

*THE SOCIETY
FOR THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY
OF LESBIAN AND GAY ISSUES*

DIVISION 44 NEWSLETTER



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Autumn 1994

New President Takes Office

Notes Division's Strengths

Armand Cerbone

Each January the APA invites all new Presidents-elect to Washington for a three-day conference. The purposes are several. Among these are orienting future presidents to APA policies and procedures, introducing key APA staff and officers, offering strategies for division development and planning, and meeting one's peers from other divisions. The event provides several important opportunities not available at any other time. It allows for broad discussion of issues facing the APA and psychology in general. But, more particularly, it gives the

divisions a chance to voice their individual perspectives on these problems and introduce divisional agenda to the collective leadership.

I was struck this year by the many problems the smaller divisions have. These are divisions that have memberships of 1000 or fewer. The APA lists our Division among them. Our membership is in fact much larger, nearing 1700, but the APA's system of accounting lags behind the realities. These divisions seem caught in continual crises of declining membership, low interest, vague direction, and

ambiguous agenda. Many have no representation in Council. Some even face threat of extinction. There were several workshops staged to address the needs of these particular divisions.

This made me think about Division 44. Our membership grows every year. We have two representatives to Council. We have several members sitting on committees important in the governance of APA. One of our members, Steve Morin, has sat on the Board of Directors and another, Catherine Acuff, is running for a seat on the Board. We have any number of committees working on any number of issues important to the Division and to science and practice. Our agenda are clear and substantial. We have the good fortune to have a number of highly

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On the cover:

Immigrants of all ages enter New York harbor in 1887. Some of them look eager, some fearful. How many of them were lesbian or gay? (Photo can be found in *The Life History of the United States: 1890-1901*.)

Committee on Lesbian And Gay Affairs Meets

Clinton Anderson

Meeting with Ethics Director on

“Reparative Therapy” The Committee’s consideration of sexual orientation conversion therapy was prompted by requests from members and other mental health professionals to examine the ethical and practical implications of efforts to change sexual orientation.

Examination of this issue started with a meeting between CLGC and Stanley E. Jones, PhD, Director, APA Ethics Office.

The Committee also discussed the issue of APA policy development on sexual orientation conversion therapy with Donald Bersoff, PhD, JD, Member of the Board of Directors. After extensive discussion of these points the committee made six recommendations:

- 1) refer complaints to the Committee about individuals to the Ethics Committee, as in the past;
- 2) establish a liaison relationship with the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association’s *ad hoc* Committee to Document and Oppose Homonegative and Heterosexist Bias in Psychology, which is studying the harmful effects of conversion therapy on clients, as well as providing support for individuals recovering from such treatment;
- 3) create a document that summarizes the policy and ethical issues relevant to conversion

therapy, clarifying the distinction between APA policy and the ethics code, and the relationship between the two; Dr. Haldeman agreed to draft a document for CLGC review at the Spring meeting that would serve as a basis for communication and policy development;

4) update the APA Fact Sheet on Reparative Therapy;

5) pursue development of a policy statement on conversion therapy for ultimate consideration by the Council of Representatives for adoption as APA policy;

6) recommend that the Division 44/CLGC Task Force on Guidelines for Psychotherapy with Lesbians and Gay Men address the issue in their guidelines.

Recommendations for APA priorities in legal and legislative issues.

The Committee set its priorities in the area of APA legal and legislative activities for the next year. The Committee articulated the following recommended rank-ordered priorities to APA: 1) *amicus* briefs in lesbian and gay concerns cases — state initiatives prohibiting anti-discrimination laws, military discrimination, contested child custody and visitation, and employment issues; 2) legislative issues — respond to anti-gay negative amendments as they arise, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, HIV prevention (particularly for lesbian, gay, and bisexual youths and for ethnic minority gay and bisexual men) inclusion of lesbian and bisexual women in women’s health research, and Federal government discrimination in areas such as military, immigration and security clearances.

Meeting with the American Psychiatric Association.

CLGC met with the Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues of the American Psychiatric Association (CGLBI) to discuss the issues of mutual interest, including international lesbian and gay concerns and sexual orientation conversion therapy. CGLBI reported on their recent unsuccessful attempt at adoption of a policy on conversion therapy by the American Psychiatric Association. They are currently considering how to proceed on the issue, given their recent setback. CLGC and CGLBI agreed to jointly pursue a project to document the effects of conversion therapy in those cases that are unsuccessful.

The Public Affairs Office has published a public information brochure “Answers to Your Questions About Sexual Orientation and Homosexuality.” It is available from APA Public Affairs Office.

Journal Editors Needed

The Publications and Communications Board has opened nominations for the editorships of the *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, the *Journal of Educational Psychology*, the Interpersonal Relations and Group Processes section of the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Neuropsychology*, and *Psychological Bulletin* for the years 1997-2002. Larry E. Beutler, PhD; Joel R. Levin, PhD; Norman Miller, PhD; Nelson Butters, PhD; and Robert J. Stemberg, PhD, respectively, are the incumbent editors. Candidates must be members of the APA and should be available to start receiving manuscripts in early 1996 to prepare for issues published in 1997. Please note that the P&C Board encourages participation by members of underrepresented groups in the publication process and would particularly welcome such nominees. To nominate candidates, prepare a statement of one page or less in support of each candidate.

• For the *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, submit nominations to Hans H. Strupp, PhD, Department of Psychology, Wilson Hall, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37240, to FAX number (615) 343-8449, or to STRUPPHH@CTRVAX.VANDERBILT.EDU.

• For the *Journal of Educational Psychology*, submit nominations to Carl E. Thoresen, PhD, School of Education, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-3096, to FAX number (415) 725-7412, or to CTHOR@LELAND.STANFORD.EDU.

• For the Interpersonal Relations and Group Processes section of the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, submit nominations to Judith P. Worell, PhD, Department of Education and Counseling Psychology, 235 Dickey Hall, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0017, to FAX number (606) 257-5662, or to CPDJUDYW@UKCC.UKY.EDU.

• For *Neuropsychology*, submit nominations to Martha A. Storandt, PhD, Psychology Department, Box 1125, Washington University, 1 Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63131, or call (314) 935-6508.

• For *Psychological Bulletin*, submit nominations to Richard M. Suinn, PhD, Department of Psychology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-0001, or to RICHARD_SUINN.PSYCH@CNSMAIL.MSO.COLOSTATE.EDU.

First review of nominations will begin December 15, 1994.

Division 44 Leadership

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Cynthia Gomez
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Representatives to APA Council

Leah Fygetakis
Terry Gock

William Bailey Remembered

William A. Bailey, the American Psychological Association's former Legislative and Federal Affairs Officer, worked for APA since 1986. Well-known for his advocacy on AIDS and lesbian and gay issues, his efforts emphasized the critical need for preventing HIV infection and for establishing mental health services for persons whose lives are affected by AIDS. Bill Bailey died on April 23, 1994, of complications from AIDS. The following is an excerpt from a speech Bill gave to The American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists at their 25th Annual Conference on May 15, 1993.

And this is indeed a battle... It is a battle for the hearts and minds of the great middle of this country. Not the geographic middle, but rather the political middle — the swing voters, if you will. While this battle will be fought in the Halls of Congress and the state legislatures, in the school boards and through states in local referenda, it is ultimately a battle over the way society views and accepts diversity. We are an American family — a family threatened by a virus. That virus is intolerance to diversity, specifically sexual diversity and, sadly, it is a virus that is spreading just like the virus that causes AIDS.

... When I started this talk, I bet you could see in me your own son, your brother, a close friend, a work colleague, or maybe even yourself. And that's the point. I am so much like so many of you, except that I now have HIV disease because of the environment in which I learned to express

my sexuality and because of whom I learned to make love with. The reality for me is that politics is personal, and the personal is political.

... The climate we live in is incredibly damaging to the soul, if not the body. Even if you don't experience a horrible beating at the hand of an anti-gay thug; even if you don't develop AIDS from a night of passion; even if you aren't thrown out of your house or lose your job because someone doesn't like a limp-wristed queer around them; even if you don't experience any one of the overt and major assault lesbians and gay men experience every day in this society because of their sexual orientation, you still know that it could be just around the corner. Or you construct your life so it won't ever happen to you. You begin to live life in fear — a fear of coming out, a fear of being too public about your sexual orientation. You don't kiss your partner goodbye at the subway stop in the morning because you don't know who will see you, or what they might do.

... The overt and covert oppression that stigmatizes lesbians and gay men in our culture is something worth fighting against. I think it is fair to say that this generation of lesbian and gay men and bisexual activists are driven and committed to our collective agenda, just as generations before us have been, by the desire to maintain and perpetuate gay culture; by the idea of a society free of its hatred of us; by the prospect that, one day, kids will learn about the range of acceptable sexual behaviors in school in a non-judgmental way and that that young gay kid can go to her or his first prom with a date of their own gender.

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William Bailey AIDS Policy Congressional Fellowship

Program: The American Psychological Association (APA) has established the William A. Bailey Congressional Fellowship in tribute to Bailey's tireless advocacy on behalf of psychological research, training, and services related to AIDS.

Fellows will receive a one-year appointment to work as a special legislative assistant on the staff of a member of Congress or Congressional Committee. Activities may include conducting legislative or oversight work, assisting in congressional hearings and debates, and preparing briefs and writing speeches. Fellows also attend an orientation on Congressional and executive branch operations, which includes guidance in the Congressional placement process, and a year-long seminar series on science and public policy issues. These aspects of

the program are administered by the American Association for the Advancement of Science for the Bailey Fellow and those sponsored by nearly two dozen other professional societies.

Purpose: To provide psychologists with interests in AIDS, gay and lesbian, or related health and behavior issues with an invaluable public policy learning experience, to contribute to the more effective use of psychological knowledge in government, and to broaden awareness about the value of psychology-government interaction among psychologists and within the federal government.

Criteria: A prospective Fellow must demonstrate competence in scientific and/or professional psychology and an interest in AIDS, gay and lesbian, or related health and behavior issues. Fellows must also demonstrate sensitivity toward

policy issues and have a strong interest in applying psychological knowledge to the solution of societal problems. Fellows must be able to work quickly and communicate effectively on a wide variety of topics, and be able to work cooperatively with individuals having diverse viewpoints. An applicant must be a Member of APA (or an applicant for membership) and have a doctorate in psychology, with a minimum of two years post-doctoral experience preferred.

Awards: One Fellow will be sponsored for a one-year appointment beginning September 1, 1995 pending funding availability. The Fellowship stipend is \$37,000 plus \$2,500 for travel and relocation expenses to the Washington, DC area. Final selection of the Fellow will be made in early 1995.

Application: Interested psychologists should submit the following materials by January 15, 1995: (1) a detailed vita providing information about educational background, professional employment and activities, professional publications and presentations, public policy and legislative experience, and committee advisory group appointments; (2) a statement of approximately 1000 words addressing the applicant's interests in the fellowship, career goals, contributions the applicant believes he or she can make as a psychologist to the legislative process, and what the applicant wants to learn from the experience; and (3) three letters of reference specifically addressing the applicant's ability to work on Capitol Hill as a special legislative assistant.

Applications should be sent to: William A. Bailey Congressional Fellowship Program, Public Policy Office, APA, 750 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242. For additional information about the application process, contact Andrea L. Solarz, PhD in the Public Policy Office (202) 336-6067 or azs.apa@email.apa.org.

