

# INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF SEX RESEARCH

WINTER 2016

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



## Sex research & the liberal arts...

**Dr. Heather Hoffmann**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**1-3 Note from IASR  
President**

**3-5 IASR Student  
Bios & News**

**5 Announcements**

**6-8 Interviews with  
first SRDA winners**

**9-10 IASR Conference  
2016: Malmö**

The liberal arts college is a higher education institution more common in the U.S. than elsewhere in the world. Such colleges are dedicated primarily, if not exclusively, to undergraduate education. The curriculum emphasizes developing a broad, interdisciplinary knowledge base and intellectual skills over specific career or technical training. Overall study body and individual class sizes tend to be small and instruction is often student-centered, with an emphasis on discussion. Faculty develop close working relationships with their students, and faculty also have close, informal relationships with administrators. The governance of the college is often less hierarchical than at other universities and faculty and student input play a central role in how the college functions.



Heather Hoffmann  
Current IASR President

I pursued my undergraduate education at a liberal arts college (Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania), and I have spent almost my entire career at a liberal arts institution (Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois). Knox has enabled my work in sex research and the liberal arts college offers some unique benefits (albeit along with challenges) for a sex researcher.

I began doing sex research 15 years ago; it was a mid-career change in research agenda. My initial research area, in which I worked for approximately 16 years, was exploring rat models of infantile amnesia or more broadly examining developmental differences in basic learning and memory processes. Several factors led to the transition. The birth of my son, Hunter, made me reconsider how many rats I wanted to sacrifice to answer my research questions. I also was experiencing procedural frustrations (e.g., keeping dopamine depleted pre-weanling rats healthy) and I was having trouble keeping pace with other researchers in my area, financially and time-wise. The cost of equipment was limiting, and due to my teaching and administrative loads, I had less time for research.

That Knox allowed me the freedom and actually encouraged exploring a range of interests in both research and teaching set the stage for my move to sex research. Although I had no formal academic training in the area, I began teaching a course in human sexuality in the early 1990s. I found I was no more anxious talking about sex than other topics and sexual topics were much more fun. In setting up a laboratory component for my sex class, I discovered that penile and vaginal plethysmographs were inexpensive and were easily integrated with the other psychophysiology equipment and software our department had just acquired. Initially, I had planned to use these monitors solely for class. However, in exploring the literature on sexual psychophysiology and sexual arousal I became more interested in doing such research. Further, I discovered that there were only a small number of studies (at the time a handful for men and only one null finding for women) providing evidence for the role of conditioning processes in human sexual arousal. Hence this area appeared like a good niche for me.

However, the liberal arts institution can complicate doing (sex) research. As mentioned previously, finding sufficient time and funding can be challenging because of teaching and service obligations. In addition, there are no graduate students and there are (often) no colleagues who share your research interest in sex. Yet, I was lucky enough to find a colleague elsewhere, Erick Janssen who at the time was working at the Kinsey Institute, with whom I was able to write a successful grant. He provided expertise as well as motivation. In addition, I have had many intelligent, creative, and sex-science interested undergraduates (e.g., IASR student members Katy Renfro and Victoria Klimaj) with whom to collaborate on research projects. Moreover, Knox has a very user-friendly IRB. In addition, our (mostly) sex liberal environment along with the fact that many students know me personally and hence feel comfortable with my research allow me to have a ready pool of study participants. And as mentioned previously, the freedom to explore a range of research and teaching topics has been a clear plus.

For me, becoming a sex researcher was by luck rather than by design and the liberal arts environment was an important part of this trajectory. While there are drawbacks, if you enjoy teaching and otherwise find emerging adults and their ideas engaging and worthwhile you might consider a job or a career doing sex research at a liberal arts college. It is not a common path for sex researchers but it has been a fulfilling one.

### ... and the IASR

Importantly, I could not have become a sex researcher without the sex research community, and in particular the IASR. The organization and its members have been welcoming and supportive, particularly compared to the animal learning community. The first sexual psychophysicologist I met was Meredith Chivers; we met through a mutual student assistant when Meredith was at Northwestern working with Mike Bailey. In addition to helping me set up my first sex lab, Meredith introduced me to IASR. She informed me that IASR meetings were *the* place for learning about cutting edge sexual science. My main sex research mentor has been Erick Janssen who I met through an email exchange on SexNet, the sexuality research listserv that Mike Bailey runs.



