

KINSEY *Today*

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

[Sexual Violence Study Calls for Prevention](#)

CEEP Report reveals high rates of sexual violence in Indiana

[Family Connections at the Kinsey Library](#)

Noted scientist Walter Alvarez finds a Kinsey link

[In the Gallery](#)

News from the *Man As Object: Reversing the Gaze* opening events

[Institute Visitors](#)

Playright Larry Kramer stops in, and notes on a few visiting scholars

[2012 Juried Art Show Opens at the Grunwald Gallery](#)

Report from opening night, Friday May 18th

[Graduate Student Spotlight](#)

Lelia Samson receives award for best manuscript from IASR

[Student Transitions](#)

Goodbye and thanks to Kinsey Institute student volunteers and staff



[NEW: KinseyConfidential.org - now with pages in Spanish!](#)

Thanks to volunteer translator Erika Collazo for helping improve access for non-English readers. Now available at:
<http://kinseyconfidential.org/los-recursos-en-espanol/>

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.

Sexual Violence Study Draws Interest

Responding to Indiana’s alarmingly high rates of sexual violence, the Center for Evaluation and Education Policy at Indiana University recent released a study, “Sexual Violence Prevention in Indiana: Toward Safer, Healthier Communities.” Co-written by IU School of Education researchers Jonathan A. Plucker and Katie Cierniak and Kinsey Institute director Julia R. Heiman, the report emphasizes the role of prevention over the criminal justice strategies typically employed by Indiana policymakers.

The CEEP report has sparked discussion among state health officials and legislators, due in part to the extensive media attention in Indiana and nationwide following study’s release in early April.

“Prevention is so crucial and underappreciated nationwide as a tool to reduce rape and sexual abuse,” Dr. Heiman said in an interview with Indiana University Home Pages.

Now the research team is working to identify new solutions for sexual violence prevention in Indiana, which ranks **second in the nation for forced sexual intercourse among high school women**, according to a national study.

Augmenting the educational policy expertise, Dr. Heiman is able to incorporate research findings related to unwanted and coercive sexual experiences, from both the victim and the perpetrator perspectives.

She also can call on other partners to suggest effective prevention strategies. Kinsey Institute Board Member Deb Levine helped to develop a mobile solution to prevent dating abuse and violence on campuses, Circle of 6. This app gives users a discreet way to alert friends in a variety of threatening situations, such as tapping a car icon to send an exact location, a phone icon to have a friend to call to help extricate from a bad situation, or a quick tap for an emergency call.

The challenge of the prevention researchers and advocates is to provide age-appropriate and effective initiatives, from grade school through high school and into college.

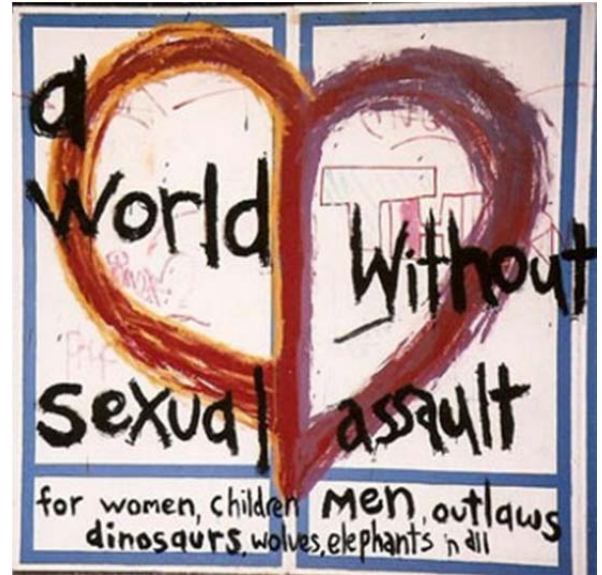
The Kinsey Institute is committed to contributing to a research-based understanding of the problems and successful strategies.

“The statistics in Indiana are a sobering signal we must do more, earlier, to avert sexual aggression,” says Dr. Heiman. “Even a 10 percent decrease, which I am confident is possible in Indiana, would impact thousands of lives and the associated health and human costs.”

