



AASECT 2020 Annual Conference

The Circle of Life: Sex Positivity Through All of Life's Stages

June 4-7, 2020 Palm Springs, CA

Challenging common myths about the sexuality of people young and old – and everyone in between – is part of our work as sexuality educators, counselors, and therapists. Doing so while maintaining a sex positive orientation is integral to the mission of AAASECT as are the shared principles of pleasure, social justice, and research-informed practice. At this moment in history, young people are speaking out about consent, reproductive justice, and human rights. Many adults are seeking to raise, teach, and reach young people to support their sexual literacy and healthy development. Meanwhile, research on the sexuality of older adults is demystifying earlier notions of the de-sexualization of aging. Seniors and their caregivers are working toward honoring, respecting, and understanding the biopsychosocial effects of aging. While it is an exciting time of change, several questions emerge: What are the stigmas attached to age and sex? How can the circle of life enhance the fullest expressions of human sexuality? What can we learn from each other as we work throughout the lifecycle and uplift voices often hushed? What are the social and cultural dilemmas that we must discuss to truly embrace sex positive human development?

2020 Call for Abstract Proposals

Do you have an innovative idea that would make an engaging conference or pre-conference workshop offering? Along with proposals for workshops, panel presentations, original research sessions and poster presentations, we are also soliciting proposals for potential pre-conference workshops of four hours or eight hours in length and for a SAR that is __ hours in length. We particularly encourage submissions focusing on, but not limited to the following:

- Sexuality issues related to childhood, adolescence, pregnancy, postpartum, menopause, andropause, and end-of life.
- Creating forums to address common misperceptions about teen sexuality, long-term relationships, cognitively-impaired elders, and others young and old.
- Advancing medical and therapeutic aspects of human sexuality including cutting-edge treatments available for health conditions that affect sexual response and/or functioning.
- Current practices advancing reproductive justice.
- Supporting curricula that explore issues of race and privilege in sexuality education in the course of life.
- Evaluating the accessibility of sexually explicit media and toys, sexual health care, condoms and contraception, sexuality information, education, counseling, and therapy.
- Employing curriculum materials that explore sex positivity for younger and older adults.



- Utilizing healing approaches that decrease shame associated with age or stage in life.
- Constructing advanced models of sexual counseling or therapy that are specific to gender nonbinary and transgender individuals and relationships.
- Discussing kinky sexual behaviors, sexual minorities, images of older bodies, oral histories of older dommes, subs, leather community, and others whose sexual identities are marginalized.
- Implementing curricula designed for younger and older members of LGBTQ communities.
- Establishing novel approaches to sexuality that incorporate education, therapy, and counseling.
- Incorporating trauma and illness of old and young people as it relates to their sexuality and gender.
- Examining the role of spirituality, religion, and belief systems and the ways these cultural institutions intersect with sexuality.
- Designing curricula for young people to help create safer, more pleasurable sexual activity in adulthood.
- Discerning the impact of sexual trauma and other oppressions on migrant children.
- Exploring sexuality on a global scale through investigations of other countries' sexuality education curricula.
- Collaborating with those addressing adultism, ageism, and privilege in their education or clinical practice.
- Exploring collaboration with teen magazine authors, children's and young adult writers, gerontologists, hospice and palliative care specialists, medical professionals, caregivers, and families to foster greater understanding of human sexuality for younger and older adults.
- Investigating findings from research on the dilemmas associated with the sexuality of younger and older adults addressing consent in a #MeToo moment.
- Delving into the design of more ergonomic sex toys and lubes for older bodies.
- Discovering the impact of ethical issues of cognitive impairments, chronic disease, pain, sex, and romance at a later age.
- Considering the need for sexual wellness policies in senior housing, the importance of educating family members, and the changing culture of senior living.
- Changing perspectives on family structures.
- Identifying sources of pleasure for every type of body, fostering self-advocacy, and creating sexual freedom to transform sexuality education for people with chronic illness, pain, or other disabilities.