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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 unexamined. While gender norms may be shifting, 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. This session offers knowledge and skills to address the intersections of human sexuality, gender, and culture from an intercultural communication perspective. The workshop is 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. Participants gain an understanding of the historical constructions of sexuality and gender across cultures; examine frameworks to address the complexities of gender, sexuality and culture; and 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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