



8th Annual Clinical Updates Colloquium

JANUARY 12, 2024 - 9 A.M.-4 P.M. - VIRTUAL

Conference Agenda

Moderator and Conference Chair

Dr. Stephen W. Stoeffler, Ph.D., LSW, Kutztown University

9:00-9:15 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

*Dr. Laurie A. McMillan, Kutztown University,
Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences*

*Dr. John G. Vafeas, DSW, LSW, Kutztown University
Department of Social Work, Chair and MSW Program
Director*

9:15-10:30 a.m.

The Crucial Roles of Social Work Practice and Research in Suicide Prevention for People Who Are LGBT+

Dr. John R. Blosnich

Discussants:

Dr. Mary Rita Weller, Ph.D., LSW

*Keith Blackwell, DSW Candidate, LCSW, ACSW, ACM, CCM,
CCTP*

10:30-10:45 a.m.

BREAK

10:45 a.m.-12:00 noon

The Crucial Roles of Social Work Practice and Research in Suicide Prevention for People Who Are LGBT+ , cont. with Q&A

Dr. John R. Blosnich

12:00 noon-1:00 p.m.

LUNCH BREAK

12:00 noon-
12:45 p.m.

OPTIONAL:

Doctor of Social Work Informational Session

3 CE's Suicide Prevention

Conference Agenda, continued

Moderator and Conference Chair

Dr. Stephen W. Stoeffler, Ph.D., LSW, Kutztown University

12:00 noon-1:00 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
1:00-2:30 p.m.	Many Ways of Knowing about LGBTQIA+ Youth, with Implications for Suicide Risk Assessment <i>Dr. Geoffrey Ream</i> Discussants: <i>Professor William Bender, MSW, ACSW, LSW</i> <i>Dr. Christopher Harris, Ph.D.</i>
2:30-2:45 p.m.	BREAK
2:45-3:45 p.m.	Many Ways of Knowing about LGBTQIA+ Youth, with Implications for Suicide Risk Assessment, cont. with Q&A <i>Dr. Geoffrey Ream</i>
3:45-4:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks <i>Dr. John G. Vafeas, DSW, LSW</i>

3 CE's

Evaluation Survey

Please complete the evaluation survey at the end of the conference:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EvalColloquium24>



CE Requests

If you are requesting CEs, please remember to complete the CE Verification survey:

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Prevention Coalition

Additional Information

Clinical Updates Colloquium Implementation Team

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Colloquium Chair

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Dr. Patricia McGarry, Ph.D., LSW
Kutztown University Department of
Social Work, Assistant Professor

Dr. Christopher Harris, Ph.D.
Kutztown University Department of
Social Work, Assistant Professor

Professor William Bender, MSW, ACSW,
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Social Work, Instructor

Dr. Mary Rita Weller, Ph.D., LSW
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Gabriella Wilson, MBA
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Social Work, Management Technician

Alexandra Henzler
Kutztown University Department of
Social Work, Graduate Assistant



Andrea Snyder
Kutztown University Department of
Social Work, Secretary



Social Work Sustainable Lending Library

While seminars and CE's are offered to our community for **FREE**, we are asking that you kindly consider making a donation to our social work department's fund that among other projects is working to develop a Sustainable Lending Library that will facilitate access to educational materials/resources throughout bachelor of social work students' educational career.



The library will be operated through the department and provide a lending service of essential educational materials to our students. Our goal is to raise enough funds within three years to cover the cost of all social work texts in our curriculum.

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A maximum of 6 continuing education credits are available for Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors. (3 credits for morning only, 3 for afternoon only, or 6 for full day.) Continuing education credits will be forwarded via email after the event. Please allow two-three weeks processing time. Please note, in order to **receive your CE certificate you must complete the CE verification survey** at the end of the Social Work in the Global Environment conference and provide **email address as well as the verification codes provided during the conference.**

Presentation Information

The Crucial Roles of Social Work Practice and Research in Suicide Prevention for People Who Are LGBT+

Dr. John R. Blosnich



Decades of research show startling and persistent disparities in suicidal ideation and suicide attempt between people who are LGBT+ and their cisgender, heterosexual peers. For example, before leaving high school, approximately 1 in 4 sexual minority adolescents will attempt to end their own life, a rate nearly four times higher than their heterosexual peers. Despite robust scientific evidence of suicidal ideation and attempt disparities, there are major gaps in research and practice at mezzo- and macro-levels and in evidence-based practice for people who are LGBT+. This talk positions LGBT+ suicide prevention within a systems perspective, including the crucial ways that data about sexual orientation and gender identity – which are largely absent – are necessary for developing, testing, and evaluating prevention and treatment.

