

**Christine Soyong Harley, MPP – President & CEO – SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change****Thursday, November 19, 2020 | 2:00pm to 3:30pm (EST)*****Expanding the Vision: Why We're Talking about Sex Education as a Vehicle for Social Change*****1.0 CE Hour**

**Christine Soyong Harley, MPP** initially came to SIECUS as an interim executive in October 2018 before joining the team permanently in the Spring of 2019. Chris joins SIECUS with a robust background in public policy, advocacy, program management, and strategic thought leadership, with an emphasis on increasing civic engagement in immigrant communities, communities of color, and other underserved groups. Previously, Chris ran her own consulting business, directed The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights' 2020 Census Campaign, served as Deputy Director for the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, and was the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders under the Obama Administration. Chris also spearheaded health justice and reproductive justice policy efforts for the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations and the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, and brings experience working in state-level agencies and community organizing to SIECUS. Chris is mixed-race Korean American and Piscataway Indian—the indigenous people of Maryland, a single-mom by choice of twin boys, and the first generation of her family to attend college and graduate school. Chris received her B.A. in Politics from Oberlin College and a Masters in Public Policy from the University of Chicago.

**Abstract:** In 2019, the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States rebranded the organization to become SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change. This rebrand was more than just a name change, but also a way to articulate that we believe that sex ed can spark social change and cultural norms change on a range of important issues – from gender equity and racial justice to LGBTQ equality and more. Yet, a groundbreaking – soon to be published comprehensive literature review of sex education research – reveals that the United States has largely failed to measure, analyze, or study sex education program outcomes and data to look at indicators beyond disease and pregnancy prevention. As the U.S. grapples with increasingly broader calls for gender equity, LGBTQ equality, and racial justice, is incumbent upon the field of sex education to center these, and other individual behavioral change and social norms change into the research and analysis of sex education programming in order to both contribute to solutions for these issues, and to document the harms caused by sexual risk avoidance programs, particularly for LGBTQ youth and youth of color.

**Laina Y. Bay-Cheng, MSW, PhD – University at Buffalo****Friday, November 20, 2020 | 2:30pm to 3:30pm (EST)*****Agency Through Thick and Thin: How Girls Exercise Sexual Agency Amid Social Injustice*****1.0 CE Hour**

**Dr. Laina Y. Bay-Cheng** is Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty Development at the University at Buffalo School of Social Work. For the entirety of her career, Bay-Cheng has concentrated her research on the imprint of social forces and material conditions on young women's sexual lives. She combines empirical and conceptual analyses to shift attention away from individual-focused models of sexual risk and toward the systemic roots of girls' and women's sexual vulnerability: interlocked gender, class, race, and age-based inequalities and the ideologies that perpetuate them. Bay-Cheng is currently pursuing two lines of research: first, she continues to interrogate how neoliberal ideology pervades sexuality discourse, including its trumpeting of agency, choice, and consent, often to the detriment of young women; and second, she is using Martha Nussbaum's *Capabilities Approach* to study the gap between the sexual rights and resources that marginalized young women have "on paper" and those that are practicable "on the ground." Bay-Cheng credits her undergraduate institution, Wellesley College, and her doctoral training with Dr. Abby Stewart at the University of Michigan (Social Work and Psychology) for enabling her research and career. She joined the UB School of Social Work in 2005, served as its PhD Program Director from 2012-2019, and founded UB's [NEAR](#) (*Network for Enriched Academic Relationships*) program to support minoritized PhD students.

