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A Professional Conference for Scholars and Practitioners:
“Building and Strengthening Our Community”

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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

“Building and Strengthening Our Community”

The mission of the conference is to showcase research, clinical, pedagogical, and cinematic efforts of those who seek to shed additional light or improve Black families relationships, and/or sexual expression. The conference invites scholars, practitioners, filmmakers, and authors from around the world to share their research, best educational and/or clinical practices, and cinematic efforts. 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. The theme of the conference, *Building and Strengthening Our Community*, reflects our position as a new organization that is moving in a direction to galvanize professionals and empower each other as well as the communities we serve. 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.

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

Filmmakers/Cinematographers

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS:

Council for Relationships/Thomas Jefferson University

CATERING: Chef Jean-Marie Lacroix

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 may address:

Romantic relationships

Marriage
Formal partnerships/domestic relationships
Friendships
Peer/collegial relationships
Same sex relationships;
Acquaintanceships
Cyber relationships
Interracial relationships
Relational scripts
Intimacy negotiations
Partner availability/selection
Models of courtship
Attachment styles
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, etc)

- Sexual harassment and the hegemonic politics that enable 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

Proposal Instructions

Presentations for the conference will be either 25 or 50 minutes. Only 50 minute proposals will be considered for Continuing Education Credits. Proposals may reflect your research, clinical best practice, or conceptual interest related to Black families, Black relationships, or Black sexuality. The theme of the conference, *Building and Strengthening Our Community*, should be woven into your proposal.

General Information

1. Presentations should reflect new and original research, clinical practice, or pedagogical strategies.
2. Titles and descriptions must reflect content related to Black families, Black relationships, and/or Black sexuality.
3. Applicants are encouraged to use various methodological strategies for their presentations (e.g., Powerpoint lecture, small group exercise, concept attainment, deductive/inductive reasoning, etc.).
4. The ABSC may audiotape/videotape presentations for later distribution or promotion.
5. Notification of proposal selection will be made by May 31, 2015.
6. For program continuity and integrity, all power point presentations should be received no later than August 1, 2014. Conference Committee reserves the right to cancel presentation for non-compliance.

All proposals will include the following:

1. Name(s) of each speaker(s), degrees, institution(s)/agency, mailing address, email, phone.
2. Brief biosketch of each speaker (approx. 100 words).
3. Abstract/Detailed Summary of Presentation/Content (approx 150 words). Presentations should address content related to Black families, Black Relationships, Black Sexuality and/or Building and Strengthening Our Community.
4. Indicate if your presentation will be 25 or 50 minutes in length.

5. For 25 minute presentations, list at least one Smart criterion-referenced learning objective. For 50 minute presentations list at least two SMART criterion-referenced learning objectives. An example might be, "By the end of the presentation, participants will be able to . . ." If you are not familiar with SMART objectives, you can visit this link: <http://topachievement.com/smart.html>.
6. Please categorize the level(s) which you think your presentation will fit: Beginners; Intermediate; Advanced
7. Specify Day(s) you are able to present: Thursday, October 1; Friday, October 2; Saturday, October 3, 2015.

Clinical proposals may be considered as a continuing education credit experience for conference participants. Continuing Education Credits will be awarded by Council for Relationships. Council for Relationships is approved to offer continuing education for Psychologists, PA Marriage and Family Therapists, Social Workers, and Professional Counselors, and NJ Marriage and Family Therapists.

ALL PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:
team@theabsc.com

Scholarly Poster Instructions

All scholarly poster proposals will include the following:

1. Name(s) of each speaker(s), degrees, institution(s)/agency, mailing address, email, phone.
2. Brief biosketch of each speaker (approx. 100 words).
3. Abstract/Detailed Summary of Presentation/Content (approx. 150 words). Presentations should address content related to Black families, Black Relationships, Black Sexuality and/or Building and Strengthening Our Community.
4. List at least two SMART criterion-referenced learning objectives. An example might be, "By the end of the presentation, participants will be able to . . ." If you are not familiar with SMART objectives, you can visit this link: <http://topachievement.com/smart.html>.

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Call for Black Film Submissions

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 of visual narratives as they will be showcased throughout the conference, judged by a panel, and given an award for direction, cinematography, acting, and People's Selection of Visual Excellence Award. Media clips can be on anything related to Black Families, Black Relationships, Black Sexuality.

If you are submitting a film for the conference, here are the categories:

Features

All features should be 45:00:00 or longer. Please specify any details that make your film unique. Please let us know what genre (e.g., action/adventure; family; thriller; comedy; drama) your film is.

Shorts

Original Short films are no longer than 44 minutes. Please specify the genre and any details that make your film unique.

Music Video

Here is your opportunity to share with the world your musical talents and lyrical talents by way of music video. Some of you are able to “spit fire” while others of you prefer soft serenades of old school R&B. Whatever your music interest is and however you put your video together, we want the world to get to know you better. Accepted submissions will be screened throughout the conference.

Special Features

Special Features exists so filmmakers can produce movies that do not fit in the typical genre based mold. If you have produced a movie that you think fits this criteria, use this category for submission.

Real Time Documentary

We are looking to learn and explore with you. Show us where you have been and what you have uncovered in your travels. Show us the people who you

have come into contact with and how they experience various cultures and circumstances.

This category is designed to fill that documentary experience of Black families, relationships, and sexuality that we have all craved.

Political

Who can avoid politics? No one! We want to see film that raise legitimate political questions and / or provide information on political / governance subjects. All forms and lengths are accepted for review. All types of “styles” and “mediums” are considered. Blatant rhetorical propaganda will be not be tolerated!

Submissions by email should include the following:

1. Name of filmmaker
2. Title of Submission
3. Length of submission
4. Category for which film belongs to
5. Email address
6. Contact number

ALL SUBMITTED FILMS SHOULD BE IN A FORMAT THAT IS ACCESSIBLE BY HYPERLINK. ALL FILM PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO: team@theabsc.com

Call for Black Self-Help Books

There are scores of self-help books available that address families, relationships, sexuality, and general health issues. Many of these books are written by first time authors and have not been able to get the attention of a national audience. Other books that are connected with a publisher are not able to get the marketing/promotion needed because of the vast number of similar titles. ***We are here to help!***

Submit your original work as a part of a competition and we will have our panel of experts review it. Your self-help book will be judged on originality, creativity, clarity, layout, and proposed interventions for consumers/ readers. ***Everyone*** who submits a book along with a short description (100

words) will win because we will prepare a listing for our conference participants to read your book as well as include a hyperlink on theabsc.com. Selected titles will be given recognition at the conference. All hyperlinks will remain active on theabsc.com website for one year. Book submission deadline is April 15, 2015. Contest winners will be notified by August 1, 2015.

Directions for Submission

Submission of a paper/hard copy of your self-help books should include the following:

1. Name, address, telephone number, and email address
2. Brief biosketch of the author(s)
3. Institution(s)/Agency
4. Book title and name of the publisher
5. Publication date
6. A short description (100 words)
7. A cashier's check or money order (non-refundable) for the amount of \$100 should be made payable to:

ABSC

PO Box 341

Pennington, New Jersey 08534

Your check stub or duplicate will serve as your receipt. No personal checks will be accepted. Submitted books will not be returned.

Also, an email sent to team@theabsc.com should include:

1. BLACK SELF-HELP on the Subject Line
2. Name, address, telephone number, and email address
3. Brief biosketch of the author(s)
4. Institution(s)/Agency
5. A short description (100 words) and corresponding hyperlink to your book
6. A thumbnail photo of the front cover of your book