

July 25, 2011

Dear Dr. Mostov,

Thank you for your support of my doctoral research and for providing me with resources to attend the biannual conference of the International Association for the Study of Sex, Culture, and Society in Madrid, Spain. The International Travel Award through Drexel's Office of International Programs allowed me the remarkable opportunity to present my research at this year's conference. "Naming and Framing: The Making of Sexual (in)Equality" brought together a diverse and cross disciplinary group of academics, activists, and policy makers from all over the world to discuss the multiple ways that equality and inequality get articulated through sexuality. I presented my research on the articulation of bisexual identities emerging online and specific online communities' struggle for visibility within mainstream culture as well as lesbian/gay culture both online and offline.

My presentation went very well and I enjoyed the opportunity to share my work with fellow academic researchers engaged in issues concerning gender and sexuality minorities, as well as some who also share my interest in online subjectivities. Most notably, I had an extensive discussion regarding my research with one of the invited plenary speakers, Dr. Gil Herdt, a renowned anthropologist whose work aided the development of sexuality studies in the United States. This conversation was an exceptional experience.

In addition to my participation at the conference, I also had the opportunity to explore Madrid, a European city with a fascinating history and present. I immediately fell in love with the pace and sociality of Madrid and enjoyed my time in the city immensely. I was even able to visit the Prado during their free evening hours after the conference adjourned for the day.

Thank you again for your support- without it I would not have been able to attend the most highly regarded and longstanding academic conference solely dedicated to issues of sexuality and culture, a focus that is uncommon but essential to my work.

Sincerely,  
Nora Madison, PhD Candidate  
Department of Culture & Communication

