

49TH ANNUAL MEETING

SSTAR 2024 SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

SEXUALITY AT THE INTERSECTIONS

April 4-7, 2024 | HYATT REGENCY TORONTO



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Participants will examine the sexualities of different populations, including how these intersect with various aspects of identity.
- Participants will analyze biopsychosocial and cultural influences on sexual health and well-being.
- Participants will explore the latest science and clinical advances in the assessment and treatment of sexual difficulties through an intersectional framework.

Please note that the final agenda is subject to change, and attendees are encouraged to check for updates regularly.

[SSTAR Meetings](#)

WELCOME LETTER

We are thrilled to welcome you to SSTAR's 49th Annual Meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Toronto, Canada. This year's theme, *Sexualities at the Intersections*, recognizes that none of us can be described on a single dimension alone and that our identities and sexualities intersect in complex and meaningful ways. By honouring these complexities and recognizing the varied contextual realities that our lives are embedded in, we develop the skills to see ourselves and our clients more fully and in a more nuanced manner. Furthermore, we are able to tackle timely and interesting research questions and to do so in ways that make the findings relevant to greater members of our society. It is an exciting and challenging time to do this work!

To this end, we have invited an incredible line up of plenary speakers, many of whom are new to SSTAR. We are confident to say that our plenary talks cover topics that we don't often hear too much about at our meetings, despite them coming up often in our clinical and research work! The topics include: sexuality and artificial intelligence, sexuality and aging, the two-sides of the sex/porn addiction coin, ethics in sexual dysfunction research, and race, gender, and sexual orientation! A thread that runs through the 2024 Annual Meeting is the importance of adopting an intersectional lens or framework when conducting our research and working with our clients.

We have two exciting workshops on offer Thursday. The first is focused on putting anti-oppression into sex therapy practice by Rahim Thawer and the second is on the Sexual Grief Effect by Edy Nathan. The ever-popular clinical case on Saturday, led by Dr. Philip Jai Johnson, will feature an inter-cultural couple who are presenting to treatment to explore consensual non-monogamy. We are so fortunate to have Dr. Kathryn Hall and Dr. Cynthia Graham lead our ethics workshop on Sunday where we will hear about sex therapy in the global cultural context.

In addition to the diverse scientific program that we have planned, we have created ample opportunities during our schedule breaks for you to connect with new attendees, colleagues, and friends. With the help of our local hosts—Dr. Trevor Hart and Rahim Thawer—we have a wonderful dinner on Friday evening at Luma. Don't miss out on the cocktail reception and poster session on Thursday night!

Whether you are a first-time attendee, a long-time SSTAR member, a student, clinician, or faculty, we look forward to seeing you in Toronto. SSTAR's Annual Meeting provides us with such a valuable opportunity to connect with one another and actively shape the growth and success of our organization and field.

Samantha Dawson, PhD
2024 Scientific Program Chair

Uzma Rehman, PhD
2024 Scientific Program Co-Chair

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

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

HEALTH AND SAFETY

SSTAR is committed to creating a safe environment for our in-person attendees. While masks are not required, SSTAR strongly encourages the wearing of masks and maintaining safe distances between people. SSTAR does request that attendees be respectful of other people's masking choices.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

SSTAR is foremost committed to fostering clinical sexuality practice and research. In order to fulfill this mission, SSTAR is dedicated to being a welcoming and inclusive environment for all who are interested in human sexuality, including Black, Indigenous or other Persons of Color (BIPOC), individuals from the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, students, as well as early career professionals.

SSTAR recognizes that payment of conference registration fees can be an economic hardship and is therefore offering 4 scholarships for the 2024 Annual Meeting. Each scholarship will cover the registration fee for the annual meeting on Friday and Saturday. Applicants need not be SSTAR members. Click [here](#) to apply.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A land acknowledgement is a first step but not an exclusive statement. We strive to engage in respectful dialogue with Indigenous communities, and work towards educating our staff members on Indigenous history and the vibrant cultures still here today.

