How Alfred Kinsey Armed the Early Gay Rights Movement in America with Research

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“Civil rights shouldn’t be a matter of numbers, but they are.”

In 1948, Alfred Kinsey published a groundbreaking study titled ‘Sexual Behavior in the Human Male.’ In 1953, he followed up with ‘Sexual Behavior in the Human Female.’ Kinsey’s research revolutionized the study of human sexuality, challenging long-held beliefs about sexual orientation and behavior.

In the 1950s, when discrimination against gay and lesbian Americans was widespread, Kinsey’s work was a beacon of hope. He helped to shed light on the lives of those who were closeted, and his research provided a foundation for the early gay rights movement.

Among his key findings:
- Homosexuality was not a mental illness.
- People could be both heterosexual and homosexual.
- Many people experienced varying degrees of sexual orientation throughout their lives.

Kinsey’s research was controversial, but it paved the way for future generations to demand equal rights and respect for sexual diversity. His work continues to be a source of inspiration for those fighting for a more just and equitable society.

“By the end of Eisenhower’s eight years in office, his Navy Department Deputy Undersecretary John Ference (and the Navy’s new homosexual procurement policy) had abandoned the ‘chapter’ system. More importantly, Congress and every other senior government official announcing the formation of the Malaria Society of Washington (MSW) had no formal relationship to original Malaria which had abandoned the ‘chapter’ system. More importantly, Kerry was beholden to an agencier who would not present for him the demand equal treat. In 1985 he led the first gay rights protest in Washington at the White House. The Pentagon, Civil Service Commission, and in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia in which Kinsey references from his letters and speeches to public signs now in the Smithsonian.”

Now if he’s around the crowd his work has changed the whole society and the way we live. When I asked him where he’d be, he’d say, “Oh, out with the laity.”

■ 1951. Kinsey tells Scalia Commission on Offenders adult consensual sodomy should be decriminalized.
■ 1952. Mattachine begins to publish survey Kinsey statistics in first ever gay magazine sent to political candidates. The same estimates were used by 1955, the Los Angeles After Math Magazine, to find out that was possible not enough that they distributed thousands of copies.

Graham Harpoons Dr. Kinsey's Calls Sex Tome Staff 'Secret Agents' Bulletin Billy Graham Sex Agents. Graham admitted most wildly inappropriate. Gillette the 300 Group, a niche editorial that was also a political organ, called for Kinsey's work to be ‘secret agent’ amplified the growing charge that Kinsey was ‘sowing the seeds by weakening American morale.’

“THERE ARE NO NATURAL RIGHTS.”

Kinsey's work was a turning point in the history of American democracy. It helped to shift the conversation away from the idea that sexual orientation was a moral issue, to a focus on the rights of all people to love and be loved regardless of who they love.

In 2022, the Kinsey Institute celebrated its 75th anniversary. Kinsey’s legacy continues to inspire those working for a more inclusive and just society.

“Kinsey was the Rosa Parks of the Civil Rights Movement.”
— Yale Law School professor William Eskridge, Jr.

Conclusion

The Kinsey Institute's research has had a profound impact on the way we understand and talk about human sexuality. It has helped to challenge stigma and discrimination, and to promote greater understanding and acceptance.

As we look to the future, we can draw inspiration from Kinsey’s work and the early gay rights activists who fought for justice. Their courage and perseverance continue to inspire us to work towards a world where everyone can live freely and with dignity.

Click to link to read: https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/09/opinion/kinsey-sodomy-laws-homosexuality.html