

# KINSEY *Today*

A PUBLICATION OF THE KINSEY INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN SEX, GENDER, AND REPRODUCTION

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The mission of The Kinsey Institute is to promote interdisciplinary research and scholarship in the fields of human sexuality, gender, and reproduction. The Institute was founded in 1947 by renowned sex researcher Alfred Kinsey. Today, the Institute has two components, an Indiana University research institute and a not-for-profit corporation, which owns and manages the Institute's research data and archives, collections, and databases.

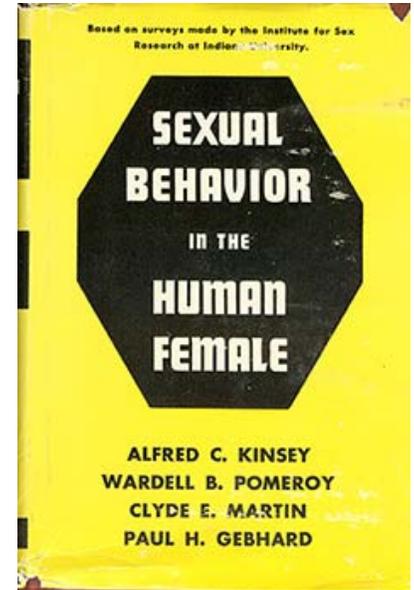
## 60th Anniversary of Sexual Behavior in the Human Female: The Impact of Research

*Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*, the first *Kinsey Report*, came out in 1948. In the years before, Kinsey and his team took sexual histories of about 12,000 people. Out of this mountain of data, the Male volume analyzed information from 5,300 interviews with men.

*Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* was 804 pages of statistical tables, appendices, and dry academic analysis, but it still became a bestseller, selling over 200,000 copies, and a cultural sensation. People were starved for factual information about sex in America, and Kinsey's research struck a nerve. The book was widely debated, and Dr. Kinsey was invited across America to lecture about his research.

And everyone wanted to know - **what about the women?**

Released in 1953, the women's version, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*, contained analysis of 5,940 interviews with women about their sexual histories, but also contained a section dedicated to comparisons between the male and female results. It was another huge tome, 830+ pages, and quickly reached bestseller status, and sparked new buzz and controversy.



### K-Day and Media Frenzy

After five years of waiting for the release of the female volume, the press around the world was eager for details and juicy tidbits on what Dr. Kinsey and his team might have discovered about women's sexuality in America. In anticipation of the press attention, the [Institute for Sex Research](#) kept information tightly controlled, inviting over 60 print, TV, and radio news outlets to send reporters to private press briefings, and making the press agree not to publish any details until **K-Day**, [August 20th, 1953](#).

*Sexual Behavior in the Human Female* was published on September 14 1953, and received another surge of news coverage. It became a topic of popular culture, with references in songs, cartoons, movies, jokes, and magazines.

### Legacy of the Female Volume

Looking back from our 21st-century viewpoint, with open discussion of sexuality and gender in media and in daily life, it can be hard to understand how much of a difference the *Kinsey Reports* made in the American conversations about sexuality, bodies, and relationships of the 1950s and 60s.

So we asked a few researchers to share with us what they feel was so revolutionary about the research shared 60 years ago in the *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*:

"Our major aim was to create a more rational and scientific view of human sexuality. We made it possible for additional sex research which sprang up after us. I am proud that I was able to contribute an anthropological cast to the female volume, improving it (over the *Male*)."

~**Dr. Paul Gebhard**, Director, 1956-1982, and co-author of *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*

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"As the first woman and third Director of The Kinsey Institute I wanted to honor the Anniversaries of Dr Alfred Kinsey's classic works which provided the foundation of the Institute with a statement that would reflect their tremendous impact on science and world culture.

The "Kinsey Reports" were in their own way akin to the discovery of the "New World" several centuries earlier. An entire realm of human existence remained cut off from the purview of scholars and scientists, particularly in the western world after the fall of the Roman Empire. As a result, when they first appeared, the Reports represented far more than just a monumental step in the progress of the social sciences, but, for the first time, firmly established the study of human sexuality within the halls of science. This pioneering undertaking helped to peel back many of the layers of obfuscation, denial and outright mistruths that had distorted or completely obscured humankind's understanding of one of our fundamental features. Though many shadows still remain in the domain of sexuality, it was Kinsey's work that first cast the light of modern science into the darkest of its corners for not just academics but the public as well.

