

Rosara Torrisi
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Education:

Ph.D., Human Sexuality, Widener University Center for Human Sexuality Studies, 2017

Dissertation: The Sexual Functioning of Lesbian Survivors of Breast Cancer

- Received the William R. Stayton Award for Applied Leadership in Human Sexuality

M.Ed., Human Sexuality, Widener University Center for Human Sexuality Studies, 2013

M.S.S.W., Social Work, Columbia University School of Social Work, 2011

Concentration: Advanced Clinical Practice

Capstone: Assessing Female Veterans across Systems

Thesis: Preliminary Evaluation of Youth on the High-Risk Committee in 2010 and an Overview of the High-Risk Rating Scale with Recommendations for Future Standardization and Implementation

B.A., Psychology, Barnard College, Columbia University, 2009

Thesis: A Working Model: The Mediation Effects of Perceived Partner Responsiveness, Sexual Desire, and Sexual Activities on Sexual Satisfaction

Additional Training:

Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education training, Older Adult
Unitarian Universality Association, December 2019

Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education training, Youth & Young Adult
Unitarian Universality Association, April 2015

Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education training, Young Adult & Adult
Unitarian Universality Association, August 2011

safeTALK suicide prevention training
Community Organization for Parents and Youth, March 2009

Structural Family Therapy by Daniel Minuchin
Community Organization for Parents and Youth, November 2008

Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education training, Youth
Unitarian Universality Association, November 2007

Teaching Experiences:

Adjunct Associate Professor

HSED 500: Professional Seminar in Human Sexuality, Fall 2020

HSED 619: Sensitive Issues in Clinical Sexology, Summer 2020

HSED 600: Professional Seminar in Human Sexuality, Spring 2020

HSED 562: Sex Therapy 1/Couples & Relationships, Fall 2019

HSED 652: Sexuality/Intimacy and Chronic Illness/Disability, Spring 2018, 2019, 2020

Center for Human Sexuality Studies, Widener University, Chester, PA

- Developed syllabus and instructed graduate course

Adjunct Associate Professor

ANT 240: Women, Men, and Social Change, Fall 2017

Department of Sociology and Anthropology, SUNY Farmingdale State College, Farmingdale, NY

- Developed syllabus and instructed undergraduate course with 30+ registered students

Implementation of the Sexual Excitation and Sexual Inhibition Inventory in Sex Therapy Practice, April 2017

Widener University Center for Human Sexuality Studies, Chester, PA

- Instructed Sex Therapy II course on utilizing the SESII for assessments and ongoing treatment interventions

Implementation of the Sexual Excitation and Sexual Inhibition Inventory in Sex Therapy Practice, January 2016

Widener University Center for Human Sexuality Studies, Chester, PA

- Instructed Sex Therapy II course on utilizing the SESII for assessments and ongoing treatment interventions

Youth and Young Adult Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education facilitator, August 2015 – Present

Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY

- Weekly co-facilitation of comprehensive sexuality education curriculum
- Summer weekend young adult educational retreats

Therapeutic Experiences:

Founder, Director and President, January 2012 – Present

Long Island Institute of Sex Therapy, Plainview, NY

- Responsible for hiring and managing employees
- Supervise and mentor associate therapists and interns
- Engage a community of allied professionals in ongoing sex therapy and sex education workshops
- Conduct all business, financial and advertising-related tasks

Supervising Couples, Relationship, and Sex Therapist, August 2012 – Present

Long Island Institute of Sex Therapy, Plainview, NY

- Voted 2015 and 2017 “Best Sex Therapist on Long Island”
- Nominated 2016, 2018, 2019, and 202 “Best Sex Therapist on Long Island”
- Preferred Sex Therapist by Stony Brook School of Medicine’s Division of Midwifery
- Recommended Sex Therapist by CW Post/Long Island University
- Highlighted Sex Therapist by the Long Island LGBT Network
- Invited speaker for various Northwell Hospital departments including STARS, Katz and Zucker-Hillside

