

The Center for Research and Education on Gender and Sexuality  
is pleased to present:

## ***Kimberly Balsam***

### **Researching the Rainbow: Methodological challenges and innovations in the study of diverse LGBT populations**

#### **Presentation description:**

Over the past two decades, research on the health and psychosocial well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) populations has grown tremendously. However, while LGBT people have enjoyed increased societal visibility and acceptance, their lives continue to be influenced by institutional and interpersonal oppression. This changing social context inevitably influences research, particularly in the area of methodology. How do we recruit participants who are hidden and skeptical of research? How do we accurately represent the multiple and intersecting identities of our participants in research? How do we conduct research that is both responsive to the needs of oppressed communities and scientifically valid? How do we measure constructs that are meaningful to our target population but have not yet been operationalized in research?

These questions and more will be addressed in the current presentation. I will discuss my own work with innovative methodologies in sampling and measurement in LGBT research, including siblings as a comparison group, targeted sampling, respondent-driven sampling, and mixed-methods measure development. I will review other recent innovations in this area and provide suggestions for future research to continue to illuminate the unique life experiences and health needs of LGBT people.



#### **Speaker details:**

Kimberly F. Balsam, Ph.D., is Associate Professor at Pacific Graduate School of Psychology, Palo Alto University, where she also serves as Co-Director of the Center for LGBTQ Evidence-Based Applied Research (CLEAR). Dr. Balsam received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from University of Vermont in 2003 and her M.S. in Counseling Psychology from University of Oregon in 1994. Her research focuses broadly on the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender populations and she is widely recognized as an emerging expert in this area. She has published over 30 peer-reviewed articles in journals such as *Journal of Family Psychology*, *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, *American Journal of Public Health*, and *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*. Dr. Balsam's research and scholarship to date has focused on a) disparities in mental health and health-related behaviors between LGBT and heterosexual populations, b) trauma, victimization, and minority stress as potential explanations for these health disparities, and c) interpersonal, social, and legal factors affecting same-sex couples and families. Dr. Balsam was recently awarded an R01 grant from NICHD to conduct a 10 year longitudinal follow up study of same-sex and heterosexual couples previously surveyed in 2001-2 (R01HD069370, Longitudinal study of legal status, stigma, and well-being among diverse couples).

## **Monday, December 3rd, 6-7:30PM**

SFSU Downtown Campus, 835 Market Street, Suite 599A

\*talk is free of charge; light refreshments will be provided\*

Questions? Want more info? Email us [[cregs@sfsu.edu](mailto:cregs@sfsu.edu)] or visit us online [<http://cregs.sfsu.edu>]