

# INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF SEX RESEARCH

SPRING 2014

[WWW.IASR.ORG](http://WWW.IASR.ORG)



## FROM DUBROVNIK, CROATIA!

### Sex Research in Croatia: A Brief History of Not Much History

Dr. Aleksandar Štulhofer



As many of you will be coming to Dubrovnik this summer to attend the 40th annual meeting of the International Academy of Sex Research, it seems appropriate—at least according to Sarah and Katy—to tell you a bit about the history of sex research in the country you will be visiting. Admittedly, it is not a long and lustrous history. It starts with a largely self-educated psychiatrist, Marijan Košiček (Koshicheck), who wrote a wonderfully progressive book on sex education in the mid 1960s. In the early 1970s, together with his wife Tea, Košiček (1923-2003) started the first couples therapy program in the country. He wrote extensively about sexual health problems and the history of sociocultural regulation of sexuality, but also translated into Croatian the first Hite Report and a couple of extremely popular sex manuals.

The second historical point is the publication of the first sex survey, carried out in 1971 among high-school students in my home town of Zagreb by another psychiatrist, Pavao Trenc, and a young female sociologist, Aleksandra Beluhan. Inspired by Kinsey's work and the German studies on adolescent sexuality carried out by G. Schmidt, they continued in 1974 with a national study which aimed to refute the claims that communist youth were turning decadent through infatuation with Western popular culture and increasing sexual permissiveness. Masturbation and female orgasm, they subtly suggested, were not to doom world communism.

The final point of particular historical importance was the first national study on HIV/AIDS risks among young people, which was designed and carried out in 1989 by a team of the University of Zagreb social psychologists (Dean Ajduković, Marina Ajduković, and Radmila Prišlin). The study marked not just the beginning of HIV surveillance in Croatia, but also a new era in research on sexuality characterized by rigorous and sophisticated methodology.

By the early 1990s, the only additions to this body of work were a handful of reproductive health studies carried out mostly among young women. This was the time of the breakup of Yugoslavia and the beginning of armed conflicts. Having just returned from an academic program in the USA, I was keeping myself preoccupied with a dissertation focused on rational choice approach to ethnic conflicts. I defended it in 1996, a year after the end of military operations in my country. The time had come, it

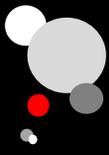
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Dubrovnik, Croatia



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seemed, for something more life-affirming. Although I had failed to discover the Kinsey Institute during my 1991 research residence at the Indiana University in Bloomington, I did bring back piles of photocopied papers on sexology (a science I had no clue existed). Since nobody I knew was doing sex research in Croatia at the time, the idea of switching from studying ethnic conflicts to sex research had an irresistible allure of exploring terra incognita. My initiation took place in the late 1990s with studies on adolescent sexual risk taking and age-specific patterns of female sexual activity.

And what about the future? In Dubrovnik, you will meet a charming quintet of my former students. Tanja (Jurin), Dea (Ajduković), Ivan (Landripet), Valerio (Baćak), and Sandra (Šević) are the coming generation of Croatian sex researchers. Although they will not substantially change the ratio of sex researchers per 10.000 population, they have already made sex research in this country a much less solitary project. We look forward to seeing you soon.

- Dr. Aleksandar Štulhofer

*Sexology Unit, Dept. of Sociology,*

*Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,*

*University of Zagreb, Croatia*



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## CONFERENCE UPDATES

### To the Academy and all those interested in our 40th Annual Conference in Dubrovnik!

It's our pleasure to announce the opening of our online registration website for the conference in Croatia.

We anticipate a fantastic scientific program set against the backdrop of pure Adriatic beauty. Please visit our website to find out more about the scientific program, pricing, and procedures to register and to request a hotel room.

**<http://www.iasr2014.com/iasr-2014.php>**

As IASR members, feel free to forward this to interested parties; however, non-members, students not admitted into the IASR student membership program, and/or members of the media, please email prior to registering ([iasradmin@gmail.com](mailto:iasradmin@gmail.com)).

**Please adhere to the below contacts should you have additional questions, comments, concerns, or problems:**

For questions regarding travel, accommodation, registration, and other non-scientific logistics, contact Marina Antonija Barać at [antonija@venevent.com](mailto:antonija@venevent.com)

For questions about Dubrovnik and an overview of the conference, contact Aleksandar "Sasha" Stulhofer at [astulhof@ffzg.hr](mailto:astulhof@ffzg.hr)

For queries about the scientific program, IASR-related issues, submitting abstracts, deadlines, posters, student manuscripts, student research awards, and brief communications, feel free to contact David Moskowitz, at [iasradmin@gmail.com](mailto:iasradmin@gmail.com)





## MEET IASR STUDENT MEMBERS!



### **Rinske Bakker**

R.M.Bakker@lumc.nl

I am a PhD Candidate at Leiden University Medical Centre in The Netherlands. Two years ago I graduated as a psychologist. My PhD project aims to design and pilot-test a CBT intervention for patients after gynaecological cancer therapy. The intervention is directed at increasing understanding and compliance of both patient and partner regarding sexual rehabilitation issues and benefits of dilator use.