Donations: Donations to the fellowship fund may be made to the American Psychological Foundation, Attn: William A. Bailey Fellowship, 750 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002. Checks should be made out to the American Psychological Foundation; donations are tax deductible.

"I can't find words to say what a loss it was... So many lives have been saved because of his work"

Nancy Pelosi

Placek Proposals Invited for Lesbian and Gay Research

The American Psychological Foundation (APF) requests proposals for the 1995 Wayne F. Placek Awards. The Placek Award is intended to encourage scientific research to increase the general public's understanding of homosexuality and to alleviate the stress that gay men and lesbians experience in this and future civilizations. Proposals are invited for empirical research from all fields of the behavioral and social sciences. Proposals are especially encouraged for empirical studies that address the following topics: heterosexual's attitudes and behaviors toward lesbians and gay men, including prejudice, discrimination, and violence; family and workplace issues relevant to lesbians and gay men; and subgroups of the lesbian and gay population that have historically been underrepresented in scientific research.

Award: It is anticipated that up to two awards will be made in 1995, each for a maximum amount of \$15,000. A base amount of \$12,000 may be requested directly; up to \$3000 in additional funds may be requested contingent on matching funds or the equivalent from the applicant's institution. Funds may be requested for any expenses legitimately associated with conducting an empirical research project, including salary (for the applicant or assistants), equipment (up to \$3000), supplies, travel, photocopying, payments to participants, and postage. It is expected that applicants will propose a study that can be completed within approximately one year and solely with the level of funding provided by this award. The Award does not pay institutional indirect costs.

Eligibility: Applicants must have a doctoral degree or the equivalent (e.g., PhD, MD) and must be affiliated with a college, university, or research institution that meets federal requirements for administering research awards.

Applications are especially encouraged from (1) junior faculty, (2) individuals who have recently completed their doctorates, and (3) more senior researchers who are beginning a new program of research that is consistent with the Award's goals.

Application procedures: All applications must conform to the APF Placek Awards guidelines, which can be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed legal envelope (postage sufficient for a 2-ounce letter—usually 52 cents) to The Wayne F. Placek Award, American Psychological Foundation, 750 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242. In brief, the guidelines require that the application include a review of the relevant research literature, description of the applicant's previous relevant research, and a detailed description of methodology for the proposed study (10 pages maximum); procedures for protecting the welfare of research participants, if applicable; a detailed budget and justification; a description of available facilities and resources; and a 2-page vita/biographical sketch of the applicant(s). Deadline for receipt of completed applications is April 15, 1995. Awards will be announced in August of 1995, with funding to begin by September 1, 1995.

Letter of Intent: Prospective applicants are requested to submit a brief letter of intent summarizing their proposal topic by March 1, 1995. The letter of intent is requested to assist the Award Committee in preparing for the review process. It is not binding on the applicant, nor is it required.

Professional Practice

Guidelines Started

Kris Hancock and Doug Halderman

As many of you know, the process of creating psychotherapy guidelines for adoption by the American Psychological Association (APA) is daunting. There are both procedural and political processes with which to contend. APA's Committee on Professional Practice Standards (COPPS) is putting the finishing touches on what is referred to as the Guidelines for Guidelines. In other words, there will now be a set of instructions to follow in the creation of guidelines such as ours. We enjoy good ongoing relationships with both the Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns (CLGC) and COPPS. Catherine Acuff has been appointed to COPPS and Gene Walker, a COPPS member, has joined us as a liaison. Doug Halderman has just begun his first year on CLGC.

A major feature of this new process for the creation of new guidelines is that the need for each proposed guideline must be thoroughly examined in light of available literature—

especially empirical research. The Joint Task Force (JTF) has now completed two symposia relevant to this process. At the 1993 convention, material which will eventually become the introduction to our proposal was discussed. In our most recent 1994 convention in Los Angeles, a symposium was given which examined the literature relevant to the guideline "themes" developed as a result of the CLGC Task Force on Bias report. The themes were divided into three areas: assessment and evaluation, intervention, and education and training. There is now enough material to begin the most exciting part—putting the proposal together in accordance with the guidelines from COPPS (once these are finalized). This we intend to do this fall.

Once the guidelines are in first draft form, the process begins. First, the Task Force will review it and submit it to the Division 44 Executive Committee. After that, CLGC will review it and begin the APA approval process. At this point, we will need everyone's help. It might be good to keep in mind that this is the beginning of a long, highly political process. Patience and perseverance are essential.

APA Fellowship Programs

APA is currently soliciting applications for three new 1995-1996 APA Fellowship Programs. The APA Science Policy Fellowship Program will sponsor one post-doctoral level psychologist who demonstrates exceptional competence in scientific psychology to spend one year working as a special assistant in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. This program not only provides a unique opportunity and learning experience for an individual psychologist, but also brings the perspective and potential contributions of scientific psychology to national science deliberations.

Applications are also invited for two new Congressional Fellowships; one in child policy, with a particular interest in the application of knowledge about gifted children, and one in AIDS policy. Fellows work as legislative assistants on the staff of a member of Congress or Congressional Committee. Activities may include conducting legislative or oversight work, assisting in Congressional hearings and debates, and preparing briefs and writing speeches.

If you would like any additional information about the APA Science Policy Fellowship Program, please call Liz Baldwin at (202) 336-5932. For additional information about the Congressional Fellowships, call Andrea Solarz, PhD at (202) 336-6067.

Call for Nominations CLGC Achievement Awards

The committee on lesbian and gay concerns of the American Psychological Association annually represents one or two Outstanding Achievement Awards to recognize psychologists for significant contributions to the mission of CLGC. This

mission is to:

(a) Study and evaluate on an ongoing basis how the issues and concerns of lesbian and gay male psychologists can best be dealt with;

(b) encourage objective and unbiased research in areas relevant to lesbians, gay men, and lesbian and gay youth, and the social impact of such research;

(c) examine the consequences of stereotypes about lesbians, gay men, and gay and lesbian

youth in clinical practice;

(d) develop educational materials for distribution to psychologists and others; and

(e) make recommendations regarding the integration of these issues into APA's activities to further the cause of the civil and legal rights of lesbian and gay psychologists within the profession (APA Association Rule 150-4).

Nominees may have made significant contributions to CLGC's mission either through direct CLGC service or through independent work.

The contributions may be of a scientific, professional, educational, leadership, or political nature.

All nominations should include (1) a brief description of the specific achievements and contributions of the nominees (500 word maximum), (2) a current curriculum vitae, and (3) the names of three individuals who have been asked to send reference letters. No current members of CLGC or staff of Public Interest Governance Programs at the time of the award are eligible for consideration. The deadline for receipt of nominations is May 1, 1995.

***Send nominations
and supporting
materials to
CLGC Awards,
Public Interest
Directorate,
APA,
750 First Street, NE,
Washington, DC
20002-4242.***

Division 45 Invites Membership

Gordon C. Nagayama Hall, President-Elect

I am writing to encourage members from Division 44 to join the Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues, Division 45 of the American Psychological Association. Division 45 unites psychologists of color and other psychologists who are concerned about multicultural issues. It generates agendas relevant to these concerns

within the profession, and seeks a strong voice of influence. For more information contact:

Gordon C. Nagayama Hall, PhD
President-Elect, Division 45
Department of Psychology
Kent State University
Kent, OH 44242-0001
Phone: 216/272-2253

Division 49 Invites Members

Michael P. Andronico, President-Elect

We appreciate the opportunity given to us by your Division President-elect, (Armond R. Cerbone, PhD) to communicate directly with you. Division 49 of APA, the Division of Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy would like to invite those of you who are not already members to become members of our division. We extend this invitation free of cost for the year 1994.

The leadership of Division 49 is committed to all issues relating to Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy and is keenly aware that issues of gays and lesbians are crucial in today's society. We firmly believe that studies involving group behavior and programs involving group remediation can be central in helping our society

to come to grips with the many distortions and misconceptions that are held concerning gay and lesbian individuals. Division 49 has had programming at recent APA conferences and plans to have more on the subject of gay and lesbian issues in groups. We would appreciate your joining us and contributing your input to help Division 49 continue to be at the cutting edge of important developments in the utilization and study of groups for the betterment of minorities including gays and lesbians in our society.

In addition to this letter in your newsletter, a letter from your leadership will be placed in the Division 49 Newsletter inviting our membership to join your division.

We, the leadership of Division 49, would again like to thank your leadership for this opportunity to communicate directly with you, and look forward to having you join us.

Division 45 CE Conference: Feminism and the Law

Division 35, Psychology of Women, will be sponsoring a continuing education conference on February 3, 1995 from 9:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts.

The conference will present panels of psychologists and lawyers discussing issues that interface between psychology and the law from a feminist perspective. Issues include battered women, child custody, employment issues (such as discrimination and harassment), and professional practice issues (such as diagnosis and risk management).

Science Directorate Creates Health Care Reform Hotline

The Science Directorate has created an information service to inform members about the status of legislation affecting the behavioral research community. The Health Care Reform

Hotline features timely updates on news related to biomedical and behavioral research issues in the current health care reform debate.

By obtaining information on these issues, listeners are able to focus on legislation that may affect them as researchers, academics, and scientists. To hear the latest recording of the Health Care Reform Hotline, call (800) 374-2721.

Division's Origins Recalled

Marty Rochlin

It's a rare treat to see an old dream materialize. When I was on the steering committee of the ALPG back in 1975, during one of our meetings at Steve Morin's home in San Bernadino, I talked to Steve about the idea of forming an APA division for lesbian and gay

This is the first in a series of articles commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian and Gay Issues.

studies. He had some convincing reasons for opposing the idea at the time, mainly that gay and lesbian issues ought to be a part of the larger concerns of the APA rather than relegated to a segregated sub-division, and that the issues were already part of Division 9's agenda. Another consideration was that, although he thought the idea had merit, he didn't think the time was yet ripe for its implementation. I deferred to his excellent judgment on these matters at the time, and put the idea on a back burner, where it continued to simmer for the next 6 years.

Early in 1981, I ran the same idea with Alan Malyon, who was all for it instantly. He and I finally scheduled a lunch meeting on June 6, 1981, and decided to put together a task force to develop some plans. With Division 9 as a model, I suggested we call ourselves the Society for the Psychological Study Of Lesbian and Gay Issues, SPSLGI, a takeoff on the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, (SPSSI) even though the acronym was unpronounceable. There was an APA moratorium on new divisions at the time, but we wanted to be ready when it was lifted.

The first meeting of the task force and the adoption of the name SPSLGI took place in my office in West Hollywood on July 24, 1981. Those present, aside from myself, were Alan Malyon, Bronwyn Anthony, and Anne Peplau. We met at

my office every other Friday afternoon. Tony Russo, still a PhD. candidate at the time, joined us for a while early on. We prepared a flyer to be ready for the APA Annual Convention in Los Angeles in August, 1981, and Steve Morin came aboard early in 1982, having changed his mind about the division idea since I'd first approached him 7 years earlier. From the 1981 APA Convention on, in order to solicit the signatures of one percent of the APA membership needed for eligibility to petition for divisional status, we made pests of ourselves at every national, regional, and local convention thereafter.

I had to buy, and quickly learn how to use, a personal computer to develop and maintain a database for SPSLGI membership, to keep track of signatures, dues, contributions, and expenses, and compose newsletters and flyers. The PC also facilitated direct mailings to APA members, particularly those in Division 9 and 35. Despite the enthusiastic response to our ads, mailings and publicity, it was a slow and painstaking process to get the 515 signatures we needed. By 1984, SPSLGI Task Force, in addition to myself, Bronwyn Anthony, Alan Malyon, and Steve Morin, included Joyce Brotsky, Kris Hancock, Doug Kimmel, Hal Kooden, Allan Pinka, and Adrienne Smith.