- 2013-2014 under supervision of Deborah Berry, PhD
- 2012-2013 under dual supervision of Deborah Berry, PhD and Sabitha Pillai-Friedman, PhD

Primary Therapist, May 2011 – August 2014

North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center, Roslyn Heights, NY

- Weekly intake psychosocial assessments and psychotherapy sessions
- Therapist for youth and families with learning disabilities and developmental delays
- Lead and co-lead therapy groups for suicidal children & teens, parents, and families

Primary Therapist Intern, September 2010 – April 2011

North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center, Roslyn Heights, NY

- Weekly intake psychosocial assessments and psychotherapy sessions
- Therapist for youth and families

Sociotherapist Intern, September 2009 – May 2010

Mercy First, Therapeutic Foster Boarding Home, Brooklyn, NY

- Weekly home visits with foster families; Collaboration with caseworkers
- Monthly adolescent groups on healthy relationships and motivation for future

Intake Counselor, December 2008 – May 2009

The Door, New York, NY

- Intake interviews/psychosocial assessments and referrals with at-risk young adults

Client Liaison and Intern, Summers 2006 - 2008

Institute for Sex Therapy and Council for Relationships, Philadelphia, PA

- Co-authored article on desire; Assembled posters for 2008 AASECT conference
- Coding of therapeutic sessions for somatic experience and emotion

Intern to Dr. Barbara Bartlik, September - December 2007

Weill-Cornell New York Presbyterian Medical Center, New York, NY

- Led therapy workshops on Tantric sex, breast cancer and sexuality, body language

Peer Educator, August 2006 – August 2008

Well Woman, Barnard College, New York, NY

- Led educational groups on sexual health, relationship health, and healthy living

Client Liaison and Intern, Summers 2004 – 2005 & 2009

Community Organization for Parents and Youth, Great Neck, NY

- Client liaison to patients addicted to alcohol and drugs and at-risk children
- Reviewed all client files for compliance with OASAS regulations

Other Professional Experiences:

Peer-Reviewer, Since September 2017

Journal of Homosexuality

- Suggest edits and provide comments for prospective journal articles

Council of Advisors for Supportive Services and Survivorship, Since 2016
Young Survival Coalition

- Assist in promoting programs to fulfill YSC's mission & strategic plans
- Support the assessment of YSC's programs to strengthen their individual and overall impact
- Foster new ideas and encourage creativity
- Serve as a trusted advisor and complement the work of YSC's governing Board of Directors
- Work collaboratively with the Mission Delivery Team leadership to develop long-range planning and bolster the department's ability to achieve their goals
- Act as an ambassador for YSC, its mission, volunteers and constituents

Unitarian Universalist Youth Representative from East Coast, May 2006
International Association for Religious Freedom, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, ROC

- Attended international religious freedom conference as voting youth delegate

Youth Co-Chair of Youth-Adult Committee, 2005
Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY

- Provided feedback on youth-related policies
- Assisted in development of youth-centered conferences

Head of the Youth, Annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar: 2003-2005
Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office, New York, NY

- Fully responsible for leading, organizing and producing a youth-centered international conference held at the United Nations for around 100 youth and 30 adults for three days in New York City
- Topics: Human Rights, HIV/AIDS, The Right to Water

Youth Observer to the Board of Trustees, 2003-2005
Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY

- Represented all youth of the congregation to the Board of Trustees
- Attended all monthly Board meetings

Research Experience:

Ph.D. Dissertation Study, 2013-2016
Widener University Center for Human Sexuality Studies
Title: The Sexual Functioning of Lesbian Survivors of Breast Cancer

- Survey development for an original study
- Survey creation and distribution through Qualtrics
- Implementation and scoring of standardized measures
- Assessing the validity of Sexual Excitation and Sexual Inhibition Inventory for Women (SESI-W) for use with queer females with and without a history of breast cancer
- Utilizing multiple standardized measures with queer females with and without a history of breast cancer

Research Associate, May 2011 – June 2015
North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center, Roslyn Heights, NY