The full CEEP report is available online at:

http://www.ceep.indiana.edu/projects/PDF/SP_Brief_Sexual_Violence_Prevention_021412.pdf

Image credit: Shannon, from Flickr



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Making Family Connections in the Kinsey Library



Dr. Walter Alvarez, professor of Geology at University of California Berkeley, is best known for establishing the theory that a massive asteroid triggered the extinction of the dinosaurs. He was invited to Indiana University to teach and lecture as a Wells Scholars Program Professor on geology and “Big History,” tying together every aspect of history, from the beginning of the universe to the minutia of human impacts.

Left: Librarian Liana Zhou shares Alvarez-Kinsey letters with Milly and Jean Alvarez.

When members of the Alvarez family stopped in to The Kinsey Institute on **March 29**, they experienced a personal history lesson of their own.

Walter and his sister Jean recalled hearing their grandfather talk about having donated some books

and papers to the Institute for Sex Research. A quick check in the Kinsey library files confirmed that Dr. Kinsey and Dr. Alvarez, a doctor at the Mayo Clinic, had a rich correspondence over the years. As Librarian Liana Zhou opened a thick folder of ordered papers, the very first item was an introductory letter:

“I was delighted to hear that at last someone has had the courage to study the anthropology and folklore and literature of sex. It is astounding that even human biologists, anthropologists and medical men usually have shied off from having anything to do with the subject. And yet it is one of the most important that we should study.”

Professor Alvarez’s grandfather and namesake was an outspoken supporter and, later, friend of Alfred Kinsey. Along with letters through the years, the Library archives included a copy of the newspaper column Dr. Alvarez wrote in 1955, titled “Dr. Kinsey Needs Our Understanding and Help.”

A public plea for people to embrace the work of Kinsey and his team, Dr. Alvarez rebuked complaints against Kinsey sharing that: “...he used his vast book profits to further research, had a delightful sense of humor and was a professional, dedicated scientist.”

In his first letter, dated, **March 29, 1946**, Dr. Alvarez wrote: “Perhaps sometime I can drop in to visit you and see what you are doing.”

The Alvarez family did finally drop in to visit, 66 years later to the day.



Walter Alvarez, M.D.



Walter Alvarez, Ph.D.

Man As Object: Reversing the Gaze Opens in the Gallery

The Kinsey Institute's newest art show, *Man as Object: Reversing the Gaze*, opened April 13 at The Kinsey Gallery. The show is on loan from the Women's Caucus for Art (WCA), which is currently celebrating its 40th Anniversary.

In feminist theory, the "male gaze" refers to females as the passive subjects of art, film, and other popular media, making the audience view the content through the eyes of a heterosexual man. The "male gaze" also reflects the asymmetry in the balance of masculine and feminine forms of power in society, as it recalls themes of voyeurism and objectification.

At right: Molly Marie Nuzzo, *Noah* 2011.



Man as Object plays with this concept by presenting art through a "female gaze," presenting images of males and masculinity through the eyes of women.

Visitors to the gallery will also see artworks by female artists depicting men that are drawn from the permanent collection of the Institute.

Man as Object: Reversing the Gaze was organized by Karen Gutfreund, Priscilla Otani, and Brenda Oelbaum for the Women's Caucus for Art with Tanya Augsborg, Assistant Professor, San Francisco State University, as Juror. Prior to coming to Bloomington, it was shown at the SOMArts Cultural Center in San Francisco.

Nine of the artists came to Bloomington for the opening, and participated in a panel discussion prior to the show opening, April 13.

By capturing images of traditional masculinity through a variety of lenses (funny, sexy, genderqueer, feminist, etc.), the exhibit turns classic themes of beauty on their head, and draws meaningful questions from viewers both male and female.