It took an eleventh-hour, hard-sell, phone and mail campaign to get the petition ready in time for the August 26, 1984 APA Council vote in Toronto, and a lot of lobbying for support among council members to counteract the heavy opposition, most directly and actively from Division 39 (Psychoanalysis). Because they wanted "lesbian and gay" changed to "homosexual" in the name of our society, and other reasons too numerous to mention, the vote to approve the establishment of SPSLGI as Division 44 barely exceeded the 2/3 majority necessary for passage. Unlike the nearly unanimous vote for Division 43 (Family Psychology) at the same council meeting, we made it by the skin of our teeth, but we made it, elected Steve Morin as our first president, and I'm delighted to see we're still well and growing ten years later. Congratulations!

Division 44 News

Secretary-Treasurer Reports

Steve James

The financial news from the convention is good. The bottom line is that we made a profit of \$533.07 overall. Our first annual fundraising dinner made a profit of \$1,199.45 on ticket sales to 49 members and 32 students. Some of the student tickets were donated by members, allowing for more students to participate than would otherwise.

Several members made significant donations to offset the costs of the fundraiser, graciously hosted by Mason Sommers, thus ensuring its success: Joel Becker, Dee Bridgewater, Garry Corgiat, Terry Gock, Paul Guido, Giovanni Losito,

Jacob Maarse, Bryan Mershon, Brian Miller, Terrence Oleson, the LA Gay Psychotherapists Association, and anonymous donations. It is clear that this kind of support is essential to our fundraising and while thanking these members, we should each consider ways of helping in this annual event.

So far, for the year, we are within our budget for all Division expenses, but it may be close. It is crucial that our Committees and Task Forces stay within budget. Our operating budget for the Division this year is \$40,000.

In an effort to reduce costs associated with the Executive Committee's Winter Meeting, the EC has decided to meet again in Boston over the weekend of January 28, 1995. This reduces travel since many of the EC members live in or near Boston and can host members from out of town.

Division 44 News

Bisexual Issues Task Force

Ron Fox

The Task Force sponsored a conversation hour, facilitated by Co-chairs Sari Dworkin and Ron Fox, in the Division 44 Hospitality Suite at the APA Convention in Los Angeles. The occasion served as both a business meeting and a forum for discussion of bisexual issues. About fifteen people attended, including two female psychologists from abroad (Germany and Latin America). We were able to get a sense of international attitudes towards bisexuality. Armand Cerbone, Division 44 President, also attended and shared his impression that many members support broadening the focus of scientific inquiry in the Division to include all sexual orientations. He also encouraged the Task Force to remain sensitive to the Division's history and to the emotional impact that

potential changes in the Division's focus may have for many members.

Several goals were developed to facilitate greater inclusion of bisexual issues in the life of the Division:

1. Continue to liaison with the Executive Committee, expressing support for the goals of the Division and encouraging the Division to become more openly inclusive of bisexual issues and its bisexual psychologist members in terms of its mission statement, convention programming, division committees, communications with APA, other divisions, and prospective members, and in advocacy efforts that the Division undertakes.
2. Submit proposals on bisexual issues for symposia, panels, and papers for APA Conventions, including for 1995 in New York. Include on panels for which the articulation of bisexual issues could enrich the discussion that these

events promote (e.g., research agenda, counseling issues, youth, advocacy). Be involved in the Forging Alliance Conversation Hours at APA conventions.

3. Include regular reports in the Division newsletter providing information about the work of the Task Force as well as educational and bibliographic material related to bisexual issues.

The Task Force invited members to communicate with us about ideas you may have about the interface of lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues. To help us develop a larger pool of members who could present papers on bisexual issues and

participate on panels at APA convention, we encourage you to inform us about academic or clinical research or community projects in which you may be involved that pertain to bisexual issues.

Editor's note: Ron Fox can be contacted at P.O. Box 210491, San Francisco, CA 94121-0491. His phone number is (415) 751-6714. His e-mail address is rcf@well.sf.ca.us. Sari Dworkin can be contacted at CSU Fresno, Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology, Fresno, CA 93710. Her phone number is (209) 278-2172. Her e-mail address is sari_dworkin@csufresno.edu.

Division 44 News

Membership Chair Reports

James S. Fitzgerald

This appears to be a most interesting time to assume the position of Membership Chair of Division 44. Under the capable membership guidance of Steve James, PhD, and the Executive Committee, the Division has witnessed phenomenal growth in the last several years, primarily in the student category. At the same time, we have over 1600 members of the Division and of those 1600, approximately 500 are students.

We need to encourage more members to join since the number of members directly affects the number of convention hours allotted by APA, provides the necessary moneys to fund important Division projects, and ensures more voting members. As for the latter, APA sends an apportionment ballot each year with every member and voting associate allotted ten votes. The number of votes received by Division 44 determines how many APA Council Representatives the Division has to represent its interest in APA affairs. At this time, we have two representatives where many Divisions have none. However, we are close to losing one of our slots if we

do not receive more votes.

At the local level, I would encourage you to recruit members from among your friends and colleagues and allot more of your votes to the Division. During the coming year, I would like to establish a network of state and/or regional recruiters who would actively seek new members from their area. If you are interested in such a project, please contact me.

As for me, I have been a member of this Division for almost a decade but was inactive until last year. That changed after listening to the uninformed debates about the diversities of human sexuality over the gays in the military issue. As a result of being "bashed" every day, I decided to become active in the Division as an act of personal empowerment. And, as Membership Chair, I hope to encourage and aid others who might see the Division as a vehicle for personal empowerment, as a means of providing relevant psychological research to inform public policy debate in a timely fashion. If you are a member, I would encourage you to become involved with one of the Division's taskforces. If not, join and then become involved. The radical right has no shortage of active workers and neither should we.

Contacts: James Fitzgerald can be reached at 4015 South Cobb Drive, Suite 275, Smyrna, Georgia, 30080. His phone number is (404) 435-5453 and fax number is (404) 435-9357.

Division 44 News

Accreditation Goals Set

We would like to introduce the members and goals of the Committee on Accreditation:

Catherine Acuff, Co-Chair, is a member of the Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns (CLGC), APA. She is also a past President of the Connecticut State Psychological Association and a past Chair of the National Association of Lesbian and Gay Psychologists (NALGP). Catherine is in private practice and an Associate Professor at the University of Hartford. **Ariel Shidlo**, Co-Chair, is in private practice in NYC.

He is a Member-at-Large of Division 44, and Assistant Professor on the adjunct faculty of John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY. He is past Chair of the Task Force on AIDS, NYS Psychological Association (NYSPA). He is also co-founder and first Co-Chair of the Task Force on Lesbian and Gay Psychology, NYSPA. **Richard Charbonneau** is Student Chair of the CT Psychological Association; Member of the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues of APAGS, and Chair of

Free Association, a statewide organization that address lesbian and gay issues in Connecticut. He is completing his dissertation on lesbian and gay parenting at the Graduate Institute of Professional Psychology, University of Hartford, CT.

Kris Hancock is a past President of Division 44, past Chair of APA's CLGC, and past Chair of the NALGP. She also co-chaired CLGC's Task Force on Bias in Psychotherapy with Lesbians and Gay Men. She is an Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Professional Psychology, John F. Kennedy University in Orinda, clinical supervisor at Project Eden in Hayward, and has a part-time practice in Berkeley.

Karen Jordan is Student Co-Chair in Division 44, and also Co-Chair of the Task Force on Youth and Family. She is currently completing her dissertation entitled "Coming Out and Identity Development in Lesbian Relationships" at the University of Maryland. **Neal King** is a clinical psychologist in Berkeley, and an Associate Professor of Psychology at John F. Kennedy University in Orinda. At JFK he is Vice President of the faculty Senate. He is a member of the Gender Issues and Research and Evaluation Committees of the National Council of Schools of Professional Psychology (NCSPP). **Mason Sommers** is in private practice in Beverly Hills. He is past Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center. He is also Adjunct Associate Professor at CSPP/LA. He is Founder of the Dione K. Sommers Counseling Center at the Westside Women's Health Center/LA for indigent women. **Babbi Winegarden** is a Post Doctoral Fellow in Neurology at the Palo Alto VAMC. Her dissertation was on "aversion heterosexism." It examined unconscious homophobia towards lesbians in psychotherapists.

Our goals include facilitating Division 44 members in becoming APA site visitors at training programs, and creating a list of individuals willing to serve in a consultative role to programs that appear to have homophobic bias or insensitivity to lesbian and gay concerns, or that request help in developing gay-affirming training. We look forward to hearing from division members with interests and ideas in this area.

The Task Force on Accreditation was developed to work toward the adoption of the following principles by the APA's Committee on Accreditation:

- *Graduate Psychology and internship programs should not teach biased or heterosexist material.*
- *Lesbian and gay students should be treated without discrimination and homophobia interfering in the processes of selection, admission, and training.*
- *Graduate programs and internships should include specific gay affirmative training in psychological issues related to lesbian and gay persons.*

Division 44 Awards

Distinguished Professional Contribution to Ethnic Minority Issues

Connie Chan, PhD

Division 44 of the American Psychological Association, The Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian and Gay Issues recognized Connie Chan, PhD for her distinguished

*Division 44 Awards
were presented at
the 102nd Annual
Convention of the
APA,
Los Angeles,
California*

contributions to lesbian and gay ethnic minority psychology. Dr. Chan's contributions include: 1) providing extraordinary leadership in governance throughout the American Psychological Association, including terms as Chair of the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest and the Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns; 2) advancing the study of lesbian and gay issues in the ethnic minority community

in her teaching, writing and presentations; 3) serving as Division 44 President.

Distinguished Professional Contribution **Bronwyn Anthony, PhD**

Division 44 of the American Psychological Association, The Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian and Gay Issues, recognized Bronwyn Anthony, Ph.D., for her distinguished contribution to lesbian and gay psychology. Dr. Anthony's contribution include: 1) successfully advocating within the American Psychological Association for the establishment of a division for lesbian and gay issues; 2) serving as an exemplary member of Division 44's first Executive Committee; and 3) providing leadership in advancing a lesbian and gay psychology agenda within the American Psychological Association.

Distinguished Professional Contribution **Martin Rochlin, PhD**

Division 44 of the American Psychological Association, The Society for the Psychological

Study of Lesbian and Gay Issues, recognized Martin Rochlin, PhD, for his distinguished professional contributions to lesbian and gay psychology. Dr. Rochlin's contributions include: 1) co-founding the Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian and Gay Issues; 2) co-founding the Task Force for Divisional Status within the American Psychological Association; 3) providing pioneering leadership on lesbian and gay issues within the American Psychological Association; 4) serving as the Division's first Secretary-Treasurer; and 5) being the first openly gay psychologist in Los Angeles in 1972.

Distinguished Student Contribution **Karen Jordan**

Division 44 of the American Psychological Association, The Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian and Gay Issues, recognized the distinguished contributions of Karen Jordan to lesbian and gay issues as a student. These contributions include: 1) providing exemplary leadership and representation as a student within Division 44; 2) Outstanding student research on the relationships of lesbian women.

