

# **Sex & Gender: Conceptual Confusions**



Date: December 3rd

Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Location: College of Medicine Research  
Building (COMRB) Room 3175

**Speakers: Barbara Risman, PhD  
Professor and Head of Sociology and  
Georgiann Davis  
PhD Candidate in Sociology**

**Barbara J. Risman, PhD**, is Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology at the University of Illinois Chicago. Dr. Risman is the author of *Gender Vertigo: American Families in Transition* (Yale, 1998), edited books, and over two dozen journal articles in venues including *American Sociological Review*, *Gender & Society*, and *Journal of Marriage and the Family*. She has been editor of the journal, *Contemporary Sociology*, and is currently one of the editors of a book series, *The Gender Lens*, a feminist transformation project for the discipline of sociology. She is also the Executive Officer of The Council on Contemporary Families, a national organization whose mission is to bring new research findings and clinical expertise to public attention. Professor Risman has a current research project focusing on the development of gender and sexual identities among white and black middle-school children. Professor Risman is currently working on her new book about gender structure theory.

**Georgiann Davis** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is currently in the field collecting data for her dissertation which is an in-depth analysis of intersexuality, also referred to as disorders of sex development or "DSDs" for short. To date, Georgiann has completed over 32 in-depth interviews with intersexed individuals/those that identify as having a DSD, parents of children with intersex/DSD conditions, and medical professionals that are experts of intersex/DSD conditions from across the country. Focusing on understanding the linguistic shift from "intersexuality" to "disorders of sex development," Georgiann is committed to her research agenda that promises to tackle gender inequality, heteronormativity, and homophobia in unique ways.

For additional information please contact Abby Koch at [abbykoch@uic.edu](mailto:abbykoch@uic.edu) or 312-413-7817.

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