Erick, being Erick, generously offered to host me at the Kinsey for what became several research sabbaticals. In another stroke of luck, Nikky Prause was a graduate student working at the Kinsey when I first arrived and she provided much of my technical training. Erick, along with Martin Lalumière and Jim Pfaus, helped me develop my initial research ideas on conditioning of sexual arousal in humans. Adam Safron, who I met at the IASR in Vancouver in 2007, has further expanded my thinking in this and other areas. The crew at the Kinsey in the early 2000s, which included John Bancroft who was the director, Cindy Graham, Stephanie Sanders, and Debby Herbenick, were a great group with whom to interact, both professionally and personally. It was at the Kinsey that I saw (and photocopied almost all of) the IASR abstract book from the 2000 Paris meeting. I attended my first IASR meeting in 2001, held in Montreal and I have only missed one meeting since then.

In fact, in ways, IASR is like Knox (i.e., the liberal arts college). Both are close-knit, interdisciplinary, and somewhat unconventional communities that are supportive but intellectually challenging. Being able to serve as president of IASR is an honor and I look forward to seeing many of you in Malmö. Being part of this organization, as well as Knox College, has been transformative for me.

---



---

## STUDENT MEMBER BIOS

Below, find exciting updates from student members!

My name is **Daniel Cardoso**, and I'm currently finishing my PhD in Communication Sciences, specializing in Contemporary Culture and New Technologies. My research looks into how Portuguese youngsters use the internet in the context of their sexual and intimate lives, focusing on: finding information about sexuality and gender on the internet, online activism, watching pornography, and sexting.

I'm an assistant professor at the Lusophone University of Humanities and Technologies, also in the area of Communication Sciences and Journalism.

The research for my Master's degree focused on polyamory, and in the future I intend to return to that topic, alongside continuing to study on how gender studies, technology, sexualities and intimacies overlap. I helped organize the 1st Non-Monogamies and Contemporary Intimacies Conference in Lisbon, in late September 2015.

Besides my academic work, I'm also an activist in the area of LGBTQIA+ rights, focusing especially on polyamory, in Portugal. My work is freely available at [www.danielscardoso.net](http://www.danielscardoso.net)



Rumpelstilzchenriel



**Nathan Lachowsky** is a postdoctoral fellow through the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS at the University of British Columbia and also at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto. His research interests include sexual health, mHealth, HIV/AIDS prevention and care, LGBTQ+ populations, community-based research, condom use, and health equity. Dr. Lachowsky has been hired as an Assistant Professor in the School of Public Health and Social Policy at the University of Victoria on the west coast of Canada starting July 2016. If interested in working together, you can reach out to him at [nlachowsky@cfenet.ubc.ca](mailto:nlachowsky@cfenet.ubc.ca)



#### Recent Publications:

Lachowsky NJ, Saxton PJW, Hughes AJ, Dickson NP, Milhausen RR, Dewey CE, Summerlee AJS. Frequent condom use with casual partners varies by sexual position among younger gay and bisexual men in New Zealand: national behavioural surveillance 2006-2011. Published online ahead of print. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1071/SH14220>

Brennan DJ, Lachowsky NJ, Georgievski G, Rosser BRS, MacLachlan D, Murray J. Online Outreach Services Among Men Who Use the Internet to Seek Sex With Other Men (MISM) in Ontario, Canada: An Online Survey. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*. 2015;17(12):e277. Available from: <http://www.jmir.org/2015/12/e277>



**Shayna Skakoon-Sparling**  
([sparling.s@gmail.com](mailto:sparling.s@gmail.com))

**News:** I started a research internship with The Ontario HIV Treatment Network this past November, and I was awarded Mitacs funding to support this internship placement. I am working on a few Health Literacy projects with their Applied Epidemiology Unit.

