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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.
Honoring Alex Doty

Alexander Doty, professor in the Departments of Communication and Culture and Gender Studies at Indiana University and a member of The Kinsey Institute Board of Trustees, died in August 2012, after being struck by a motorcycle while vacationing in Bermuda. Two of his students, Betsy Jose and Russell Sheaffer, have given their time and expertise in honor of their mentor with special contributions to The Kinsey Institute Archives.

Betsy Jose creates the Alex Doty and Betsy Jose Indian Queer Film Collection

"...K marr k bhi kisi ko yaad aaenge
Kisi ke aansuo.N may muskuraaenge...
Kisi ko ho na ho, hum-ay toh aitbaar
Jeena isi ka naam hai..." - Lyrics by Shailendra from the 1959 Hindi film "Anari"

"...That I will be remembered even after I die
I will smile through their tears...
Even if no-one else may believe so - I trust this to be true
That is what living is all about...
--- (Translated by Betsy Jose)

As a graduate student in Gender Studies, Betsy Jose took a class taught by Professor Doty on Queer Film Theory, shortly after he arrived at IU in 2008. Alex became her advisor, and she eagerly joined him in the classroom as his Teaching Assistant.

Betsy recalls her mentor's guidance and impact on her life and work:

"Beyond scholarly-related matters, I've learnt about being a better human being from Alex. His humility and simplicity in spite of his immensity as a scholar; the manner in which he could reach out to you irrespective of who you were, or what you did, or where you came from, and strike up meaningful conversations; and also, for me, his whole-hearted support and encouragement for my film work."

Jose created her own documentary films, including a short informative video, "All About the Kinsey Institute" (2009), and her debut documentary "Beyond Boundaries" (2009), about experiences of immigrants in the USA with diverse sexualities. "Beyond Boundaries" had its World Premiere at the Indianapolis LGBT Film Festival in November 2009. The film has earned several nominations and screenings both within and outside USA.

"The Indian Queer Film collection has a lot to do with how both Alex and I felt in terms of availability of queer-themed films in India - or rather the lack of an archive for them. It was Alex who suggested that I should start an archive myself, collecting these films as I conduct my own field research work for my PhD at IU. I had no idea that I would be starting this collection in his memory."
Russell Sheaffer: The Alex Doty Archive

Alex Doty left a large collection of notes, writings, lectures, and class materials that were donated to the Kinsey. When IU doctoral student Russell Sheaffer heard that Alex's family had donated his papers to The Kinsey Institute, he offered to help catalog them. Alex had been a professor of his in Communication and Culture (and one of the reasons he decided to come to IU). After just over a year of working with the papers in the collection, they have finally been cataloged.

"I've been incredibly thrilled to have been doing research at the Kinsey while at IU and helping catalog the Doty collection over the last year has been an honor. Alex left behind an incredible amount of materials from a really impressive career that was cut far too short. It's great that his papers will be accessible and will have a home at the Kinsey."

Russell Sheaffer is also making his own mark as a film-maker. His 4-minute film Acetate Diary was among eight experimental films selected to screen at the 2014 Tribeca Film Festival in April in New York City. Russell also organized a session on The Kinsey Institute Film Archive at the Orphans Midwest film symposium on the Bloomington campus last fall.

1IU doctoral student and film-maker, Russell Sheaffer.
Dr. Tierney Lorenz is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at The Kinsey Institute and with Common Themes in Reproductive Diversity (CTRD) at Indiana University. She completed her doctoral degree in clinical psychology at the University of Texas at Austin in 2013. Her research examines the bidirectional relationship between sexual behavior and mental/physical health. Recently she received grant support and recognition for her work on immune response across the menstrual cycle.

The APA Henry David Research Grant

Dr. Lorenz is the recipient of the 2014 American Psychological Foundation’s Henry David Research Grant, a prestigious award for support of ongoing research in behavioral aspects of population studies or human reproductive behavior.