At right: Patricia Izzo discusses her photograph at the artists' panel

At left: Karen Gutfreund. *Power Authority Masculine*, 2010

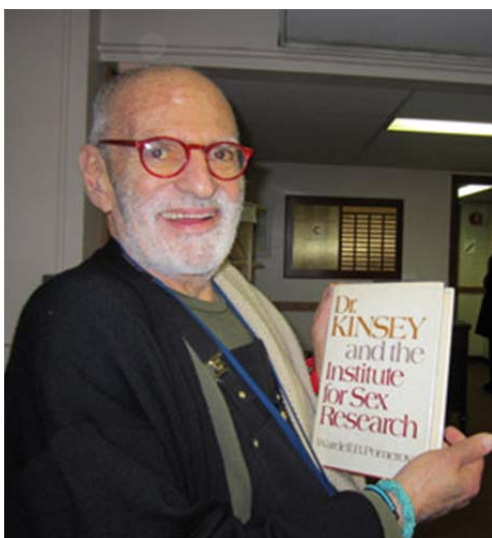


Visitors to the Kinsey

Playright and Activist Larry Kramer

Invited to IU by the Department of Theater and Drama, Larry Kramer paid a special visit to The Kinsey Institute with his partner, architect David Webster. Best known for the play *The Normal Heart*, written in 1985 in response to the growing AIDS crisis, Mr. Kramer is a prolific writer and an outspoken gay rights and AIDS activist.

This was Kramer's first visit to the institute; he was gratified to see the extensive holdings in the library and thrilled by the gallery and research collections.



Right: David Webster, Larry and Liana Zhou uncover Kramer writings



Right: David and Larry liked the [kissing Lincolns](#) in the Love & War exhibit



Left: Proud owner of a "Kinsey 6" tshirt!



Visitors to the Kinsey (cont.)

Aleksandar Štulhofer, University of Zagreb



The Kinsey Institute welcomed back affiliated faculty member Dr. Sasha Štulhofer for a one-month visiting fellowship this spring.

Left: Dr. Aleksandar Štulhofer and Dr. Julia Heiman.

During his stay, he worked on two research projects: one mixed-methods study focusing on pain at heterosexual anoreceptive intercourse, and another examined the patterns of male sexual desire in a three-country dataset (Norway, Croatia, and Portugal). Both studies involved online surveying.

Currently, Dr. Štulhofer is coordinating an informal consortium of European sex researchers working on a new module proposal for the next round of the European Social

Survey. The tentative title of the module is: Sexual attitudes, behaviors, and sexual health-related issues in a comparative European perspective.

In the Library

Among the numerous library patrons this spring were Yuriy Zikratyy from Concordia University, researching the Thomas Painter collection and gay erotic cultures and sexuality, and John Money scholar Eli Vitulli from the University of Minnesota, researching the history of the incarceration of transgender and gender non-conforming people.

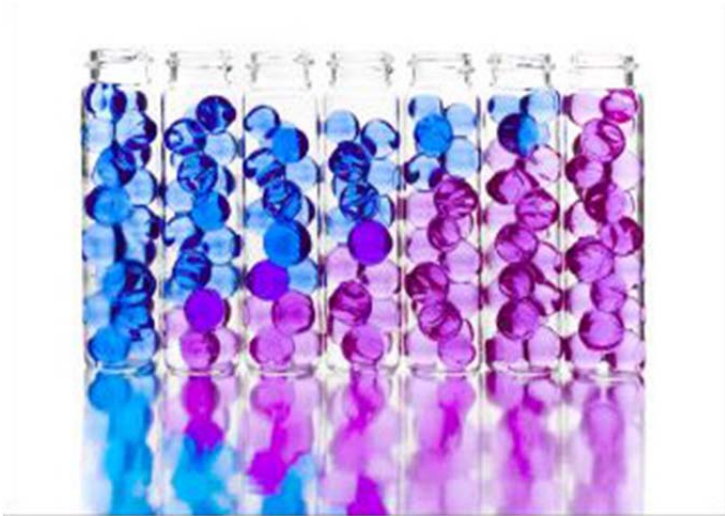
Below: Visiting student researchers Eli Vitelli (left) and Yuriy Zikratyy (right) in the library.