John R. Blosnich is an Assistant Professor at the Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work and Director of the Center for LGBTQ+ Health Equity at the University of Southern California. His primary areas of expertise are disparities in suicide risk and prevention among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals, with a specific emphasis on social determinants of health. He has conducted numerous studies to capitalize on secondary analyses of existing survey data, helping to fill gaps in knowledge about LGBT health. Over the last seven years, he has worked on efforts to improve LGBT health equity research in the US by addressing the lack of sexual orientation and gender identity data in mortality surveillance (<https://www.lgbtmortality.com>). Prior to joining the faculty at USC, Dr. Blosnich spent nine years working with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); first with the VISN2 Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention in Canandaigua, New York and then with the Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. At the VA, he led foundational research about transgender veterans' health and health care utilization, focusing on topics suicide risk, mortality, and social determinants of health. He garnered the VA's first research award focused on transgender veterans, and served on several national VA committees to develop clinical education and training about LGBT veterans receiving health care through the VA. In addition to VA-supported research, he has conducted LGBT-focused research supported by competitive awards from foundations and the National Institutes of Health. Most recently, he is 2021 recipient of an NIH Director's New Innovator Award, which supports his efforts to expand research into non-clinical sectors in which adverse social factors and acute life crises can be targeted for upstream suicide prevention.

Many Ways of Knowing about LGBTQIA+ Youth, with Implications for Suicide Risk Assessment

Dr. Geoffrey Ream



Good social work requires understanding how clients and client populations understand themselves – i.e., their discourse – and the discourse around lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual/aromantic, and other sexual and gender minority (LGBTQIA+) youth has changed dramatically in recent decades. It has always been inextricably and uneasily connected with antiracism and social justice, and it has evolved over time in its relationship to psychiatric diagnosis, quantitative social science research, feminism, public health, spirituality, conservative thought, neurodiversity, and suicide risk. Meanwhile, pandemic pressures on schools, newer forms of social media, and normalization of youths' being extremely online have created opportunities, problems, and pivots that we are only beginning to understand. This presentation will utilize social work's many ways of knowing to survey past and present discourse about LGBTQIA+ youths' experience. It will equip social workers to talk to any LGBTQIA+ young person like a friend and ally and assess their suicide risk and other aspects of their lives based on an informed understanding of their history, argot, and positionality.

Geoffrey Ream is a Professor at the Adelphi University School of Social Work. He was a founding board member of New Alternatives, which is an organization serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual/aromantic, and other sexual and gender minority (LGBTQIA+) homeless youth in New York City. For seven years, he served as volunteer staff and evaluation consultant to New Alternatives and also Sylvia's Place, a shelter in NYC serving mostly urban poor LGBTQIA+ youth of color. He helped secure initial grant funding for Trinity Place, a transitional living program for LGBTQIA+ youth in NYC. His National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded postdoctoral work focused on youth marijuana use, including racial disparities in police stop/search and arrest, and he was co-Principal Investigator of a NIH Research Project (RO1) grant on youth problem media use. He has authored or co-authored highly-cited papers on LGBTQIA+ issues with coming out, identity development, religion, homelessness, and suicide. His most recent work involves secondary analysis of the Centers for Disease Control's National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS). During Summer 2020, he served on the Public Health & Safety Working Group of Restart and Reimagine Adelphi, helping adapt his school to the exigencies of pandemic and post-pandemic operation. His current research interests are in asexual/aromantic discourses and the internet-based identity movement around them (his own labels are lithromantic and demisexual), and in anti-LGBTQIA+ discourses in American religion and their implications for practice with LGBTQIA+ persons.

Information Sessions

Doctor of Social Work Information Session

12 noon **OPTIONAL**

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November 1, 2024



SAVE THE DATE

**9TH ANNUAL
CLINICAL UPDATES
COLLOQUIUM**

January 10, 2025



Thank you for attending the
8th Annual Clinical Updates
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