Tuesday, June 25, 2013

1. Framing Sexuality & Identity, with Robyn Ochs
9am – 4:30pm

Identity and sexuality are complicated. What do recent studies show about how people self-identify? What does this data reveal or conceal? In this experiential workshop we will employ several workshop exercises to deepen our own understanding of sexual orientation labeling. Included in our focus will be identity journeys over time; emerging identities; the complex interaction between gender identity and sexual orientation labels; and the effect of our individual location (including nationality, geography, age, race, religion, and more) on how we identify. Interested participants will be given the opportunity to share their own favorite tools for teaching about these issues.

Robyn Ochs, Speaker, Teacher, Writer, & Activist

2. The "Fundamentals" of Engaging the Intersections of Christianity and LGBTQ Experiences in the Classroom and Beyond, with Jamie Washington
9am - 4:30pm

Have you ever felt like talking to some Christians about LGBTQ issues is a no-win situation? Do you feel like as a LGBTQ person of faith that your voice gets dismissed or minimized? Have you experienced religion as a wedge issues between heterosexual people of color and white LGBTQ folks? Well, let's talk about it. This day-long institute will walk you through the "fundamentals" for staying engaged in a conversation that is both honoring and challenging to all it involves, including best practices for facilitating dialogues across difference. Whether we are in the classroom or on the campus quad, this session will address how to engage and move beyond the "shut down" statements and help each of us learn better ways of coping with people who simply see it differently.

Jamie Washington, Founder and President, Washington Consulting Group
3. Culturally Competent Approaches for Addressing Transgender Issues in Higher Education, with Willy Wilkinson
9am - Noon

This workshop will describe the breadth of terms, identities, and concepts associated with transgender communities, as well as the myriad socioeconomic, health, and legal issues that transgender people face. Participants will learn to utilize culturally appropriate language and behavior for addressing and working with transgender populations, and develop culturally competent organizational systems and service approaches for working with transgender individuals and families. Interactive, solutions-oriented, and fun, this workshop provides opportunities for learning and problem solving at all knowledge levels. This workshop is for educators, administrators, and students who want to incorporate transgender issues into the curriculum and create trans-inclusive educational settings.

Willy Wilkinson, Writer & Public Health Consultant

4. Fostering Multivariate Inclusion: Multiple Marginalized Identities and the Interplay of Sexuality, with Billy Curtis
1:30pm – 4:30pm

Many LGBT students are also members of other marginalized and disenfranchised communities including race, disability, ethnicity, and socio-economic status. Students have a fair expectation that support service providers and faculty infuse their programs and curricula with sensitivity to their experiences. It is also an imperative for us to engage in continued dialogue about the simultaneous effects of homophobia, transphobia, ablism, racism, etc. on various portions of the LGBT community. We are also challenged with the changing experiences of LGBT youth coming to our campus and must foster an awareness of what it means to engage in intergenerational dialogue. Join us and share your questions, challenges, and successes for creating inclusive curricula and programs for LGBTQ students who often feel they must choose between being within the LGBT community or their other identity communities.

Billy Curtis, Executive Director, Multicultural, Gender, and Sexuality Centers, University of California, Berkeley
Wednesday, June 26, 2013

1. Developing and Expanding LGBTQ Courses, Concentrations and Programs, with Molly Merryman and Kenneth Valente
9am - 4:30pm

LGBTQ courses, concentrations, and programs can be created (and preexisting programs expanded) to fit specific curricular needs at any type of institution. This workshop will provide a guided forum of best practices and models developed by attendees and presenters, in order to spark ideas about transforming curriculum and improving student learning. We will provide diverse examples of courses, concentrations, and programs that work in a variety of institutional settings. We will also engage in a critical conversation about future directions in LGBTQ and sexuality studies. This session is intended for faculty and administrators interested in developing these courses, concentrations, and programs, as well as for those wanting to improve or update existing offerings.

Molly Merryman, Associate Professor of Sociology and Co-coordinator of LGBT Studies, Kent State University
Kenneth Valente, Professor of Mathematics & LGBT Studies, Colgate University

2. Sexual Literacy & Its Impact on Policy & Human Rights, with Gil Herdt
9am – 4:30pm

Research on sexual orientation and changing attitudes toward marriage rights in the United States reveals how changing sexual and gender socialization and changes in attitudes and beliefs regarding homosexuality have helped life for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth over the past two decades. This workshop begins by tracing the cultural history and environment of policies, court decisions, and political maneuvers in response to the question of "same-sex" marriage. It considers the generational barrier between older and younger gay and lesbian individuals, and community formation that occurred since 1990 in the context of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Then we will examine fluctuations of public opinion polling from 1989 to 2009. In the bulk of the workshop we will focus on emerging, positive research on the resiliency, strength, and future aspirations of LGBTQ youth. The workshop will also consider how to engage with policy studies and advocates through such research.

