

## IN CONVERSATION WITH

# Dr. Sharon Horne

### THE QUINTESSENCE SERIES: INTERDISCIPLINARY AND INTERNATIONAL WORK BY SCPS

Sharon G. Horne, Ph.D., is Professor of Counseling Psychology at The University of Massachusetts Boston. Her research is on sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression related to legislation, policy, and transnational concerns. From 2012-2021, she provided leadership as an elected APA Representative to the International Psychology Network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Issues (IPsyNet). She received the 2020 Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology from the APA in recognition for her transnational work.



Photo taken while coordinating the LGBTQ programming at the European Congress of Psychology, 2019.

## MOTIVATION

Dr. Horne shares that her interest and participation in international issues preceded her counseling psychology training. She read extensively about different cultures as a child and majored in Slavic languages, Eastern European Politics, and Journalism in her undergrad. She further developed international connections during her studies in Europe, the U.S.S.R., and her Peace Corps experience in West Africa.



## IMPACT

Dr. Horne reflects that working collaboratively at a transnational level to pursue a shared vision has been the most impactful aspect of her work. She chaired the IPsyNet Statement on LGBTQ+ concerns, which has been endorsed by 43 national organizations (translated into 13 languages). Dr. Horne describes this experience as both humbling and inspirational. In partnering with international collaborators, Dr. Horne aims to lead by centering the voices and goals of her collaborators.

**IPsyNet**  
International Psychology Network  
for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,  
Transgender and Intersex Issues



## BARRIERS

One of the challenges of international work, Dr. Horne notes, is concern for collaborators' safety in countries where LGBTQ+ identities continue to be criminalized and stigmatized. She narrates times when her international colleagues were targeted and reflects on the importance of advocacy and leveraging one's privileges to make change.



## ADVICE FOR STUDENTS

- Follow your interests.
- Think broadly about international research. You can study global/transnational concerns in your own communities (e.g., immigration issues, asylum concerns).
- Seek guidance from international colleagues in counseling psychology.
- Consider joining APA Div 52 and the Div 17 international section.

**FOLLOW**  
YOUR  
Heart