

The Alan E. Kazdin Endowed Lecture in Psychology

Sexual and Gender Diversity in 21st Century America: Stories of Radical Authenticity and Radical Exclusion

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The 21st century has been a time of extraordinary changes in cultural and scientific understandings of sexuality and gender. This presentation frames the century as an era of *radical authenticity*—a time of heightened capacity for individuals to align inner experience with external presentation and embodiment and to construct personal narratives framed within a discourse of "authenticity." I present five "big stories" of authenticity circulating this century, highlighting social technologies as cultural tools that have facilitated the dispersion of these stories this century. Paradoxically, stories of radical exclusion that delegitimize sexual and gender diversity can also be situated within a larger framework of authenticity and have flourished in the same technological conditions. I discuss the way in which political changes and the changing nature of social technologies in the 2020s might contract opportunity for authenticity in sexuality and gender in the next quarter of the century.

March 3, 2026

Student Union

Ballroom A and B

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Admission: FREE

This annual lecture is supported by a generous endowment honoring the work of Dr. Alan E. Kazdin, Musser Professor of Psychology at Yale University, Director of the Yale Parenting Center, and an alumnus of the SJSU Psychology Department (1967).

Each year we invite a distinguished and influential speaker to inspire a new generation of psychologists and shape the future of our field and our society.