



## Session II B, July 16-18, 2018

### 25. Sexuality, Gender, and Culture: From Inquiry to Action

Transgender and queer issues are often spotlighted in politics, religion, education, media and the workplace; yet, the lived experiences of LGBT individuals and communities are often obscured. While public perceptions of gender and gender norms may be shifting, the marginalization of women, trans, and queer folks within heteropatriarchy remains unexamined. Cultural differences regarding both sexuality and gender are alternately minimized, mobilized, and eroticized for politics and profit. Our conceptions and performances of sexuality, gender and culture—while contradictory and contested—are inextricably intertwined and inevitably shaped by each other.

**Designed for:** Educators, trainers and service providers who want to develop their conceptual and practical capacities to facilitate inquiry and develop socially responsible action regarding questions of sexuality, gender and culture.

#### Workshop Objectives

You will have the opportunity to:

- Develop knowledge and skills to address the intersections of human sexuality, gender, and culture from an intercultural communication perspective
- Gain an understanding of the historical constructions of sexuality and gender across cultures

#### Learning Activities

- Examine frameworks to address the complexities of gender, sexuality, and culture
- Explore strategies and resources for teaching, training, and alliance building



**Dr. Kathryn Sorrells** is a professor and chair of the Department of Communication Studies at California State University, Northridge. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in intercultural communication, intercultural training, cultural studies, and feminist theory. Kathryn has also designed and taught classes on communication and globalization, as well as global peace and justice. She has been instrumental in developing a campus-wide initiative, *Civil Discourse and Social Change*, dedicated to creating a proactively engaged campus based on humanistic values, inclusivity, and social justice. Kathryn has facilitated change processes for individuals, groups, and institutions in the areas of diversity, gender, and intercultural conflict. She is also a potter and artist, and she brings her creative interests into the classroom and scholarly work. She is the author of *Intercultural Communication: Globalization and Social Justice*, co-editor of *Globalizing Intercultural Communication*, and has published a variety of articles related to intercultural communication, gender, and social justice.



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### **26. Inspiring Curiosity: Fostering Intercultural and Global Competence for Students, Host Families, Faculty, and Staff**

Building intercultural competence and increasing your sensitivity to cultural differences can be a lengthy process requiring extensive experience, reflection, and support. However, engaging participants (study abroad students, faculty, or staff) in activities to develop intercultural competences is always a challenge as most of them do not perceive such skills as something they need. How do you inspire their curiosity in those instances? In this session, you will get a chance to facilitate quick and easy-to-adapt experiential learning activities aimed at creating meaningful reflections and enhancing intercultural skills. We will discuss strategies for implementing these activities in different settings, and identifying ways to turn such brief experiences into purposeful and long-lasting learning for your audiences. Drawing on AFS's 60+ years of experience in facilitating intercultural learning, trainers from AFS Intercultural Programs will lead this highly interactive workshop and share their best practices in developing Student and Host Family Learning Journeys that engage participants throughout their study abroad programs and beyond.

**Designed for:** International education faculty and staff, trainers and others who are involved in developing global competence or intercultural diversity training in education, healthcare, social services, and NGOs.

#### **Workshop Objectives**

You will have the opportunity to:

- Explore the key elements of intercultural competence
- Experience and apply effective experiential learning activities to foster curiosity
- Examine strategies to support learners in shifting perspectives as core to intercultural competence development
- Explore debriefing as a powerful tool to support meaningful learning
- Discuss ways of creating an effective program to develop intercultural competence in your own context

#### **Learning Activities**

- Intercultural competence: what are its key components and key steps to get it right
- Shifting perspectives and self-awareness: how to make it engaging, exciting, and meaningful
- The role of curiosity in developing intercultural competence: how important curiosity is and how to foster it through various activities
- Experiential learning: how to choose and develop activities to create a full experiential learning cycle
- Debriefing: how to best debrief activities to ensure meaningful learning takes place
- Program design: key elements of successful intercultural competence development programs and how can you use it in your context