

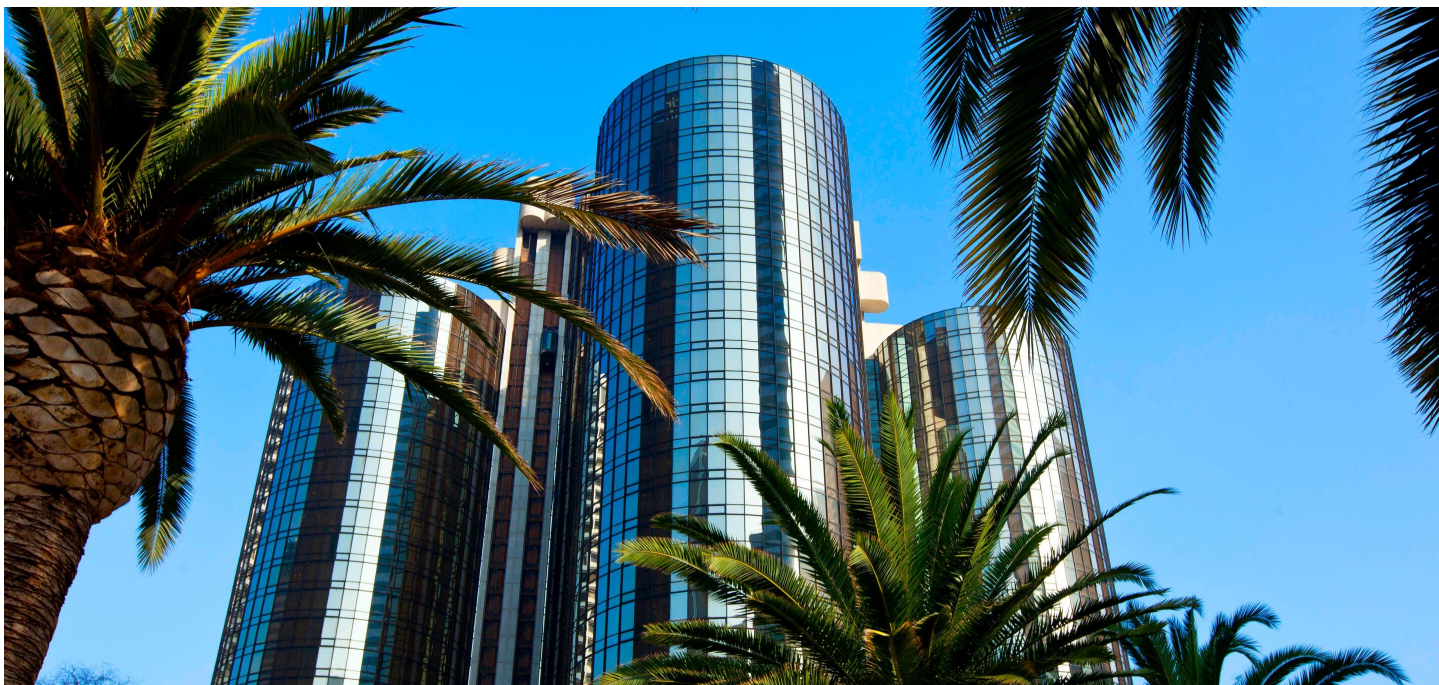
CARAS Conference on Leather-Kink Research and Clinical Knowledge (C2C)

C2C-West Program Summary

November 25-27, 2022
Los Angeles, California

CARAS is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. CARAS maintains responsibility for this program and its content.





About the C2C

The Community-Academic Consortium for Research on Alternative Sexualities (CARAS) is excited to continue a unique collaboration between CARAS and the Cleveland Leather Annual Weekend (CLAW): the CARAS-CLAW Conference: Leather-Kink Research and Clinical Knowledge (C2C).

Join fellow researchers, health care professionals, educators, students, advocates and others for an engaging intellectual and professional experience in a unique venue. For psychologists and other health professionals who require Continuing Education (CE) for licensure, C2C attendees may earn up to 7 CE credits, as indicated in the program. All CE sessions include content at the introductory level.

This community-academic collaboration is a first example of how an academic-research-clinical conference can be embedded in a major community event. Now in our third iteration, the C2C has demonstrated that academic conferences do not have to be boring affairs!

