

Reducing Inequalities Between LGBTQ Adolescents and Cisgender, Heterosexual Adolescents: A Workshop

Committee

Stephen T. Russell

Chair

Stephen Russell is Priscilla Pond Flawn Regents professor in child development, chair of the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, and Amy Johnson McLaughlin director of the School of Human Ecology at the University of Texas at Austin. He is an expert in adolescent and young adult health, with a focus on sexual orientation and gender identity. In addition to his expertise in the study of sexual orientation and health, Dr. Russell is an expert in the role of school policies, programs, and practices in supporting adolescent adjustment, achievement, and health. He earned a PhD in sociology at Duke University (1994), a master's degree in sociology at William and Mary (1989), and a bachelor's degree in sociology at Wake Forest University (1988). He has been involved in community and professional organizations throughout his career, including as Human Relations Commissioner in several cities (Durham, NC; Davis, CA; Tucson, AZ). Dr. Russell has served on the governing boards of the Society for Research in Child Development, the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS), National Council on Family Relations (elected fellow), and the Society for Research on Adolescence (President, 2012-2014). He has previously served on National Academies consensus committees for The Promise of Adolescence (2019) and Understanding the Wellbeing of LGBTQI+ Populations (2020).

Aisha N. Canfield

Member

Aisha is a director at Ceres Policy Research. Since earning a Master of Public Policy from Mills College, she's conducted research on the disproportionate detention of LGBTQ/GNCT BIPOC youth and their pathways into the justice system. She was an investigator on a study that was the first to establish that 20% of youth in the justice system identify as LGBTQ/GNCT and that 85% of those youth are also of color. From her research, there's been a growing awareness of the need for facility/jurisdiction-level data. Aisha provides training and technical assistance to juvenile probation departments to improve data collection processes that allow agencies to give youth an opportunity to disclose their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE). With this data, jurisdictions can make holistic, data-driven decisions that support young people at the intersections of their multiple identities - particularly race/ethnicity and SOGIE - within the context of their local communities. In addition to supporting detained youth, she serves as an evaluation partner to community-based organizations who are serving as healing and transformative alternatives to traditional justice system responses for LGBTQ/GNCT youth, most of whom are also BIPOC. Through her work, Aisha seeks to reclaim research and data as accessible advocacy tools for BIPOC youth, their families, communities and the practitioners working on behalf of their well-being and liberation.

David Chae

Member

David Chae is associate professor in the Department of Social, Behavioral, and Population Sciences, director of the Society, Health, and Racial Equity (SHARE) Lab, and associate dean for research at Tulane University, School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine. His doctoral degree is in social epidemiology (Harvard School of Public Health, 2007); he completed postdoctoral research as a Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley, and University of California, San Francisco (2009), in the fields of population health and psychoneuroimmunology. His research focuses on the social determinants of health inequities and embodiment of racism. He studies racism as a social-environmental toxin that shapes the inequitable population-level distribution of disease. As part of this work, he examines the interplay between context, developmental period, behavior, and biology, and links to disease susceptibility and progression. In 2019 he was elected to the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research, the honorary senior scientist society for those whose research is at the interface of behavior and medicine. He is Associate Editor of the journal Health Education & Behavior, on the Editorial Board of Cultural Diversity & Ethnic Minority Psychology, and serves on several scientific research groups.

Nat Duran

Member

Nat Duran is a compassion-led and dedicated educator focused on community building and social justice across various realms of youth work. They obtained both their B.A. in Teaching of English (2007) and M.Ed. in Youth Development (2011) from the University of Illinois at Chicago and have been a champion for putting youth voice to action throughout their adult professional life. Nat previously worked as a high school English teacher in Chicago's public school, and as a youth advocate and a case manager for older youth in care preparing for independence before joining the Alliance to oversee youth programming. In 2019, Nat served on Illinois' Affirming and Inclusive Schools Task Force which informed the Illinois State Board of Education's guidance and model policy for Supporting Transgender, Nonbinary, and Gender Nonconforming Students.