- Co-developed internal high-risk suicide assessment scale

- Maintained agency-wide high-risk suicide assessment protocols
- Author and present twice-annual research reports

Research Intern under Columbia University Professor Robin Gearing, Sept. 2010 – April 2011
North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center, Roslyn Heights, NY

- Co-developed internal high-risk suicide assessment scale
- Co-developed agency-wide high-risk suicide assessment protocols
- Authored end of year report

Lab Assistant to Dr. Erick Janssen, August 2007 – June 2009
The Kinsey Institute, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

- Research on sexual/marital satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness using diary data in conjunction with Dr. Eshkol Rafaeli

Lab Assistant to Dr. Eshkol Rafaeli, September 2006 – June 2009
Affect and Relationships Lab, Columbia University, New York, NY

- Research on sexual/marital satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness using diary data in conjunction with Dr. Erick Janssen
- Coding of dyadic interactions and data analysis for empathic accuracy and support

Client Liaison and Intern, Summers 2006 - 2008
Institute for Sex Therapy and Council for Relationships, Philadelphia, PA

- Co-authored article on desire; Assembled posters for 2008 AASECT conference
- Coding of therapeutic sessions for somatic experience and emotion

Research Skills:

- Proficient in SPSS statistical programs
- Data entry in SPSS and Microsoft Office Excel
- Survey development
- Survey creation and distribution through Qualtrics
- Coding of dyadic interactions and data analysis for empathic accuracy and support
- Coding of therapeutic sessions for somatic experience and emotion
- Implementation, scoring, and tracking of standardized measures
- Creation of standardized clinical high-risk youth suicide identification scale
- Validity and reliability studies for standardization of high-risk youth suicide identification scale
- Validity studies for the use of standardized measures with queer women
- Validity studies for the use of standardized measures with queer female breast cancer survivors

Conference Presentations:

June, 2019: (Philadelphia, PA). AASECT Annual Conference: Let the Body Rejoice: The Interplay of Sexuality Education, Sex Counseling and Therapy. Using the SESII In Sex Therapy Practice. Rosara Torrisi.

April 2017: (Kingston, RI). University of Rhode Island Graduate Student Conference. Sexual Functioning of Lesbian Breast Cancer Survivors. Rosara Torrisi.

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April 2017: (Chester, PA). Widener University Graduate Student Research Symposium. Sexual Functioning of Lesbian Breast Cancer Survivors. Rosara Torrasi

September 2016: (Austin, TX). Annual National Conference: Integrating Heart, Mind, and Body in Pursuit of Sexual Health. Preliminary Results: Sexual Arousal of Lesbian Survivors of Breast Cancer. Rosara Torrasi.

October 2016: (Brookville, NY): Long Island University-Post Ninth Annual Mental Health Counseling Symposium: Evidence-Based Practices. DSM 5 Sexual Disorders and Evidence Based Treatment. Rosara Torrasi and Rachel Hoffman.

November 2013: (San Diego, CA). SSSS Annual Meeting: Connections: Interdisciplinary Perspectives in Sexuality. An Informal Review of Feminist Discourse on Lesbian Survivors of Breast Cancer. Rosara Torrasi, LMSW.

July 2012: (Chicago, IL). Intl Association for Relationship Research. The Association of Sexual and Marital Satisfaction in Newlywed Couples: The Mediating Role of Perceived Partner Responsiveness. Reuma Gadassi, Erick Janssen, Eshkol Rafaeli, Ragnar Anderson, Rosara Torrasi, Sara Newhouse, Dennis Fortenberry, Amy Holtzworth-Munroe, and Julia Heiman.

November 2011: (Houston, TX). SSSS Annual Meeting: Coming Together: Integrating Sexuality Theory, Research, and Practice. Treatment of Sexual Dysfunction in Sexual Minority Female Survivors of Breast Cancer: A Call for Research. Rosara R. Torrasi, LMSW.