Gil Herdt, Professor and Chair, Graduate Program in Human Sexuality, California Institute of Integral Studies
9am – Noon

As campuses move from "Race" based models of diversity to a "Social Justice" frame work that engages issues of inclusion, power, privilege and oppression, LGBT issues are becoming more central. This movement has created both opportunities and challenges. Engaging LGBT issues as they intersect with other dynamics of inclusion requires a level of awareness and skills that are not present in most campus leaders. Microaggressions, intergenerational conversations, creation of new offices, merging offices and courses are just some of the issues that are a part of this dynamic process. This session will offer key skills and tools for greater effectiveness.

Jamie Washington, Founder and President, Washington Consulting Group

4. Creating a Trans-Inclusive Campus: Best Practices and Lessons Learned, with Nancy Jean Tubbs
1:30pm – 4:30pm

How are we creating trans-inclusive campuses for students, staff, and faculty? What educational campaigns, initiatives, policies, and procedures are best practices for addressing gender identity and expression in the college environment? Moving beyond Trans 101, we will explore lessons learned from creating trans-inclusive change on our campuses and envision next steps.

Nancy Jean Tubbs, Director, LGBT Resource Center, University of California, Riverside
Thursday, June 27, 2013

1. Beyond Queering Curriculum: Transformative Teaching & Curriculum Development, with Deborah Anna Brown
9am – 4:30pm

This workshop will focus in great detail on the process of designing and creating curriculum based on queer pedagogies and the transformative teaching approach. Using critical pedagogy as the framework for developing a highly transformative curriculum, this hands-on workshop engages participants in the actual design steps of transformative teaching. In this model, the teacher acts as mediator/scholar-activist and builds from prior student knowledge to promote active community engagement and independent critical thinking skills that traverse traditional learning outcomes. Participants will share examples and strategies for integrating queer pedagogical content, assignments, and community-based projects into curriculum. The workshop will provide faculty with opportunities to work with their own course materials to explore how to integrate these learning strategies into their coursework.

Deborah Anna Brown, Lecturer, Sexuality Studies, San Francisco State University

2. Expanding the Bridge: Intergenerational Dialogue and Story-Telling for Queer Educators, Leaders, and Allies, with Matthew Bronson and Shoshana Simons
9am – 4:30pm

One of the critical leverage points in the Expanding the Circle project is the bridge between generations of those of us committed to this work, a bridge that is often fragile or non-existent. Shifting notions of identity have added new categories and radically transformed the social landscape (as is particularly apparent in coastal urban centers or "bubbles" like the venue of this conference). Two practical and powerful means available to build and strengthen this bridge are story-telling and intergenerational dialogue. What knowledge and wisdom do queer educators, leaders, and allies in higher education offer to the contemporary generation of students? What does the current generation of students have to bring across the bridge from their increasingly "post-gay" world? In this highly interactive workshop you will learn contemplative, somatic, expressive, and performance-based arts practices to share your genealogy as a queer educator, student, and ally in dialogue with others. In this temporary learning community, we will collectively claim our storied legacy as a way of renewing ourselves and embodying a more humane and just world.

Matthew Bronson, Director of Academic Assessment and Associate Professor, California Institute of Integral Studies
Shoshana Simons, Chair of Expressive Arts Therapy Program and Professor, Transformative Inquiry, California Institute of Integral Studies
3. One More River to Cross: The Intersection of Racism and Heterosexism,
with Jamie Washington
9am – Noon

"Gay issues are not civil rights issues, they are a choice!" "Racism and Homophobia is the same thing, I don't understand why people of color don't get that." As a Latina lesbian, it's often hard to find a community where I don't have to be on guard". "Being Asian and gay is who I am, but very few people know that". "It's because of the homophobia in the Black community that Proposition 8 passed". Do these comments sound familiar? Have you ever felt shut down or confused in the conversation about which is worse? Do you wish that people could just see oppression as wrong regardless of its manifestation? This half day session will invite participants on a journey to understanding the similarities and difference in racism and heterosexism and how we all can work more effectively together to create a more socially just campus community.