ABOUT TORONTO AND INCLUSION

We acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

We see the unifying power of community every day, which is why we commit to standing with Indigenous peoples, listening with a good mind, and supporting communities on their journeys towards a stronger future for generations to come.

HOTEL AND ACCESSIBILITY

The 2024 SSTAR Annual Meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Toronto

370 King Street West

Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 1J9

Phone: (416) 343-1234

Reservations: A block of rooms with a special group rate has been reserved for SSTAR meeting attendees at the Single/Double Room rate of \$216 (USD)/\$289 (CAD). Reserve your room today via the [online portal](#). If calling the hotel, please inform reservations that you are attending the SSTAR 2024 Annual Meeting to receive this special rate. The room block will be released on **Monday, March 4, 2024** so please make your reservation early. After that day, room reservations are subject to availability and prices may go up. Check-in time is 4:00 pm and Check-out time is 11:00 am (EST). For any questions on accessibility and special room accommodations, please call the hotel directly at (416) 343-1234.

CANCELLATION POLICIES

All requests for cancellation refunds must be submitted to the SSTAR office at (847) 647-8832 or info@sstarnet.org prior to **March 15, 2024**. A \$50 USD cancellation administrative fee will be charged. On or after **March 15, 2024**, cancellations will not be eligible for any refunds. Refunds *may* be granted if an attendee is unable to attend the Conference due to a family death, illness, or other extraordinary circumstance. In such a circumstance, the SSTAR office must be contacted prior to the meeting. The Executive Council will review the reason, there is no guarantee it will be granted. No refunds will be granted for any reason after the Conference has begun.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS OR ACCME ACCREDITATION

The SSTAR 2024 Annual Meeting is being planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through joint sponsorship with The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). ACOG has approved the program to receive CE credits for AASECT, APA and NYSED Social Work and NYSED Psychology. The exact breakdown of CE credits is under consideration by these accrediting bodies and will be posted soon.

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

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

THURSDAY, April 4

PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOPS: ADVANCED PRACTICE IN SPECIAL SUBJECTS

7:30 am – 4:30 pm	Meeting Registration
7:30 am – 8:30 am	Continental Breakfast
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Morning Workshop: <i>Putting Anti-Oppression into Sex Therapy Practice</i> Rahim Thawer, MSW, RSW
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch on Own
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Afternoon Workshop: <i>The Sexual Grief Effect: Hide and Seek and Hostage Negotiation</i> Edy Nathan, MA, LCSW, CST
5:30 pm – 6:00 pm	New Member Reception
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	Poster Session/Welcome Reception
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Student/ECP Pizza Party