Professional Conferences Attended:

AASECT Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, 2019

AltSex NYC Annual Conference, New York, NY, 2019

AltSex NYC Annual Conference, New York, NY, 2018

AltSex NYC Annual Conference, New York, NY, 2017

SASH Annual Conference, Austin, TX, 2016

AltSex NYC Annual Conference, New York, NY 2016

AASECT Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN, 2015

AASECT Annual Conference, Miami, FL, 2013

SSSS Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, 2013

SSSS Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, 2011

AASECT Annual Conference, San Diego, CA, 2011

AASECT Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, 2008

Workshops/Continuing Education Instruction:

Simple Pleasures: Engaging Sensuality Through Self-Compassion, February 12th, 2020
Sepi Peykar Presents, Great Neck House, Great Neck, NY

Working with Pregnancy-Related Sexuality Issues, Winter, 2019
Long Island University-Post, Mental Health Counseling Seminar, Brookville, NY

Working with Peripartum Sexuality Issues, September 21st, 2019
Modern Sex Therapy Training Institute (MSTI), New York, NY

A Guided Self-Discovery Journey, June 5th, 2019
Jericho High School, Jericho, NY

Working with Affairs, March 23rd, 2019
Long Island University-Post, Mental Health Counseling Seminar, Brookville, NY

Utilizing the Sexual Excitation and Sexual Inhibition Inventory, March 23rd, 2019
Widener University, Chester, PA

Sexual Excitations and Sexual Inhibitions and Fantasy Work, November 2018
Widener University, Chester, PA

Being an Askable Provider, October 31st, 2018
Northwell Hospital- Gyno-Urological Pelvic Pain Team, Manhasset, NY

Identifying Sexual Dysfunctions, December 9th, 2017
Long Island University-Post, Mental Health Counseling Seminar, Brookville, NY

Becoming an LGBT Affirmative College Counselor, April 3rd, 2017
Long Island University-Post, College Center for Healthy Living, Brookville, NY

Chocolate, Wine, and Sex Positions Over 60, February 24th, 2017
New Dimensions Physical Therapy, Manhasset, NY

Young Adult Our Whole Lives Sex Education Retreat, July 8th – July 9th, 2016
Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY

Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation, May 20th, 2016
Jericho High School, Jericho, NY

Traumatic Brain Injury and Sexuality, May 6th, 2016
Northwell Hospital- Transitions of Long Island, Manhasset, NY

10th through 12th grades Our Whole Lives Sex Education Retreat, August 1st – August 2nd, 2015

Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY

Student Special Interest Group, June 6th, 2015
AASECT Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN

Sexuality and Peri-Natal Trauma, March 24th, 2015
Perinatal Psychiatry Services at the Northwell- Zucker Hillside Hospital, Glen Oaks, NY

Love, Sex and Vulvas: An Exploration of Female Sexual Pleasure, February 6th, 2015
Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY

Focusing on Pleasure After 70, July 16th, 2014
The Guild House West, Philadelphia, PA

Intimate Partner Communication Skills, July 15th, 2014
The Guild House West, Philadelphia, PA

Pure Pleasure, July 11, 2014
The Solution Center, Port Washington, NY

Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation, June 5th, 2014
Jericho High School, Jericho, NY

Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation, May 21st, 2014
Jericho High School, Jericho, NY

When to Refer to a Sex Therapist, April 24th, 2014
The Solution Center, Plainview, NY

Work, Life, Play Balance, December 3rd, 2013
Syosset Rotary Club, Syosset, NY

Student Special Interest Group, June 8th, 2013
AASECT Annual Meeting, Miami, FL

Relationship Skills for New Parents, April 14th, 2013
Plainview, NY

Unlocking Your Erotic Intelligence, February 5th, 2013
Barnard Club of LI, Port Washington, NY

Unlocking Your Erotic Intelligence, November 16th, 2012
Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY

Pregnancy and Sexuality, June 5th, 2012
Perinatal Psychiatry Services at the Northwell- Zucker Hillside Hospital, Glen Oaks, NY

