

Two-day Workshop: Narrative Ideas and Practice Concerning Gender and Sex in Therapy

13 & 14 March 2016

Workshop Description

In this workshop, we will discuss discourses surrounding gender and sex, consider how they are present and how they influence the clients we are working with, the therapist and the therapeutic conversations - and explore what possibilities are hidden from the clients and the therapist as a result of these discourses.

Since these discourses are always present in therapy (even if the therapy does not explicitly to gender or sex), in the workshop we will emphasize the importance of the therapist's awareness the influences of dominant discourses about gender and sex on her/his thinking and on the therapeutic conversation. We shall consider the importance of the therapist's awareness to differences between women's and men's discourses about gender and sex.

We shall also discuss the role of the therapist in therapy that relates to gender and sex: to limiting life narratives and the gender roles that developed from them, to ask questions to those narratives and their influences more closely, and to create a context in which people can to consider stories that offer wider choice about their gender and sex roles.

The first part of the workshop will focus on a Narrative approach to gender issues in therapy. We will discuss the importance of making space for different stories about different aspects of gender - physical gender, gender identity, gender roles in relationships, gender roles in sex, social gender roles - and consider ideas of continuums of preferences and positions (as opposed to polar preferences and positions) regarding each aspect. We will review the genders discussed in current LGBTQ thinking. Thereafter, we will consider the influence of stories, beliefs and values (personal, inter-generational family and cultural) about the various aspects of gender - on both people we work with and on therapists, and explore deconstruction and reconstruction of issues relating to gender in therapy.

The second part of the workshop will focus on a Narrative approach to sex issues in therapy. We will discuss how to talk about sex in couples therapy, and how stories shape the sexual experiences of women and men and their beliefs about those experiences.

In talking about sex in therapy, it is often assumed that storylines about sex also involve storylines about relationships and bodies. In our therapy work, we've found that it is significant to disentangle those storylines. In the workshop, we will discuss exploring separate story lines about relationships, intimacy, body image and sex, and the new possibilities for narrative sex therapy that emerge as a result. We will discuss how to deconstruct those ideas and how to work cooperatively in re-authoring the preferred stories about sex of the people we work with.

Throughout the workshop, we will focus mainly on therapy with heterosexual couples, but will also address individual and family therapy, and gender and sex issues in therapy in a non-heterosexual context.

The workshop will include frontal presentations, discussions with the participants, personal exercises and skill-developing exercises.

Saviona Cramer, MSW, is co-Director of the Barcai Institute of Narrative, Family and Couples Therapy in Tel Aviv.

The Barcai Institute was established in 1978 as a systemic Family Therapy clinical and training centre. Over the years it has evolved and become committed to Narrative Therapy, Social Constructionism and collaborative ideas. Barcai is devoted to applying these approaches in clinical practice, and to training therapists in them. The Institute's training program is approved by the by the Israeli Association for Couples and Family Therapy for certification of therapists and supervisors.

Saviona has been practicing, teaching and supervising Narrative Therapy since connecting with Michael White in 1988 while training at the Ackerman Institute of Family in New York. As a Narrative Family therapist, she works with individuals, couples, families and children - around relationships, trauma, bereavement, anorexia/bulimia, gender, LGBTQ and sex.

Saviona has published several articles about her work, presented at international Narrative conferences since 1997, taught courses in Narrative Therapy at training institutes in several countries, and lectured at the University of Melbourne's Masters Program in Narrative Therapy. She is on the International Faculty of the Dulwich Centre, Adelaide, a member of the international advisory group of the International Journal of Narrative Therapy and Community Work, serves on the Training Committee of the Israeli Association for Couples and Family Therapy, and is an Associate of the TAOS Institute, University of Calgary, Canada.

In the complex realities of Israel, Saviona, with the Barcai team, reaches out to the varied communities that make up the Israeli social mosaic - Jewish, Moslem, Christian and Druse; secular and orthodox; immigrants from different countries - providing training courses throughout the country, and facilitating training for therapists from marginalized communities at Barcai - deeply respectful of the diverse cultures, narratives, challenges, knowledge, skills and aspirations.

Workshop Information

Date:	13 & 14 March 2016 (Sun & Mon)
Time:	9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Registration at 9:00 a.m.)
Venue:	Rm.AAB1038 Academic and Administration Building Hong Kong Baptist University Kowloon Tong
Fees:	Regular : HK\$1,200 Early Bird: HK\$1,100 (on or before 13 February 2016) Member of BU SW Alumni Association: HK\$960
Enquiry:	Tel: (852) 3411 7776 (Mr Isaac Chiu) Fax: (852) 3411 6628 Email: cyrp@hkbu.edu.hk
Remarks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Applications will be automatically accepted (on a first-come-first-serve basis) unless the quota is full, and in that case applicants will be notified.2. Fees are non-refundable.3. If Storm Warning Signal No.8 or above, or Black Rainstorm Warning Signal is hoisted, the workshop will be rearranged. Details of postponement or other arrangements will be announced afterwards.4. Receipts of application fees will be issued on the first day of Workshop.

For registration, please send the registration form together with a cheque made payable to “Hong Kong Baptist University” to:

<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<p>Centre for Youth Research and Practice Rm. AAB1315 Academic and Administration Building Hong Kong Baptist University Kowloon Tong (Re: Two-day Workshop: Narrative Ideas and Practice Concerning Gender and sex in Therapy)</p>	



Two-day Workshop:
Narrative Ideas and Practice Concerning Gender and sex in
Therapy
(13 & 14 March 2016)

~ *Registration Form* ~

Dr. Mr. Mrs Ms Miss Surname: _____
Given Name: _____

Occupation: _____

Organization: _____

Correspondence Address: _____

Tel. No.: _____ Fax No.: _____

Email: _____

Please put a "✓" in the box, as appropriate:

Early Bird — HK\$1,100 (on or before 13 February 2016)

Regular — HK\$1,200

Members of BU SW Alumni Association — HK\$960

BU SW current staff / student:

Programme: _____ Year _____ Student No. _____

Payment HKD _____ of Cheque # _____ of

Bank (Payable to "**Hong Kong Baptist University**")

~ *Thank you for your application* ~

Official Use -

Date received: _____ (A/P) Reg. No. _____

Remark: _____