Special thanks to Bob Miller, Carolyn Meeker, Robert Bienvenu, and Vivienne Kramer for their leadership and efforts to make this conference a reality!

For More Information:

For current information regarding the C2C, please visit <https://carasresearch.org/c2c-west>

For CE program procedures and additional C2C-West CE session information, please view the supplemental document [here](#).

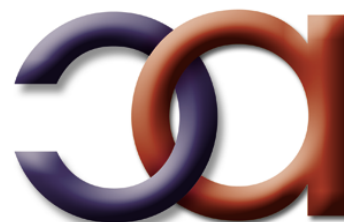
To register to attend the C2C, please visit: <https://www.clawinfo.org/caras>

For questions regarding the C2C, please email c2c@carasresearch.org

For information regarding the CARAS CE program and policies, please visit <https://carasresearch.org/apa-continuing-education>

To subscribe to CARAS, please visit <https://www.carasresearch.org/subscribe>

CARAS
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College Park, MD 20741



C2C-West 2022: Schedule at a Glance

TIME	SESSION	LEAD PRESENTER(S)
	Thursday, November 24, 2022	
7:00-9:00 pm	Meet the Faculty, Leather Getaway 2022 Meet and Greet Westin Bonaventure Hotel, California Foyer (2nd Floor)	
	Friday, November 25, 2022	
9:00-9:30	Friday, Nov 25, 2022: C2C Kickoff! Note: C2C educational sessions Friday-Saturday are in the San Bernardino room	Carolyn Meeker & Rob Bienvenu
9:30-10:30	The Current (and Future) Scholarly Literature on Kink/BDSM, from a Research Design Perspective (1 CE)	Rob Bienvenu
11:00-12:30	From Rape to Rapture: Understanding Kink Play as a Therapeutic Approach to Address Past Sexual Trauma (1 CE)	Andrew Pari
12:00 - 4:00	<i>CARAS Booth at the CLAW Vendor Mart</i>	
2:00-4:00	Expressions to "Thewen" Force Power: A Framework for Conceptualizing BDSM Roles & Behaviors (1 CE)	Leonora Weston (Anne O Nomis)
4:30-5:30	SM Becomes Political (1 CE)	Rostom Mesli
	Saturday, November 26, 2022	
11:00 - 12:30	Surveying the Motivations, Benefits, and Experiences of Those Who Engage in BDSM/Kink (1 CE)	Bryce Westlake & Isabella Mahan
12:00-4:00	<i>CARAS Booth at the CLAW Vendor Mart</i>	
2:00-4:00	The History of the Dominatrix (2 CE)	Leonora Weston (Anne O Nomis)
4:30-5:30	What Research on Leather and Kink is Needed Today? Community Leaders and Researchers Panel Discussion	Community and Researcher panelists & audience members
	Sunday, November 27, 2022	
12:00 - 2:00	Leather Hall of Fame, Brunch and Induction Ceremony (Recommended for C2C Attendees)	
2:00 - 3:30	CARAS Research Consultation, by appointment	CARAS
12:00 - 2:00	<i>CARAS Booth at the CLAW Vendor Mart</i>	

For additional C2C-West 2022 CE program and session information, please visit:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1h_E-fUJtbkNOQOCADNfvVzRvJnERYBS03LckMeUufM8/edit?usp=sharing

The Current (and Future) Scholarly Literature on Kink/BDSM, from a Research Design Perspective

Robert Bienvenu, Ph.D.

Brad Sagarin, Ph.D.**

Past scientific research addressing alternative sexualities has been largely observational or descriptive in nature. While important, particularly in the early stages of development of a research area, such designs have inherent limitations. As the field moves forward, researchers will need to incorporate a broader array of research methodologies to address important health and public policy questions.

In this session we will describe the kinds of research designs that are commonly found in the current social and behavioral science literatures addressing alternative sexualities. We highlight situations where the scientific objectives of a study may require more complex designs, such as longitudinal measurement or a randomized controlled trial, in order to address the scientific objectives of the research. We will explore design elements that are relatively uncommon in alternative sexualities research today, such as use of biomarkers, that enable researchers to tackle novel questions on alternative sexualities.

After a review of the current literature and some key research design concepts, we will examine particular cases to illustrate how answering certain research questions may require more complex designs. For example, in a kink-aware healthcare context, how can we develop appropriate scientific evidence to demonstrate that (proposed) Treatment A is better than (standard) Treatment B?

