a Germany-wide research collaboration of outpatient clinics for psychotherapy and has published work on the importance of lifestyle factors for mental health problems and well-being. At this year’s IASR meeting, she presented data on a novel, scenario-based approach to assess cognitive appraisals related to sexual function. Based on the promising findings presented in this talk, she is currently planning a series of studies further investigating the role of implicit and explicit sex-related cognitions for the development and maintenance of low sexual desire in women.
CHANGING SEXUAL IDENTITIES IN A LONGITUDINAL SAMPLE OF CANADIAN MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN: GROWING EVIDENCE FOR MALE SEXUAL FLUIDITY

HEATHER ARMSTRONG

Heather Armstrong, PhD is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of British Columbia and the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS. Her research focuses on the sexual health and well-being of sexual minority individuals, with a special interest in bisexuality. At this year’s IASR, she presented data from the Momentum Health Study, a longitudinal cohort of gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men in Vancouver, Canada. Among this sample, over a mean follow-up time of 3.5 years, nearly 20% of the sample reported fluidity in their self-reported sexual identities and more than 10% reported two or more changes in their identity labels. Those who reported fluid identities were more likely to be younger, make less than $30,000 CAD/year, report more female sex partners, prefer both insertive and receptive anal sex roles, and report a doctor-diagnosed anxiety disorder. These results add to the very scant available literature and challenge traditional discourse on male sexual orientation and fluidity.
Best Student Manuscript Award

THE EFFECT OF STATIC VERSUS DYNAMIC STIMULI ON VISUAL PROCESSING OF SEXUAL CUES IN ANDROPHILIC WOMEN AND GYNEPHILIC MEN

Samantha J. Dawson

I recently completed a PhD in Clinical Psychology at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, working under the supervision of Dr. Meredith Chivers. My research seeks to understand gendered sexuality through investigating processes and mechanisms underlying sexual arousal, desire, and behaviour. To do this, I use state-of-the-art methodologies, often concurrently, to elucidate the components and processes necessary to activate and regulate the sexual response system. Receiving the Best Student Manuscript Award from IASR was such an honour and a great closing to my PhD. The manuscript was part of my dissertation work where we tested predictions based on the cognitive-motivational model of sexual response. Specifically, we examined the impact of stimulus modality on visual attention patterns in men and women as a potential explanation for gendered sexual response outcomes routinely observed in the literature. We found that stimulus modality significantly impacts women’s but not men’s, visual attention to preferred and nonpreferred sexual targets. These findings have methodological implications for psychophysiological studies of sexual response, as well as theoretical implications for our understanding of attentional processes relevant to sexual response outcomes.

Since completing my PhD in September 2018, I began a postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. Natalie Rosen at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. During my fellowship I will be extending my interest in cognitive factors underlying sexual outcomes to explore how these unfold in the context of couples’ daily lives. Specifically, I am interested in examining how fluctuations in affect and attention during sex impact one’s own and one’s partner’s sexual outcomes at the daily level, as well as overtime.
**Best Student Manuscript Award**

The paper is freely available here:


Sam receiving the award from her former Honours supervisor and long-time friend, Dr. Kelly Suschinsky.

Sam presenting at IASR 2018.
The Richard Green Founding Editor Essay Award is an award granted for publication of an essay in Archives of Sexual Behavior on any aspect of sexual behavior. The award was given for the first time this year, and there was a tie! The first winners of the Richard Green Founding Editor Essay Award are Dr. Meredith Chivers and Dr. Michael Seto.


Category-specific sexual response describes a pattern wherein the individual shows significantly greater responses to preferred versus nonpreferred categories of sexual stimuli; this pattern is described as gender specific for sexual orientation to gender, or gender nonspecific if lacking response differentiation by gender cues. Research on the gender specificity of women’s sexual response has consistently produced sexual orientation effects, such that androphilic women (sexually attracted to adult males) typically show gender-nonspecific patterns of genital response and gynephilic women (sexually attracted to adult females) show more gender-specific responses. As research on the category specificity of sexual response has grown, this pattern has also been observed for other measures of sexual response. In this review, I use the Incentive Motivation and Information Processing Models as complementary frameworks to organize the empirical literature examining the gender specificity of women’s sexual response at each stage of sexual stimulus processing and response. Collectively, these data disconfirm models of sexual orientation that equate androphilic women’s sexual attractions with their sexual responses to sexual stimuli. I then discuss 10 hypotheses that might explain variability in the specificity of sexual response among androphilic and gynephilic women, and conclude with recommendations for future research on the (non)specificity of sexual response.


