



sheff | consulting

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Summary

Dr. Elisabeth Sheff is an expert in gender and sex minorities, with specialties in polyamory, BDSM, and LGBTQ+ legal issues. Sheff has served as an expert in family, criminal, civil, and military cases. With three decades studying polyamorous families with kids and BDSM, Dr. Sheff is one of the leading experts on unconventional relationships. Sheff has a PhD in sociology and is a Certified Sexuality Educator. Media outlets from the New York Times, NPR, and the BBC to New York Magazine, Vogue, and The Atlantic have recognized Dr. Sheff as an expert in interviews. Dr. Sheff has written four books and over 30 academic articles on polyamory, BDSM, and gender/sex/relationship diversity.

Education

- PhD** University of Colorado, Boulder, Sociology
Dissertation: "Gender, Family & Sexuality: Exploring Polyamorous Communities"
- BA** Sonoma State University, Women's Studies
Graduated Cum Laude
Minored in Communications, Sociology, and Modern Dance

Certifications

- Certified Sexuality Educator** 2011 - present
American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors & Therapists
- Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian Ad Litem** 2011-2017
Fulton County Juvenal Court, Atlanta GA

Military Contractor Authorization

Registered as Sheff Consulting

- CAGE: 8BVL5
- DUNS: 117102240

Publications

Books

- Sheff, Elisabeth. 2020. Children in Polyamorous Families: Research Findings in Brief.
- Sheff, Elisabeth. 2016. When Someone You Love is Polyamorous. Thorntree Press.
- Sheff, Elisabeth. 2015. Stories from the Polycule: Real Life in Polyamorous Families. Thorntree Press.
- Sheff, Elisabeth. 2013. The Polyamorists Next Door: Inside Multiple Partner Relationships and Families. Rowman and Littlefield.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles & Book Chapters

- **Sheff, Elisabeth** and Labriola, Kathy. 2025. Polyamorous Elders: The OGs of Sex-Positivity in *Positive Sexuality: A Promising Future of Sex Research, Education, and Practice*. Pgs. 107 - 126. Routledge.
- Mogilski, J. K., Miller, G., Jonason, P. K., Grunt-Mejer, K., Varella Valentova, J., Balzarini, R., Rodrigues, D. L., **Sheff, E.**, Al-Shawaf, L., Csajbók, Z., Thomas A. G., David-Barrett, T., Giosan, C., Kruger, D. J., Ley, D., Lehmilller, J., Schechinger, H., Moors, A., Ciaffoni, S., Kennair, L. E. O., Whyte, S., Štěrbová, Z., Bártová, K., Witherspoon, R., Žemojtel-Piotrowska, M., Prokop, P., Zeigler-Hill, V., Schmitt, D., Saribay, A., Lipnicka, M., Goláňová, I., Hampikian, E., Costello, W., Gottlieb, L., Cascalheira, C. J., & Larva, M. (2025). How do people maintain consensual non-monogamy?: An international development and validation of the Multiple Relationships Maintenance Scale (MRMS). *Archives of Sexual Behavior*.
- **Sheff, Elisabeth**, and Hope A. Smith. 2022. "Social Class and Polyamory." *The Handbook of Consensual Non-Monogamy: Affirming Mental Health Practice* (2022): 315.
- **Sheff, Elisabeth**, Rhoten, Kimberly, & Lane, Jonathan. 2021. A Whole Village: Polyamorous Families and the Best Interests of the Child Standard. *Cornell Journal of Law & Public Policy*, 31, 287.
- Rhoten, Kimberly, **Sheff, Elisabeth**, and Lane, Jonathan. 2021. U.S. Family Law Along the Slippery Slope: Lessons for Polyamorous Parents from LGBTQ Family Litigation. *Sexualities*. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/136346072111061485>
- Sheff, Elisabeth. 2021. Kinky sex gone wrong: legal prosecutions concerning consent, age play, and death via BDSM. *Archives of sexual behavior*, 1-11.