**Brad Sagarin is co-author of this presentation but is not in attendance at the C2C.

Details

San Bernardino Room, Westin Bonaventure Hotel

Friday, Nov 25, 2022

9:30 - 10:30 am

CE Credits: 1

Learning Objectives

1. Describe research designs that are most commonly found in the scientific literature addressing alternative sexualities today.
2. Describe research designs that are appropriate for developing evidence-based clinical interventions and practice.
3. Evaluate elements that may be appropriate in a research design, such as: randomization, control group, random sampling, level of measurement, endpoint, superiority/equivalence/non-inferiority designs, biomarkers, digital measures.
4. Propose an appropriate research design to address a given set of scientific questions.

From Rape to Rapture: Understanding Kink Play as a Therapeutic Approach to Address Past Sexual Trauma

Andrew Pari, LCSW

Sexualized violence is a devastating lifetime trauma that occurs in high numbers. In addition to PTSD and Rape Trauma Syndrome (RTS), anxiety, depression, self-harming behavior, suicidality, and disruptive relationship barriers are commonly known results of sexualized violence. Victims often feel "damaged for life." And some survivors, consciously and unconsciously, seek relief of these symptoms by replaying aspects of their experience.

From Freud to van der Kolk, compulsive repetition of trauma has been discussed in the scientific literature for nearly 100 years. However, for many sexual assault survivors, the pursuit of disinhibited promiscuity in the form of rape repetition is poorly understood, not to mention largely disbelieved.

Survivors themselves are often horrified or confused at the drive towards these behaviors, even as they may gain a sense of sexual satisfaction from them.

"From Rape to Rapture" will explore and discuss the confusing feelings and experiences that come up when engaging in kink play around past sexual traumas. The presenter will discuss the myths and prejudice while providing attendees with a deeper understanding of how to address the trauma for clients who play with these themes. Survivor-based research demonstrating forced sex repetition compulsion and how it can harm and benefit the survivor will be reviewed. A case study from the presenter's work will be used as a frame to illustrate these concepts.

Healing trauma through kink is largely in its infancy as an acceptable treatment approach. Attendees will learn about the relevant scientific literature and, drawing from clinical experience, emerging therapeutic approaches that may be helpful to clients who have experienced sexual trauma.

Details

San Bernardino Room, Westin Bonaventure Hotel

Friday, Nov 25, 2022

11:00 - 12:30 am

CE Credits: 1

Learning Objectives

1. Describe the biological and psychological responses to rape/sexual assault.
2. Describe the defense mechanism of repetition compulsion as it applies to sexual assault survivors.
3. Evaluate kink play as a potential therapeutic approach to address past sexual trauma.

Expressions to Thewen Force Power: A Framework for Conceptualizing BDSM Roles & Behaviors

Leonora Weston, MA (Anne O Nomis)

Leonora Anne Weston (aka Anne O Nomis) is author of the book 'The History & Arts of the Dominatrix' and an International teacher of Dominance studies. In the last two years, 2020-2022, Weston has turned her attention to the so-called "bottoms" of the BDSM scene, who variously self-identify by terms such as submissives, slaves, masochists, brats, kinksters, spankees and switches.

The workshop presents results of a pilot survey-based study examining the activities, preferences and psychologies of people identifying as BDSM bottoms. Based on this research, Weston has developed a novel conceptual framework for interpreting the roles and behaviors of BDSM bottoms.

The new theory presented highlights the role of excess "thewen" force power encounters in earlier life experiences, most frequently in childhood. The self-identifying roles of BDSM bottoms are related to Fight-Flight-Freeze responses, addressed in the well established scientific literature on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Relevant to the modern PTSD literature is the historical work of the World War I era physician Dr William H.R Rivers (1864-1922), who in his 1920 work conceptualized five responses of 1) Flight; 2) Aggression; 3) Manipulative Activity; 4) Immobility; 5) Collapse. (Rivers 1920)

This workshop will examine the relationship between River's classic formulation and modern PTSD theory, the relationship between these and BDSM self-identities and behavior, in a context of thewen force power activation. The new concept of *thewen force power* is described. The framework is applied as an explanatory approach to understand the psychological responses and roles of bottoms in BDSM subcultures today.