Malyon-Smith Awards

There were 11 submissions for this year's Malyon-Smith competition, each of which were rated by three reviewers. Rankings resulted in two awards, a "winner" and a "runner-up." The winner: **Ms. Karen Jordan** of the University of Maryland Baltimore County for "Coming out and relationship quality for lesbian women" (\$700). The runner up: **Ms. Helen Oetjen** of the University of Vermont for her research on lesbians and depression (\$300). Chris Browning will be taking over as Chair of the committee as of January 1, 1995.

President's column

continued from page 2

talented committed women and men working with us. Our Division is vital and strong. Why?

I think there is one factor that sets us apart from most other divisions in the APA. At the heart of our Division is more than a scientific objective or a professional interest, though these alone should and do command considerable attention. At the heart of our Division is a struggle for our lives and identities. And not just the quality of life but often for life itself. Only a few other divisions face such challenges.

This simple truth is at once remarkable and compelling. Remarkable because the very idea that someone's life or limb should be threatened for a sexual orientation stuns reason. Compelling because such situation demands whatever concentration of professional and scientific energies is necessary to restore reason and reasonableness to human congress in this regard. It is this fact, I believe, which informs everything the Division does. It is the fulcrum which all agenda are developed and organized. Our Division has been characterized by some inside and outside the APA as an assembly of individuals more invested in the politics of identity than in the investigation of scientific truth and the conduct of professional responsibilities. At the very least this is egregious simplification. This must come from people whose lives, if not livelihoods, are very secure. The realities are more complex. Science has not yet been able to answer the questions we ask about sexual orientation.

Where scientific truth is lacking people are left to speculate. The intellectual history of sexual issues is a history of competing premises with very, very little scientific data to support them. Yet, decisions about the conduct of human sexuality have to be made and one premise rather than another will provide the basis for those decisions. In such an environment politics will often determine which premise captures

hegemony among a constituency. Is it better, then, to eschew politics or to be effective politically while attending to the limits of available knowledge? Until such time as science can answer our questions, some politicking will be a reality. It seems to me that those at the table always expect others without seats to behave as though they had them. Ridiculous!

What this means for us as a body is that we must commit major resources and energies to the scientific researching of issues related to sexual orientation. At the same time we must be watchful of those who would transcend the bounds of scientific evidence to further marginalize us. We have done well with the data we have had. We have been and still are a group rich in scholarship. But scholarship is not research. The Division leadership is increasingly cognizant of this. The problems are large and beyond the means, but not beyond the scope, of one of APA's smallest divisions. Over the next months and years, the Division will have to bring the resources of others as well to bear on these issues of science.

We have a strong Division. But only because its membership and leadership have recognized the importance of the issues at stake here. *Everything* we do here, from coming out to stuffing newsletter envelopes, has far reaching implications for the daily lives of lesbians, gays and bisexuals. This has made us a division with vision, a broad vision of life lived freely and openly and in safety.

One last word...for now. I have sat on the Executive Committee of the Division in one capacity or another for more than four years now. It is here in Division 44 that I have seen such a single-mindedness in purpose and subordination of personal ambition that purpose: advancing the agenda of Society. And people do it with impressive humor, grace and collegiality. Bearing the Division's standard this year, knowing that there are life and death issues on the table every day and getting to direct the work of the many remarkable folks, is as heady and rewarding an experience as it is humbling. I highly recommend it!

E-Mail Group For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Students

Contacts: Neil Pilkington can be reached by e-mail at neil@psych.mcgill.ca. He can also be reached via snail-mail at Department of Psychology, McGill University, 1205 Dr. Penfield Avenue, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3A 1B1. His phone number is (514) 523-3392.

A new e-mail discussion group for lesbian, gay, and bisexual graduate students in psychology (LGBPSYCH), sponsored by APAG Committee on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns, is now ready for use. Neil Pilkington is the "list manager" of the LGBPSYCH discussion group, responsible for the administrative tasks involving the group.

The purpose of LGBPSYCH is to provide a forum for information exchange, support and discussion among lesbian, gay and bisexual graduate of all fields of psychology. Graduate students from all fields of psychology are invited to participate.

LGBPSYCH operates as a "list serve" group.

Members are placed on shared mailing list. Whenever a member sends an e-mail message to LGBPSYCH, that message is distributed to all other members of LGBPSYCH. There are no charges associated with using LGBPSYCH.

How to join LGBPSYCH. Send the e-mail message "JOIN LGBPSYCH2VM1.MCGILL.CA your e-mail address firstname lastname" to NEIL@PSYCH.MCGILL.CA

Do not include the quotation marks in your message. Replace "firstname" and "lastname" with your own first and last name. Write the message on the first line of your mailing. A confirmation of your membership will follow within a day or so. At that time, you will also receive a summary of the various commands that you will need to use LGBPSYCH.

Multicultural Award Offered

The Department of Psychology at Pacific University will award one or more partial tuition scholarships to outstanding applicants for Fall, 1995 admission who are persons of color. Awards will cover approximately one half of tuition for full-time enrollment. Students entering with a Master's degree will receive the award for a four-year period, and students entering with a Bachelor's degree will receive the award for a five-year period. Applicants for the scholarship will be reviewed with regard to four criteria: 1) academic potential; 2) commitment to providing service to an identified population (including, but not limited to, culturally diverse groups, handicapped persons, gays/lesbians, etc.); 3) level of understanding of the mental health needs of the identified group; and 4) financial need as ascertained on the standardized financial aid form. Applicants must meet the School's general criteria for admission before

they may be considered for the Multicultural Scholarship. Application deadline for Fall, 1995 is January 10, 1995. To request an application write or phone: Admissions Office, Pacific University, School of Professional Psychology, 2043 College Way, Forest Grove, OR 97116; (800) 635-0561.

Youth & Family Task Force Needs Your Help

The Youth and Family Task Force has four teams established in the following areas: the Advisory Board, led by April Martin; the liaison Team, led by Michael Murphy; the Research Team led by Scott Herchberger; and the Program Team led by Gary Hollander. Each group is looking for volunteers and ideas to support or efforts to educate our profession and the public about the issues of importance to lesbian, gay and bisexual youth and families. Contact Steve James for more information at (508) 463-9022.

Crossing Borders and Boundaries: The Life Narratives of Immigrant Lesbians

Oliva M. Espin

When immigrants cross borders, they also cross emotional and behavioral boundaries. Becoming a member of a new society stretches the boundaries of what is possible in several ways. In the new culture, new societal expectations lead to transformations in identity. The identities expected and permitted in the home culture may no longer be those expected or permitted in the host society. Boundaries are crossed when new identities and roles are incorporated into life. Most immigrants who, either eagerly or reluctantly, cross geographical borders do not fully suspect all the emotional and behavioral boundaries they are about to cross.

For women, the crossing of borders and the subsequent crossing of boundaries take specific forms. Migration—and the acculturation process that follows—open up different possibilities for

women than for men, particularly with reference to gender roles and sexual behavior (Espin, 1984; 1987a; 1987b; 1990; Espin et al., 1990; Goodenow & Espin, 1993).

Frequently, newly-encountered sex-role patterns combined with greater access to paid employment for women create possibilities to live a new life-style. This new life-style may have been previously unavailable. One case in point is an openly lesbian life. The crossing of borders through migration may provide, for both heterosexual and lesbian women, the space and “permission” to cross boundaries and transform their sexuality and sex roles. For lesbians, an additional border/boundary crossing takes place that relates to the “coming out” process. “Coming out” may have occurred in the home country. It may have occurred after migration. Indeed, in some cases, it may have been the motivating force

behind the migration. Indeed, in some cases, it is sexuality, trying to escape the constraints imposed by the home society on her lesbianism, that determines the migration. In other cases, the migration provides the space and permission to come out at a later date.

Immigration, even when willingly chosen and eagerly sought, produces a variety of experiences with significant consequences for the individual. No matter how glad the immigrant might be to be in a new country, the transitions created by immigration often result in loneliness from the absence of people with shared experiences; strain and fatigue from the effort to adapt and cope with cognitive overload; feelings of rejection from the new society which affect self-esteem and may lead to alienation; confusion in terms of role expectations, values, and identity; “shock” resulting from differences between

Division 44 Presidential Address

“Crossing Borders and Boundaries: The Life Narratives of Immigrant Lesbians” was presented at the 102nd Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Los Angeles, California

in August, 1994. Oliva Espin, Past-President of Division 44 can be reached at the Department of Women’s Studies, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA 92182-0437. A full unabridged version of this paper will be published in the 1996 issue of the Division 44 Annual.

the two cultures; and a sense of impotence resulting from an inability to function competently in the new culture.

A significant consequence of this transition is a growing sensation of discontinuity of identity (Garza-Guerrero, 1973). The psycho-social context in which the individual's sense of identity was originally formed has been left behind. Consequently, the individual struggles with reorganizing and reintegrating identity within the new context. The dilemma for immigrant lesbians is to integrate who they are culturally, racially, and religiously—as all immigrants have to do—with their identity as lesbians. Because they are immigrants and lesbians, they have to be polycultural in the host society and among their own people. (Espin, 1987a).

For those who are still adolescents or young adults, confronting the transition created by immigration presents yet another task. On the one hand, it is easier for them to adjust to the new way of life since their identity is not yet consolidated. On the other hand, the adolescent or young adult loses peers and other emotional “guideposts” that would have served in the development of an identity in the context of a familiar culture. Frequently, parental disorientation in the new culture, coupled with the adolescents' greater skill to manage the new culture and language, increase their fear of being lost and not being able to count on parents for protection from the perceived threats in the environment (e.g., Lieblich, 1993). As Erickson says, “The danger of any period of large-scale uprooting and transmigration is that exterior crisis will, in too many individuals and generations, upset the hierarchy of developmental crisis and their built-in correctives; and [make them] lose those roots that must be planted firmly in meaningful life cycles” (1964, p. 96). Life cycle development, (a) part from the influence of ethnicity and immigration, (also includes) gender (as) a crucial factor in the development of identity. If sex roles are problematic for adolescent females in general, this is doubly true for immigrant females, particularly those from more

traditional cultures. The immigrant adolescent (girl) is faced with having to adjust to two sex cultures. While there are undoubtedly both national and urban-rural differences in the strength of tradition in the area of sex roles, many cultures are far more heavily sex differentiated than (main stream) American culture. Though all immigrants face the problem of acculturation, the pressures on males and females are different (...). While (usually) males are encouraged to acculturate rather quickly, females are more frequently expected by their families to maintain traditional roles and virtues (Goodenow & Espin, 1993, p. 176-177).

Little is known still about the experiences of both heterosexual and lesbian women in other realms. Especially in such private realms as sexuality. Yet, as we know, sexuality is not private which explains why so many cultures and countries try to control and legislate it. Indeed, as one historian observed, “sexual behavior (perhaps more than religion) is the most highly symbolic activity of any society. To penetrate the symbolic system implicit in any society's sexual behavior is therefore to come closest to the heart of its uniqueness.” (Trumbach, 1977, p. 24).

Sexuality is a universal component of human experience, yet how it is embodied and expressed is not. As anthropological, historical, and literary studies contend, “sexuality is culturally variable rather than a timeless, immutable essence” (Parker et al., 1992, p.4). Even what is considered to be sexual or not in one cultural context is often strikingly different for people in different cultural environments.