Errol L. Fields

Member

Errol Fields is an assistant professor of pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Adolescent/Young Adult Medicine. He is a physician scientist and a board certified pediatrician and adolescent medicine subspecialist. His clinical work focuses on primary and subspecialty care for adolescents and young adults including gender-affirming care, inclusive sexual and reproductive health care, and treatment and prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. He is the co-founder and co-director of the Emerge Gender and Sexuality Clinic for Children, Adolescents and Young Adults and co-director of PrEP is for Youth Clinic which provides PrEP and other HIV prevention services to Baltimore area youth at risk for HIV acquisition. His research focuses on using mixed methodologies to understand and reduce racial disparities in HIV among young Black, gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men as well as the evaluation of community-engaged practices for reducing stigma and medical distrust as key barriers to HIV prevention, treatment and research. Dr. Fields is also committed to the provision of evidence-based, culturally competent care of sexual minority and gender diverse youth and is involved in undergraduate, graduate, and continuing medical education in this area.

Jessica Fish

Member

Jessica Fish is assistant professor in the Department of Family Science at the University of Maryland School of Public Health, and deputy director for research and evaluation at the CDC-funded University of Maryland Prevention Research Center. With a Ph.D. in Family and Child Sciences (Florida State University, 2014) and a Master's Degree in Couple and Family Therapy (Purdue University Calumet, 2010), her research centers LGBTQ+ young people and their families, with a specific focus on identifying school, family, and community factors implicated in the positive development and health of LGBTQ+ populations. She has published over 75 peer-reviewed publications in top-ranking journals specific to LGBTQ population health and development. Ultimately, her work aims to identify modifiable factors that contribute to LGBTQ-related health disparities in order to inform developmentally-sensitive policies, programs and prevention strategies that promote the health of sexual and gender minority people across the life course. Dr. Fish's most recent scholarship incorporates a community-engaged approach designed to accelerate translational science and bridge the research-to-practice gap for addressing LGBTQ+ youth mental health and substance use in family and community contexts.

Amorie Robinson

Member

Amorie Robinson is a clinical psychologist in metro Detroit serving as the behavioral health lead therapist at the Ruth Ellis Center for at-risk LGBT+ youth. She previously worked at the Wayne County juvenile court psychiatric clinic for 15 years, providing psychological services. Dr. Robinson earned her B.A. in Psychology at Oberlin College and doctorate in Clinical Psychology at the University of Michigan where she has taught LGBT and multicultural courses in the Women's Studies Department. Dr. Robinson conducts cultural competence workshops and is a trainer for the Michigan Department of Education. Dr. Robinson has published articles on domestic violence in Black lesbian communities, Black lesbian youth resiliency, and Black LGBT and gender nonconforming youth in juvenile justice. Dr. Robinson coined the term "attractionality" to replace "sexuality" when referring to one's identity. She is a member of the Association of Black Psychologists and Association for Women in Psychology, having served on both boards.

Jama Shelton

Member

Jama Shelton is an associate professor at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College and the associate director of the Silberman Center for Sexuality and Gender at Hunter College. After receiving their PhD in Social Welfare from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York in 2013, Dr. Shelton spent three years working at True Colors United where they engaged in national organizing, policy, and research activities geared towards addressing LGBTQ+ youth homelessness across the country and in Europe. Dr. Shelton continues to work with True Colors United as the Chief Research Officer, overseeing research projects in the U.S., Europe and Central Asia in partnership with the European Federation of Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) and the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Association (ILGA). Dr. Shelton's research examines homelessness among LGBTQ+ youth, with particular attention to the experiences of transgender and gender expansive youth and the structural barriers rooted in cisgenderism, racism, and economic inequality that transgender and gender expansive youth face in exiting homelessness and maintaining housing stability.

Amanda Grigg

Staff Officer