Indiana University OVPR’s Collaborative Research and Creative Activity Grant

Dr. Lorenz and Dr. Julia Heiman, former KI director and professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at IU, were also awarded a grant from IU Office of the Vice-Provost for Research for support of the Women’s Immunity and Sexual Health project (WISH), an ongoing study of immunity across the menstrual cycle. The WISH study is examining immune function in healthy women across the menstrual cycle, including several biomarkers of the immune system (e.g., level of antibodies) and functional measures of immunity (e.g., exposing blood samples to bacteria in a Petri dish and observing defensive activity). This study will clarify an important relationship between sexual behavior and immunity in healthy women. The Collaborative Research and Creative Activity grant provides specific funds to conduct the endocrine and immune assays:

“This award will allow us to turn what would have been a small-scale investigation of one or two immune markers in isolation into a much broader profile of immune function across the menstrual cycle,” said Dr. Lorenz. “Such a profile will give us a much better picture of the interactions within the immune system, getting us much closer to understanding the inner workings of women’s health.”

Dr. Heiman also commented on the potential impact of this project:

“The WISH project will help open a door into interactions between sexual behavior and potentially important biological health indicators. With CRCAF support we will be able to accomplish the immune profiling by linking labs and expertise across campus.”
The Taste of Seduction
September 19 to December 23, 2014

Opening Event: The Taste of Seduction: Arousing Desire with Edible Aphrodisiacs

The Taste of Seduction examines the rich tradition of linking the enjoyment of food and drink with sex and arousal, through works of art and cultural artifacts in the Kinsey Institute collections.

This exhibit will include approximately fifty artworks, artifacts, and print materials from The Kinsey Institute’s research collections that relate to the consumption of food and drink and its association with sexual desire, romantic love and seduction.

Featured artists will include Patti Beadles, Lynn Bianchi, Gili Chen, Debranne Cingari, David Deaubrey, Anthony Droege, Beryl Fine, Gene Greger, Bill Haigwood, Naomi Harris, Danielle Kaltz, Maureen Kaveney, Flounder Lee, R. Leftwick, Henri Monnier, April Renae, Mark Sawrie, Sam Steward, and Marie Weichman.

The Taste of Seduction is offered in conjunction with IU Themester 2014: Eat, Drink, Think.

Join us for the opening event:

The Taste of Seduction: Arousing Desire with Edible Aphrodisiacs
September 19, 4:30 - 7 pm.
Free and open to the public.

At the reception, guests will have the opportunity to sample a wide range of foods and beverages which are considered to be aphrodisiacs in literature, culture, science and myth.
Undress Me: A Peek at 19th and 20th Century Undergarments
September 19 to December 23, 2014

Undress Me presents a selection of vintage photographs of women in lingerie from the Kinsey Institute art collection paired with corsets, slips, brassieres, and other articles of clothing on loan from The Sage Collection at Indiana University.

Both shows open on Friday, September 19, 4:30 to 7:00 pm at The Kinsey Institute Galleries, Morrison Hall, Indiana University.
Special Exhibit: Photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe

October 10-November 22, 2014
Grunwald Gallery of Art, Henry Radford Hope School of Fine Arts, Indiana University

Opening reception on Friday, October 10 from 6:00 to 8:00.

Philip Gefter will speak just before the opening on October 10th on "Robert Mapplethorpe, Sam Wagstaff and the Gay Sensibility." (see Gefter's NYTimes article, "The Man Who Made Mapplethorpe.")

Gefter's book, Wagstaff: Before and After Mapplethorpe, will be published in November.

The photographs in this exhibition are the result of a 2011 donation from The Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation.

In an adjoining gallery, visit Beyond Mapplethorpe: Selections from The Kinsey Institute. This show presents work by other 20th-century fine art photographers who also focused on the human body.

The Mapplethorpe exhibition and corresponding programs have been made possible by The College Arts and Humanities Institute in the College of Arts and Sciences, the Grunwald Gallery of Art, the Department of Sociology, and the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction, all at Indiana University; the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation in New York; and Michael E. Rudder.