Jamie Washington, Founder and President, Washington Consulting Group

4. From Lesbians in the 70s to LGBTQQIs in the 21st Century: Pathways to Sexualities and Genders, with Sarah F. Pearlman
9am – Noon

Using multiple lenses, this workshop will explore the various and divergent pathways to lesbian, queer, and female-to-male (FTM) sexual and gender identities. Included will be the emergence of lesbian feminism and politicization of lesbian and transgender identities, the surge in queer identity, FTM sex transition in the early 1990s, the many ways of being transgender, identity conflicts, and changing family reactions to sexual orientation and sex reassignment. Workshop participants will be invited to share their experiences and perspectives.

Sarah F. Pearlman, Writer and Associate Professor Emeritus, Clinical Psychology, University of Hartford
5. Getting Bi: Unpacking Biphobia and Creating a Culture of Inclusion, with Robyn Ochs
1:30pm – 4:30pm

A 2011 Williams Institute Report found that half of the LGB population self-identifies as bisexual. And recent research points to disparities in health risks, with bisexual individuals engaging more often in high-risk behavior and demonstrating poorer health outcomes. Yet there is little direct attention given to this population on campuses or by LGBT advocacy organizations. In this interactive half-day session, we will review existing research and explore various definitions of bisexuality and other labels claimed by people who occupy the space between the binaries. We will look at some of the challenges to understanding and representing this often-overlooked segment of the LGBT community and brainstorm strategies for supporting bisexual people on our campuses.

Robyn Ochs, Speaker, Teacher, Writer, & Activist

6. Hidden Communities-Online Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Programs, with Toi Thibodeaux
1:30pm – 4:30pm

This workshop will feature a brief overview of the Peer Connections Mentoring Program at UC Riverside. Peer Connections is the online peer chat and mentoring program that serves as a national model for providing services for current student populations outside of the classroom or campus center. Since 2005, it has helped lend support and broaden opportunities for students (both LGBT and allies) via its anonymous online chat rooms. The workshop will also allow participants to learn more about providing virtual support spaces through an interactive Q&A discussion.

Toi Thibodeaux, Program Coordinator, LGBT Resource Center, University of California, Riverside
7. Do Ask, Do Tell, and Listen: Perspectives on Major Gifts Fundraising for LGBTQ Organizations and Initiatives, with Tom Buchanan and Charles Wilmoth 1:30 – 4:30pm

As educators and administrators, we often find ourselves in a fundraising capacity as we seek to advance our LGBTQ initiatives on campus through resource development. Foundation support and individual giving represent two strategic channels for bringing resources to an educational or LGBTQ advocacy related project. After an introductory overview on major gifts fundraising, there will be brief presentations by diverse members of a 3 - 5 person panel representing foundation staff, fundraising professionals, and individual donor/philanthropists. Following a moderated Q & A dialogue with the panelists, the afternoon will conclude with two discussions groups, one focusing on foundation fundraising and one on individual major gift fundraising. This workshop will be valuable for seasoned colleagues who need updated development training, as well as educational professionals who are new to the philanthropic landscape.

Tom Buchanan, Director of Development, Institute for LGBT Studies, University of Arizona, Tucson
Charles Wilmoth, Associate Director of Development, California Institute of Integral Studies

Closing Reception and Keynote: 5pm – 9pm

Keynote
Out for Justice: Emerging Challenges at the LGBT Tipping Point, with Kate Kendell

As our attention is hyper focused on the Prop 8 and Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and the impending June ruling, it is clear that LGBT civil rights are taking center stage on the national level. While battles in the courtroom shape the future for LGBT people across the nation, the work is far from over once the rulings are handed down. Whether we are engaging members of the campus community or the general public, as LGBT advocates we find ourselves at the tipping point on several pressing issues including immigration reform, healthcare access, employment, parenting rights, and marriage equality. How do we prioritize our commitments to education and social justice? What are the diverse alliances that are needed across our institutions and communities to foster dialogue and change? Highlighting the initiatives of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, this keynote is a call to action. We must forge new paths to meet the current challenges at the LGBT tipping point in order to create safer homes, safer jobs, safer campuses, and a more just world.

Kate Kendell, Executive Director, National Center for Lesbian Rights