FRIDAY, April 5

- 7:30 am – 5:30 pm** **Meeting Registration**
- 7:30 am – 8:30 am** **Early Risers Walk and Talk Networking**
Self-directed: meet in the lobby and go for a walk with fellow attendees
- 8:00 am – 9:00 am** **Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 am – 9:15 am** **Welcome Remarks**
SSTAR President: Morag Yule, PhD
Scientific Program Chair: Samantha Dawson, PhD
- 9:15 am – 10:15 am** **PLENARY 1 TOPIC:** Erobotics (sexuality, AI and technology)
Simon Dubé, PhD
- 10:15 am – 11:00 am** **Research Block 1:** Couples' Sexuality
- **Oral Talk:** A dyadic analysis of sexual assertiveness and sexual outcomes in adolescent romantic relationships; Stéphanie Couture, PhD (10 mins)
 - **Data Blitz:** "Intimacy isn't just sex": A thematic analysis of psychosocial support recommendations identified by individuals with endometriosis and their partners; Serena Corsini-Munt, PhD (5 mins)
 - **Data Blitz:** Appreciation of sex therapy among HIV sero-different male couples; Francesco Avallone, MSc (5 mins)
 - **Data Blitz:** Investigating the associations between cisgender women's orgasm experiences, perceived partner responsiveness and sexual wellbeing among community women and their partners; Charlene Belu, PhD (5 mins)
 - **Data Blitz:** Changes and support factors in couples' sexual well-being following a recent pregnancy loss: A qualitative study; Gracielle Schwenck, BSc (5 mins)
 - **Oral Talk:** Is spontaneous sex ideal? Beliefs and perceptions of spontaneous and planned sex and sexual satisfaction in romantic relationships; Katarina Kovacevic, MSc (10 mins)
- 11:00 am – 11:20 am** **Break**
- 11:20 am – 12:20 pm** **PLENARY 2 TOPIC:** Sexuality and Aging
Jane Fleishman, PhD
- 12:20 pm – 1:30 pm** **Lunch on Own**
- 12:20 pm – 1:30 pm** **Lunch and Learn for Students Only (Space limited)**
- 1:30 pm – 2:00 pm** **Research Block 2:** New Advances in Sex Therapy
- **Oral Talk:** HOLD me: A pilot study of cognitive-behavioral couple therapy for sexual interest/arousal disorder; Katrina Bouchard, PhD (10 mins)
 - **Oral Talk:** Virtual reality exposure therapy for sexual aversion: a proof-of-concept study; Valerie Lapointe, PhD (10 mins)
 - **Oral Talk:** Unmasking the impact of biotemperament: Overcontrolled temperament in sex therapy; Thomas Murray, Jr., PhD (10 mins)

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm **Research Panel:** Phenomenological Research Methods in Studying Sexual Health

- **Panel Presentation 1:** Using descriptive phenomenology to understand the impact of interstitial cystitis (IC) on women's sexual experiences; Hannah Richardson, RP(Q)
- **Panel Presentation 2:** Understanding the lived experiences of people with sexual difficulties resulting from using and discontinuing antidepressants; Emily Rice, MA
- **Panel Presentation 3:** "Long-acting *reversible* contraception" Who controls women's experiences with IUDs?; Hailey DiCaita, MA
- **Panel Presentation 4:** Introducing phenomenological methodology in sexual health research; Diana Scamolla, BA
- **Panel Presentation 5:** Using phenomenology for optimizing sexual experiences; Peggy Kleinplatz, PhD

3:30 pm – 3:50 pm **Break**

3:50 pm – 4:50 pm **PLENARY 3 TOPIC:** Research Ethics in Sexual Dysfunction
Ariella Binik, PhD

4:50 pm – 5:30 pm **Research Block 3:** Porn and Compulsive Sex

- **Oral Talk:** How do partners communicate about pornography use? Current evidence, treatment implications, and directions for future research; Uzma Reham, PhD (10 mins)
- **Data Blitz:** Pornography and pride: Antagonism and perceived addiction to pornography; Joshua Grubbs, PhD (5 mins)
- **Data Blitz:** A portrait of women's pornography use motivations and frequency of use in different age groups; Anaïka François, BSc (5 mins)
- **Data Blitz:** Impulsivity and compulsivity's associations with compulsive sexual disorder across 42 countries; Émilie Gaudet, BA (5 mins)
- **Oral Talk:** The potential impact of a gap in romantic partners' moral incongruence toward pornography on their sexual and relationship satisfaction cross-sectionally and over time; Aurélie Michaud, MSc (10 mins)

5:30 pm **Time to Explore Toronto on Your Own**

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm **Group Dinner at Luma (if registered for and pre-paid)**