Special "Adopt A Work of Art" Opportunity, August 15.

We invite you to contribute to the archival framing of these iconic photographs for the exhibition. Visit The Kinsey Institute on August 15 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm to view the artworks available for adoption.

If you would like to support this effort, but you are not able to attend the event, please contact Curator Catherine Johnson-Roehr to view images of the artworks. If you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution, you may Give Now to the Art and Artifacts Fund.
Dr. Justin Garcia Contributes to IU Sexual Assault Prevention Research Project

On the heels of the Not Alone report released in 2014 by the U.S. White House Task Force to Protect Students From Sexual Assault, universities around the country are working to better meet the safety and health needs of their campuses. The Kinsey Institute is partnering with the Indiana University Bloomington Dean of Students Office to better understand and address the problem of sexual misconduct on the IUB campus and clarifying, through research, what sexual misconduct prevention and intervention efforts should encompass.

The Sexual Assault Prevention Research Project will investigate and document the prevalence of sexual misconduct and victimization incidents (including sexual assault, relationship violence, sexual harassment, and stalking) that Indiana University Bloomington students encounter during their collegiate experience.

The goals of this collaborative project are to (1) examine gaps between sexual misconduct incidents that occur and those that are officially reported, (2) assess trends and common themes among incidents, and (3) build awareness and improve delivery of campus and community resources available to students. This information will be utilized for identifying sexual assault prevention efforts and will also serve as a baseline measure for future program evaluation.

This project is led by Assistant Dean Leslie Fasone at the Dean of Students Office and Assistant Professor Justin Garcia at The Kinsey Institute. The project has received initial funding from the IU Women’s Philanthropy Council.

Dr. Garcia has also been appointed to the IU Student Welfare Compliance Committee, as part of IU President McRobbie’s University-wide Student Welfare Initiative aimed at effectively addressing a variety of issues surrounding sexual misconduct and student safety.
Liam Lair, one of this year's John Money Fellows, is a graduate student at the University of Kansas in the department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Visiting The Kinsey Institute library this summer, Liam combed the archives to add to his research on definitions of transsexual in the mid-20th century. Among the materials are correspondences among medical practitioners and sex researchers around the topic and issues related to transsexuality, including letters between Alfred Kinsey and Harry Benjamin, an endocrinologist widely acknowledged for pioneering work on the standards of care for transsexuals. In 1966, Benjamin published *The Transsexual Phenomenon*, documenting his research and standards of care in working directly with transsexual patients.

Lair is paying close attention to issues involving race, gender, class and sexuality embedded in these archival materials. Along with letters and comments among professionals, he is searching through trade journals and magazines for insights, and reading autobiographical accounts by transgender individuals from the 1950’s and 60’s. For future scholars and visitors, Lair will compile a bibliography of autobiographical writings of transwomen in the Kinsey library collection.

Welcome Kinsey Institute Postdoctoral Fellow Dr. Amanda Gesselman

Dr. Amanda Gesselman is a Social Psychologist with a focus on interactions within a romantic couple. She examines factors influencing decision-making in relationship contexts, and the social or health-related consequences resulting from those choices.

Dr. Gesselman received her Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Florida in 2014. Her graduate research focused on how people make relationship-relevant decisions, how past relationship experiences (or lack of them) influence future relationship prospects, how forming and investing in romantic relationships affects our ability to maintain social ties with others, and how the goals driving our interactions with a partner may create a beneficial or detrimental relationship environment.

"So much of our research relies on the experience of one person," says Dr. Justin Garcia. "Amanda's impressive skill set and research interests surrounding 'the couple' will add considerably to our understanding of relationship dynamics and interactions in romantic relationships, and implications for the well-being of individuals and couples."

Amanda's postdoctoral research will continue to focus on goals for—and decisions made within—dyadic interactions, and the resulting social and health-related consequences.