Sexuality and Culture—and Beyond

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This new year brings some changes to *Sexuality & Culture*. If you are reading the print version, you must have noticed the “sexy” and “cultural” new cover—also featured on the journal homepage. The various artistic depictions of sexual themes provide a sampling of topics covered by articles published in the journal. Like the images on the cover, the articles inside situate sexual events in the domain of human cultures.

Another change to the journal is my debut as Editor-in-Chief. With Dr. Barry Dank stepping down from that role and after my 13 years as Managing Editor and Deputy Editor of *Sexuality & Culture*, I now take the reins. Despite the added responsibility, I continue as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Circadian Rhythms*, a position I have held since 2003.

Sexuality & Culture's mission, stated on the journal's homepage (www.springer.com/12119) and in the inside front cover of each print issue, continues unaltered. Some change in content, however, will be noticeable in the future as the journal will adhere to its mission more closely. The mission statement reads: “*Sexuality & Culture* is an international interdisciplinary forum for analysis of ethical, cultural, psychological, social, and political issues related to sexual relationships and sexual behavior.” Although the journal has published many articles dealing with the cultural, social, and political aspects, two other aspects of sexuality—the ethical and psychological—were somewhat underrepresented. *Sexuality & Culture* aims to fulfill its mission in its entirety by publishing more papers on these topics. We welcome and encourage your manuscript submissions.

The study of sexuality, which had been lagging behind the study of many other functions for decades, has made significant advances over the years. One index of this advancement is the number of basic undergraduate textbooks published by

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major publishing houses. As indicated in Table 1, there are at least 11 such textbooks in print today. Their success is documented by the fact that some of them are currently in their 9th or 10th editions. If one examines the contents of these books, one finds that there is almost unanimity in the selection of topics. As shown in Table 2, the topics covered range from the anatomy and physiology of genital organs to the psychology of romantic attachments, including both normal and abnormal processes and behaviors, both clear-cut and controversial issues, and both ethical and financial concerns.

The purpose of a journal such as *Sexuality & Culture* is not, however, to provide—as a textbook does—a summary of current knowledge to undergraduate students. Our purpose is to publish original work that expands current knowledge.

Table 1 Some introductory sexuality textbooks

Title	Author(s)	Publisher
<i>Human Sexuality</i>	Craig A. Hill	Sage
<i>Human Sexuality</i>	Roger R. Hock	Prentice Hall
<i>Human Sexuality</i>	Simon LeVay and Janice Baldwin	Sinauer
<i>Human Sexuality</i>	Ruth K. Westheimer and Sanford Lopater	Lippincott-Raven
<i>Human Sexuality</i>	William Yarber, Barbara Sayad, and Bryan Strong	McGraw-Hill
<i>Human Sexuality in a World of Diversity</i>	Spencer A. Rathus, Jeffrey S. Nevid, and Lois Fichner-Rathus	Allyn & Bacon
<i>Human Sexuality Today</i>	Bruce M. King	Prentice Hall
<i>Our Sexuality</i>	Robert Crooks and Karla Baur	Wadsworth
<i>Sexuality Now</i>	Janell L. Carroll	Wadsworth
<i>Sexuality Today</i>	Gary F. Kelly	McGraw-Hill
<i>Understanding Human Sexuality</i>	Janet S. Hyde and John D. DeLamater	McGraw-Hill

Table 2 Main topics in sexuality textbooks

Sexual organs
Sexual reproduction
Sexual differentiation and development
Gender
Sexual orientation and attraction
Sexual behavior
Sexual relationships
Pregnancy and parturition
Contraception
Abortion
Atypical sexuality
Sexual disorders
Sexually transmitted diseases
Sexual harassment and sexual assault
Sex as a commodity