### **Elizabeth Bird**

ebird@uw.edu

I am a pre-doctoral clinical psychology student at the University of Washington working with Dr. Bill George. My current interests are in the causes (avoidance, discomfort), outcomes (sexual functioning difficulties, sexual risk-taking), and treatment of dissociation during sexual activity in women who do and do not have a sexual victimization history.

Recent publication: **Bird, E. R.**, Seehuus, M., Clifton, J., & Rellini, A. H. (2013). Dissociation During Sex and Sexual Functioning in Women with and without a History of Childhood Sexual Abuse. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, Advance online publication.



### **Jessica Penwell Barnett**

barnettj@uwindsor.ca

I am graduating from the University of Windsor with my PhD in Sociology this June. My work centers sexuality and social justice, with foci in health and citizenship. Previous work has examined how (dis)ability structures access to sexuality and socio-legal status for adults on the autism spectrum and the socio-legal regulation of monogamy.

Recent publication: **Barnett, J. P.** (2014). Polyamory and criminalization of plural 'conjugal unions' in Canada: Competing narratives in the s.293 Reference. *Sexuality Research & Social Policy*, 11(1), 63-75.



## MEET IASR STUDENT MEMBERS!



### **Mirte Brom**

M.Brom@lumc.nl

I am a PhD Candidate at Leiden University Medical Centre in The Netherlands. In my PhD-research, classical conditioning of sexual response in men and women is studied. My research yields insight on how stimuli acquire or lose sexually rewarding properties. Basic phenomena such as extinction and renewal in sexual conditioning are studied, followed by the study of neuropharmacological manipulations thereof.

Recent publication: **Brom, M.**, Both, S., Laan, E., Everaerd, W., & Spinhoven, P. (2014). The role of conditioning, learning, and dopamine in sexual behavior: a narrative review of animal and human studies. *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews*, 38, 38-59. DOI:10.1016/j.neubiorev.2013.10.014.



### **Pedro Alexandre Costa**

PCosta@ispa.pt

I am a clinical psychologist and researcher specialized in developmental and family psychology. I have a doctoral degree in Psychology from the University of Beira Interior and Psychology & Health Research Unit (ISPA-IU) in Portugal. My research focuses on the psychosocial adjustment of gay- and lesbian-led families, and on heterosexuals' and nonheterosexuals' attitudes toward same-sex parented families.

Recent publication: **Costa, P. A.**, Caldeira, S., Fernandes, I., Rita, C., Pereira, A., & Leal, I. (2014). Religious and political conservatism and beliefs about same-sex parenting in Portugal. *Psychology, Community & Health*, 3, 23-25. doi:10.5964/pch.v3i1.94



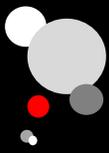
### **Richard Lemke**

lemke@uni-mainz.de

- 2005-2012: studies in Communications, Psychology, Physics, and History of Science
- 2012: MA in Communications
- Since 2013: PhD student in Communications at the Department of Communication at Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Germany.
- Topic: How sexual behavior is affected by advancements in computer mediated communication.

Website: [www.ifp.uni-mainz.de/528.php](http://www.ifp.uni-mainz.de/528.php)





## STUDENT REMINDERS

### **Deadline for Poster Submissions is May 1st!**

Submit Poster Abstracts Here:

<http://www.iasr.org/CMS/node/42>



### **Deadline for early Bird Registration for Dubrovnik conference is May 18th!**

Register here:

<http://www.iasr2014.com/iasr-2014.php>

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### **Call For The IASR Student Research Development Award (IASR SRDA) — Due May 1!**

Purpose: To provide funds to support mentored research that fosters the development of research skills and intellectual development of IASR student members beginning a career focused on sexuality research.

Eligibility: Please read the criteria below.

- Recipients may be students from any discipline who are engaging in sex research. Students must be matriculated in a graduate program. Persons with completed terminal degrees (for example, those in post-doctoral programs) are not eligible unless working toward a second degree (e.g., another Masters, PhD, MD, or JD). In those few cases, verification is required and he/she should contact the S-T before submitting any material.
- IASR student membership is required prior to application.
- Collaboration and support of at least one qualified research mentor is required. Mentor membership in IASR is not required.
- Though attendance at the annual conference is advisable, it is not a prerequisite of being awarded the SRDA. That is, applicants do not need to attend the annual IASR meeting to be considered for the award. Awardees will be announced during the award ceremony at the conference banquet.

Award Amounts: \$1,000 in currency of recipients' choice.