Sexuality Orientation, 2006-2008

Well Woman, Barnard College, New York, NY

Healthy Relationships, 2006-2008

Well Woman, Barnard College, New York, NY

Sexual Anatomy, 2006-2008

Well Woman, Barnard College, New York, NY

STIs/STDs, 2006-2008

Well Woman, Barnard College, New York, NY

Eating Disorders, 2006-2008

Well Woman, Barnard College, New York, NY

Substance Abuse, 2006-2008

Well Woman, Barnard College, New York, NY

Tantric Sex, Dr. Barbara Bartlik, 2007

Weill-Cornell New York Presbyterian Medical College, New York, NY

Breast Cancer and Sexuality, Dr. Barbara Bartlik, 2007

Weill-Cornell New York Presbyterian Medical College, New York, NY

Body Language, Dr. Barbara Bartlik, 2007

Weill-Cornell New York Presbyterian Medical College, New York, NY

Publications:

Torrise, R. (2019). Book review: The Ultimate Guide to Bondage. <http://sextherapylongisland.com/book-review-the-ultimate-guide-to-bondage-by-mistress-couple/>

Torrise, R. (2016). Feminist Perspectives on the Feminine and Religion. *Sex Roles*, 76 (7), 520-521. <http://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-016-0721-z>

Torrise, R. (2013, May 25). Sexuality matters: Holding on to your sexuality during breast cancer treatment. Delaware County News Network website: <http://www.delconewsnetwork.com/articles/2013/05/25/life/doc519fd64a2d2c1889320786.txt>

Torrise, R. (2013, March 21). Sexuality matters: Seven tips for pregnant women to stay sexy. Delaware County News Network website: <http://www.delconewsnetwork.com/articles/2013/03/21/life/doc514b6765ee098920077976.txt>

Media Appearances:

Kerner, Ian. (2019). How men, women use condoms differently. *CNN*. Retrieved from <https://www.keyt.com/health/how-men-women-use-condoms-differently/1065692594>

Piña, Christy. (2019). Telling Your Partner You Want Them To Talk Dirty To You Is So Much Easier Than You Think. *Elite Daily*. Retrieved from <https://www.elitedaily.com/p/telling-your-partner-you-want-them-to-talk-dirty-to-you-is-so-much-easier-than-you-think-17858977>

Smothers, Hannah. (2018). 11 Things You Never Knew About the Female Orgasm. *Cosmopolitan*. Retrieved from <https://www.cosmopolitan.com/sex-love/a21937483/female-orgasm-facts/>

Brabaw, Kasandra. (2018). 5 Breakup Lessons Straight People Can Learn From Queer Women. *Refinery 29*. Retrieved from <https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/lesbian-women-better-at-breaking-up-lessons-for-straight-people>

Strong, Rebecca. (2018). 4 Reasons Queefing Is Nothing to Be Ashamed Of, According To Experts. *Elite Daily*. Retrieved from <https://www.elitedaily.com/p/4-reasons-queefing-is-nothing-to-be-ashamed-of-according-to-experts-10134833>

NA. (2018). How to Find the Best Sex Therapist- Expert Roundup. *Marriage.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.marriage.com/advice/therapy/how-to-find-the-best-sex-therapist/>

Lampen, Claire. (2018). Can We Get Some Relationship Research That Isn't About Heterosexual Couples, Please? *Bustle*. Retrieved from <https://www.bustle.com/p/can-we-get-some-relationship-research-that-isnt-about-heterosexual-couples-please-9136676>

Brabaw, Kasandra. (2018). How to Avoid a Communication Breakdown in Your Relationship. *Men's Health*. Retrieved from <https://www.menshealth.com/sex-women/a26090182/communicate-better-relationship-girlfriend-wife/>

Brabaw, Kasandra. (2018). Confessions of A Little Spoon. *Refinery 29*. Retrieved from <https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/sex-gender-roles-femininity-pillow-princess>

Brabaw, Kasandra. (2018). You Can Have an Orgasm with Your Clothes On, Here's How. *Refinery 29*. Retrieved from <https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/dry-humping-orgasm-sex-tips>