- Sheff, Elisabeth. 2020. Polyamory Is Deviant—But Not for the Reasons You May Think. *Deviant Behavior*, 41(7), 882-892.
- Pallotta-Chiarolli, Maria, **Sheff, Elisabeth**, and Mountford, Ruby. 2020. Polyamorous Parenting in Contemporary Research: Developments and Future Directions. In *LGBTQ-Parent Families* (pp. 171-183). Springer, Cham.
- Sheff, Elisabeth. 2018. "Marriage, Definition and Forms" in *Encyclopedia of Intimate and Family Relationships*. Pgs. 721-3. Macmillon.
- Sheff, Elisabeth. 2016. "Resilient Polyamorous Families" in *Critical & Experimental: Dimensions in Gender and Sexual Diversity* (pgs. 257-280). Edited by Karian, Previn. Eastleigh, UK: Resonance Publications
- Kieran, Rachel, and **Sheff, Elisabeth**. 2016. "Distinguishing Between Intimate Partner Violence and BDSM/Kinky Sex in the Therapist's Office and the Emergency Room" in *Critical & Experimental: Dimensions in Gender and Sexual Diversity* (Pgs. 141 – 159). Edited by Karian, Previn. Eastleigh, UK: Resonance Publications.
- **Sheff, Elisabeth** and Tesene, Megan. 2015. "Consensual Non-Monogamies in Industrialized Nations" in the *Handbook of Sexualities* edited by DeLamater, John and Plante, Rebecca. Pgs 223-242. New York: Springer.
- Sheff, Elisabeth. 2015. "Polyamorous Parenting" in *The Sage Encyclopedia of LGBTQ Studies* edited by Goldberg, Abbie. Thousand Oaks: Sage.
- Sheff, Elisabeth. 2014. "Not Necessarily Broken: Redefining Success when Polyamorous Relationships End" in *Selves, Symbols and Sexualities: Contemporary Readings*, edited by Newmahr, Staci and Weinberg, Thomas. Chapter 14, 201 - 214. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Goldfeder, Mark and **Sheff, Elisabeth**. 2013. "Children in Polyamorous Families: A First Empirical Look," *The Journal of Law and Social Deviance*. Volume 5, pages 150 – 243.
- Sheff, Elisabeth. 2013. "Why do Some People Feel Threatened by Others' Sexual Orientations?" in *100 Subcultures: A Journey Through Diversity*. Edited by Bigum, Pernile. Copenhagen, Denmark: CO+ Publishing.
- Sheff, Elisabeth. 2013. "Workplace Issues facing LGBTQIA Employees" in *What's the Difference: Embracing Diversity* edited by Eastman, Linda. Pages 115-126. Prospect, KY: PWN Books.
- Sheff, Elisabeth. 2012. "Polyamory and Divorce" in *Cultural Sociology of Divorce*, an Encyclopedia, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Sheff, Elisabeth. 2011. "Polyamorous Families, Same-sex Marriage, and the Slippery Slope" *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 40(5): 487 – 520.
- **Sheff, Elisabeth** and Hammers, Corie. 2011. "The Privilege of Perversities: Race, Class, and Education Among Polyamorists and Kinksters" *Psychology & Sexuality* 2(3): 198-223.
- Sheff, Elisabeth. 2010. "Strategies in Polyamorous Parenting" in (Eds.) Barker, Meg and Langdridge, Darren, *Understanding Non-monogamies*. Pages 169 – 181. London: Routledge.
- Sheff, Elisabeth. 2008. "Polyamory" in *Sex and Society*. New York: Marshall Cavendish.
- Sheff, Elisabeth. 2007. "The Reluctant Polyamorist: Auto-ethnographic Research in a Sexualized Setting" in Stomblor, M., Baunach, D., Burgess, E., Donnelly, D., and Simonds, W. (Eds.) *Sex Matters: The Sexuality and Society Reader*. Second Edition, Pgs. 111-118. New York: Pearson, Allyn, and Bacon.
- Sheff, Elisabeth. 2006. "Poly-Hegemonic Masculinities" *Sexualities*, 9(5): 621-642.
- Sheff, Elisabeth. 2006. "A Short Primer on Polyamory" in *Choices in Relationships* by David Knox and Caroline Schacht. Ninth Edition, Pgs. 94 – 95. Belmont, California: Wadsworth Publishing Company.

- Nielsen, Joyce; Robyn Marschke, **Elisabeth Sheff**, and Patricia Rankin. 2005. "Vital Variables, Feminist Consciousness, and Insider/Outsider Status in Interaction Research: Confessions from a Feminist Empiricist Project" *SIGNS: A Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 31(1): 1-28.
- Sheff, Elisabeth. 2005. "Polyamorous Women, Sexual Subjectivity, and Power" *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 34(3):251-283.
- Sheff, Elisabeth. 2003. Review of Voicing Chicana Feminisms: Young Women Speak Out on Sexuality and Identity in *Gender and Society*, 17(6): 958-960.

Books Sheff Edited

- *What is Compersion? Understanding Positive Empathy in Consensually Non-Monogamous Relationships*, Marie Thouin, 2024. Rowman & Littlefield.
- *177 Lovers and Counting: My Life as a Sex Researcher*, Leanna Wolfe, 2024. Rowman & Littlefield.
- *Polyamorous Elders: Aging in Open Relationships*, Kathy Labriola, 2022. Rowman & Littlefield.
- *Please Scream Quietly: A Story of Kink*, Julie Fennell, 2022. Rowman & Littlefield.