Details

San Bernardino Room, Westin Bonaventure Hotel

Friday, Nov 25, 2022

2:00 - 4:00 pm

CE Credits: 1

Learning Objectives

1. Describe the fight-flight-freeze response as conceptualized within modern PTSD theory.
2. Describe the historical framework of Dr. William H.R. Rivers and its relationship to modern PTSD theory.
3. Distinguish "bottom" roles found in the BDSM scene, such as submissive, slave, masochist, kinkster, bottom, spankee, and switch, and relevance of these distinctions in a therapeutic setting.
4. Evaluate the new conceptual framework outlined in this talk, in relation to PTSD theory and BDSM identities and practices.

SM Becomes Political

Rostom Mesli, Ph.D.

This presentation analyzes the process through which, starting in the early 1970s, SM was reframed by practitioners themselves from a medical condition into a political identity — a process whose most visible manifestation was the emergence of what might be viewed as an “SM Liberation Movement” inaugurated by the founding of The Eulenspiegel Society in 1971. We examine the problems early community organizations and activists were trying to resolve with that transformation, the social, organizational, and rhetorical resources they had at their disposal to make it, as well as some examples of its productivity.

Far from being self-evident, simple or linear, this transformation is analyzed as an “articulation” (contingent, incomplete, contested, contradictory) of SM to the framework of the political Left (broadly-defined). At some level, in redefining themselves as a political minority and in reframing their practices in the terms of the foundational values of the Left (freedom, equality), these SM activists were merely replicating what other sexual minorities (notably, homosexuality) had started doing shortly before. Yet, at another level, the process posed unique challenges for SM folks because of the striking paradox inherent in having to justify in the terms of freedom and equality a sexuality centrally premised on the eroticization of the opposite. This articulation therefore required extraordinary creativity on the part of SM practitioners who, at their best, crafted new ways of being an SM practitioner.

Modern notions of “BDSM” identity and community are related to these earlier efforts, which will help therapists and others to understand important dimensions of modern BDSM self-identity.

Details

San Bernardino Room, Westin
Bonaventure Hotel

Friday, Nov 25, 2022

4:30 - 5:30 pm

CE Credits: 1

Learning Objectives

1. Describe key organizational and social developments that contributed to the emergence of a public “SM” identity and community in the 1970’s
2. Analyze how modern BDSM/Leather identity emerged, in part, as an articulation of a sexual politics.

Surveying the Motivations, Benefits, and Experiences of Those Who Engage in BDSM/Kink

Bryce Westlake, Ph.D.
Isabella Mahan

One thread of BDSM research has focused on the relationship between participation in BDSM and mental health issues, unhealthy sexual behaviors, and/or the presence of past trauma. However, growth in the awareness of BDSM as a non-pathological social and cultural activity has contributed to research addressing a broader array of issues. These include participation of the general population in BDSM activities, as well as studies addressing BDSM communities' emphasis on frameworks of consent, health-focused activities, and community and personal safety.

However, there are few large-scale studies that specifically address BDSM participants and examine positive outcomes from engaging in BDSM, including at the personal, interpersonal, community, and societal levels. There is also increasing attention to variations in the experience of BDSM across diverse races, genders, roles, socio-economic standings, and geographic locations. Further exploring these issues, we conducted a 45-minute online survey, consisting of 98 open- and close-ended questions, of 800+ self-identified BDSM participants on the motivations, experiences, and benefits of BDSM.

In this session we present a selection of preliminary findings from the survey. Specifically, we examined how COVID has affected BDSM participation (technology, webcamming, virtual events/workshops); pathways into BDSM and influences on perceptions of BDSM (upbringing, religion, pornography, past and present media depictions); navigating personal challenges through BDSM (trauma, chronic pain, and mental health issues); parenting as a BDSM participant (disclosure and sex education); problem issues addressed within the community (predators, consent violations, verbal/physical assault, underaged participants); and resources that may be available to BDSM participants (kink-aware therapists, self-policing, governing boards, dungeon monitors, law enforcement).

Details

San Bernardino Room, Westin
Bonaventure Hotel

Saturday, Nov 26, 2022

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

CE Credits: 1

Learning Objectives

1. Describe variations of BDSM practices and experience across different demographic categories, including gender, race, geography, and socio-economic standing.
2. Describe developmental and environmental influences on the experience of BDSM.
3. Describe positive outcomes that people have from engaging in BDSM.

