Our Mission

Analyzing Sexuality for Action and Policy—ASAP—is a new initiative that seeks to shape public discourse about adolescent sexuality and women’s sexuality in order to effect social change. Housed at Hunter College and The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, the ASAP Initiative:

- **Engages** in public discussions about sexuality with an emphasis on adolescents and women. ASAP challenges the norms and assumptions about teenage sexuality and women’s sexuality that limit and undermine people’s ability to develop healthy and confident attitudes and make active choices about expressing and embodying their sexuality.

- **Changes** the terms of public discourse about adolescent sexuality and women’s sexuality. Through public events, forums, the media, and new technologies, ASAP is a proactive public voice that provides analysis and new ideas to illuminate new possibilities for healthy sexuality in the 21st century.

- **Acts** as an incubator for knowledge and innovation. The research evaluated and conducted under the auspices of ASAP challenges existing ideas about young people's sexuality, the medicalization of female sexuality, the commodification of sexuality itself, and more.

- **Builds** an intellectual and proactive community of sexuality experts. These CUNY faculty members from a range of disciplines including psychology, history, urban education, social work, public health, sociology, and political science have the capacity and the commitment to move research beyond academia into activism.

- **Collaborates** with community-based organizations that integrate conceptions of and support for healthy sexuality into their programming for young people, with an emphasis on those working with young people.

- **Fosters** conversations among researchers, policy makers, teachers, youth workers, activists, scholars, and youth themselves to create bridges between academia and activism—and does so with an eye toward revitalizing the connections among feminist activists and scholars across generations.

- **Creates** a critical mass of know-how through partnerships with individuals and organizations to examine and evaluate ideas in the public sector about adolescent sexuality and women’s sexuality and to influence and inform policy before it becomes ingrained practice or law.