The study of women's experiences reveals a varied representation of sexual/gender differences among cultures. Worldwide, women are enculturated and socialized to embody their sexual desire or lack thereof through their particular culture's ideals of virtue. The social group's expectations are inscribed in women's individual desire and expressed through their sexuality (Jagger & Bordo, 1989). Not that gay men's sexuality is not subjected to conscious and unconscious controls by society. However, the

expectation of conformity to society's sexual norms exercises pressures on all women's sexuality—regardless of sexual orientation—in ways that do not burden most men. Women's reproductive capacities are frequently appropriated by the state to establish its control over both citizens and territories. Historically, warriors have celebrated victories and consoled the frustrations of defeat through the forceful possession of women's bodies: war and rape are deeply connected. The present situation in Bosnia and other war-torn regions of the world brings this reality to the forefront in a tragic and dramatic way.

We know that the sexual behavior of women serves a larger social function beyond the personal. It is used by enemies and friends alike as "proof" of the moral fiber or decay of social groups or nations. In most societies, women's sexual behavior and their conformity to traditional gender roles signifies the family's value system. This is why struggles surrounding acculturation in immigrant and refugee families center frequently on issues of daughters' sexual behaviors and woman's sex roles in general. For parents and young women alike, acculturation and sexuality are closely connected (Espin, 1984; 1987). Moreover, the self-appointed "guardians of morality and tradition" that are ever-present among immigrant "communities" are deeply concerned with women's roles and sexual behavior. It is no secret that religious leaders are rather preoccupied with women's sexuality. All over the world, we are witnessing how "women, their role, and above all their control, have become central to the fundamentalist agenda" (Yuval-Davis, 1992, p. 278) of Protestants, Catholics, Muslims and others. Considering that immigrant communities are more often than not besieged with rejection, racism, and scorn, those self-appointed "guardians" have always found fertile ground from which to control women's sexuality in the name of preserving "tradition." Women's subservience is advocated as a type of "steadying influence." While young men are allowed and encouraged to develop new identities in the new country, girls and women

are expected to continue living as if they were still in the old country. They are more often than not forced to embody cultural continuity amidst cultural dislocation. Groups that are transforming their way of life through a vast and deep process of acculturation focus on preserving "tradition" almost exclusively through the gender roles of women.

All pressures on immigrant women's sexuality, however, do not come from inside their own culture. The host society also imposes its own burdens and desires through prejudices and racism. Women immigrants, particularly those who are not white, experience degrees of "gender racism" (Essed, 1991; 1994). Even though racism may be expressed subtly, the immigrant woman finds herself between the racism of the dominant society and the sexist expectations of her own community. Paraphrasing Nigerian poet and professor Molaria Ogundipe-Leslie (1993) we could say that immigrant women have several mountains on their back, the two most obvious ones being "the heritage of tradition" and "the oppression from outside." The racism of the dominant society makes the retrenchment into "tradition" appear to justify the racial/prejudicial treatment of the dominant society. Paradoxically, the two "mountains" reinforce and encourage each other. Moreover, the effect of racism and sexism is not only felt as pressure from "the outside," but it also becomes internalized, as are all forms of oppression.

Immigrant women who are lesbian develop their identity against the backdrop of these contradictions. As expressed by Bhavnani and Haraway (1994) in an interview for a special issue on racisms and identities of *Feminism & Psychology*, "(t)hese young women in their embodiment, are the points of collision of all these powerful forces, including forces of their own" (p. 33).

We need to increase our knowledge and understanding of how the contradictions and interplays of sexuality/gender and racism in both the home and host cultures are experienced and "made sense of" by women immigrants.

In the last years I have been engaged in a study that seeks to increase the knowledge and understanding of sexuality and gender related issues among immigrant and refugee women.

***Espin asks,
“What, then,
happens to the
individual life,
sense of self, and
life story when
cultural narrative
changes abruptly as
with migration?”***

Through this study, I explore the main issues and consequences entailed in crossing both geographical and psychological borders and boundaries. Specifically, I research how sexuality and identity in both lesbians and heterosexual women are affected by the migration. I start by focusing on the crossing of borders and boundaries implied in the processes of immigration/accluration and coming out. Then, I

focus on two important aspects of these boundary and border crossings. First, the importance of geography and place and second, the role of language in understanding the experience of immigration lesbians.

The study is still in its preliminary stages. I would like to share some of the preliminary results with you today and I will end by suggesting unexplored aspects of these experiences and directions for future study.

I have been collecting narratives through individual interviews and/or focus groups. “The focus group interview is a qualitative research technique used to obtain data about feelings and opinions of small groups of participants about a given problem, experience or other phenomenon” (Basch, 1987, p. 414). The narratives explore immigrant women’s understanding of sexuality and their internalization of cultural norms. Their open-ended narratives allow for the expression of thoughts and feelings while inviting participants to

introduce their own themes and concerns.

Presently, a renewed interest in the use of narrative in psychology emerges from several perspectives. Within psychology itself, several new currents have to do with this new interest in story/narrative. There is a renewed interest in “the role of narrative in establishing personal identity” (Polkinghome, 1988, p. 105), in the idea that a self needs a story in order to be. Erikson (1975) spoke about the need to reconstruct life through narrative so it looks planned. McAdams studies the role of narrative in “binding together our lives in time” (1990, p. 166). These authors and other authors emphasize how narratives transform the passing of life into a coherent self (Polkinghome, 1988, p.119).

As numerous theorists have recently argued, cultures provide specific plots for lives (Polkinghome, 1988, p.153); “social ideology [is] individually appropriated in the construction of life histories and selves” (Rosenwald & Ochberg, 1992, p. 5). “When people tell life stories, they do so in accordance with models of intelligibility specific to the culture.... Not only acceptable behavior, but also acceptable accounts of behavior are socialized.... Accounts bind individuals to the arrangements of the society enforcing the models” (Rosenwald, 1992, p. 265). Stories/lives develop through compromises in which the individual desire and societal stabilizing power balance each other or push each other’s limits. “The tales we tell each other (and ourselves) about who we are and might yet become are individual variations on the narrative templates our culture deems intelligible” (Ochberg, 1992, p. 214). These authors point to a process by which the culture speaks through the narrative and the culture provides the individual with the needed support to live, develop and feel “normal.”

What, then, happens to the individual life, sense of self and life story when cultural narrative changes abruptly as with migration? Although “the story about life is open to the editing and revision” (Polkinghome, 1988, p.154) some editing and revision may require more work than others. “Re-writing one’s story involves major life

changes" (Polkinghorne, 1988, p. 182). What happens when events that are not "personal events" in the usual way "invade" the life story (e.g., traumatic historical events, historical dislocation, socio-political events)? These events transform the "plots" provided by the culture and social context. Either they transform the culture itself or because the individual finds herself in a new cultural context that allows a different kind of story.

I am interested in migration as a "historical event" that disrupts and detours the life course. Personal narratives are the stories created to recover the thread of one's own life after migration. In short, I am exploring how questions of national identity and sexual identity are determined and negotiated by immigrant and refugee women.

The study emphasizes the geographical and psychological borders and boundaries crossed in the process of migration. As stated earlier, the crossing of borders through migration may provide for women the space and "permission" to cross other boundaries and transform their sexuality and sex roles. The notion that "identity is not one thing for any individual; rather, each individual is located in, and opts for a number of differing and, at times, conflictual, identities, depending on the social, political, economic and ideological aspects of their situation" (Bhavnani & Phoenix, 1994, p. 9) is particularly significant when studying the experiences of immigrants. For lesbian immigrants, it is a central component of their psychology. Thus it is at the core of this exploration.

Immigrants are preoccupied with "geography," with the **place** in which events occur. This preoccupation is connected with concerns about the possibility of events in the life course as this possibility has been and is still being affected by the vicissitudes of place and geography. This phenomenon/preoccupation has two components. One is the preoccupation with the vicissitudes of the actual place (country of origin) that gives that place almost a sense of unreality in spite of its constant psychological presence in the life of the immigrant. The other is what I call a

preoccupation with "what could have been" that translates into ruminations about what life could have been lived and other "what ifs." "What life could have been" if the immigrant had lived in the country of origin or in another country or if the immigration had taken place at this or that stage of life.

For immigrant lesbians this preoccupation is tied to the process of "coming out." It is also inextricably linked to the process of developing a lesbian identity as well as the development of one's sexual orientation. Some lesbians are preoccupied with the relationship between childhood events and having become a lesbian. To this, the immigrant lesbian adds thoughts/concerns and general "what could have been" ideas concerning their lesbianism, concentrated in a basic question: Would I have become a lesbian if I had not emigrated? This preoccupation is of course connected with the process of acculturation that all immigrants experience in their adaptation to their new country and all lesbians and gay men undergo in the process of "coming out." The immigrant lesbian acculturates as an immigrant and sometimes as a lesbian at the same time. Even when she was a lesbian before the migration, she needs to learn to be a lesbian in her new cultural context. If she comes from a background other than European, she also has to acculturate as a so-called, "minority" person.

In addition to tracing identity formation, another important aspect of the focus groups has been to explore the vocabulary of sex in different languages. Specifically, what it is permissible to say about sex in which language. I am particularly interested—considering the importance of linguistic categories in narrative studies—in the language in which the narrative is told. I am specifically interested in discerning lesbians' comfort with descriptive terms about lesbianism in their first language. The preferential use for one language over another is deeply related to identity, but also to other factors not yet studied (see, for example, Espin, 1984; 1987b; 1994a; Neca, 1994). As Torres (1991) argues, "The problem of identity emerges in discussions of

language and how to give voice to a multiple heritage. The obvious and yet revolutionary answer is through the use of mixing of the codes that have shaped experience” (Torres, 1991, p. 279). Eva Hoffman’s (1989) “Lost in Translation” is a fascinating autobiographical account of the impact of language on the life of the immigrant.

According to Hoffman (1989), only after narrating in therapy, in English, the events that happened to her in Polish, did she feel like an integrated person. (As stated earlier, psychotherapy constructs a meaningful story out of disjointed, painful events and unintegrated, contradictory fragments of the life story.) For lesbians, the integration of the two languages when addressing sexuality may be a step towards integrating both cultural backgrounds. Conversely, the exclusive preference of one language

Espin notes that some lesbians are preoccupied with the relationship between childhood events and having become a lesbian. To this, the immigrant lesbian adds a basic question: Would I have become a lesbian if I had not emigrated?

over another may be an effort at compartmentalizing the contradictions inherent in being a lesbian and an immigrant. In the interviews I have explored variations in the speakers’ comfort (or discomfort) when addressing sexuality in the mother tongue or in English have emerged. Even among immigrants who are fluent in English, the first language often remains the language of emotions (Espin, 1987; 1992). Thus, speaking in a second language may “distance” the immigrant woman from important parts of herself. Conversely, a second language may provide a vehicle to express the inexpressible in the first language (either because the first language does not have the vocabulary, or because the person censors herself from saying certain “taboo” things in the first lan-

guage) (Espin, 1984; 1987; 1994a; Ncaf, 1994). I contend that the language in which messages about sexuality are conveyed and encoded impacts the language chosen to express sexual thoughts, feelings, and ideas and reveals

important clues to one’s identity process.

Among the participants in this study two apparently contradictory patterns concerning language have emerged. In several cases, after the completion of an interview or group session conducted in English, participants said that they could have expressed themselves and answered my questions and comments easier had they done so in their first language. However, the same participants believed that although it would have been easier to use their first language in terms of vocabulary, they felt it was easier to talk about these topics in English. They believed that feelings of shame would have prevented them from addressing these topics in the same depth had they used their first language.

Other participants, on the other hand, said that they could not have had this conversation in their first language because they actually did not know or were not used to talking about sexuality in their native language. These women had migrated at an earlier age, usually before or during early adolescence. They had developed their knowledge of sex, and obviously, had “come out,” while immersed in English. The women who manifested this second pattern explained that they could not conceive of “making love in their first language” while those in the former scenario felt unable to “make love in English.”