The History of the Dominatrix

Leonora Weston, MA (Anne O Nomis)

Leonora Anne Weston (aka Anne O Nomis) is author of the book 'The History & Arts of the Dominatrix' and an International teacher of Dominance studies. Drawing from extensive archival and field research, and informed by her experience in formal apprenticeship and professional craft practice in Australia and the UK, in this talk Weston presents a fascinating and visual journey into the history of the Dominatrix, from ancient Mesopotamia to today.

The historical story summarized in this presentation includes a rich review of cultural iconography, meanings, practices, dress, roles, power dynamics, and the professional craft of the dominatrix.

While reviewing this history Weston, who is formally trained in archaeology with broad engagement of the arts and social sciences, will discuss methodological and theoretical issues that are relevant to the historical study of sexualities, and specifically the history of the dominatrix. Methodologically, Weston will address issues surrounding empirical sources for historical study of the dominatrix. Theoretically, the case of the dominatrix raises important questions regarding continuities and discontinuities when analyzing and culturally situating sexual practices and roles. While acknowledging the historical specificity of certain framings of what we today call "sexuality," such as medical discourses of disorder and perversion that emerged in the 19th century, Weston argues that there is compelling evidence to recognize historical continuities in cultural meanings, craft, and practices in the case of the dominatrix.

Knowledge gained in this presentation will help clinicians and others to understand the broader historical and social contexts of professional domination and the dominatrix. This should facilitate better informed engagement of the dominatrix and their submissives/clients in various professional settings.

Details

San Bernardino Room, Westin Bonaventure Hotel

Saturday, Nov 26, 2022

2:00 - 4:00 pm

CE Credits: 2

Learning Objectives

1. Based on available historical and modern evidence, define the meaning of the word and role of the *dominatrix*.
2. Describe the historical craft specialization and equipment of female flagellants and governesses, and other precursors of the modern "Dominatrix."
3. Evaluate sources of empirical evidence for the historical analysis of sexualities, and specifically the dominatrix.
4. Analyze continuities and discontinuities of BDSM activities and power dynamics in history compared to modern day.

What Research on Leather and Kink is Needed Today?

Rob Bienvenu, Ph.D. (Facilitator)

Panelists

Community	Researchers
Race Bannon	Rob Bienvenu
Leonora Weston (Anne O Nomis)	Bryce Westlake
Bob Miller	Ted Gideonse

and Audience Members!

A founding principle of CARAS, the Community-Academic Consortium for Research on Alternative Sexualities, is that active collaboration between researchers and sexuality communities is essential for high quality sexualities research. To enact this kind of community-academic collaboration requires respect, on-going communication, identification of research questions that are relevant to the communities being studied, and the ability to challenge misrepresentations, among other factors. This "community-engaged" approach to research has been variously titled, but in all cases involves active communication between community members and researchers.

This panel discussion provides a forum for such active communication — between community leaders with a deep understanding of kink-leather-BDSM communities and folk, and researchers who are focused on these communities in their work.

In this session we provide an overview of a community-engaged research approach, some examples of academic research addressing kink, and then engage in a discussion between community leaders and researchers about research.

Audience members are encouraged to join this discussion about what research addressing Leather, BDSM and kink is important and ought to be a focus of researchers today!

Details

San Bernardino Room, Westin Bonaventure Hotel

Saturday, Nov 26, 2022

4:30 - 5:30 pm

CE Credits: n/a

Learning Objectives

1. Identify key principles of community-engaged research
2. Assess strengths and weaknesses of community-engaged vs. not community-engaged approaches to research addressing kink-leather-BDSM communities
3. Propose and prioritize key issues that should be a topic of research today, from both a community and academic perspective. Present a list of the final recommendations

This is the third iteration of this panel discussion – the first was held at CLAW in Los Angeles in November 2021, and the second at CLAW22 in Cleveland in April 2022. CARAS plans to publish a summary of the recommendations from these sessions in 2023.

CARAS Research Consultation

CARAS Staff

During this session, and otherwise by appointment, students and other individuals or organizations interested in conducting research on kink, leather, consensual non-monogamy, or related sex work topics may meet with CARAS scientists to discuss their ideas and projects. The scope of these discussions may range from early project brainstorming, to specific discussions including research design considerations, methodology, ethics-regulatory (IRB) review, and potential multi-institutional collaborations.