As the Institute's name implies, there are no questions of Sex, Gender or Reproduction whose understanding does not in some way stem from the emergence of Kinsey's work six decades ago.

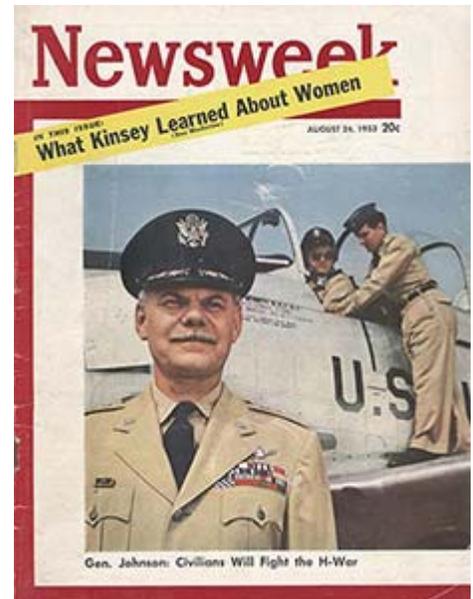
This anniversary is a time to celebrate and acknowledge the courage and foresight of Dr. Alfred Kinsey and the scientists, researchers and clinicians who worked with him and have followed him over the past 6 decades!"

~**Dr. June M. Reinisch**, former Director, The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction

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"*Sexual Behavior in the Human Female* revealed that most women (such as 97% of married women) had experienced orgasm, just not by intercourse. This busted the myth of the 'frigid' wife, and showed the importance of the clitoris in female orgasm. These two books led millions of people to understand that variation in sexual expression is natural; thereby validating their sexuality and enriching their lives."

~**Richard Crosby**, Senior Research Fellow. Professor, Department of Health Behavior, University of Kentucky



"My work on human reproductive functioning on 5 continents over the past 30 years has taught me the enormous value and power of Kinsey's maxim that we are here to record human variation, not to judge it. His groundbreaking work 6 decades ago made possible current scientific understanding of human sexuality, thereby increasing our collective empathy for, and joy in, human universals and differences."

~**Virginia J. Vitzthum**, Senior Scientist, The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction; Professor of Anthropology, Indiana University

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"The 0-6 scale in the *Male* volume and the debunking of the myth of the vaginal orgasm in the *Female* volume are two of Kinsey's long-lasting achievements. The 0-6 scale is a non-hierarchical tool that an untold number of people have used to identify their sexuality.

Demonstrating that Sigmund Freud's idea of orgasmic transfer was not physiologically possible paved the way for present-day understandings of women's sexualities."

~**Donna J. Drucker**, MLS, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany and author of the upcoming book, *The Classification of Sex: Alfred Kinsey and the Organization of Knowledge* (2014, U. of Pittsburgh Press).

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"I think the most enduring legacy of Kinsey's work, on a cultural level, is the concept of a continuum of sexual orientation – the 'Kinsey Scale.' Although the dominant paradigm is still categorical – “are you straight or gay?” - most folks born into the post-Kinsey world have some understanding that people who are nominally heterosexual may have occasional homosexual experiences or attractions (and vice versa).

Kinsey's work highlighted how frequently homosexual attraction occurs in heterosexuals: almost half of men and a fifth of women in his samples had “reacted to” a member of the same gender. I find it remarkable how casually people my age accept the fluidity of sexual orientation (e.g., being “bicurious”) when just a few generations ago, sexual orientation was considered ironclad and absolute.”

~**Tierney Lorenz**, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow, Common Themes of Reproductive Diversity, Kinsey Institute, and Center for the Integrative Study of Animal Behavior, Indiana University

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"*Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* and *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female* are the bibles of sexology. Critics can carp about the sampling, elements of essentialism, etc., but when push comes to shove, there is no sex research that has informed us as much about human sexual behavior."

~**Martin S. Weinberg**, Senior Research Sociologist and Trustee, Kinsey Institute, 1968 – 1980, Professor of Sociology, Indiana University.