Is the immigrant lesbian’s preference for English when discussing sexuality—as I have clinically observed and the participants in this study express—motivated by characteristics of English as a language or is it that a second language offers a vehicle to express thoughts and feelings that cannot be expressed in the first language? Or does the new cultural context, in which English is spoken, allow more expression of the women’s feelings? Acquired in English, these experiences and expressions may become inextricably associated with the language (as happens with professional terminology acquired in a second language). In any case, all the lesbians interviewed, even when other parts of the interview were in Spanish, resorted to English when describing their sexuality. Interest-

ingly, this pattern has been observed among other populations, such as heterosexual Turkish men and women in Germany and Denmark (Necaf, 1994).

I would like to spend the rest of my time sharing some of the participants' stories to illustrate my findings thus far. Of course, all identifying information and names have been modified to protect confidentiality. Only information directly relevant to the study has been preserved as reported. Several life stories, at once very similar yet quite different, illustrate lesbians' diverse adaptation to migration.

Maritza and **Olga** are both Cuban. They both migrated to the US when they were 22 years of age, during the 1970's. Olga comes from a middle class family, **Maritza** from a poor working class family. **Maritza** had "come out" as a lesbian in Cuba, when she was 14. She had (and still has) considerable artistic talent as a musician and poet. From a very early age she identified her lesbianism as a consequence of her artistic talent (In Cuba and other Latin American countries there is a widespread association between artists and homosexuality that is more or less accepted). At the age of 22 she decided that staying in Cuba, considering the government's position on homosexuality, was impossible for her. Although she was completely in favor of the Revolution, and precisely because of her connection with it, she masterminded an escape during a trip sponsored by the Cuban government for young artists to Eastern Europe. Her family continues to live in Cuba. Despite the passage of time, they strongly disagree with her decision to leave the country. In the United States, Maritza refuses to participate in anything having to do with gay/lesbian activism and lives a very private life, although she makes no secret about her sexual orientation. She still writes poetry and composes music, but recently after her immigration, she decided that "poems and songs were not going to feed her" and she actively pursued other professional endeavors. The fact with writing in Spanish did not provide her with a significant audience in an English-speaking country, and that writing creatively in English was next to impos-

sible for her, were not minor factors in her decision to enter another career. She is now a financial consultant and has a fairly successful practice and a solid income. Her love relationships, with very few exceptions, have usually been with Spanish-speaking women. She is one of those who "cannot make love in English."

Olga left Cuba because of her disagreement with the Revolution. She came to the United States with her family in one of the "freedom flights" instituted after 1968. Although she was aware of having had feelings for other girls during her childhood and adolescence, those feelings were never acknowledged then, because lesbianism was "sinful" and she was devoutly Catholic. She "came out" as a lesbian two years after arriving in the United States and was torn by feelings that what she was doing was "sinful." On the other hand, she was very much in love with another Cuban woman she had met in Los Angeles, and they both decided to start attending religious services at Dignity, a group of gay Catholics then newly constituted. Through her involvement in Dignity, Olga became politically active in gay/lesbian issues, mostly inside the lesbian community. She continues to be so involved. She is convinced that she would have never "come out" as a lesbian had she stayed in Cuba and believes that the process of acculturation to the US made it possible for her to "come out". She has a degree in social work for a government agency which predominantly services a Latino population. She remains mostly "closeted" in the Latino community out of concern about the impact that revelation of her lesbianism would have on clients and colleagues alike.

Another interviewee, **Lorena's**, use of language is determined by deeply embedded cultural messages. She is an accountant and has been out as a lesbian for almost 20 years. She feels more able to speak about her sexual orientation and her life in English and in the US than she does in Spanish or in her native Puerto Rico. According to her, this is due partially to the fact that there are more "dirty words" in Spanish to describe lesbians than in English and partially

to the fact that her family lives in Puerto Rico not in the US. She came to the US at 30 and believes that the stage at which the migration occurs makes a difference in terms of what can be expected in the coming out process.

Cindy, on the other hand, came to this country when she was 2 years old, so she does not remember much of her native Taiwan nor did she ever learn of sex or sexual vocabulary in Chinese. In fact her knowledge of Chinese comes from her parents, who never spoke about

The women in Espin's study agree: Migration has opened doors for them both as women and as lesbians.

sex, and, obviously, were not going to teach her much about lesbianism. Cindy remembers being very affectionate with another girl during 7th grade and having other schoolmates refer to them as "homos." Since she had no idea what the

term meant, she asked her brother, two years older than she, about the meaning of this word, which she intuited as pejorative in some way. Her brother, however, reassured her that the term referred to "homo sapiens," which, since it meant human being did not have any negative implications. Years later, after "coming out" Cindy was rather amused at both hers and her brother's knowledge about slang terms concerning sexuality at the time.

For these women, clearly their migration offered certain freedoms that fostered the development of a lesbian life. Their political, religious, and social affiliations with the lesbian community vary greatly. Their shared experience is the link between migration and sexual self-expression.

Most of the women interviewed appear to be conflicted about loyalty to their families and cultural traditions while feeling that those same traditions frustrate and limit their lesbian lives. Both Maritza and Olga are out to their families and do not find any particular conflict with their family members concerning their lesbianism.

Lorena and Cindy, however, who are not fully out to their families, find expression of their sexuality more conflictual. Many of the women interviewed act "very American" while expressing feelings of alienation in the midst of a racist society. Those who migrated after adolescence appear to be less conflicted.

This may be explainable because their identities were already somewhat solid before undergoing the extra tasks involved in the migration. Even when the "coming out" process occurred after the migration, with its attendant identity changes, the process was less disruptive for those who migrated at a later developmental stage. Regardless of their differences, these four women are in agreement about the difficulties of acculturating to American society. The four of them mention initial difficulties making friends and dealing with language differences. Simultaneously, they believe that living in the US has opened economic opportunities for themselves and their families. And migration, they agree, has opened doors for them both as women and as lesbians.

Several behavioral patterns have become clear through the interviews. Most of the women immigrants interviewed have revised their social expectations; they have worked hard at negotiating gender roles with their families and with the host culture alike. The younger women's experiences illustrate the simultaneous process of acculturation and identity formation; the experiences of those who migrated at a later developmental stage show other concerns. The language and cultural differences encountered have been compounded by the normally stressful tasks of adolescence and the 'coming out' process. In general, their adaptations have been successful even though each one of them has chosen a specific individual path.

Talking to these women has been exciting and enlightening. At this point, I look forward to continuing this study. It will undoubtedly help me clarify important aspects of both lesbian and heterosexual immigrant women's lives.

Speaking of the power of the erotic in women's lives, the late poet Audre Lorde

(1984), who was also an immigrant, said that

“Our erotic knowledge empowers us, becomes a lens through which we scrutinize all aspects of our existence, forcing us to evaluate those aspects honestly in terms of their relative meaning within our lives. And this is grave responsibility, projected from within each of us, not to settle for the convenient, the shoddy, the unconventionally expected, nor the merely safe.” (p.57)

She warns us that “In order to perpetuate itself, every oppression must corrupt or distort those various sources within the culture of the oppressed that can provide energy for change” (p. 53). One such source is women’s erotic energy. She encourages all “women ... to examine the ways not to be afraid of “the power of the erotic.” “Once we know the extent to which we are capable of offering that sense of satisfaction and completion, we can then observe which of our various life endeavors bring us closest to that fullest.” (p. 54). This is a necessary endeavor for immigrant women in the essential process of developing our identities and struggling against racism we encounter.

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Feature: Lesbian and Gay

Families with Children

Charollette J. Patterson

One of the most pervasive stereotypes about lesbians and gay men is that we do not take part in family life. From this perspective, we are thought to live our lives outside the reach of family pleasures and obligations, and the concept of gay and lesbian families is viewed as an oxymoron. Despite widespread prejudice and discrimination, however, lesbians and gay men do belong to, participate in, and create families. As psychological research begins to address issues posed by sexual orientation, stereotypes are being challenged, and a more inclusive understanding of families is beginning to take shape.¹

What is known of lesbian and gay families? Psychological research has begun to address issues relevant to

lesbian and gay individuals' families of origin, to couple relationships formed by gay men and lesbians, and to gay and lesbian parenthood. In this article, I describe some principal issues and findings in the last of these areas — work with lesbian mothers, gay fathers, and their children.

There are almost certainly millions of lesbian mothers and gay fathers in the United States today. Most became parents in the context of heterosexual marriages before coming out as gay or lesbian, but increasing numbers of lesbians and gay men are also becoming parents after having come out. Though other routes to parenthood such as adoption are also involved, the largest increases in numbers of

lesbians who are becoming parents seem to be occurring by means of donor insemination. This trend is seen by many observers as significant enough that it has been termed a "lesbian baby boom." Through surrogacy, adoption, and foster care, some gay men are also seeking to become parents. In contrast to the stereotype, then, it would seem that the numbers of lesbian and gay parents, already substantial, are on the rise.²

Although judicial and legislative bodies in this country have often denied child custody and visitation rights on the basis of parental sexual orientation, empirical studies have revealed no association between sexual orientation and psychological characteristics relevant to parenting.^{2,3} Courts have sometimes assumed that gay men and lesbians are mentally ill and hence not fit to be parents, that lesbians are less maternal than heterosexual women and hence do not make good

Feature Editor's Note

This article is based on portions of the author's 1994 article, "Lesbian and Gay Families," *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 3, 62 - 64. Address correspondence to the author at the Department of Psychology, Gilmer Hall, University of Virginia, Charlottesville VA 22903, or via email: CJP@VIRGINIA.edu.

This is the second in a series of two features about lesbian and gay parents. Charlotte J. Patterson presents an overview of research in this area, and an update on the Sharon Bottoms case. This Virginia lesbian mother was sued for custody of her son, Tyler, by her own mother. The Circuit Court of Henrico County awarded custody to the maternal grandmother, and took Tyler away from his mother. This decision was based on the view that Ms. Bottoms's relationship with her female lover was detrimental to Tyler's well-being. The Appeals Court of Virginia recently handed down a decision returning custody of Bottoms' son to her.

Charlotte Patterson served as an expert witness in the case. She reports that the APA joined with other professional groups to submit a brief that summarized the social science research.

The grandmother has indicated her intention to appeal the case to the Supreme Court of Virginia. It is unknown what the chances are that the Supreme Court will hear the case. Regardless, Patterson has pointed out, the decision of the Appeals Court is important in that it takes notice of and gives weight to the findings from psychological and other social science research. The decision is thus a significant victory for psychologists as well as for lesbian and gay families.

NOTES

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2. C. J. Patterson, *Children of lesbian and gay parents*. *Child Development*, 63, 1025 - 1042 (1992); C. J. Patterson, *Children of the lesbian baby boom: Behavioral adjustment, self-concepts, and sex-role identity*. In B. Greene & G. Herek, Eds., *Lesbian and gay psychology: Theory, research, and clinical implications* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 1994).
3. P. J. Falk, *Lesbian mothers: Psychosocial assumptions in family law*. *American Psychologist*, 44, 941 - 947 (1989); C. J. Patterson, *Lesbian and gay parents and their children*. In *Lesbian, gay and bisexual identities across the lifespan*, A. R. D'Augelli & C. J. Patterson, Eds. (Oxford University Press, New York, in press).

mothers, and that lesbians' and gay men's relationships with sexual partners leave little time for parenting behavior. Findings from systematic research have failed to confirm any of these fears. The idea that homosexuality constitutes a mental illness or disorder has of course long been repudiated by APA as well as by every other major professional association in the mental health field. Lesbians and heterosexual women have not been found to differ markedly either in their overall mental health or in their approaches to child rearing, nor have lesbians' romantic relationships been found to detract from the ability to care for children. Research on gay fathers has similarly failed to unearth any reasons to believe them unfit as parents. On the basis of research to date, then, negative assumptions about gay and lesbian adults' fitness as parents are without empirical foundation.