**Abstract:** Sexual agency is a frequent buzzword in discussions of women's sexuality, whether in celebrations of women's supposed "empowerment" or in contests over who is agentic (and implicitly, who is a "victim"). Yet even as sexual agency is talked about more often, our vision of it remains both narrow and shallow. Building on my own and others' research and thinking, I argue for a view of agency that allows us to see the many ways in which young women work to direct their lives. This includes girls and behaviors often mistaken as being devoid of agency: self-sexualizing, consenting to unwanted sex, remaining in an abusive or simply unsatisfying relationship. These are evidence not of young women's individual deficits in agency, but of their systemic deprivation of options. I recommend pivoting critical attention and action away from trying to increase sexual agency – as though it is in deficit – and instead toward eradicating the social and material conditions that thin girls' sexual agency. This requires reckoning with the interlocked and mutually reinforcing misogyny, racism, economic injustice, and ableism that define all aspects of young women's lives, sexual and otherwise. Martha Nussbaum's *Capabilities Approach* offers a theoretical and political scaffold for such a redirection of our resources. Its core question, What is a person able to do and to be?, reverses the neoliberal illogic of demanding personal responsibility amid systemic injustice and reminds us instead of systems' obligations to ensure that all constituents experience liberty and dignity. I will consider what it means to take a *Capabilities Approach* to young women's sexuality, specifically how sexuality scholars, practitioners, and advocates can thicken young women's sexual agency by combatting social injustice.

**Dustin T. Duncan, ScD – Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health****Friday, November 20, 2020 | 3:45pm to 5:00pm (EST)*****Impact of Neighborhoods on Health Disparities: Application of Geospatial Methods Among Black Sexual Minority Men and Transgender Women of Color*****1.0 CE Hour**

**Dustin T. Duncan, ScD** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, where he directs Columbia's Spatial Epidemiology Lab and co-directs the department's Social and Spatial Epidemiology Unit. Dr. Duncan is a Social and Spatial Epidemiologist. Dr. Duncan's intersectional research focuses on Black gay, bisexual and other sexual minority men and transgender women of color. His work appears in leading public health, epidemiology, medical, geography, criminology, demography, and psychology journals. Working in collaborations with scholars across the world, he has over 150 high-impact articles, book chapters and books, and his research has appeared in major media outlets including *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times* and *CNN*. Dr. Duncan's recent work has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the HIV Prevention Trials Network, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Verizon Foundation, and the Aetna Foundation. He has received several early career and distinguished scientific contribution awards including from the Harvard University T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science (IAPH). In 2020, he received the Mentor of the Year Award from Columbia University Irving Medical Center's Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research.

**Abstract:** The field of neighborhoods and health (sometimes referred to as spatial epidemiology) has grown exponentially in the last twenty years, especially since the publication of the first edition of *Neighborhoods and Health* edited by Ichiro Kawachi and Lisa Berkman in 2003. There is a large literature on the influence of neighborhoods on health to date. Many reviews and technical reports of accumulated neighborhoods and health research have been conducted. For example, in 2017, Bauermeister and colleagues conducted a review on multi-level studies of neighborhoods and HIV prevention and care outcomes among sexual minority men who have sex with men. However, relatively few neighborhood studies have focused on sexual minority populations and ever fewer have focused on gender minority populations. Neighborhood studies that have taken an intersectional approach, e.g., by focusing on sexual/gender identity as well as race/ethnicity simultaneously are even more scarce. This talk aims to: 1) provide an historical overview of neighborhoods and health research, 2) examine recent directions in neighborhoods and health research, and 3) touch on methodological areas. In particular, it will overview applications of geospatial methods to study neighborhoods in population health and health disparities research with examples from Dr. Duncan's two prospective cohort studies, which use novel geospatial methods. The N2 (Neighborhoods and Networks) Cohort Study is a cohort study including 600 HIV-negative and HIV-positive Black gay, bisexual and other sexual minority men in Chicago IL, Jackson MS, and New Orleans and Baton Rouge LA (Grant Numbers: R01MH112406 and U01PS005122). The TURNNT (Trying to Understand Relationships, Networks and Neighborhoods among Transgender women of color) Study is a cohort of 300 HIV-negative and HIV-positive Black, Latina and Asian-Pacific Islander trans women in New York City (Grant Numbers: R01MD013554 and 3R01MD013554-02S1). Both cohorts focus on advanced global positioning systems (GPS) methods to understand how activity space neighborhoods (defined as the local areas within which people move during their daily activities) influence HIV prevention and care outcomes.