For more information and to schedule an appointment, please email the CARAS Research Support Program at rsp@carasresearch.org

Details

La Cienega room, Westin Bonaventure Hotel

Sunday, Nov 27, 2022

2:00 -3:30 pm

CE Credits: n/a

Learning Objectives

n/a

CE Presenter Biography

Robert Bienvenu, Ph.D.

Rob Bienvenu is a sociologist with over twenty years of federal research, research management, and regulatory affairs experience. His research has focused on two areas: health, and the history and social organization of kink communities. Rob is a co-founder of CARAS and serves as its Executive Director. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Leather Archives and Museum, and a member of the selection committee of the Leather Hall of Fame.

Isabella Mahan

Isabella Mahan is a graduate student in Justice Studies at San Jose State University. She received her bachelor's at the University of North Carolina in 2020, majoring in Political Science and Peace, War, and Defense with a concentration in the Culture of Peace. Her research centers on the political status of female bodily autonomy in sexuality. Her projects with Dr. Westlake explore online sex workers' balance of marketability and personal boundaries and health and safety in BDSM communities.

Rostom Mesli, Ph.D.

Rostom Mesli completed his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 2015. His dissertation and publications have focused on the articulation of sexuality and progressive politics in 1970s movements, particularly women's liberation, Black feminism, gay and lesbian liberation, and SM liberation. In 2010, he edited and co-translated the first collection of the works of Gayle Rubin, published in France under the title *Surveiller et Jouir*. Rostom is also a leather community member with keen interest in LGBTQ politics, and has served since 2018 as the Managing Director of the Leather Hall of Fame.

Andrew Pari, LCSW

Andrew Pari, LCSW, is a therapist/researcher focusing on "taboo" aspects of sexual assault. He treats survivors including sex workers and kinksters. Accomplishments include hosting the largest online talk on rape/sexual assault, writing national sex work policy, and serving as Certification Director for the Center for Positive Sexuality. For more information, please visit www.saawareness.com

Brad Sagarin, Ph.D. (Co-Author but not attending)

Dr. Brad Sagarin is a professor of social and evolutionary psychology at Northern Illinois University and the head of the Science of BDSM Research Team (www.scienceofbds.com). Brad studies social influence, resistance to persuasion, deception, jealousy, infidelity, human sexuality, and statistics. Brad has been published in a variety of scholarly journals, has given radio, television, and podcast interviews, has consulted for radio and television programs, and has delivered invited lectures to academic and non-academic organizations. His research has been cited in newspapers and magazines, including *The Economist* and *New Scientist*. He holds Doctorate and Master's degrees in Social Psychology from Arizona State University, and a Baccalaureate degree in Computer Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Bryce Westlake, Ph.D.

Dr. Bryce Westlake is an associate professor at San Jose State University. He is currently completing Phase 2 of a three-phase study examining health and safety in BDSM and is publishing on methods for learning about BDSM and using BDSM within their therapeutic practices and for processing past trauma.

Leonora Anne Weston, MA (Anne O Nomis)

Leonora Anne Weston is an International expert in Dominance studies, history and arts, and Ki theory hyperarousal responses to force power. She authored '[The History & Arts of the Dominatrix](#)' under the pseudonym Anne O Nomis, undertaking original research in museums, libraries and underground sources, and holds a Master's degree from UCL (University College London). For more information about Weston's current projects, please visit: www.theki.com.au , historyofthedominatrix.com, and www.villadomme.com

History of the C2C

Leather and Kink community events have long had an educational mission, dating from the first public SM organizations in the early 1970's, and from their beginnings these community events have included presentations by researchers, clinicians, and other scholars. Also, scholars interested in kink-leather communities have presented on these groups at various academic conferences since the late 1960's. More recently, academic conferences focused on alternative sexualities have had educational sessions or special-interest group meetings at concurrent leather community events, such the MOTE conference and IML in Chicago in 2019. However, prior to the C2C there has never been a complete integration of a major academic conference and a major community event, and CARAS is proud to have taken the lead, on the academic side, to make this possible.

