

College/University Presentations

The Good Kind of Climate Change: How to Make Your Campus More LGBTQIA-Friendly

Every student has the right to a safe learning environment where they can learn, live and grow academically and socially. As a result, campuses have the power and responsibility to enact policies, programs and practices that work to make their campuses more inclusive, welcoming and respectful for all. In this presentation, Dr. Pitman will share findings from national campus climate research, and she will help participants identify specific policies, programs, and institutional practices that can help create an affirming educational environment for LGBTQIA students and employees.

Why Didn't I Learn This in History Class? A Walk Through LGBT History

Why are Pride parades typically held in June? What's the meaning behind the rainbow flag and the pink triangle? Why does the parade always begin with the Dykes on Bikes? In this presentation, Dr. Pitman explains the historical and cultural meaning behind the various things typically seen at Pride celebrations, and she shows how Pride can be a window into a better understanding of LGBT history. Using Pride as a lens, Dr. Pitman will address a range of topics from the Mattachine Society to the Daughters of Bilitis; from the Compton Cafeteria Riots to the Stonewall Riots; and from the AIDS epidemic to the murder crisis in the trans community. This is a great program to offer during LGBT History Month (October) or LGBT Pride Month (June).

Major Milestones in LGBTQ Psychological Research

In this presentation, Dr. Gayle Pitman will provide an overview of some of the major landmark studies in LGBTQ psychology, and how these studies have influenced public policy and cultural attitudes. Examples include Evelyn Hooker's 1957 study and the elimination of the homosexuality diagnosis; the biological studies of the 1990s and the Supreme Court and lower court decisions that were influenced by them; Ray Blanchard's controversial studies and how they impeded the transgender rights movement; and studies focusing on same-sex couples raising children. Dr. Pitman's presentation will address the social and political consequences of research findings, as well as the delicate intersection between scientific research and political activism. This presentation is based on Dr. Pitman's book, *Backdrop: The Politics and Personalities behind Sexual Orientation Research*.



The All-White World of Children's Books: From 1965 to the Present

Despite our increasingly diverse society, the world of children's books continues to be overwhelmingly white, middle-class, and heterosexual. In this presentation, Gayle will discuss the importance of diversifying children's literature, and present statistics demonstrating how slow that process has been. She will then discuss how children's books can allow kids to see themselves reflected in the world (mirrors), to better understand the experiences of others (windows), and to break down or, unfortunately, reinforce stereotypes (walls). Be prepared to engage in some simple writing and experiential exercises. Numerous texts will be reviewed, including *The Day the Crayons Quit*, *Skippyjon Jones*, *Big Red Lollipop*, *Firebird*, and *Last Stop on Market Street*. Gayle will also discuss more controversial texts, including *A Fine Dessert* and *A Birthday Cake for George Washington*.