Table 3 Some sexuality journals

Journal	ISSN
<i>American Journal of Sexuality Education</i>	1554-6128
<i>Archives of Sexual Behavior</i>	0004-0002
<i>Asian Journal of Andrology</i>	1008-682X
<i>Canadian Online Journal of Queer Studies in Education</i>	1710-7598
<i>Culture, Health and Sexuality</i>	1369-1058
<i>Gender and History</i>	0953-5233
<i>Gender and Psychoanalysis</i>	1091-6318
<i>Gender and Society</i>	0891-2432
<i>Gender Issues</i>	1098-092X
<i>Gender Medicine</i>	1550-8579
<i>Gender, Place and Culture</i>	0966-369X
<i>GLQ: A Journal of Gay and Lesbian Studies</i>	1064-2684
<i>International Journal of Sexual Health</i>	1931-7611
<i>Intersection: Gender and Sexuality in Asia and the Pacific</i>	1440-9151
<i>Journal of Bisexuality</i>	1529-9716
<i>Journal of Gay and Lesbian Psychotherapy</i>	0891-7140
<i>Journal of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association</i>	1090-7173
<i>Journal of Gender Studies</i>	0958-9236
<i>Journal of Homosexuality</i>	0091-8369
<i>Journal of Psychology and Human Sexuality</i>	0890-7064
<i>Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy</i>	0092-623X
<i>Journal of Sex Research</i>	0022-4499
<i>Journal of Sexual Medicine</i>	1743-6095
<i>Journal of the History of Sexuality</i>	1043-4070
<i>Law and Sexuality</i>	1062-0680
<i>Men and Masculinities</i>	1097-184X
<i>Personal Relationships</i>	1350-4126
<i>Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health</i>	1538-6341
<i>Reproductive Health</i>	1742-4755
<i>Reproductive Health Matters</i>	0968-8080
<i>Scandinavian Journal of Sexology</i>	1398-2966
<i>Sexologies</i>	1158-1360
<i>Sex Roles</i>	0360-0025
<i>Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment</i>	1079-0632
<i>Sexual and Relationship Therapy</i>	1468-1994
<i>Sexualities: Studies in Culture and Society</i>	1363-4607
<i>Sexualities, Evolution and Gender</i>	1461-6661
<i>Sexuality & Culture</i>	1095-5143
<i>Sexuality and Disability</i>	0146-1044
<i>Sexuality Research and Social Policy</i>	1553-6610
<i>Sexually Transmitted Infections</i>	1472-3263

Table 3 continued

Journal	ISSN
<i>Social Politics: Intern. Studies in Gender, State and Society</i>	1072-4745
<i>Studies in Family Planning</i>	0039-3665
<i>Studies in Gender and Sexuality</i>	1524-0657
<i>Theology and Sexuality</i>	1355-8358

While non-exhaustive, Table 3 lists over 40 journal titles dealing with sexuality that launched over the past several decades. Their number is another proof of the continued growth and vigor of this field of study.

This is an exciting time to lead *Sexuality & Culture*. In recent years the journal switched to a new larger publisher, the Editorial Board was expanded and updated, the journal's online manuscript-submission and peer-review system was launched, its table of contents alerting service was launched, the number of manuscript submissions increased, the quality of accepted manuscripts rose, and great progress has been made in the inclusion of the journal in various indexing/abstracting services. Our perspective for the future is as bright as it can be.

Of course, *Sexuality & Culture* would not be thriving in its 14th year were it not for the support and dedication of its Editorial Board. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have served on the board for many years and to welcome new board members who are joining us this year. The most recent additions to the Editorial Board are Dr. Karen Carpenter from the University of the West Indies, Dr. Charlene Muehlenhard from the University of Kansas, Dr. David Schmitt from Bradley University, and Dr. Ine Vanwesenbeeck from the Rutgers Nisso Group in the Netherlands. Naturally, I also thank Dr. Barry Dank, who served as Editor-in-Chief of *Sexuality & Culture* since its inception in 1997, for his invaluable contributions to the journal. He retains an advisory position in the journal and is listed as a founding editor on the masthead. Also deserving of my gratitude are the editorial and production staff teams at Transaction Publishers (our former publisher) and at Springer, particularly Carol Bischoff (Senior Editor at Springer), whose vast professional experience is a most-valued asset to *Sexuality & Culture*.

My editorial in the very first issue of *Sexuality & Culture* was titled "Sexual Harassment, Sexual Consent, and Beyond" and expressed the expectation that the journal would go much beyond the contents of that special inaugural issue dedicated to the theme of *Sexual Harassment and Sexual Consent*. Nostalgically, I feel it would be appropriate to name the present editorial "Sexuality and Culture—and Beyond," as I anticipate the journal's continued maturation and its advance far beyond the achievements of its first 13 years. The voyage continues—and, as the new Editor-in-Chief, I invite readers, authors, Editorial Board members, and ad hoc peer reviewers to come along and participate fully in the advancement of *Sexuality & Culture*.