University Instruction

- **Lecturer, Department of Social, Cultural, and Justice Studies**, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, TN, 2019 – 2022
- **Special Scholar in Residence, Soziologisches Institut**, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland, 2018
- **Visiting Professor, Rollins School of Public Health**, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 2013 – 2015
- **Visiting Professor, Department of Behavioral Science**, Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, GA, 2014 – 2015
- **Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology**, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, 2005 – 2012
- **Visiting Professor, Department of Sociology**, University of Montana, Missoula, MT, 2004

Appointments

- **Chair**, Family Issues Committee, American Psychological Association, Division 44 Committee on Consensual NonMonogamies, 2026
 - <https://www.div44cnm.org/>
- **Editor**, *Diverse Sexualities, Genders, and Relationships* book series with Bloomsbury Publishers, 2019 - 2025
 - <https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/series/diverse-sexualities-genders-and-relationships/>
- **Member of Board of Directors & Research Affiliate**, Center for Positive Sexuality, 2017 – 25
 - <https://positivesexuality.org/about-us/meet-the-staff/researchers/>
- **Ambassador**, Woodhull Freedom Foundation, 2020-24
 - <https://www.woodhullfoundation.org/>

Presentations, Keynotes, and Invited Lectures

Keynotes and Invited Presentations

- Legal and Ethical Considerations in Serving Polyamorous Families, Invited Pre-Conference Workshop, 4 CEUs, Society for Sex Therapy & Research Annual Meeting, Vancouver Canada, May 7, 2026
- Children in Polyamorous Families, Keynote Presentation, Non-Monogamies and Contemporary Intimacies Conference, Rio de Janeiro Brazil, November 29, 2025
- Polyamory Legal Roundtable, Invited Panelist, Cardozo School of Law, Brooklyn Law School, Harvard Law School, New York City, November 21 & 22, 2024
- Legal Prosecution of BDSM-Related Cases, Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, Invited Panelist for BDSM Special Interest Group, August 15, 2024
- Cultivating Queer Joy in the Face of Adversity, Keynote address to SexPosCon, Los Angeles, CA, February 17, 2024
- The Challenges and Possibilities of Doing Positive Sexuality Research, Invited Panelist, Center for Positive Sexuality, Monthly Online Lecture Series, August 19, 2023
- Queer Polyamorous Family Relationships, Invited Panelist, The Future of the Queer Legal Family, Penn Law Lambda Symposium, Philadelphia, PA, February 20, 2022.
- Distinguishing Between Sex Addiction and Consensual Non-Monogamies, Keynote address to Addiction Therapy and Rehabilitation World Forum, Amsterdam, Netherlands, October 04-06, 2021.
- Research Findings on Polyamorous Families, Lavender Law Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, 2019
- Polyamory Symposium Invited Presenter and Moderator, Vienna Austria, June 7, 2019.
- Distinguishing Between Sex Addiction and Consensual Non-Monogamies, Keynote address to Finding Freedom LGBTQ Symposium, Palm Springs, CA, November 2018
- 2018 Evolutions of Chosen Families, Keynote address to Southwest Love Fest. Tuscon, AZ. April 6 – 8, 2018
- A series of eight workshops on polyamory, invited featured speaker, Al Foro Poliamor, Spain, June 16-18, 2017.
- Which form of CNM is Right For YOU? Keynote Address to Outlantacon. Atlanta, GA, May 12-14, 2017
- Seven workshops, Featured speaker, Endless Poly Summer, Abrams Creek Conference Center, West Virginia, June 19-24, 2016
- Three workshops, Featured Speaker, Center for Alternative Lifestyles. Denver, CO, January 30 – 31, 2016
- The Status of Research on Non-monogamies, American Sociological Association. Chicago, IL, August 6, 2015
- Hope and Hardship: Issues for Polyamorous Families, Keynote Address Atlanta Poly Weekend. Atlanta, GA, June 9, 2015

- How Did we Get Here?: Family Changes and the Future of (non and serial) Monogamy, Keynote address to InfinityCon. Atlanta GA, November 2015
- Bisexuality and 'Unicorn Hunting' Among Polyamorists, Atlanta Poly Weekend. Atlanta, GA, June 2014
- Polyamorous Families with Children, Eighth Bi-Annual Poly Living Conference, February, Philadelphia PA and Ninth Bi-Annual Poly Living Conference. Denver CO, April 2014
- The Polyamorists Next Door: Understanding Multiple-Partner Relationships, Ninth Annual Suburban Studies Conference: Love Marriage, & the Family, Kennesaw State University. Kennesaw, GA, April 2011
- The Policy Implications of Polyaffectivity, National Council on Family Relations Annual Meeting. Minneapolis MN, November 2010
- An Introduction to Polyamory: Definitions, Terminology, and Details, Society for Sex Therapy and Research Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA, March 2007