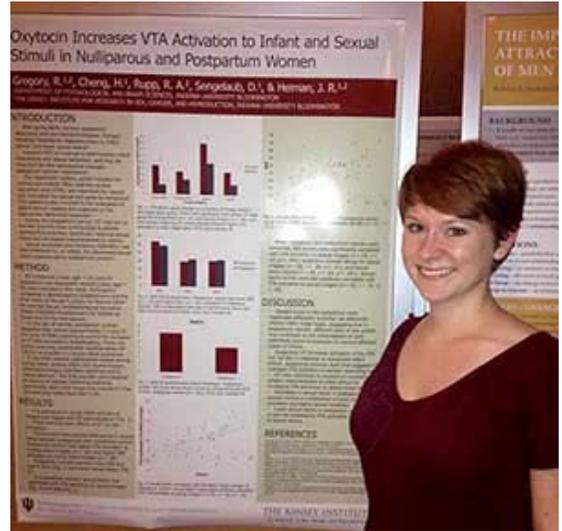
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## Kinsey Institute Researchers Present at IASR

The International Academy of Sex Research Annual meeting was held in Chicago, Illinois August 7-10. Kinsey Institute researchers presented on a wide range of new findings.

**Rebecca Gregory**, doctoral student in the Department of Psychological and Brain Science at Indiana University under Dr. Julia Heiman, received the award for the Best Junior Poster. Her poster was one of 126 presented at the conference.

The project Gregory worked on addressed mechanisms that might help to explain what goes on in the postpartum brain to influence new mothers' lack of attention to sexual cues, and greater attention to infant cues. She analyzed the effects of the hormone oxytocin on both mother-infant interactions, including breastfeeding and bonding, and sexual responses. Women who were postpartum and women without children were both given oxytocin nasal spray, and their brain reactions (activation) to sexual and infant stimuli were observed through fMRI (functional MRI). The VTA, known as a reward center of the brain, was activated by the oxytocin in both sets of women.



"Our findings show that reward areas in the postpartum brain respond differently to similar yet affectively distinct infant image types and that oxytocin increases activation of the VTA...in response to sexual and infant stimuli."

The project is funded by National Institutes of Health, and is part of Dr. Heiman's research examining the role of oxytocin in the postpartum period.

### *Oxytocin Increases VTA Activation to Infant and Sexual Stimuli in Nulliparous and Postpartum Women*

Gregory, R., Cheng, H., Rupp, R. A., Sengelaub, D., & Heiman, J. R.

Other presentations at IASR included:

Testing The Kinsey Institute Homework Intervention Strategy (KIHIS) Among Men Who Have Sex with Men Emetu, R. E., Marshall, A., Sanders, S., Crosby, R. A., Graham, C. A., Milhausen, R. R., & Yarber, W. L.

The effect of condoms on penile vibrotactile sensitivity thresholds in young, heterosexual men. Hill, B.J., Janssen, E., Kvam, P., Amick, EE, Sanders, SA

Sexual inhibition and sexual excitation in men with and without erectile dysfunction. Quinta Gomes, A. L., Janssen, E., Adaikan, G., & Nobre, P.J..

Orgasm Experiences Among Emerging Adult Men and Women: Relationship Context, Gender, and Attitudes Toward Uncommitted Sexual Activity. Garcia, J. R., Massey, S. G., Merriwether, A. M., & Seibold-Simpson, S. M.

Women's Condom Use Intentions: The Moderating Effects of Alcohol and Condom Use Self-Efficacy George, W.H., Davis, K. C., Masters, N. T., Eakins, D., Danube, C. L., Norris, J., & Heiman (with U. of Washington)

## Staff Comings and Goings

### Welcome Tierney..

Dr. Tierney Lorenz is the new CTRD (Common Themes in Reproductive Diversity) postdoctoral fellow at the institute. Her research addresses the intersection of mood disorders and sexuality.

Dr. Lorenz's work examines the bidirectional relationship between sexual behaviors and symptoms of mood disorders. Her predoctoral work included psychophysiological studies of antidepressant use, sympathetic nervous system activity and genital arousal, clinical trials of behavior and writing-based therapies to improve sexual wellbeing in women with mood disorders, and cross-sectional studies of frequency of sexual activity and immunologic markers in men and women with and without mood disorders.

Her post-doctoral research examines how the presence or absence of sexual activity may influence immune response in healthy human females across the menstrual cycle, and if men and women differ in immune response to partnered sexual activity.