Judicial decision-making and public policies in many jurisdictions have also reflected various concerns about the well-being of children raised by gay or lesbian parents.^{2,3} Judges have voiced fears about the development of children's sexual identity, about other aspects of children's personal or psychological development, and about the social relationships of children reared by gay or lesbian parents. Reflecting common prejudices, judges have sometimes voiced concerns that children living with lesbian or gay parents would be at heightened risk of sexual abuse or be more likely to grow up to be gay or lesbian themselves (an outcome which they apparently view as negative). There is, however, no evidence that the development of children with lesbian or gay parents is compromised in any significant way relative to that among children of heterosexual parents in otherwise comparable circumstances. Indeed, the available evidence suggests that home environments provided by gay and lesbian parents are as likely as those provided by heterosexual parents to support and enable children's psychological growth.²

There is also tremendous diversity among lesbian and gay families with children. Sources of

diversity include individual differences in parents' psychological well-being, parents' involvement in stable romantic relationships, degree of conflict among important adults in a child's life, and related variables. Other important forms of diversity include the economic circumstances and the racial, ethnic, religious, and cultural identities of lesbian and gay families. The scant research to date suggests that children of lesbian mothers are better off when their mothers are in good psychological health, living with a lesbian partner in a supportive milieu.² Much remains to be learned, however, about the many forms of diversity among lesbian and gay families.

Now that the research evidence has begun to address many of the longstanding negative stereotypes about gay and lesbian parenting, the time may have come for exploration of more positive attributes of lesbian and gay families with children. To take only one example, children born to lesbian and/or gay parents via donor insemination grow up with a certainty of having been planned and wanted that few children born as a result of heterosexual sexual relations can match. Research in developmental psychology suggests that "wantedness" is an important asset both for infants and for children. How does this issue play out in our communities, and with what consequences for children growing up in lesbian and gay families? We have much to learn about the possible benefits for children growing up with lesbian and gay parents, and it seems likely that such lessons will enhance our overall understanding of families and of human development.

Overall, the issues of lesbian and gay families are beginning to be recognized as legitimate topics of study. Psychological research is just beginning to examine the role of sexual orientation in human development and in family lives. Despite some notable advances, much important work remains to be done.

Books: *Boston Marriages*

Romance, Yes! Sex, No!

Connie S. Chan

When Esther Rothblum first told me of her interest in writing about “Boston Marriages,” described as primary long-term lesbian relationships where a couple was not having sex, I wondered about my own relationship at the

***Boston Marriages:
Romantic But Asexual
Relationships Among
Contemporary Lesbians,
Esther D. Rothblum and
Kathleen A. Brehony
University of
Massachusetts Press, 1993.***

time. With two very young children, and tons of stress in our relationship, we felt committed to each other but hadn't been sexual since we were pregnant. Esther's assurance that I was not alone, that there were many asexual but committed relationships among lesbians was comforting to me. Yet, three years later, when that relationship fell apart, I made that story into a wry comment which went like this: “When things were not going well between us, and we weren't having sex, I thought I had a Boston marriage. Later, I found out I was wrong. What I *really* had was just a Bad marriage.”

If you read *Boston Marriages*, you won't make the mistake that I did, and wonder about your own relationship and where it fits in. I was delighted to read this book — it fulfilled all of its ambitions, goals and more. At last, the issue of romantic, nonsexual relationships among lesbians is being discussed openly and in an affirmative way. As Oliva Espin, one of the discussants in the book writes, “The lesbian experience is as varied as the lesbian population, and this book addresses one aspect of this experience that is seldom discussed except in negative terms such as ‘bed death’ ” (p. 202).

Rothblum and Bethany take us from the origins of the term “Boston marriage,” used to

refer to unmarried women who lived together in past decades. These women were presumed to be asexual. “Since women in the past century and the beginning of the 20th century were not expected to want genital sex, the women in the Boston marriages were free to express their emotional intimacy and passionate love for each other openly. . . . The assumption by lesbians today is that women in these Boston marriages were in fact sexual with each other,” write Rothblum and Brehony. But there is no record of whether these relationships were sexual, and if they were, the women would have kept the fact of their sexuality a secret.

In contemporary culture, the opposite assumption has prevailed, however — causing some women involved in intimate primary relationships to hide the asexual nature of their attachments from the lesbian community. This book brings the issue “out of the closet” and reclaims the term “Boston marriage” to describe a concept of romantic but asexual relationships between lesbians today. In doing so, it challenges our restrictions about what a lesbian relationship is and exposes our restrictions if we allow ourselves to be bound by *sex* as the defining variable in lesbian relationships. As Marnie Hall suggests, perhaps lesbians should “throw away our ‘Cliffs Notes’ of relationships and write our own story, which would be an intimacy narrative” (p. 17).

Yet *Boston Marriages* goes far beyond just legitimizing the importance of other forms of intimacy in relationships among lesbians. Through discussion of historical background and questioning our lack of understanding of the complexities of intimate and intense relationships, the theoretical essays (by Lillian Faderman, Marnie Hall, JoAnn Loulan, Suzanna Rose, Debra Zand, Marie Cini, and Laura Brown) provide us with fresh and stimulating perspectives of many issues of sexuality and relationships, including the questions: “How do we define a lesbian relationship? What constitutes a romantic involvement? If a couple does not engage in sex, are they still considered lovers? How does a

therapist handle sexual activity and asexuality in couples counseling?”

The theoretical essays are excellent. Presented with a range of challenges about understanding intimacy and sexual activity in a primary relationship, I responded to the different perspectives. The book succeeds in expanding the vocabulary of lesbian culture to incorporate relationships that have not previously described by our language system.

The second part of the book consists of nine personal narratives of women who describe their intimate, but asexual relationships, their “Boston marriages.” Some stories go on a bit too long, and the writing is uneven, but the intensity of the feelings, the pain, the joys, comes through clearly and gives us a sense of the many struggles that relationships present.

The range of relationships in this personal stories section, while reflective of the different types of intimate relationships possible, do reflect two fundamentally different types of relationships: Willing partnerships in which

genital sex does not seem to be an essential component, and others where one partner is not a willing participant in a nonsexual partnership. These are very different situations and the relative desirability and healthiness of a Boston marriage may, ultimately, depend upon the awareness of the partners. As Brehony asks, “Is the individual aware of her own needs and motivations in not being sexual with her partner? Is she blocking her own instincts and nature? Most important, does she know herself and are her choices made with self-knowledge and awareness” (p. 26)? This book provides us with the questions, and a range of answers, all worth mulling over. *Boston Marriages* is a well-written and important book which contributes a great deal to the discourse on sexuality, intimacy, and challenges us to reconsider the very basis of what constitutes not only a lesbian relationship but any intimate primary relationship. I recommend it highly to anyone, but especially to psychologists, as we work to expand our understanding of the complexities of sexuality and relationships.

“When my lesbian friends and acquaintances discussed sex,

it was indirect, in the context of the relationship. We discussed whether to enter, stay in, or leave partnered relationships. I listened to lesbians recount flirtations, declarations of love, arguments with partners, advice from ex-lovers. These stories were full of detail and we analyzed, empathized, gave advice. What we never did was talk about sex. We assumed that couples were sexual. Most of my friends celebrated the anniversary of their relationship on the date they first had sex. Many women broke up with their lovers when they or their lovers had sex with someone else. So sex was mentioned, but it was definitional. In contrast to the enormous amount of information I had about my friends’

relationships, I knew next to nothing about their sexual activity...

There were some women in my lesbian community who lived together and shared long histories together. Sometimes they had been sexual in the past, sometimes they had never had sex with each other. Sometimes they were ex-lovers, both now involved with other women, but there was still a connection that made newcomers to the community assume they were the couple. I knew women married to men who talked about their best female friend in terms that could only be described as romantic lesbians who had been in the convent described the tremendous passion that some nuns had for each other, despite celibacy. I decided to write about these women, although I had only a vague sense of how to define this kind of relationship.”

Reprinted by permission from *Boston Marriages: Romantic But Asexual Relationship Among Contemporary Lesbians.*

Papers and Presentations

The AIDS and Related Attitudes Scale: Scale Development and Refinement

Valerie L. Gold-Neil, Executive Director, HIV: Women's Voices; Paul N. Dixon, University North Texas; Carla A. Tinsley, University of North Texas. *Poster session presented at the 102nd Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Los Angeles, CA, 1994.*

The Development of the AIDS and Related Attitudes Scale (ARAS) is an attempt to address the need for a psychometrically sound instrument that recognizes the multi-dimensionality of attitudes towards people with AIDS. Factor analysis of the original 93-item scale resulted in a 6-factor solution of 74-items. The subscales corresponding to each factor were identified as: Gay/Lesbian Lifestyle (Homonegativism), AIDSphobia, AIDS and Sexual Behavior, Homophobia-Lesbian, Homophobia-Gay, and Fear of Death. Higher scores indicate a more negative attitude. A revised scale, the ARAS-R, was designed to more specifically address attitudes towards women with AIDS. Further refinement of the 74-item ARAS scale involved using confirmatory analysis to determine that the Fear of Death subscale should be dropped (leaving a 68-item scale). Additionally, confirmatory factor analysis was used to verify that the factor structure fits for either males or females (the scales were originally developed from a sample including both genders). Reliability is also presented for males and females. Future research should include similar data analyses for other datasets, to verify that the factor structure is not sample-specific.

Ethnic-Minority Lesbians and Gay Men: Mental Health and Treatment Issues

Beverly Greene. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 62, 243-251. [1994]*

Clinical psychological research has been a part of a significant growth of scholarly literature in mental health that appropriately explores

relevant cultural variables and their effects on both the mental health and treatment of ethnic minority group members. A similar expansion of material seeking to develop affirmative perspectives in the treatment of gay men and lesbians has found its way into the psychological literature. Scarcely any research seeks to explore the particular psychological strengths and vulnerabilities of men and women who are members of both groups. This article reviews literature pertinent to the cultural proscriptions of several ethnic minority groups and their relevance to mental health issues and treatment of gay and lesbian members, as well as a review of potential countertransference dilemmas for therapists.

Difference and Diversity: Gay and Lesbian Couples.

Bianca Cody Murphy. *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services, 1 (2), 5-31. [1994]*

Some therapists believe that they should treat gay and lesbian couples "just like heterosexual couples." Others hold the view that same-sex couples are completely different from heterosexual couples and that only specially trained therapists can work with them. This paper is an attempt to overcome the lack of information about gay and lesbian couples by describing the differences between heterosexual couples and homosexual couples; differences between gay couples and lesbian couples; diversity within both lesbian couples and gay couples; and the therapeutic implications of these differences. The discussion of differences has powerful political implications and is embedded within a larger context of belief systems about gender and sexual orientation. Therapists need to protect against categorizing, essentializing and overgeneralizing about gay and lesbian couples. Although heterosexism, homophobia and sexism affect the dynamics of all gay and lesbian relationships, it is important to recognize that age, class, race, ethnicity, and physical ability, as well as the dynamics of each couple, make each relationship unique. The therapist, whether lesbian, gay, bisexual, or heterosexual, should be

Contacts:

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Beverly Greene can be reached at the Department of Psychology, St. John's University, Jamaica, New York 11439.