Selected Conference Presentations

- Aging in Polyamorous Families, Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, November 13, 2025
- Legal Issues for Practitioners of BDSM, Ruff & Tumble Conference, Missoula Montana, October 4, 2025
- Towards an Understanding of Ethics and the Best Interests of Children, Sexuality Scholars Virtual Symposium, September 2024
- The Challenges and Possibilities of Doing Positive Sexuality Research, Center for Positive Sexuality Monthly Lecture Series, Online, August 2023
- Polyamorous Families Can be in the Best Interests of Children, Society for Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, Online, August 2021
- Sexual Citizenship, Parenthood, and Consensual Non-Monogamy, Society for Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, Online, August 2021
- Legal Strategies for Polyamorous & LGBTQ Parents, ReSEARCH Dialogues, University of Tennessee, Online, April, 2021.
- Aging in Polyamorous Families, Sex Down South, Online, October 2020.
- Multiple Partner Marriage after Same Sex Marriage, DragonCon Skeptic Track, Atlanta, September 2, 2016
- The Polyamorists Next Door, Decatur Book Festival, August, Decatur, Georgia 2014 Polyamorous Parenting, Third Annual International Conference on the Future of Monogamy and Non-monogamy. Berkeley CA, February 2014
- Debunking the Legal Myths About Children in Polyamorous Families, the Woodhull Summit for Sexual Freedom. Washington DC, September 2013
- Kids in Poly Families, DragonCon Skeptic Track. Atlanta GA, August 2013
- The Polyamorists Next Door, DragonCon Science Track. Atlanta GA, August 2013
- What your Kids in Poly Families REALLY Think, Frolicon Think Track. Atlanta GA, March 2013
- Dangers and Joys of Unicorn Hunting, Frolicon Think Track. Atlanta GA, March 2013

- Results of the Polyamorous Family Study, Atlanta Poly Weekend. Atlanta GA, March 2013
- Polyamorous Families with Children, International Academic Polyamory Conference. Berkeley, CA, February 2013
- How Slippery is the Slope Between Same-Sex Marriage and Polyamory?, DragonCon Sceptic Track. Atlanta GA, August 2012
- A Scientific Study of Polyamory: Results of a 15-year Study, DragonCon Science Track. Atlanta GA, August 2012
- Child Protective Services and Children of Sexual Minorities, Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting. Denver, CO, August 2012
- The State of Children in Polyamorous Families, American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA, May 2012
- An Overview of Polyamorous Families: Fifteen Years Later, Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA, March 2012
- Using Feminist Research Methods to Study Sexual Minorities, National Women's Studies Association Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA, November 2011
- Bisexual Desire and the Unicorn: Polyamorists and Sexual Agency, Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting. Las Vegas, NV, August 2011
- Navigating IRB Regulations in Sexuality Research, Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA, August 2010
- If Single Parenthood is such a Problem, Why Object to Multiple Parents?, Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA, August 2010
- Success on the Academic Job Market, Southern Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA, April 2010
- Ethnographic Fieldwork in a Sexualized Setting, Southern Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA, April 2010
- Strategies in Polyamorous Parenting, Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA, August 2009
- The Politics of Visibility: Sexual Minorities, Sexual Spaces, Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting. Boston, MA, August 2008
- Polyamorous Parenting, Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Annual Meeting. Indianapolis, Indiana, November 2007
- Kink Identities in the United States, Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Annual Meeting. Indianapolis, Indiana, November 2007
- Boundaries of Kink Identities Post Internet Revolution, Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada, August 2006
- Polyamorists Queering Nontraditional Families, Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA, March 2006,
- Sex-Positive Pedagogy: Establishing a Sex-Positive Departmental Environment and Researching Sexuality at Georgia State University, Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Eastern/Midcontinent Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA, November 2005
- Super Studs and Girlie Men: Spectrums of Polyamorous Masculinities, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA, August 2005

- Having Children in Graduate School and Beyond, Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Charlotte, NC, April 2005
- Have Your Jake and Edith, Too: Bisexual Polyamorous Women and Desire, Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA, August 2003
- Unruly Women, American Sociological Association, Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL, August 2002
- Implications of Online Community for Polyamorous Practitioners, American Sociological Association. Chicago, IL, August 2002,
- Ethical Sluts: Polyamorous Women and Feminist Sexual Agency, Society for the Study of Social Problems, Annual Meeting. Anaheim, CA, August 2001
- Postmodern Polyamorous Families, American Sociological Association, Annual Meeting. Anaheim, CA, August 2001

