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The Association of Black Sexologists and Clinicians: Black Families, Black Relationships, Black Sexuality Conference: A Professional Conference for Scholars and Practitioners

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The Association of Black Sexologists and Clinicians

Black Families, Black Relationships, Black Sexuality Conference

A Professional Conference for Scholars and Practitioners

The mission of the conference is to showcase research, clinical, and pedagogical efforts of those who seek to shed additional light or improve Black families relationships, and/or sexual expression. The conference invites scholars and practitioners from around the world to share their research and best educational and/or clinical practices. Interdisciplinary by nature, the conference will be able to illuminate the continuum of health disparities as well as the behavioral, affective, and cognitive challenges that persons of African descent experience across the lifespan. Finally, the conference is a scholarly medium for collaborating, networking, organizing, educating, raising consciousness, and charting ideas.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: January 1 to April 15, 2015.

Conference Strands

Black Families

The Black Families component of the conference sheds light upon the myriad of constellations that exists among persons of African descent. The legacy of slavery, the value of collectivism, the need for communal elasticity/accommodation, and recognition of nontraditional and traditional arrangements are only a few dynamics that make Black families unique and resilient. Below is an abbreviated list of topics that scholars, clinicians, and educators may address with their proposals.

Parenting
Child and adolescent development
Black special needs children
Adult issues
Challenges of the older adults
Family systems
Third generational families
Blended families
Extended families and kinship networks
Same sex parenting

Black Relationships

The Black Relationships component of the conference addresses the continuum and fluidity of how couples arrange themselves. Specifically, it involves the formation, maintenance, and ultimate severance (e.g., break up, separation, divorce, death, etc.) of relationships. Roles, responsibilities, expectations, negotiation strategies, communication, and rules (implicit and explicit) are the fabric of what enables Black relationships to be unique. Moreover, given the national exposure to how power manifests itself in some relationships, it seems important that scholars and clinicians who have explored relational imbalance, dysfunction, and violence (e.g., sexual assault, abuse, manipulation, etc.) be offered an opportunity to share their work. Below is an abbreviated list of relationships that proposals can address:

Romantic relationships
Marriage
Formal partnerships/domestic relationships
Friendships
Peer/collegial relationships
Same sex relationships
Acquaintanceships
Cyber relationships
Interracial relationships
Relational scripts, intimacy negotiation, partner availability/selection, models of courtship, attachment styles and philosophies about love

Black Sexuality

The research and clinical efforts around the sexual expression of persons of African descent has received a considerable amount of formal attention over the last three decades. However, the work of scholars, clinicians, and educators has been systemically fragmented and up until this point, there has not been a forum for professionals to collectively address the unique issues that face this special population. Thus, the concept of intersectionality (e.g., race and sexuality) is a viable and important concept to formally explore and give light to the discourse of an emergent field. The following topics represent an abridged listing of possible proposals that are a part of this strand for the conference:

Aesthetics

Contraceptive technology and usage

HIV/AIDS/STIs prevention, interventions, and programs

Eroticism

Sex trafficking, sex tourism, sex work (e.g., prostitution, erotic entertainment), sexual harassment, and the hegemonic politics that enable these institutions and behaviors

Sex education

Sexuality and the church/spirituality

Gender

Intersectionality

Sexuality history

Sexual decision making;

Sexual orientation and identity

Construction of masculinity and femininity

Alternative lifestyles and sexual expression including kink, BDSM, paraphilias/fetish, polyamory, incest, etc.

Media depictions of Black sexuality

Sexual dysfunctions and its treatments

Power and sexual entitlements

Black Film

The media continues to shape what we think, feel, believe, and how we behave in our families, how we govern our relationships, and how we express ourselves sexually. With this in mind, the conference will have a special component targeted at Black film/media/web series. Black filmmakers are invited to submit their documentaries, web series, media clips, videos, or other forms visual narratives as they will be showcased, judged, and possibly given an award for direction, cinematography, acting, or *People's Selection of Visual Excellence Award*. Media clips can be on anything related to Black Families, Black Relationships, Black Sexuality. Short film submissions should be no more than one hour. Feature film submissions should be more than one hour.

WHEN: October 1–3, 2015

WHERE: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

CONFERENCE LOCATION: Cira Center (HUB) (30th and Arch Streets next to the Amtrak Train Station), 2929 Arch Street, Philadelphia PA 19104

WHO THIS CONFERENCE IS FOR:

Researchers/Scholars
Psychologists
Social Workers
Licensed Professional Counselors
Educators
Mental Health Professionals
Mental Health Administrators
Behavioral Specialists
Life Coaches
Policy makers

CATERING: Steven Starr Catering

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS: Council for Relationships/Thomas Jefferson University

ALL PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:
abscio41@gmail.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION: theabsc.com