**AGPA Connect 2023 Presenter Information**

**Course Code:** XXv

**Course Title:** Early Longing, Emotional Engagement and Sexual Desire

**Course Times:** 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM & 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Course Dates:** Tuesday, March 7 & Wednesday, March 8

**Instructors:** Joseph Acosta

Katie Griffin

**Course Description:** Group members bring internal templates which, when combined with societal expectations, dictate and restrict the expression of longing, emotional connection, gender identity, and sexual desire. When group leaders help expand and deepen these internal templates, members develop more fluidity, breadth of identity, and depth of connection to themselves and others. In this Institute, the impact of societal expectations and dictates with respect to gender identity and sexual desire will be considered. Group leader counter-transference reactions emerging in process will be discussed.

**Learning Objectives**

The attendee will be able to:‎

1. ‎‎‎‎‎‎‎‎‎ Differentiate between explaining which activates top-down invariant experience and exploring which orients to bottom up or spontaneous experience.
2. Apply functional subgrouping to develop the group system and potentiate greater neural integration.
3. Identify “yes, but” communications that signal differences.
4. Describe how to use functional subgrouping to explore our differences rather than reacting to them, either with care-taking or scapegoating.
5. Describe how functional subgrouping increases social engagement and ventral vagal coregulation.
6. Describe how to use functional subgrouping for increasing the group's capacity for exploring novelty.
7. Summarize how functional subgrouping requires shifting from our inner experience to reflecting and understanding the experience of the other person before adding our own.

**Significant Articles:**

1. Atlas, G. (2018). Has Sexuality Anything to Do with Relationality? In Psychoanalytic Dialogues, The ‎International Journal of Relational Perspectives. Routledge.‎
2. Kimmell, A. (2022). Belonging: Queer Theory's Contribution to Modern Analytic Groups. In Kane, Y. I., ‎Masselink, S. M., Weiss, A.C. (Eds.), Women, Intersectionality, and Power in Group Psychotherapy ‎Leadership. Routledge.‎
3. Navarro, L., & Schwartzberg, S. (2007). Envy, Competition and Gender: Theory, Clinical Applications and ‎Group Work. Routledge.‎
4. Perelberg, R., J. (2019). Sexuality, Excess and Representation. Routledge.‎ hooks, b. (2004). The ‎Will to Change: Men, Masculinity and Love. Washington Square Press

**Agenda**

Day 1 AM

1 Static perspectives of longing, gender and sexuality. (15 mins), Obj 1&2, Katie Griffin Lecture and Discussion (a) presentation of basic understanding about static models of longing, gender and sexuality (b) presentation of illustrative material from presenters practice groups.

2 Complex, fluid perspectives of gender and sexuality. (15 mins), Obj 1&2, Joseph Acosta Lecture and Discussion (a) presentation of basic understanding about fluid models of gender and sexuality (b) presentation of illustrative material from presenters practice groups.

3 Emotionally engaged group experiences: leaders fears. (75 mins), Obj 3, Katie Griffin and Joseph Acosta, Experiential Process Group.

4 Emotionally engaged group experiences: countertransference. (60 mins), Obj 3, Katie Griffin and Joseph Acosta, Experiential Process Group. PM

5 Emotionally engaged group experiences: countertransference resistances. (90 mins), Obj 3, Katie Griffin and Joseph Acosta, Experiential Process Group.

6 Expanding our understanding of gender and sexuality in group. (75 mins), Obj 1-4, Katie Griffin and Joseph Acosta, Experiential Process Group.

7 Metaprocess. (30 mins), Obj 1-4, Katie Griffin and Joseph Acosta, Discussion, Q&A.

Day 2 AM

1 Emotionally engaged group experiences: reactions to previous day's material. (15 mins), Obj 3&4, Katie Griffin and Joseph Acosta, Discussion.

2 Emotionally engaged group experiences: participants' own group limitations. (90 mins), Obj 5, Katie Griffin and Joseph Acosta, Experiential Process Group.

3 Emotionally engaged group experiences: expansive and fluid group leadership. (90 mins), Obj 5, Katie Griffin and Joseph Acosta, Experiential Process Group. PM

4 Emotionally engaged group experiences: new interventions. (90 mins), Obj 6, Katie Griffin and Joseph Acosta, Experiential Process Group.

5 Emotionally engaged group experiences: integration of material. (60 mins), Obj 1-6, Katie Griffin and Joseph Acosta, Experiential Process Group.

6 Metaprocess. (40 mins), Obj 1-6, Katie Griffin and Joseph Acosta, Discussion, Q&A.

7 Evaluations (5 mins).

**Assessment Questions**

Question 1 (include possible answers)

Group members early longing experiences can impact: (a) gender identity development (b) expression of sexual desire (c) both (a) and (b)

Correct Answer 1

(c)

Question 2 (include possible answers)

Group leaders can assist emotional engagement between group members by: (a) bridging two members (b) ignoring silent members so they learn to speak up

Correct Answer 2

(a)

Question 3 (include possible answers)

Some theories of human development continue to perpetuate the following: (a) the idea that gender is static (b) that gender is entirely related to sex (c) both (a) and (b)

Correct Answer 3

(c)

Question 4 (include possible answers)

Gender and sexuality are often experienced as complex and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over a person's lifetime. STATIC, FLUID

Correct Answer 4

FLUID

Question 5 (include possible answers)

Therapists who allow discussion of sexuality in group are unethical. TRUE, FALSE

Correct Answer 5

FALSE

Question 6 (include possible answers)

Which of the following words is a gender neutral pronoun? She, They, He

Correct Answer 6

They

Question 7 (include possible answers)

Which of the following may influence how a person's gender and/or sexuality are expressed: (a) religion (b) socioeconomic status (c) race (d) childhood trauma (e) none of (a) through (d) above (f) all of (a) through (d) above

Correct Answer 7

(f)

Question 8 (include possible answers)

Fill in the blank: expressing longing can stir deep feelings of { }. SHAME.

Correct Answer 8

SHAME

Question 9 (include possible answers)

An expansive group therapy style may be helpful in providing a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ space for exploration. RELATIVELY SAFE

Correct Answer 9

RELATIVELY SAFE

Question 10 (include possible answers)

Longing, desire and sex can evoke \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in group leaders. (a) strong counter transference (b) not much counter transference at all

Correct Answer 10

(a)

Specific Focus Process Group registration limit

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