Continuing Education

Selected Courses Sheff has Taught

- Year-long Certification Program in Consensual NonMonogamies, Sexual Health Alliance, 36 CEUs, 2023-2026
- Mixed Dynamic Relationships, Friends with Benefits, Los Angeles, CA, January 11, 2026
- Freaky Holidays: Managing Interactions with Family of Origin for Sex and Gender Minorities, Pincus Center, December 4, 2025
- Serving Polyamorous Families with Children, Ackerman Institute, Webinar, 4 CEUs, October 17, 2025
- 2SLGBTQIA+ Families, Alycol Integrative Health Services, Webinar, 3 CEUs, September 29, 2025
- When ENM Goes Wrong: Masking Unhealthy Behaviors in the Rhetoric of ENM, North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Webinar, 3 CEUS, September 26, 2025
- Mixed-Dynamic Relationships, SheBop, Webinar, September 8, 2025
- Navigating Consent Violations in Personal, Therapeutic, and Legal Contexts, Center for Positive Sexuality, Webinar, 2 CEUs, June 17, 2025
- Distinguishing BDSM from Intimate Partner Violence, Ackerman Institute, Webinar, 4 CEUs, June 16, 2025
- Managing Mixed-Orientation Relationships: Monogamy/Consensual NonMonogamies, Ackerman Institute, Webinar, 4 CEUs, May 16, 2025
- Polyamorous Families with Children, Sexual Health Alliance, Webinar, 3 CEUS, April 28, 2024
- Communication, Creativity & Consent: Intersections Between Consensual NonMonogamies and BDSM, Sexual Health Alliance, Webinar, 4 CEUS, April 28, 2024
- Distinguishing Between Intimate Partner Violence and BDSM, Pincus Center for Inclusive Treatment & Education, Webinar, 2 CEUS, March 20, 2024
- Crossing the Line: Dealing with Sexual Boundary Violations, Pincus Center for Inclusive Treatment & Education, Webinar, 2 CEUS, February 28, 2024
- Year-Long Certification Intensive in Consensual NonMonogamies, Sexual Health Alliance, Online Course, 36 CEUs w/certification, yearly, 2021-2026

- Parenting in Polyamorous Families, Pincus Center for Inclusive Treatment & Education, Webinar, 2 CEUs, November 14, 2023
- Clinical Issues in Consensually NonMonogamous Relationships, Chicago Behavioral Health Center, Webinar, 3 CEUs, July 13, 2023
- CNM and Boundaries, Values, and Religion, Integrative Sex Therapy Institute, Webinar, 3 CEUs, May 19, 2023
- Working with Consensually NonMonogamous Clients, The Fifth Avenue Counseling Center, Webinar, 3 CEUs, March 27, 2023
- Distinguishing Between BDSM and Intimate Partner Violence, US Department of Veterans Affairs, Webinar, 2 CEUs, February 22, 2023
- Intimate Partner Violence Among Sex and Gender Minorities US Department of Veterans Affairs, Webinar, 3 CEUs, October 11, 2022
- Types of Consensual NonMonogamies, When They Work, and Not, North Carolina Psychological Association, Webinar, 3 CEUs, 2022
- Gender and Sexual Diversity in Foster Children, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Colorado, Webinar, 1 CEU, December 17, 2021

Selected Courses Sheff has Taken

- ADHD and Sex, Kyne Piche, Society for Sexuality Therapy and Research Annual Meeting, Vancouver BC Canada, 1 CEU, May 8, 2026
- Supporting Sexual Autonomy in Alzheimer’s Disease, Justin Brass, Society for Sexuality Therapy and Research Annual Meeting, Vancouver BC Canada, 1 CEU, May 8, 2026
- Are We Too Attached to Attachment Theory?, David Allsop, Society for Sexuality Therapy and Research Annual Meeting, Vancouver BC Canada, 1 CEU, May 8, 2026
- Integrating Attachment Theory and Sexuality, Karent Naegel, Society for Sexuality Therapy and Research Annual Meeting, Vancouver BC Canada, 1 CEU, May 8, 2026
- Virtual Reality Exposure for Vaginismus, Natalie Brown, Society for Sexuality Therapy and Research Annual Meeting, Vancouver BC Canada, 1 CEU, May 8, 2026
- A Proof-of-Concept AI Chatbot Intervention for Men Experiencing Involuntary Singlehood, David Lafortune, Society for Sexuality Therapy and Research Annual Meeting, Vancouver BC Canada, 1 CEU, May 8, 2026
- Are we Ready for AI Therapy? Uzma Rehman, Society for Sexuality Therapy and Research Annual Meeting, Vancouver BC Canada, 1 CEU, May 8, 2026
- Trauma Informed Kink: How To Play Safely When You Have Complex PTSD, Queer Mental Health Initiative, 1 CEU, December 11, 2025
- Pleasure as a Form of Resistance, Dr. Ericka Miley, Ruff & Tumble Stampede: Big Sky Kink Conference, 1 CEU, October 4, 2025
- Well...Maybe Don’t Choke me Daddy, Casey Bayer RN, Ruff & Tumble Stampede: Big Sky Kink Conference, 1 CEU, October 4, 2025
- Look of Leather Under an Authoritarian Presidency, Sir Burlington, Ruff & Tumble Stampede: Big Sky Kink Conference, 1 CEU, October 4, 2025
- Autism, Kink, and Consent, Gloria Jackson-Nefertiti, Ruff & Tumble Stampede: Big Sky Kink Conference, 1 CEU, October 4, 2025
- Boundaries that Get You Off: How to Pleasure-Focus Consent Negotiations, Lilith Foxx, Ruff & Tumble Stampede: Big Sky Kink Conference, 1 CEU, October 4, 2025