SATURDAY, April 6

- 7:00 am – 8:00 am** **Early Risers Walk and Talk Networking**
Self-directed: meet in the lobby and go for a walk with fellow attendees
- 7:30 am – 12:00 pm** **Meeting Registration**
- 7:30 am – 8:30 am** **Continental Breakfast**
- 7:45 am – 8:30 am** **Member Breakfast and Business Meeting**
- 8:30 am – 9:15 am** **Research Block 4: Sexuality Across the Lifespan**
- **Data Blitz:** Love and Loss: Longitudinal associations between Perinatal Grief and Sexual well-being for couples after a pregnancy loss; David Allsop, MSc (5 mins)
 - **Data Blitz:** Support never gets old: Associations between partner support and sexual, relationship and life satisfaction among older heterosexual couples; Noémie Bigras, PhD (5 mins)
 - **Data Blitz:** Extending the study of purity culture to the South Asian context: Implications for understanding South Asian women's sexuality; Taranjot Bedi-Padda, BA (5 mins)
 - **Data Blitz:** Being lovers and parents: Associations between role conflict and daily sexual well-being in new parents couples; Noémie Beaulieu, PhD (5 mins)
 - **Data Blitz:** Why I feel obligated to use sexting? The roles of trauma, attachment, and sexual orientation; Audrey-Ann Lefebvre, PhD (5 mins)
 - **Data Blitz:** Understanding sexual functioning in psychotic disorders: A validation of the Multidimensional Sexuality Questionnaire; Justin Lamontagne, BSc (5 mins)
- 9:15 am – 10:15 am** **PLENARY 4 TOPIC: Sex/Porn Addiction**
Nikky Prause, PhD
David Ley, PhD
- 10:15 am – 10:30 am** **Break**
- 10:30 am – 11:00 am** **Research Block 5: Evidence-based Practices for Sexual Dysfunction**
- **Oral Talk:** Towards accessible syntheses of evidence-based practices for treating sexual dysfunctions: Preliminary goals, design, and discussion; Stéphanie Gauvin, PhD (20 mins)
 - **Oral Talk:** Sex therapy and sexual medicine's biopsychosocial model requires re-Examination; Michael Perelman, PhD (10 mins)
- 11:00 am – 12:30 pm** **Clinical Case Presentation**
Presenter: Philip Jai Johnson, PhD, CPsych
Discussant: TBA
- 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm** **Lunch and Poster Award Presentations**
- 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm** **PLENARY 5 TOPIC: Race, Sexual Orientation, Gender**
Paz Galupo, PhD

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm **Research Block 6:** Sexual and Relational Well-being: Measurement and Change Over Time

- **Oral Talk:** Individual and relational wellbeing among monogamous and non-monogamous people of diverse sexual orientations: An invariance and equivalence study; Ellora Vilkin, BA (10 mins)
- **Oral Talk:** Development of a comprehensive and inclusive measure of sexuality wellbeing using participant reported outcomes; Megan Henkelman, MSc (10 mins)
- **Oral Talk:** Longitudinal changes in sexual identity during adolescence and their associations with sexual wellbeing; Alice Girouard, BA (10 mins)

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm **SMSNA Invited Lecture:** Oncosexuality in Sub Saharan Africa
Daniela Wittmann, PhD, MSW

3:30 pm – 3:45 pm **Break**

3:45 pm – 4:05 pm **2024 Leiblum Student Research Award Presentation**

Recipient: Kiarah O'Kane, BA (she/they) | *Associations between genital self-image and individuals' own and perceived partner sexual satisfaction*