The idea for the C2C originated in a series of conversations primarily between Bob Miller and Rob Bienvenu. Bob Miller, as co-founder and President of CLAW, and also Chair of the CARAS Board of Directors, was uniquely positioned to recognize the importance of this kind of collaboration and facilitate discussions between the two organizations. Rob Bienvenu, a co-founder and Executive Director of CARAS, saw this collaboration as a tremendous opportunity to implement the community-based model of research that has been part of the core mission of CARAS since its founding in 2005. We're very proud of the C2C, and look forward to further learning and development of the C2C over time, and to others adopting and expanding this model of community-academic collaboration!

C2C v1, November 26-28, 2021, Los Angeles

Over Thanksgiving weekend 2021, integrated into the CLAW 21 event, CARAS hosted the first C2C (the program can be downloaded [here](#)). The event was held at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles, between Friday and Sunday, November 26-28, 2021. Vivienne Kramer, a CARAS Board member and distinguished community leader, managed the first C2C event. The conference was a great success, both professionally rewarding and fun for the participants, and from a practical organizational-logistical perspective demonstrated the viability of the concept. With this experience "under our belt," CARAS and CLAW agreed to continue the C2C collaboration in 2022.

C2C v2, April 29 - May 1, 2022, Cleveland

In late 2021 CARAS assembled a team to plan and execute a second C2C as part of the CLAW 22 event in Cleveland. Carolyn Meeker, Director of the CARAS Mentoring Program, volunteered to serve as the Project Coordinator for the C2C, with support from CARAS staff and volunteers as well as the superb CLAW team. It was another successful event, during which CARAS was designated as CLAW's Organization of the Year! The event program can be downloaded [here](#).

C2C v3, November 25-27, 2022, Los Angeles

In partnership with the the new CLAW Leather Getaway event, CARAS returns to Los Angeles to host the C2C (v3) over Thanksgiving weekend, 2022. Thanks to Carolyn Meeker, C2C Coordinator, and others who have helped to make the C2C a biannual event! The current C2C program and additional information is available on the CARAS C2C-West webpage: <https://www.carasresearch.org/c2c-west>

C2C v4, April 7-9, 2023, Cleveland

Forthcoming over Easter weekend, 2023! For more information and to submit a proposal, please visit: <https://www.carasresearch.org/c2c-east>

About CARAS

Founded at the Leather Leadership Conference in 2005, CARAS is the leading community-based organization that actively supports leather & kink focused research across multiple scholarly disciplines, from clinical research to the humanities and fine arts. Some current CARAS programs are highlighted below. You can support CARAS by subscribing and volunteering — join the CARAS team to learn about and promote alt-sex research! Community members, students, academics, researchers, and clinicians are welcome.

For more information, please visit our website at <https://carasresearch.org>.

CARAS Mentoring Program

The CARAS Mentoring Program involves a six-month one-on-one mentoring relationship. The program matches graduate students and early-career professionals in academic, research, counseling, and other alternative-sexualities related career paths with more advanced scholars and professionals. Mentors and mentees commit to talking at least once a month by video conference (e.g., Zoom), phone, or email during the six-month duration of the mentoring program. For more information, please visit <https://www.carasresearch.org/mentoring>

CARAS History and Theory of Kink-BDSM Reading Group

The CARAS History and Theory of Kink-BDSM Reading Group meets monthly to discuss readings ranging from classical texts in sexological theory and literature addressing kink/BDSM, to modern topics including the DSM and current kink/leather communities. A cross between a literary salon and a graduate seminar, the reading group will focus on these texts and ideas from a unique angle in the study of sexualities. Join a diverse group of community members, students, academics, and clinicians to engage some of the most important and challenging texts in the history and theory of kink! Beginning in 2023, CARAS will host two distinct "semesters" of the Reading Group: a Spring "Modern" semester from January-May and a Fall "Classics" semester, from August-December. The Fall Classics semester will offer Continuing Education (CE) credit for health care professionals. For more information, please visit <https://carasresearch.org>

CARAS Education Program

The CARAS Education Program provides webinars and in-person educational sessions, organizes educational conferences such as the C2C, and co-sponsors educational events with other organizations. CARAS offers a webinar program that includes research and clinical topics, as well as presentations and workshops by community experts on a wide variety of topics that are of interest to alt-sex community members and scholars. Many CARAS webinars offer Continuing Education (CE) credit. For more information, please visit <https://www.carasresearch.org/apa-continuing-education>