- Understanding CNC Dynamics: Navigating Negotiation for Choices and Consequence, Sir Prussian Frye & Lucky Frye, Ruff & Tumble Stampede: Big Sky Kink Conference, 1 CEU, October 4, 2025
- Righteous Compassion in a Cruel World, Rene Herbet, Ruff & Tumble Stampede: Big Sky Kink Conference, 1 CEU, October 4, 2025
- Shameless Sexuality: Recovering from Religious Trauma Conference, various presenters, 12 CEUs, May 24 & 25, 2025.
- Embodied Healing: Exploring the Intersection of BDSM and Psychedelics for Healing, Dr. Shveta Mittal, TASHRA, 3 CEUs, May 10, 2025.
- Psychological Safety in a Scene: Panic Attacks and Other Anxious Moments, Dr. Richard Sprott, TASHRA, 1 CEU, April 5, 2025.
- What Happens in Vagus: An Introduction to Polyvagal Theory with Debo Katz. Pincus Center, 2 CEUs, April 3, 2025.
- Narcissistic Abuse in Non-Monogamous Relationships with Avital Isaacs. Manhattan Alternative Wellness Collective & Provider, 2 CEUs, March 21, 2025.
- Personal & Professional Safety for TGNC Community, Therapists, & Advocates. Manhattan Alternative Wellness Collective & Provider, 2 CEUs, December 13, 2024.
- Banging Beyond the Binary: Sex with Transgender Folks with Jaime Joy, Pincus Center, 2 CEUs, November 8, 2024.
- Unveiling Desires and Distinguishing Distress: Understanding Nuances Between Kink and Self-Harm. TASHRA, 4 CEUs, October 4, 2024.
- Sex Positive Criminology: Strengths-Based Approaches to Bodily Autonomy and Pleasure, Positive Sexuality Day, Center for Positive Sexuality, 2 CEUs, September 8, 2024.
- Choking Unraveled: Addressing Controversy Around Choking & Breath Play, Velvet Lips Productions, Marla Stewart, June 1, 2024.
- Edges of Consent: Consensual NonConsent Scenes, 24/7 M/s Relationships, and No Safeword Scenes with TASHRA Panel discussion. 1 CEU, March 9, 2024.
- Five Pillars of Consent with Zach Budd, Poly Living Philadelphia, February 12, 2023
- When Racialized Ghosts Refuse to become Ancestors: Tasting the Blood of Recognition in Racial Melancholia and Mixed-Race Identities with Dr. Dhvani Shah, Austen Riggs Online Education, Webinar, 1 CEU, December 15, 2023
- Kink or Culture: Anthropomorphism, Furrries and Vore, American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists from Kristen Lilla, Webinar, 2 CEUs, December 1, 2023
- Tier One: Introduction to Military Culture, Families, and Deployment, Center for Deployment Psychology, Uniformed Services University, Webinar, 6 CEUs, November 16, 2023
- Altered States of Consciousness and Consent, The Alternative Sexualities Research Alliance (TASHRA), Webinar, 1 CEU, September 30, 2023
- Engaging in Healthcare and Kink Play for People with Larger Bodies, The Alternative Sexualities Research Alliance (TASHRA), Webinar, 4 CEUs, July 29 and 30, 2023
- Censorship is a Drag!, Woodhull Freedom Alliance, Webinar, 1 CEU, June 20, 2023
- Transgender People Throughout Time, The Center for Positive Sexuality, Webinar, 1 CEU, June 14, 2023
- Pornography and Free Speech, Woodhull Freedom Alliance, Webinar, 1 CEU, May 22, 2023
- Why Does the Internet Hate Sex?, Woodhull Freedom Alliance, Webinar, 1 CEU, April 11, 2023

- Erotic Adventures at Play: Injuries, Medical Complications, and Navigating Health Care Encounters, The Alternative Sexualities Research Alliance (TASHRA), Webinar, 4 CEUs, March 11 and 12, 2023
- Double Gifted: Kinky and Neurodiverse, The Alternative Sexualities Research Alliance (TASHRA), Webinar, 6 CEUs, July 16 and 17, 2022
- Asexuality and Aromanticism, Aubri Lancaster, Webinar, 6 CEUs, June 27 and 28, 2022
- Sexuality While Trans: What Educators and Practitioners Need to Know, J Mase III, American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists, Webinar, 1.5 CEUs, February 10, 2022
- Establishing and Sustaining Consent in BDSM Relationships, The Alternative Sexualities Research Alliance (TASHRA), Webinar, 6 CEUs, June 26 and 27, 2021
- From Diapers to Lollipops: Clinical Competency with ABDL's and Age Players, The Alternative Sexualities Research Alliance (TASHRA), Webinar, 5 CEUs, August 30 and 31, 2021
- Pleasure, Play & Safety: Ask a Kink Doctor, The Alternative Sexualities Research Alliance (TASHRA), Webinar, 5 CEUs, May 28 and 29, 2021

