

OUR MISSION

As a division of the Psychological Society of South Africa (PsySSA), the mission of the Sexuality and Gender Division (SGD) is to promote a psychological understanding of the fields of sexuality and gender. The goal is to support PsySSA in its endeavours to ensure human well-being and social justice for all people. This is realised through SGD member participation in research, clinical practice, education and training, connectivity within and across disciplines, and advocacy that promotes understanding and inclusivity of all sexual and gender identities and expressions, and diversity in biological sex characteristics.





The SGD focuses its efforts in the South African context, but also cultivates continental and international networks of mutual interest in the fields of sexuality and gender in Psychology. In achieving our objectives, we are committed to cooperative relationships across disciplines and structures, including within PsySSA; with the International Psychology Network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Issues (IPsyNet) and other professional organisations; civil society organisations; research, training and education institutions; applied entities; and with the wider public.



WHAT NEXT?

Has the information in this brochure piqued your interest? Blown your hair back? Excited your mind? If so, consider joining by reaching out to an SGD executive member, or sending your details to sgd@psyssa.co.za to be added to the SGD emailing list.

If you're still just curious, find out more at:

-  www.psyssa.com/divisions/sexuality-and-gender-division-sgd/
-  www.facebook.com/sgdpsyssa
-  [@SGDPsySSA](https://twitter.com/SGDPsySSA)
-  info@psyssa.com

Check out the cutting-edge Practice Guidelines for Psychology Professionals working with Sexually and Gender-Diverse People

Based on the latest local, continental and global research, the practice guidelines are the first of their kind on the African continent. They aim to increase psychological knowledge of human diversity in sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics.

The guidelines are available at <http://www.psyssa.com/practice-guidelines-for-psychology-professionals-working-with-sexually-and-gender-diverse-people/>



SEXUALITY &
GENDER DIVISION



SEXUALITY AND GENDER DIVISION

OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

- Do you want to know about cutting-edge research on sexuality and gender?
- Are you committed to making psychology diversity-affirming?
- Do you have an interest in collaborations to advance theory and praxis on LGBTIQ+ issues?
- Are you concerned about sexual and gender rights?
- Or, are you just curious?

Why not consider joining the Sexuality and Gender Division of the Psychological Society of South Africa?

OUR WORK

Research

Our members are involved in empirical and theoretical work on sexual orientation, gender identity and biological sex, as well as gender-based violence, intersectionality and social justice, and sexual and reproductive health. Much of this is reflected in the strong sexuality and gender focused stream at PsySSA congresses. Check out the sexuality and gender stream in the conference programme.

Education and training

We provide training for students, clinicians, health workers and academics, informed by the PsySSA Sexual and Gender Diversity Practice Guidelines (2017), to advance the provision of sexuality and gender-affirming and inclusive practices. This includes general training and customised programmes based on specific needs and requests.

Advocacy and expert opinion

We engage in advocacy efforts and policy development on issues concerning sexual and gender rights in South Africa, in the region, and internationally. Through our networks, we are also able to provide expert opinion and advice related to this field of interest.

Practice

We are committed to the development and dissemination of sexual and gender-affirmative practice across the spectrum of mental health providers in South Africa. This includes PsySSA's first position statement and practice guidelines, namely on sexual and gender diversity, that were approved in 2013 and 2017, respectively.

KEY SUCCESSSES

- 2007** PsySSA joins IPsyNET (International Psychology Network for LGBTIQ+ Issues)
- 2009** First focused LGBTI programming at a PsySSA Congress, which has grown to be a premier annual event bringing together the best scholarly and applied work around sexuality and gender in Psychology in South Africa
- 2010** Statement to the Ugandan government offering a science-based assessment of the proposed "Anti-Homosexuality Bill of 2009" and calling upon them to abandon or defeat it
- 2010** Open statement to the United Nations (UN) following and condemning the South African vote to remove a reference to sexual orientation from the UN resolution condemning extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions and other killings
- 2011** Recipient of substantial international funding to support the activities of the Division – the first PsySSA Division/ Interest Group to do so. We continue to receive international and local funding support for our work
- 2013** Development and adoption of the PsySSA Sexual and Gender Diversity Position Statement – a first for the Society, which promotes an affirmative stance in working with sexually and gender diverse South Africans in the mental health context
- 2014** Official launch of the Division at the 20th PsySSA Congress
- 2015** SGD Executive Member Prof Juan Nel contributes to the publication of Diversity in Human Sexuality: Implications for Policy in Africa, by the Academy of Science of South Africa
- 2017** Received an award at the PsySSA AGM for Most Improved Division. Provided expert testimony, as amicus curiae, in the Jon Qwelane hate speech hearing in the Equality Court
- 2018** Endorsement by PsySSA Presidency of IPsyNet Statement and Commitment to LGBTIQ+ Affirmative Psychological & Psychotherapeutic Practice and Research

OUR LINKAGES



PsySSA is a member of the International Psychology Network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Issues (IPsyNet), and two SGD executive members serve on the network. IPsyNet consists of psychological organisations around the world working to increase understanding of sexual orientation and gender-diverse people and to promote their human rights and well-being. A significant innovation for PsySSA, as a professional voluntary association, has been the support of local and international donors for the 'PsySSA African LGBTI Human Rights Project', located within the SGD. The goal of the project is to build PsySSA capacity in South Africa, and in Sub-Saharan Africa more broadly, to engage with issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics.

OUR MEMBERS & BENEFITS

Our membership consists of diverse psychology professionals, including clinicians, researchers, teachers, community practitioners, health workers, community activists, and students from a variety of disciplines across South Africa and the African continent.

Members share training opportunities, articles and other resources related to sexuality and gender.