#### Recent Publications:

Skakoon-Sparling, S., Cramer, K. M., & Shuper, P. A. (2015). The impact of sexual arousal on sexual risk-taking and decision-making in men and women. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*. Doi: [10.1007/s10508-015-0589-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-015-0589-y)

Sparling, S., & Cramer, K. (2015). Choosing the danger we think we know: Men and women's faulty perceptions of sexually transmitted infection risk with familiar and unfamiliar new partners. *The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality*, 24, 237-242. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3138/cjhs.243-A2>



### Peggy Emmerink – Moonen ([p.m.j.emmerink@uu.nl](mailto:p.m.j.emmerink@uu.nl))

I am a PhD candidate in Social and Behavioral Sciences at Utrecht University (The Netherlands). My research focuses on exploring the continued existence of sexual double standards in adolescent sexuality. Specifically, I investigate how individual, partner and context factors influence the endorsement and enactment of sexual double standards.

**Recent publication:** Emmerink, P. M. J., van den Eijnden, R. J. J. M., Ter Bogt, T. F. M., & Vanwesenbeeck, I. (2015). Psychosexual correlates of sexual double standard endorsement in adolescent sexuality. *Journal of Sex Research*, online first.




---



---

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Another reminder that **Student Dues** are \$50 per year and will be due on **Feb. 1, 2016** for all student members. (New student members who join **after** the conference do not need to pay their first dues until Feb. 1.) You must be in good standing (having paid your student dues) to be eligible for the student registration rate for the conference and for awards/prizes such as the SRDA and Best Student Manuscript. Students who did not pay 2015 dues will be asked to pay them retrospectively when registering for the 2016 conference or applying for awards (that is, if you are behind on dues, you will be asked to pay up to two years of dues — a limit of \$75 total — to be fair to those students who did pay dues this year). Remember that this nominal fee of \$50 per year not only helps offset the discounted student conference rate, but also makes you eligible to apply for student awards and allows you access to the IASR website, the newsletter, and the listserv! Thanks for your help in keeping IASR membership benefits accessible to current and future students!

### Upcoming deadlines for Student Awards:

- Best Student Manuscript – **February 1<sup>st</sup> 2016**
- Student Research Development Award – **May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016**

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

We are always looking for contributions to the student newsletter – whether they be photographic, textual, or purely conceptual. Two great ways to contribute are to propose an idea for the front-page article or to submit a student bio or exciting news about recent publications. This is a newsletter for the students, so we are always happy to hear what you would like to see featured on the front page, and a student bio can be a great way to introduce yourself to other members of the IASR community. If you would like to contribute to upcoming newsletters, please email your student representatives (Katy Renfro and Scott Semenyna) at: [iasrstudentrep@gmail.com](mailto:iasrstudentrep@gmail.com)



## Q&A WITH PAST WINNERS OF THE STUDENT RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AWARD (SRDA)

The SRDA is a \$1,000.00 USD competitive award that is designed to support mentored research completed by IASR student members. The award was established in 2014. Below, please find interviews with the first two awardees: David Lick (New York University) & Kevin Hsu (Northwestern University).

---

### Q&A with David Lick

**Q: Can you provide a brief description of your Student Research Development Award (SRDA)-funded research project?**

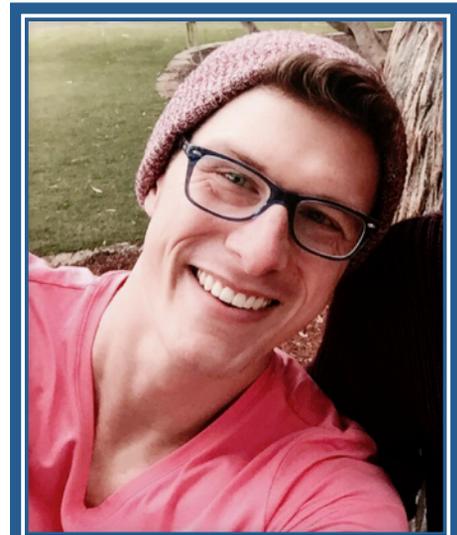
**A:** My SRDA project explored the psychological and physiological consequences of exposure to anti-gay prejudice. I wanted to know whether and how straight allies' responses to anti-gay prejudice differed from those of LGB individuals.

**Q: Did this project constitute the core of a masters or dissertation thesis? Or was this a side-project you completed while completing your degree?**

**A:** No, this project was not part of my master's thesis or dissertation. It was a side project that I completed while working toward my degree.