Selected Press Interviews

- The Guardian, "Polyamorous Americans Are Celebrating New Laws Establishing their Inherent Worth and Dignity." Jake Thomas, May 3, 2026
 - <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/may/03/polyamory-legal-protections>
- The Independent, "Is the Polyamory Dream Over, and Did Lindy West Kill It?" Holly Baxter, March 31, 2026
 - <https://www.the-independent.com/life-style/lindy-west-adult-braces-polyamory-b2946483.html>
- New York Times, "One-Sided Monogamous Relationships and the Manosphere." Gina Chereus, March 25, 2026
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/25/style/one-sided-monogamy-relationships-manosphere-louis-theroux.html>
- Equilibria Podcast, "Children in Polyamorous Families." Episode 25, February 5, 2026
 - <https://open.spotify.com/episode/3gkK7gtoEzyQKaoXnF2I2G>
- Sexology with Dr. Moali, "Soloamory: The Ultimate Self-Love Relationship." Episode 455, September 9, 2025
 - <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/ep455-soloamory-the-ultimate-self-love-relationship/id1193611459?i=1000725667138>
- London Times, "Forget Love Triangles: Meet the Polycule with 80 People in it." Megan Agnew, September 4, 2025.
 - <https://www.thetimes.com/life-style/sex-relationships/article/polyamory-polycule-somerville-capital-lbt2vx20v>
- WebMD, "What is BDSM Sex?" Kendall Morgan, August 5, 2025.
 - <https://www.webmd.com/sex/what-is-bdsm-sex>

- Afropunk, “Polyamory is for People Whose Parents Don’t Love Them – Why It’s the Family System Reimagined.” Sigourney Norman, May 8, 2025.
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Professional Affiliations

- 2012 – 2026 American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT)
- 2012 – 2026 Woodhull Alliance for Sexual Freedom
- 2006 - 2026 Community Academic Consortium for Research on Alternative Sexualities (CARAS)
- 2006 - 2026 Polyamory Researchers
- 2005 - 2026 Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (SSSS)
- 2001 - 2021 Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP)
- 1996 - 2019 American Sociological Association (ASA)
- 2001 - 2012 Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS)
- 2004 - 2012 Women’s Studies Institute (WSI), Georgia State University

Grants & Awards

- 2020 Classroom MiniGrant, Walker Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, \$300
- 2020 Affiliate Travel Award, Center for Positive Sexuality, \$1,200
- 2013 LGBTQ Rights are Human Rights Campaign Competition, United States Human Rights Network and the Woodhull Alliance for Sexual Freedom, \$1,800
- 2012 Erwin O. Smigel Award, Society for the Study of Social Problems, \$500
- 2008 Writing Across the Curriculum Faculty Development Grant, Georgia State University, \$2,000
- 2007 Placek Award, American Psychological Foundation, \$80,000, declined
- 2006 Sociology Department Research Support Award, Georgia State University, \$1,000

- 2005 Research Initiation Grant for “Overlapping Sexual Identities” project, Georgia State University, \$10,000
- 2004 Sociology Department Research Support Award, Georgia State University, \$1,000
- 2004 First Place, Graduate Student Paper Competition, Society for the Study of Social Problems, Family Division
- 2003 Betsy Moen “Walk the Talk” Award for Feminist Research, Activism, and Teaching, University of Colorado, Feminist Scholars in Sociology
- 2002 First Place, Graduate Student Paper Competition, Society for the Study of Social Problems, Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities Division
- 1999 Beverly Sears Graduate Student Grant Award, University of Colorado, \$630

Expert Witness Service

Alaska

Peters v. Peters

Fairbanks County Family Court, Fairbanks AK; Consult, analysis, and written affidavit regarding BDSM

Arizona

Ellis v. Ellis

Maricopa Family Court, Mesa AZ; Consult, investigation, and affidavit regarding children in polyamorous family

California

People v. Thomas Shepherd, Case No. CRF24-1867

Superior Court of Yuba County, Sacramento CA; consult and affidavit regarding online age play vs. pedophilia

People v. (Redacted), Case No. 22-CR-010472

Alameda County Public Defender’s Office, Oakland CA; **Testified** regarding BDSM and intimate partner violence, 1/29 & 30/2025

People v. Alexis Cambero-Mencias, Case No. CR24-3587

Yolo County Public Defender's Office, Woodland CA; **Testified** regarding BDSM and intimate partner violence 1/15/2025

