

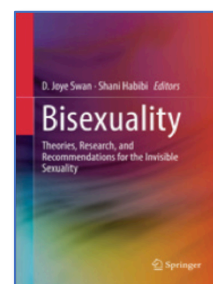


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For Immediate Release

23rd Annual LGBTQI Psychotherapy Conference

The Lesbian and Gay Psychotherapy Association of Southern California, Inc. (LAGPA) announces its Twenty-Third Annual LGBTQI Psychotherapy Conference. The conference is a one-day event co-hosted and co-sponsored by Antioch University Los Angeles and the LGBT Specialization. The conference is being held Sunday November 11, 2018 in Los Angeles and presents academic research and expertise on LGBTQI issues and concerns to professionals working with these clients in their counseling practices. The conference is designed to meet the educational needs of psychiatrists, psychologists, LCSW, LMFT, MSW, interns, and students of psychology, and earns continuing education credits from APA. Approximately 100 professionals are expected to attend.

This year is LAGPA's 25th Anniversary since its inception in 1992. To honor that achievement, D. Joye Swan and Shani Habibi will be the co-keynote speakers. They are editors of *Bisexuality: Theories, Research, and Recommendations for the Invisible Sexuality* (Springer, 2018 ISBN 978-3-319-71535-3) and recognized authorities in their field. This groundbreaking volume brings together a diverse body of sexual, behavioral, and social science research on bisexuality. The book argues for a clear, evidence-based definition of bisexuality and standardized measures for assessing sexual orientation.



The book's deep trove of findings illuminates the experiences of bisexual men and women in key aspects of life, as well as common mental health issues in the face of stigma, prejudice, and outright denial from other sexualities. It further examines the paradoxical invisibility of bisexuality even as society and science have become more inclusive of lesbian women and gay men.

The Authors will be discussing several topics related to the book that center on the impact of bisexual invisibility including, mental health outcomes, binegativity and lack of community, and the false conflation of sexual minorities in social science research.



D. Joye Swan, PhD

Dr. Swan is Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology and Social Sciences at Woodbury University. She received her doctorate in Applied Social Psychology from Claremont Graduate University and has been studying sexual behavior for over twenty-five years. The common feature in all of her research is using social psychological theory to understand and change stigma and prejudice in relation to sexual minorities beginning with her research on aversive discrimination against gay men to her most recent research on defining, labeling, and understanding the origins and impact of biphobia. Along with Dr. Habibi, she has recently completed two large-scale studies, which follow up on and expand their research on how heterosexuals define bisexuality and under what conditions they will apply that definition to either males or females.



Shani Habibi, PhD

Dr. Shani Habibi is an Associate Professor and the Director of the Masters' in Science program at Mount Saint Mary's University. Her main research interests are in the areas of sexuality with a focus on bisexuality. She is trained as a Cognitive Behavioral Therapist as well as a Systemic Therapist and has treated clients in a variety of clinical settings, including bisexuals. Currently, she educates marriage and family therapists on how to treat bisexuals in a clinical setting and is on the board of the Lesbian and Gay Psychotherapy Association (LAGPA).

Sponsors in prior years include: Sexual Recovery Institute, Elements Behavioral Health, The Institute for Sexual Health, The Trevor Project, Vista Del Mar, PFLAG, Twin Town Treatment Centers, the Los Angeles LGBT Center Mental Health Services, Michael's House, Antioch University, University of Southern California, Mount Saint Mary's University, and many others.

About LAGPA

The Lesbian and Gay Psychotherapy Association of Southern California, Inc. (LAGPA) was established in 1992 as an organization of mental health professionals interested in the psychological well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals. This year represents its Silver 25th Anniversary. LAGPA provides a wide variety of activities designed to strengthen professional knowledge and competence in the provision of mental health services. LAGPA exists to join mental health professionals together for academic and social events, to provide educational community outreach, and to foster and promote a positive identity for members of the LGBT community. LAGPA events include: academic forums, social events, professional women's events, and the annual LGBTQI Psychotherapy Conference. Members also receive a quarterly newsletter, a membership listing on the LAGPA website and the on-line directory. LAGPA is an accredited provider of continuing

education for Clinical Psychologists, Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT) through the American Psychological Association (APA). For further information, visit our Website at: www.lagpa.org.

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