In this article, I return to the idea that pedophilia, a sexual interest in prepubescent children, can be considered a sexual orientation for age, in conjunction with the much more widely acknowledged and discussed sexual orientation for gender. Here, I broaden the scope to consider other chronophilias, referring to paraphilias for age/maturity categories other than young sexually mature adults. The puzzle of chronophilias includes questions about etiology and course, how chronophilias are related to each other, and what they can tell us about how human (male) sexuality is organized. In this article, I briefly review research on nepiophilia (infant/toddlers), pedophilia (prepubescent children), hebephilia (pubescent children), ephebophilia (postpubescent, sexually maturing adolescents), teleophilia (young sexually mature adults, typically 20s and 30s), mesophilia (middle-aged adults, typically 40s and 50s), and gerontophilia (elderly adults, typically 60s and older) in the context of a multidimensional sexual orientations framework. Relevant research, limitations, and testable hypotheses for future work are identified.
To cast John Bancroft’s contributions to our field in historical perspective, I reflect on a memory from 1975. It was the first annual meeting of the IASR when I was Founding President.

At the completion of that first meeting, I was hopeful that the IASR would endure and bring excellence to the discipline of sex research. When John agreed to serve as second IASR President, I was confident of our launch.

For over four decades John has pioneered in a wide range of sexuality scholarship in both the US and the UK.

I am honored that the Lifetime Achievement Award bearing my name is given this year to John Bancroft.”

– Richard Green

Having received numerous awards by the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex (Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award, 1987; Alfred C. Kinsey Award, 1999), the Society of Sex Research and Therapy (Masters & Johnson Award, 1989), the Polish Academy of Sexual Science (Gold Medal, 1989), the Dutch Psychiatric Association (Herman Musaph Prize, 1994), the British Association of Sexual and Marital Therapy (Honorary Fellow, 1997), and the World Association of Sexology (Gold Medal, 2003), the Richard Green Lifetime Award 2018 has been awarded to Dr. John Bancroft.
Richard Green Lifetime Achievement Award

John Bancroft started his illustrious career in the 1960s in Cambridge and London, where he received his training in medicine and psychiatry, and where he first became involved in the treatment of sexual problems. After moving to Oxford in 1969, he ran his first interdisciplinary sexual problem clinic. Between 1976 and 1995, he worked in Edinburgh at the MRC Reproductive Biology Unit, one of the foremost research establishments in reproductive biology in the world, where he directed the MRC Behaviour Research Group. 1995, he became the Director of The Kinsey Institute, and his research interests and activities expanded even further and branched out into new areas, including high risk sexual behavior, mood and sexuality, out of control sexual behavior (sex addiction/sexual compulsivity), and the role of sexual excitation and inhibition in sexual response and behavior. He has published well over 300 articles and chapters.

John Bancroft was a founding member of IASR, and has been one of only two members—the other one being Richard Green—to serve two terms as IASR President, in 1976 and 1997. John is also one of only a few members who has hosted two IASR meetings, in 1994 (Edinburg) and 2003 (Bloomington). In addition, he chaired the Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of IASR in 1999/2000, which inspired a number of changes in the organization and its culture that contributed to a stronger recognition of the field’s wide range of scientific topics and methodological approaches, and which helped make the organization more welcoming to students and junior scientists.

On a more personal level, John Bancroft has not only been a friend but also a mentor to many members of IASR. He played an instrumental, formative role in the development and training of several generations of freshly minted, junior scholars and scientists, but he also has been influential in the shaping of attitudes and the discourse about, among others, the medicalization of sex, out of control sexual behavior, and the role of theory in sex research, that has impacted the work and thinking of quite a few more senior and established researchers and clinicians.

We kindly thank Dr. Erick Janssen (pictured left), colleague and friend of Dr. John Bancroft (right), for writing an overview of Dr. John Bancroft’s career and contributions to sex research and IASR.
Richard Green Lifetime Achievement Award
We are always looking for contributions to the student newsletter—whether they be photographic, textual, or purely conceptual. Two great ways to contribute are to propose an idea for the front-page article or to submit a student bio or exciting news about recent publications. This is a newsletter primarily for the students, so we are always happy to hear what you would like to see featured on the front page, and a student bio can be a great way to introduce yourself to other members of the IASR community. If you would like to contribute to upcoming newsletters, please email your student representatives (Daisy J. Mechelmans and Scott Semenyna) at: iasrstudentrep@gmail.com

Mark your calendars for our IASR 2019, which will take place late July in beautiful Mexico City! More information will be forthcoming in future newsletters and via the IASR listserv.

Photos taken at IASR 2018 can be found on the IASR website: https://www.iasrsite.org/past-conferences/

We kindly thank our webmaster Claire Wilson for her work!
Poster Sessions
Memories from Madrid
Memories from Madrid