Mullen-McWilliams, K. (2017). How Do I Tell My Husband I Don't Want to Have Sex? What You Want Truly Matters. *Romper*. Retrieved from <https://www.romper.com/p/how-do-i-tell-my-husband-i-dont-want-to-have-sex-what-you-want-truly-matters-2804625>

Mullen-McWilliams, K. (2017). How Close to Your Due Date Can You Have Sex? You Don't Have To Watch The Calendar. *Romper*. Retrieved from <https://www.romper.com/p/how-close-to-your-due-date-can-you-have-sex-you-dont-have-to-watch-the-calendar-68971>

Mullen-McWilliams, K. (2017). How to Talk To Your Partner About Timing Sex When Trying To Conceive, Because It's Not Always Romantic. *Romper*. Retrieved from <https://www.romper.com/p/how-to-talk-to-your-partner-about-timing-sex-when-trying-to-conceive-because-its-not-always-romantic-62739>

Osmanski, S. (2017). How to Talk About Sexual Dysfunction with Your Partner (It Doesn't Have to Be That Cringe-Worthy!). *HelloFlo*. Retrieved from <http://helloflo.com/talk-about-sexual-dysfunction/>

Cipriano, S. (2017). Tackling taboos: ladies masturbate too! *LOLA*. Retrieved from <https://www.mylola.com/blog/tackling-taboos-ladies-masturbate/>

Levenstein, D. (2017). Dealing with Aging and Sexuality. 103.9 LI NEWS RADIO.

Cassano, M. (2017). 9 Things You Need to Buy Before Having Anal Sex. *Bustle*. Retrieved from <https://www.bustle.com/p/9-things-you-need-to-buy-before-having-anal-sex-34415>

Cassano, M. (2016). 11 Best Sex Toys and Tips Ever, According to Sex Therapists. *Bustle*. Retrieved from <https://www.bustle.com/articles/177925-11-best-sex-toys-tips-ever-according-to-sex-therapists>

Hammerschlag, A. (2016). Work-Study, Manhattan Style: Thousands of NY Students Turn to Sex Work to Make Ends Meet. *The Village Voice*. Retrieved from <http://www.villagevoice.com/news/work-study-manhattan-style-thousands-of-ny-students-turn-to-sex-work-to-make-ends-meet-8626389>

Levenstein, D. (2015). Out of Control Sexual Behaviors. 103.9 LI NEWS RADIO.

Meer, J. (2015). Let's Talk About Sex (Therapy). Retrieved from <https://judithmeer.wordpress.com/2015/11/24/sextherapy/>

Torrise, R. (2012). Guest Voices: The P-Mate. Retrieved from <http://blog.hankypanky.com/guest-voices-the-p-mate/>

Torrise, R. (2011). Guest Voices: Hanky Panky Under the Microscope. Retrieved from <http://blog.hankypanky.com/hanky-panky-under-the-microscope/>

Awards and Honors:

William R. Stayton Award for Applied Leadership in Human Sexuality, 2017

Nominated and voted Long Island's Best Sex Therapist, 2015 and 2017

Nominated Long Island's Best Sex Therapist, 2016, 2018, and 2019

Iota Iota Iota National Honor Society

Gamma Eta Rho National Honor Society

Professional Affiliations:

International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health, since 2017

Society for Sex Therapy and Research, since 2015

The Sexuality and Aging Consortium, since 2013

National Coalition for Sexual Freedom, since 2012

Plainview Old-Bethpage Chamber of Commerce, since 2012

Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, since 2011

June 24, 2020

- Member of the 2016 Annual Conference Scientific Review Committee

National Association of Social Workers, since 2009

American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists, since 2008

- Chair of the Mentorship Committee, since 2019
- Leader of Student Special Interest Group, July 2013 to December 2016
- Certified Sex Therapist, since 2014

Licensure:

Registered Licensed Clinical Social Worker, New York State, license number R-082289