4:05 pm – 5:20 pm **Research Block 7:** Individuals' and Couples' Sexuality

- **Oral Talk:** Preliminary efficacy of a psychoeducational intervention on autonomous sexual motivation and sexual wellbeing: A pilot study; Erin McClung, BSc (10 mins)
- **Oral Talk:** Receiving and providing partner sexual autonomy support in daily life: Implications for need fulfillment and well-being; Ariel Shoikhedbrod, MA (10 mins)
- **Data Blitz:** Looking beyond the chair: Psycho-Perceptual predictors of sexual distress and sexual satisfaction in individuals living with spinal cord Injury; Marina Gérard, BA (5 mins)
- **Data Blitz:** In the mood: Daily and longitudinal associations between interpersonal emotion regulation during relationship conflict and couples' sexual well-being; Grace Wang, BSc (5 mins)
- **Data Blitz:** Associations between multidimensional perfectionism, sexual function, sexual distress and sexual satisfaction in adult couples; Noémie Viens, BPsy (5 mins)
- **Data Blitz:** Does emotion regulation mediate the associations between insecure attachment and relationship satisfaction among couples coping with SIAD? A dyadic longitudinal study; Catherine Hamel, BA (5 mins)
- **Data Blitz:** We're no longer having sex: Exploring sexual inactivity in couples seeking relationship therapy; Katherine Péloquin, PhD (5 mins)
- **Oral Talk:** "They won't work with me,": And other client experiences when attempting to discuss sexological topics in therapy; Karen Washington, LMFT (10 mins)
- **Oral Talk:** Sex positive spirituality in psychotherapy; Sue Browning, MDiv and Steward Smith, PhD (10 mins)

5:20 pm – 5:40 pm **2024 Health Professional Book Award**

Recipient: Lucy Fielding, PhD, MA, LMHC (she/they, elle/iel) | *Trans Sex: Clinical Approaches to Trans Sexualities and Erotic Embodiments*

Exceptional Merit Recipient: Suzanne Iasenza, PhD | *Transforming Sexual Narratives: A Relational Approach to Sex Therapy*

5:40 pm – 5:50 pm **The Sexual Tipping Point Award presented by the MAP Education and Research Foundation**

5:50 pm – 6:00 pm **Closing Remarks**

SSTAR President: Morag Yule, PhD

Scientific Program Chair: Samantha Dawson, PhD

Passing of the torch to Uzma Rehman, PhD, Scientific Chair 2025!

6:00 pm **Time to Explore Toronto on Your Own**

SUNDAY, April 7

ETHICS POSTCONFERENCE WORKSHOP

8:30 am – 9:00 am **Meeting Registration**

8:30 am – 9:00 am **Continental Breakfast**

9:00 am – 12:00 pm **Ethics Workshop:** The Privileging of Pleasure: Sex Therapy in Global Cultural Context
Kathryn Hall, PhD
Cynthia Graham, PhD

SSTAR 2024 ANNUAL MEETING – April 4-7, 2024

Registration Form

- Online Registration:** Registration is available to all online. Simply visit sstarnet.org/meetings/ to register
- E-Mail:** Please complete information below (Please print) and email to info@sstarnet.org

Registrant Full Name _____

Degree(s) _____

License# _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Email _____ Phone _____

All Pricing and Payment are in US Dollars – Note there will be no refunds after March 15, 2024.

Cancellations received before March 15th will incur a \$50.00 administrative fee.

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

Registration Fees (USD Only)	Associate/ Full Member	Non- Member	ECP Member	ECP Non- Member	Student Member	Student Non- Member
Thursday Workshop AM #1 9:00am – 12:00pm	\$225	\$250	\$150	\$225	\$100	\$150
Thursday Workshop PM #2 1:30pm – 4:30pm	\$225	\$250	\$150	\$225	\$100	\$150
Friday/Saturday Annual Mtg 8:00am – 5:10pm	\$575	\$785	\$300	\$375	\$175	\$225
Sunday Ethics Workshop 9:00am – 12pm	\$225	\$250	\$150	\$225	\$100	\$150
Continuing Education Credits	ACOG	AASECT	APA	NASW	NYSED (SW)	NYSED (PSY)
CE Fees (Circle all needed)	\$75	\$35	\$35	\$35	\$35	\$0
Friday Outing	Student		Non-Student		Guest	
Dinner and drinks at Luma on Friday at 6 pm ET	\$50		\$100		\$100	

TOTAL FEES (USD)\$ _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

☐ Check (made payable to SSTAR in USD only) ☐ Credit Card

Cardholder Name _____

Billing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____