**Q: How did you first become interested in this line of research?**

**A:** My early graduate research focused on the causes of prejudice against LGB people. After several years of studying the psychological processes that give rise to anti-gay bias, however, I was also keen to understand the downstream consequences of such bias. This project takes a step in that direction by examining reactions to anti-gay prejudice among LGB individuals and their straight allies.



**David Lick**  
Past SRDA Winner

**Q: What were the results of your SRDA-funded study?**

**A:** Because this study involves intensive physiological data collection (skin conductance, cardiac reactivity, facial electromyography, salivary cortisol), data collection is ongoing. I expect to finish collecting data this spring and analyze the results over the summer.

**Q: Have you presented these results at any conferences or published them in any articles?**

**A:** Not yet. This study is the final piece in what I hope will be a four-study paper (the other three studies have already been completed). If the results are interesting, my colleagues and I will submit all four studies together as a single paper.



**Q: Do you anticipate that this project will lead to future, related projects? If so, can you provide a brief description of a project you hope to complete in the future?**

**A:** I hope so! There hasn't been all that much work on ally responses to prejudice, so there are a lot of exciting directions for future research. For example, one future project might consider how confronting prejudice ameliorates or exacerbates allies' responses to prejudice. Another project might clarify the long-term consequences of allies' physiological reactions to anti-gay prejudice.

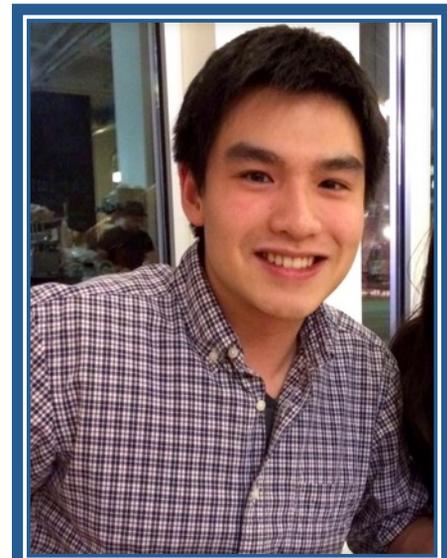
**Q: What are your future research goals? Do you feel that the SRDA helped you work toward accomplishing these goals?**

**A:** That's a scary question to ask a postdoc on the job market! But my future research goals are to continue understanding both sides of the prejudice equation -- cause and consequence. My ultimate goal is to understand these processes well enough to develop interventions that reduce prejudice and its deleterious consequences for members of stigmatized minority groups.

## Q&A with Kevin Hsu

**Q: Can you provide a brief description of your Student Research Development Award (SRDA)-funded research project?**

**A:** My research project looked at men who dress in costumes resembling anthropomorphic animals and are part of a community colloquially known as "furries." Specifically, I examined the empirical question of whether some of these men are both sexually attracted to anthropomorphic animals and sexually aroused by the idea of being anthropomorphic animals, as a potential motivation for their interest. Such a finding would parallel those previously found among heterosexual male cross-dressers, who are sexually attracted to women and sexually aroused by the idea of being women, and among a subset of pedophiles, who are sexually attracted to children and sexually aroused by the idea of being children. Like with research already conducted on these latter two groups, finding that some "furries" are both sexually attracted to anthropomorphic animals and sexually aroused by the idea of being anthropomorphic animals would be consistent with the concept of *erotic target identity inversions*, which proposes that some men internalize, or locate within their own bodies, the erotic targets to whom they are attracted (in this case, anthropomorphic animals).



**Kevin Hsu**  
Past SRDA Winner

**Q: Did this project constitute the core of a masters or dissertation thesis? Or was this a side-project you completed while completing your degree?**

**A:** No; this project was a side project, although it may possibly lead to or become a part of my doctoral dissertation.



***Q: How did you first become interested in this line of research?***

**A:** I first became interested in the concept of erotic target identity inversions while studying heterosexual male cross-dressers as part of my senior undergraduate thesis. Prior to this study, I had already conducted work on men who were sexually interested in male-to-female transgender individuals, who range from part-time cross-dressers to transwomen who have fully transitioned, medically and socially. In studying heterosexual male cross-dressers, I became quite fascinated by how strongly one's behavior and identity could be influenced by these erotic target identity inversions. For instance, heterosexual male cross-dressers are, in many respects, typical heterosexual men, but their sexual arousal to the idea of being women exerts a strong influence on their behavior (e.g., cross-dressing) and their identity (e.g., many identify as women while cross-dressed, and some consider transition). I was interested in studying whether such erotic target identity inversions (and their powerful influence) could also be observed in some pedophilic men, and in "furries," the way that it has been observed in some heterosexual men.

