



10-2012

Spotlight on Special Interest Groups: Women's Issues in Behavior Therapy

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Recommended Citation

Lindsay S. Ham and RaeAnn E. Anderson. "Spotlight on Special Interest Groups: Women's Issues in Behavior Therapy" (2012). *Psychology Faculty Publications*. 15.
<https://commons.und.edu/psych-fac/15>

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Women's Issues in Behavior Therapy SIG Spotlight

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Women's Issues in Behavior Therapy SIG Spotlight

Mission of the SIG: *The Women's Issues in Behavior Therapy SIG is open to all ABCT members who are interested in women's issues. We are committed to increasing women's participation in all levels of conference activity and in ABCT governance, to increasing knowledge and awareness of women's health and mental health issues, and to providing opportunities for women of ABCT to network with each other.*

In line with our mission, the Women's SIG continues to be open to, support, and be committed to increasing women's involvement in ABCT as well as to disseminating knowledge related to women's issues. We remain an active SIG that has been a home to many of the trailblazing women in ABCT as well as future leaders. Two exemplars are J. Gayle Beck, Ph.D., and Debra A. Hope, Ph.D., who have been active in our SIG and served ABCT as President. In 2006, SIG Leader Giao Tran, Ph.D., organized a dinner to honor past ABCT women Presidents. ABCT women Presidents in attendance included: Linda Carter Sobell, Ph.D. (1993-1994), Antoinette M. Zeiss, Ph.D. (1996-1997), Marsha M. Linehan, Ph.D. (2000-2001), Jacqueline B. Persons, Ph.D. (2002-2003), Patricia A. Resick, Ph.D. (2003-2004), J. Gayle Beck, Ph.D. (2004-2005), and Anne Marie Albano, Ph.D. (2006-2007). Historically, we have also held less formal activities such as SIG dinners, cocktail hours, and breakfasts to provide opportunities for SIG members to network with one another. Below we describe activities, awards, and ways to become involved in the Women's SIG this year. For more details regarding the SIG, these activities, and submission instructions, please see the Women's SIG website, <<https://sites.google.com/site/abctwsig/>>.

ABCT SIG Poster Exposition (Due September 5, 2012): Each year our group takes part in the SIG Poster Exposition, an opportunity for the Women's SIG to encourage students and new members to get involved with ABCT and women's issues.

SIG Student Poster Exposition Best Student Poster Award: Graduate or undergraduate student female members whose posters are accepted for presentation at the SIG poster exposition may be

considered for this award. The winner selected by the Poster Committee is awarded a certificate and a \$100 prize, in addition to being recognized at the annual Women's SIG meeting. In 2011, Katelyn Anderson of the University of Maryland was awarded the Best Student Poster Award for her poster entitled, *Gender Specific Relationship between Distress Tolerance and HPA Axis Response to Stress among Adolescents*.

New Investigator Award and Student Researcher Award (Due November 1, 2012): These awards are given based on a sole or first author paper or conference talk that was published, accepted, or presented in the previous year. Priority is given to submissions that focus on research relevant to women's issues. Junior professional women who are no more than five years post-Ph.D. or other terminal degree may be considered for the New Investigator Award. Each of the winners selected by the Awards Committee is given a certificate of achievement and a monetary prize of \$100, and is recognized at the SIG meeting. This year's winner of the New Investigator Award was Dr. Danielle MacDonald of Ryerson University for her paper entitled, *Impossible Bodies, Invisible Battles: Feminist Perspectives on the Psychological Research on Treatment of Eating Disorders in Queer Women* (doi:10.1080/10538720.2011.611100). The winner of the Student Researcher Award Jennifer Milliken of the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee for poster entitled, *Assessment of Emotional Response to Risk of Sexual Assault*.

SIG Leadership and Committees: Another way to get involved in the Women's SIG is to join one of our committees or pursue a leadership position. We encourage SIG members, including students, post-docs, early career, mid-career, and late-career to become involved. Students in particular can get involved in governance by becoming a Student Representative as well as in joining student-eligible committees. Of the fourteen members of the Women's SIG current leadership and support team, seven are students.

In addition to supporting research on women's issues, the Women's SIG is committed to

advancing the careers of women in psychological science. Data gathered from the 1998 AABT and 2008 ABCT conference programs illustrate the areas where there is still room for improvement. Table 1 shows the percentage of women involved in various conference activities, spanning from poster presenters to program committees and workshop leaders, at each time point. In addition, the change in the proportion of women involved in each role across the 10-year period is presented. Women are particularly underrepresented in some of the most valued or prestigious activities which require years of professional experience, such as Master Clinician Seminars and Institute leaders. However, as of 2008, women are particularly well represented in first authorship of posters, symposium participants, and in program committee involvement. Additionally, women's participation continues to grow in these areas although notably women's participation is not increasing in several positions which require the most years of experience and/or prestige. A goal of our SIG is to advance the careers of those both groups of women, current experts and new professionals.

We hope you will join us for our annual SIG meeting at ABCT in November, and begin or continue your involvement in the Women's SIG. To join or to renew your annual membership (Full member: \$16; Student member: \$8), you may use PaypalTM online or send payment to the Treasurer, Dr. Jillian Shipherd (see <https://sites.google.com/site/abctwsig/home/membership> for information about both options).

Women's Issues in Behavior Therapy SIG website: <https://sites.google.com/site/abctwsig/>

Women's Issues in Behavior Therapy SIG email: abctwomenssig@gmail.com

Table 1.*Women's Participation in AABT/ABCT in 1998 and 2008*

Type of Event	Percentage of Female Participation in 1998†	Percentage of Female Participation in 2008††	Direction of Change
Workshop (leader)	45.2	36.4	- 8.8
Institute (leader)	41.7	37.5	- 4.2
Symposium Chair	45.5	51.6	+ 6.1
Symposium Discussant	22.1	30.6	+ 8.5
Symposium Paper First Author	45.5	54.4	+ 8.9
Clinical Roundtable Moderator	20	37.5	+ 17.5
Clinical Roundtable Panelist	33.3	46.3	+ 13
Master Clinician Seminar (leader)	22.2	28.6	+ 6.4
Poster Session First Author	59.8	70.4	+ 10.6
Panel Discussion Moderator	60	63.2	+ 3.2
Panel Discussion Participant	49.2	40	- 9.2
Program Committee Member	34.9	60.9	+ 26

†Data compiled by RaeAnn Anderson, M.S. ††Data compiled by Sandra Sigmon, Ph.D.