People v. Gabriel Olds, Case No. 24051501

Los Angeles Municipal Court, Los Angeles CA; Consult and affidavit regarding intimate partner violence and BDSM

People v. Justin Impson, Case No. FCR361471

Solano County Public Defenders Office, Fairfield, CA; **Testified** regarding BDSM and intimate partner violence 9/15/2023

People v. Roberto Gamero, Case No. 22001288

San Francisco Public Defenders Office, San Francisco, CA; **Testified** regarding BDSM and intimate partner violence 8/21/2023

People v. David Collum, Case No. 170906847

San Francisco Municipal Court SVU ICAC, San Francisco, CA; **Testified** regarding BDSM and age play 3/19/2018

People v. Anastasia Colosio, Case No. 21F1179

Shasta County Public Defender's Office, Shasta, CA; Consult regarding BDSM

People v. Steven Dauley, Case No. 19004891

San Francisco Municipal Court, San Francisco CA; Consult and affidavit regarding BDSM

People v. Christopher Craig, Case No. CCEXH17

Platt County Municipal Court, Auburn, CA; Consult and affidavit regarding BDSM and age play

Georgia

State v. Richard Williams, Case No. 15SC135761

Fulton County Criminal Court, Atlanta Judicial Circuit, Atlanta GA; **Testified** regarding BDSM and homicide 11/29/2018

Sheff CV May 2026

Kentucky

Ferguson v. Ferguson Civil Action #20-CI-306

Jessamine Circuit Court, Family Division, Lexington KY; **Testified** regarding children in polyamorous families 6/28/2022

Montana

State of Montana v. Dustin Lee Rudolph, Case #: 305B-SU-3515893

Montana Thirteenth Judicial District Court, Yellowstone County, Billings MT; **Testified** regarding BDSM, age play, and hebephilia 12/7/2023

New York

People v. Michael Girard

Saratoga County Criminal Court, Saratoga Springs, New York; Consult and affidavit regarding BDSM.

Oregon

People v. Josiah Benjamin Cahan, Case # 24CR55914

Marion County Criminal Court, Salem, Oregon: Consult and review medical records regarding BDSM.

Texas

Lowe v. Lowe Case Nos. 425353362, 42797922, 43022318, and 43021522

City of Lubbock Municipal Court, Lubbock TX; Consult and affidavit regarding children in polyamorous families

Dale v. Lamb

Travis County Municipal Court, Austin TX; Consult, analysis, and affidavit regarding children in polyamorous families

Sheff CV May 2026

Virginia

Marintchev v. Marintchev Case No. CL 2019-18887

Fairfax County Circuit Court, Fairfax VA; **Testified** regarding BDSM and Intimate Partner Violence
4/17/2023

Ochs v. Thomas Case No. CL111842-01

Loudon County Circuit Court, Virginia; **Testified** regarding children in polyamorous families
4/29/2022

Washington

People v. Christian O’Sullivan, Case. No. 24-1-02040-06

Clark County Public Defense, Vancouver WA; Consult and affidavit regarding BDSM vs. Intimate
Partner Violence

Heale v. Heale Case No. 13-3-10792-2 SEA

Superior Court of Washington, County of King; Consult and affidavit regarding children in
polyamorous families

West Virginia

Stevenson v. Stevenson Case No. 1820404

Hazleton District Court, Bruceton Mills, WV; Consult and affidavit regarding children in polyamorous
families

United States

US v Rosso EDIPI 1625788877

Presidio Monterey Court Martial, Monterey, CA; Consult and report regarding BDSM and
sexual assault

US v. Brian Kosanovich Case No. 200254

Eastern District of Virginia Court, Alexandria VA; Consult and affidavit regarding BDSM

US v. PFC McCollum

Military Tribunal Court Martial, Fort Eustis, VA; Consult on rape and BDSM

US v. PFC Hayes Case No. W911S2-19-P-6031, 00397-2018-CID452-019149-6A9

Military Defense Counsel, Fort Drum, NY; Consult and affidavit regarding BDSM

International

Regina/MEWA v. Jonathon Baker Case number: 18771-2

Wolverhampton Public Protection Unit, Oldbury, Wolverhampton, UK; Evaluation Report regarding BDSM and sexual assault

US v Dennis

21st Theater Sustainment Command, US Army, Kaiserslautern Germany; Consult and affidavit regarding BDSM and rape

The King v Shaun Rolton, CRI-2020-085-002693

District Court, Wellington, New Zealand; I Te Koti-A-Roh Ki Te Whanganui-A-Tara; Consult and affidavit regarding BDSM and sex work

Halton Regional Police Service re. Austin Azevedo, Occurrence 202300096145960

Intimate Partner Violence Unit, 143.0010, Oakville, Ontario, Canada; Design and conduct sessions to meet court requirements for rehabilitation