### ...and Goodbye to Brandon

Dr. Brandon J. Hill moves on from a position as a Kinsey Research Associate and doctoral student in Gender Studies at Indiana University to his new position: Research Professional at the University of Chicago's Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Innovation in Sexual And Reproductive Health.

Dr. Hill's research investigates the affect sexual identity has on the psychological and mental health of sexual minorities. This research examines the affects social stigma has on the frequency and prevalence of depression, stress, anxiety (trait and state), and suicidality among gay and lesbian identified individuals.

He was recently awarded a grant to study transgender in the U.S. Military, and will continue his affiliation as Kinsey Institute Research Fellow.

Good luck Brandon!



## John Money Scholar Studies Modern Fetish Communities

This summer the 2013 John Money Fellow, **Samantha Allen** of Emory University, visited the Kinsey Institute library to research her dissertation project, “Thinking Fetishism: An Affective Reading of ‘Sexual Paraphilias.’”



Photo: image attributed to Amber E, aka Mommy Florence from Baby Letters magazine, 1980s.

Besides sending out regular tweets of the research gems she was discovering in our stacks, Samantha also wrote a blog post for our sexual health website, [KinseyConfidential.org](http://KinseyConfidential.org).

*Plugged In: Sexual Fetish Communities 1970s to the Present* is Samantha's comparison of the print resources for fetish communities she found researching at The Kinsey Institute with their modern-day counterpart -- online fetish community websites.

Despite the move from physical magazines and journals to digital forums and chat rooms, Samantha found some enduring similarities in how fetish communities share information and network in both the print and digital ages.

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## Fall Exhibitions at The Kinsey Institute

### ***Past/Present* and *La Vida Sexual***

September 6 through December 20, 2013

*Past/Present* brings together a varied selection of older artworks and materials from The Kinsey Institute collection and pairs them with recent acquisitions, to explore the connection between the work of contemporary artists and artwork and imagery from past eras. This mixed media exhibition is offered as part of the Fall 2013 Themester: “Connectedness: Networks in a Complex World.”



Appearing in *Past/Present*: (Left) Unknown French photographer, hand-colored postcard, c.1920; (Right) Laura M. Abel, “Untitled #37 A.K.A. Wolfgang”, 1998, color photograph (detail).

On display in our Corridor Gallery is *La Vida Sexual*, an exhibition of artwork from Latin America or produced by artists originally from Latin American countries, as well as Spanish-language materials from the Kinsey Institute Library.

**Opening reception for both exhibitions will be Friday, September 6, 5:00 - 7:00 pm, The Kinsey Institute Gallery, Morrison Hall.** The reception is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided.

The Kinsey Institute Gallery is open 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm weekdays or by appointment. Admission is free. Due to adult content, visitors should be 18 years of age or older, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. Guided tours of The Kinsey Institute may be scheduled by calling 812-855-7686.

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Appearing in *La Vida Sexual*: Emilio Sanchez, Untitled drawing, n.d.

## Transgender in the Kinsey Archives

### Jeanne Hoff Archive

Dr. Jeanne Hoff, a psychiatrist trained at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO, worked with the Harry Benjamin Practice, and later opened her own private practice in transgender care. Dr. Hoff herself went through sexual reassignment surgery in the late 1970's. Her archives are inclusive of her professional records and documentation, book reviews, correspondences and essays.

Also included are TV appearances, notably an award-winning episode from the NBC show, "Not for Women Only," produced by Madeline Amgott, hosted by Polly Bergen and Frank Fields. An interview by Lynn Redgrave and Frank Fields as Jeanne commenced her transition was titled, "Becoming Jeanne...A Search for Sexual Identity" and was broadcasted by NBC on 30 June 1978. "Becoming Jeanne" won the prestigious Ohio State Broadcasting award in 1979, and Madeline Amgott was nominated for an Emmy award.

Additional content on the website at

<http://www.kinseyinstitute.org/library/jeannehoff.html> includes

"Becoming Jeanne" [28 minutes] and "Not For Women Only" [23 minutes]. Both videos are posted on our website with the permission of Madeline Amgott.



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Indiana University | Morrison Hall 313 | 1165 East Third Street | Bloomington, IN 47405 USA  
812.855.7686 | FAX 812.855.8277 | [www.kinseyinstitute.org](http://www.kinseyinstitute.org)

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