

Sexuality and Social Work Conference 2016

Reflections on sexological bodywork / erotic therapy variations and possibilities for sexual healing

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Even though SA studies have made various recommendations, training in human sexuality and sex therapy at under- and postgraduate and continuing education levels of Social Work training is still lacking, including desensitisation training and improvement of comfort levels towards sexuality. In SA, Social Work is seen as not only more reactive than proactive, but also conservative and it is questionable how effectively social workers assist for example sex workers, transgender, gender non-conforming and non-heteronormative people in general. Many aspects of sex and sexuality is still 'taboo' topics, so how can we ensure our SA Social Work education promote sexual health, wellbeing and rights of all people?

We don't even place social work students at explicit sexual minority organisations to do their internship and my 4th year social work students still have an aversion and prejudice towards sex workers. There are various minority sexualities in SA that have not been researched nor incorporated into SA Social Work education, e.g. Tantric-Taoist sexual healers/teachers; Professional Dominatrix, BDSM, fetish and kink as therapy; Transgender sex workers and disability sexuality rights.

Most sexuality related conferences still have a more clinical / positivistic / medical focus. Engagement around deeper sexual intimacy, pleasure and erotic issues are more silent or suppressed. We are challenged to integrate alternative modalities to re-align, bridge and heal sexual shame, guilt and suppression. To explore what sexual intimacy could be, e.g. Orgasmicity, no goal and whole body orgasm, female ejaculation and male non-ejaculation.

Keywords:

sexological bodywork, erotic soma-therapy