***Q: What were the results of your SRDA-funded study?***

**A:** I found that a large contingent (88%) of the male "furries" I recruited (N = 234) were sexually aroused by the idea of being anthropomorphic animals. Moreover, there was a pattern of strong correlations (all  $r_s > .61$ ) in which those who were sexually attracted to a particular species of anthropomorphic animal (e.g., wolves, lions) tended to be sexually aroused by the idea of being that same species of anthropomorphic animal. Those who endorsed arousal to the idea of being an anthropomorphic animal were more likely than those who did not to say they have considered surgery to look more like an animal (16.5% vs 11.1%) and to endorse arousal to the idea of being women (49.3% vs 38.5%) and being children (26.3% vs 19.2%). These results are consistent with the idea that at least some "furries" can be characterized by an erotic target identity inversion, specifically one involving anthropomorphic animals.

***Q: Have you presented these results at any conferences or published them in any articles?***

**A:** Yes, I have presented these results at last summer's IASR conference in Toronto as part of a symposium on erotic target identity inversions.

***Q: Do you anticipate that this project will lead to future, related projects? If so, can you provide a brief description of a project you hope to complete in the future?***

**A:** Yes, I have recently finished a related project on erotic target identity inversions in pedophilic men, and I plan to conduct studies on erotic target identity inversions in other populations, such as gay men, and to follow up on the current work as well.

***Q: What are your future research goals? Do you feel that the SRDA helped you work toward accomplishing these goals?***

**A:** My future research goals include continuing this line of research involving erotic target identity inversions, which has not received much (if any) empirical attention. Another research goal of mine is to continue studying other aspects of sexual orientation and sexual arousal that have not received enough attention, such as bisexuality and paraphilias. The SRDA has definitely helped me work toward these goals. In fact, the funding and support that the SRDA provided me has been instrumental to the success of my projects. Many thanks to the Academy for this opportunity, and I hope others continue to benefit from it!



# IASR 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting

## Malmö, Sweden

### June 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>



### Eight Symposia

- Sex Research at the Centre of Sexology and Sexuality Studies, Malmö, Sweden
- Women's Sexual Desire: Innovative Advancements in Research
- Rape Culture and Sexual Consent on the College Campus
- Structural and Functional Neurobiology of Pedophilia and Child Sexual Offending
- Network Science and its Applications for Sexuality Research
- Postpartum Sexuality: Biopsychosocial Factors Affecting Sexual Function and Dysfunction
- Neuroimaging of Gender Dysphoria
- Human Sexual Chemosignalling (Presidential Symposium)

### Invited Plenary Speakers

**The Richard Green Founding President Annual Presentation**  
Afsaneh Najmabadi

**Sexual Politics: A Discussion of Sex Work Policies**  
Sven-Axel Månsson  
Ine Vanwesenbeeck.

### **New Additions!**

- **Two Poster Sessions**  
For the first year ever, there will be two poster sessions:  
**June 26<sup>th</sup> & June 27<sup>th</sup>**
- **Data Blitz**  
For 2016, we will have 10 data blitz presentations. A data blitz is: a **5 minute** presentation with maximum of **5 slides**.

# IASR 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting

## Malmö, Sweden

### June 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>



## Deadlines

### Brief Communications Abstracts

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

### Data Blitz Abstracts

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

### Poster Presentation Abstracts

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

## Upcoming

Please be on the lookout – information regarding meeting location, conference hotel, registration fees, & the social excursion will be released soon.

## Pre-Conference Workshop

The American Institute of Bisexuality has generously offered to fund a pre-conference workshop for the 2016 conference!

**We are currently accepting suggestions for the workshop!** If you have a topic you would like to see considered for this year's workshop, please email it to [iasrstudentrep@gmail.com](mailto:iasrstudentrep@gmail.com) by **February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.**