2012 Juried Art Show Opens at the Grunwald Gallery

Fans of art, sexuality and their frequent intersection showed up in droves at the Grunwald Gallery for the opening of the Kinsey Institute's 2012 Juried Art Show. The evening of Friday, May 18 saw local and out-of-state guests alike enjoying over one hundred works exploring human sexuality, gender and reproduction.

"Transgression is part of telling the truth about sex," said longtime Bloomington artist David Ebbinghouse, who showed his metalwork piece "Intersection" in the exhibition. "Kinsey got a lot of flak and probably would have been fired if it weren't for Herman Wells... I thought, I should go with my feelings of transgression."



At left: Bonnie Schupp, "Gender is a Continuum"

Ebbinghouse's minimalist work demonstrates the importance of context in human conceptions of the erotic. "If I put a piece like this in a sex show, people see it as an erotic thing," the artist explained. "It becomes like a Rorschach test." For other pieces, the artist's message is more direct.

"Gender is not a binary," asserted Baltimore artist Bonnie Schupp. Her photographic still life "Gender is a Continuum" illustrates a full array of gender possibilities. Reminiscent of the "Kinsey Scale", which acknowledges a range of expressions of sexual desire, the piece challenges

the societal notion that masculinity and femininity are mutually exclusive. "As soon as a baby is born, everyone asks, is it a boy? Is it a girl?" Schupp continued. "It's not so black and white."

For New York artist Catherine Kirkpatrick, photographic portraiture can tell stories about gender that are often made invisible. "It's about women's lives, women's memories and women's experiences," said Kirkpatrick of her series "Silent Echoes."

Right: Opening night photo by Kevin Mooney

"The day my mother died, my father had a heart attack and a stroke. I had to take care of him," Kirkpatrick said. This period of her life exemplified the way care and labor are distributed in gendered ways, and inspired the thematic focus of "Silent Echoes." "Women's experiences and the burdens they shoulder have been ignored."



2012 Juried Art Show Opens at the Grunwald Gallery (cont.)

But this emphasis on visibility doesn't mean Kirkpatrick is willing to tell all the secrets of her exhibited piece. "If I tell you [everything], I'll spoil it," said Kirkpatrick of "Masked Figure." The close-up subject gazes directly into the camera, her playful smile and mysterious attire suggesting a memorable night ahead. "I think she's looking for something. She is who she is. She's not gonna take any shit from anyone."

The annual Juried Art Show fulfills the Kinsey Institute's mission of "investigating and informing the world about critical issues in sex, gender and reproduction" by providing artists with a rare space to explore taboo topics and themes.

"I'm not always accepted. This is a safe place to show it," said Wisconsin-based artist Amy Misurelli Sorensen of her featured piece "Defensive Back." The work is from a series of drawings called "Pin-ups" that incorporates both strength and vulnerability in its depictions of women.



Left: Jillian Van Volkenburgh, "Composition 131: Patience and James"

Artist Jillian Van Volkenburgh travelled to the opening from outside Chicago and discussed the complex union of content and form in her exhibited work, "Composition 131: Patience and James." "It's a very non-threatening piece with a very threatening subject matter," said Van Volkenburgh. The photograph uses "opposites in color, composition and gender" to focus on transgender experience and identity.

Van Volkenburgh purposefully photographed close friends to create this picture. In fact, model James

accompanied her to the opening. In an exhibition full of explosive images, several artists discussed the delicate business of representing real people in erotic art.

"I don't want to ever talk anybody into doing anything they'd feel uncomfortable about later," said Chicago artist George C. Clark. "When I work with models, they do all of their own poses." "Camel Saddle" is Clark's second painting to be exhibited in a Kinsey Institute Juried Art Show. Both this submission and his 2009 entry have featured the same camel saddle, which Clark found years ago in a catalogue for his mother's gift shop. "In a way I'm doing the same thing over and over again, but not really," said Clark of drawing from life. "Every person I draw is different and every pose is different."

Right: Members of Esther Zeitlin's family gather around her painting, *On the Orgy of Species*. Ms. Zeitlin lost a battle to ovarian cancer after submitting her work to the competition. Photo by Jennifer Bass



2012 Juried Art Show Opens at the Grunwald Gallery (cont.)

Ebbinghouse agrees: in art, context can make all the difference.