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Contacts:
Robin Buhrke can be reached at Counseling and Psychological Services, Duke University, Box 90955, Durham, NC, 27708-0955.

familiar with issues specific to lesbian and gay experience within the dominant society, and, at the same time, be attuned to the idiosyncratic nature of individual couples.

Lesbian and Gay Law Enforcers: Preliminary Findings

Robin A. Buhrke. *Paper presented at the 102nd Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Los Angeles, CA, 1994.*

Lesbian and gay law enforcement personnel often find themselves caught between two conflicting worlds: Law enforcement and the lesbian and gay community. Law enforcement, a field which often prides itself on its machismo, had not traditionally valued lesbian and gay people in general, and lesbian and gay enforcers in particular. The lesbian and gay community oftentimes distrusts law enforcers, often as a result of real or perceived harassment. Lesbian and gay law enforcers may be viewed as "traitors" by both groups.

This paper articulated the experiences of lesbian and gay law enforcement personnel by focusing on the results of interviews conducted with a diverse sample of 59 law enforcement and criminal justice workers. The paper focused on three areas: developmental history, experiences as a lesbian or gay man in law enforcement, and experiences as a law enforcement officer in the lesbian and gay community.

The quality of experiences were affected by at least five factors: size of department, number of open lesbians and gay men, administrative and policy support, "minority" status, and personality. Reactions of law enforcement colleagues and of the gay and lesbian community were categorized as the "goods," the "bad," and the "ugly." Interview passages were used to illustrate experiences.

Regardless of the prices they may or may not have paid, most of the sample who were out of the closet believed that the costs were worth it. Additional findings were presented and discussed.

Research Opportunities

Lesbians Wanted

Participates needed to fill out short survey for lesbian graduate student's dissertation. Anonymity guaranteed. Contact: Lesbian Wellness Survey, UVM-Dewey Hall, Burlington, VT 05405, or phone 802/657-2999.

Looking for a Dissertation or Thesis Topic?

A cross-cultural research project is looking for North American students interested in collecting data in 2-4 country research endeavor on gay male relationships. Translation of questionnaires into English is nearing completion. Data has already been collected in Holland. We are

looking for students interested in collecting data as part of this established protocol, who can then use their data for a dissertation or thesis if so desired. Researchers will be given publication credit in any data they collect. For further information, contact North American Coordinator, John C. Gonsiorek, PhD, 400 Groveland Ave., #1707, Minneapolis, MN, 55403, phone (612) 874-9645.

Psychologists Who Have Had Cancer

Sandra Haber, PhD, Chair of Division 42's Task Force on Psychooncology, would like to speak with psychologists who have had cancer or who have experienced cancer in their family. Dr. Haber can be contacted by mail at 211 West 56 Street, Suite 21 H, NY, NY, 10019 or by phone at (212) 246-6057.

Research Funds Available

The Henry A. Murray Research Center of Radcliffe College is pleased to announce the availability of grant funds for postdoctoral level research drawing on the Murray Center's data resources and for doctoral dissertations in the topic areas listed below. The center also offers a visiting scholars-in-residence program.

The Murray Center is a national repository of social and behavioral sciences data for the study of lives over time with a special focus on the lives of women on such topics as political participation, women and work, family life, sex roles, and mental health. Over 200 studies in the archive are available for secondary analysis, replication or longitudinal follow-up.

The Radcliffe Research Support Program offers small grants of up to \$5,000 to post-doctoral investigators for research drawing on the center's data resources. Funds are provided for travel to the center, duplicating, computer time, assistance in coding data, and other research expenses. **The deadline is April 15.**

The Jeanne Humphrey Block Dissertation Award Program offers a \$2,500 grant to a woman doctoral student. Proposals should focus on sex and gender differences or some developmental issue of particular concern to girls or women. Projects drawing on center data will be given priority, although this is not a requirement. **The application deadline is April 1.**

The Visiting Scholars Program offers office space and access to the facilities of Radcliffe College and Harvard University each year to six to eight scholars who wish to investigate some aspect of women and social change or the study of lives over time. The program does not include a stipend. However, applicants planning to use center data may apply to the Radcliffe Research Support Program. **The application deadline is March 1.**

For more information, contact: Janice Randall, Grants Administrator, Radcliffe College, Ten Garden Street, Cambridge Massachusetts 02138. Phone 617/495-8140.

CALL FOR PAPERS

CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND MENTAL HEALTH

John Wiley & Sons is pleased to invite submission for a new interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal devoted to ethnosociocultural factors in mental health.

Cultural Diversity and Mental Health will feature comprehensive reviews, articles on policy, theory, and assessment, clinically-relevant research reports, and case studies. For instructions on manuscript preparation, please contact the Editor-in-Chief:

Lillian Comas-Díaz, Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief

Cultural Diversity and Mental Health
Transcultural Mental Health Institute
1301 20th Street, Suite 711
Washington, D.C. 20036



AWP Conference Set

The Association for Women in Psychology will hold their 20th annual Feminist Psychology Conference in Indianapolis, March 2-5, 1995.

"Creating the Tapestries of Women's Lives: Spinning, Weaving, and Celebrating" will be the conference theme.

The program incorporates a lifespan spectrum of women's issues from the scientific through the practical and the political. For more information contact: Royda Crose, Center for Gerontology, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306, phone (317) 285-1293.

Job Listings

California School of Professional Psychology

The California School of Professional Psychology, CSPP, founded in 1969, is one of the nation's largest independent schools of professional psychology, with over 2,000 students. CSPP consists of four campuses providing doctoral and master's level education and training through an APA-accredited PhD and PsyD programs in Clinical Psychology and Organizational Psychology. It employs over 500 faculty, staff and administrators with an operating budget of \$28 million.

Dean for Academic Affairs Fresno Campus, Fresno, CA

The Dean for Academic Affairs is a full-time, 12-month administrative appointment at the CSPP-Fresno campus. The Dean serves as the Chief Academic Officer for the academic programs and has

responsibility for the leadership and overall direction of the academic programs at the campus level.

Qualifications: Earned doctorate in Clinical Psychology, or equivalent.

Licensed in California or eligible for licensure, ABPP preferred.

Established record of scholarship and academic leadership.

Substantial experience in academic planning, budget administration, program policy and governance.

Clinical Neuropsychologist Fresno Campus, Fresno, CA

The Clinical Neuropsychologist is a full-time faculty appointment beginning September 1, 1995, for the SPP Fresno Neuropsychology Proficiency Program. The Clinical Neuropsychologist provides course instruction at the graduate level in neuropsychology and other areas related to clinical psychology. The position provides clinical supervision and dissertation supervision, scholarly research production, and participates in

campus governance. Qualifications: Doctoral degree in clinical psychology from an APA-approved program and documented specialized training in neuropsychology. Licensed in California or license eligible. Specialization in Pediatric Neuropsychology and/or fluency in Hypercard and Applescript is desirable. Faculty rank and salary are commensurate with combination of qualifications, credentials, and scholarly record. Sample of neuropsychological report should be included in documentation.

Send letter of application, curriculum vitae or resume, and the names and addresses of 3-5 references to: Linda Phillips - Office of Human Resources, California School of Professional Psychology, 1350 M Street, Fresno, CA 93721. Application review will begin immediately. Deadline is January 30th or until positions are filled.

Kimmel Awarded Fulbright

Douglas C. Kimmel, BA (1965 University of Colorado), PhD (1970 University of Chicago), Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, American Psychological Association, and member of the American Society on Aging, will be teaching in Japan on a Fulbright award at Tokyo Women's Christian University, Tsuda College,

University during 1994-95. His textbook, *Adulthood and Aging: An Interdisciplinary Developmental View (3 ed.)*, published by John Wiley & Sons, was translated into Japanese and published in 1994 by Brain, Shuppan of Tokyo. His book, *Adolescence: A Developmental Transition (2 ed.)*, co-authored with Irving B. Weiner, was published by John Wiley in October, 1994.

The Division 44 Newsletter

The Division 44 Newsletter is published two times a year by the Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian and Gay issues (SPSLGI) in Autumn and Spring. An additional special edition is published prior to APA Convention.

The publication of any advertisement in the Newsletter is not an endorsement of the advertiser of the products or services advertised. Division 44 reserves the right to reject, omit or cancel advertising for any reason.

Submissions to the Division 44 Newsletter are welcome. The deadline for the Spring 1995 newsletter is February 28, 1995.

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Politics As Usual?

Leah Fygetakis

For the last three years, Division 44 has enjoyed having two seats on the Council of Representatives. Prior to 1992, Division 44 had only one seat. The Council is a group of approximately 110-120 individuals who basically run the business of APA, everything from guiding the revision of our ethical principles, to voting on whether or not to buy new real estate. Sometimes, we initiate and advocate for new policies such as banning the military from advertising its internships in the *Monitor* until such time that gays, lesbians and bisexuals are not discriminated against. Or, advocating that APA formally support school psychologists efforts in addressing gay and lesbian issues in the school system.

As in any type of governance, there are often multiple and competing interests among Council members and those who would support us and those who would likely not. It is easy to see that having two or even three Division 44 representatives would increase our vote and our effectiveness over what only one person can do.

We have always been in danger of losing one of our two seats! Each fall, every APA member is mailed an "apportionment Ballot." The way it works is that each member may divide his or her votes among any APA's Divisions, States, or coalitions in whatever combination is wished. Or, one may want to "load" all of the ten votes to the one Division they feel best represents their interests. The number of Council seats that Division 44 gets is determined by how many votes were cast for us as compared to all others.

What you can do— First, expect to receive your ballot early to mid-fall. Do not put it aside, but vote and mail it back immediately. This minimizes it getting lost, misplaced, or forgotten past its deadline. Next, talk to at least two colleagues. They need not even be Division 44 members. Votes can be cast freely and given to

Divisions to which one does not belong. Ask them if they vote. Unfortunately, most people don't, and the reason they don't is because they don't realize how important it is and what their vote will get. You can educate others, and in the process, talk to them about how important Division 44 is to you and ask them if they would consider giving one or more of their ten votes to us. If each Division 44 member voted and got two other people who typically don't vote to give us a portion of their votes, we could have three seats!

This is one time where the old saying, "VOTE EARLY AND OFTEN" can actually work. Please consider giving all ten of your votes to Division 44. If we had not received enough votes for a second seat during '92 and '93, you would not be reading this article, as I would not be writing it.

Editor's Note: Leah Fygetakis has served as one of Division 44's Representatives to APA Council since 1992.

Please Join Us

All social scientists with interests in applying psychological knowledge to the study of lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues are warmly welcomed as members of the Society of the Psychological Study of Lesbian and Gay Issues (SPSLGI) regardless of personal sexual and affectional orientation. Members of the APA may join as Members of Division 44 or Associate Members of SPSLGI. Affiliate membership in SPSLGI is also open to professionals in related fields or to individual members of the APA who would prefer that their affiliation with SPSLGI be held in confidence. Undergraduate or graduate students may become student affiliates in the same way. To join, contact the Division 44 Membership Chair, James S. Fitzgerald, Ph.D., 4015 South Cobb Drive, Suite 275, Smyrna, Georgia 30080, phone (404) 435-5453, fax (404) 435-9357.