“There’s no objective reality- we see things through a filter. Two different people look at your work and both say, ‘I loved it!’ Then they talk about it and they thought totally different things.”

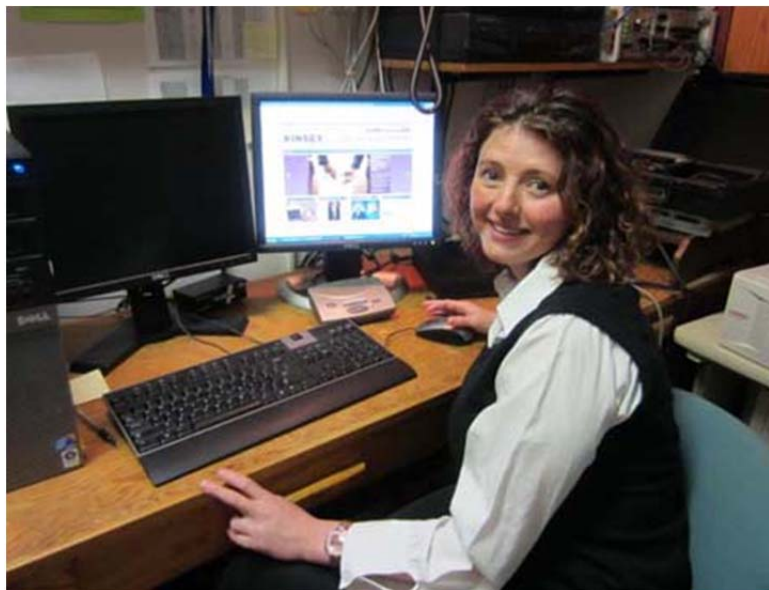
Visitors to the gallery should expect to experience the contradiction that often follows reflection on the role of sexuality in public life.

The Juried Art Show will be on exhibition in the Grunwald Gallery until July 21. The gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 12:00 to 4:00 pm, when visitors over 18 are welcome to enjoy the multi-media collection.

Artworks from the 2012 Juried Show are also online at kinseyinstitute.org.

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IASR Student Award to Lelia Samson



Doctoral candidate Lelia Samson has won the 2012 award from the International Academy for Sex Research for her paper, written with Kinsey Senior Research Scientist Erick Janssen.

Lelia is in the Department of Telecommunications at Indiana University, with a minor in Human Sexuality.

Left: Lelia Samson photo by Jennifer Bass

The paper is entitled: ***Sexual and affective responses to same- and opposite-sex stimuli in heterosexual and homosexual men: The impact of visual attention.***

Ms. Samson received a Kinsey Institute Student Research Grant for this research in 2010.

IASR judges noted the creative and innovative methodology, the rigor of the research, and the clarity of the presentation.

The award comes with an invitation to the IASR annual meeting in Portugal in July, where Lelia will have an opportunity to accept the award.

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Hail to our Graduates!

The Kinsey Institute relies on students for a wide variety of projects and jobs, and students come to the institute as interns, hourly workers, research assistants, and volunteers.

Pictured at right: Rachel Lin Weaver, Kara Inglehart, Peter Kvam, Aliza Saraco-Polner & Princeton Stewart (not pictured: Krystal McKenzie, Caitlin Brown, Amy Tims and Shivani Ghandi)

They contribute to research - both assisting with current projects and conducting their own research (Kara, Peter, Crystal, and Princeton), help organize and prepare art and library materials (Rachel, Caitlin, Amy and Shivani), write regular blogs posts for Kinsey Confidential (Kristen), and serve as student liason for campus events (Aliza).

We are so grateful for their unique and significant contributions to sexual health and knowledge, and to The Kinsey Institute.



Burke Denning, Jennifer Burch, Kristen Mark

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Indiana University | Morrison Hall 313 | 1165 East Third Street | Bloomington, IN 47405 USA
812.855.7686 | FAX 812.855.8277 | **www.kinseyinstitute.org**

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