ASAP Staff

Founder and Director: Dr. Deborah L. Tolman

• Professor, researcher, activist, and expert on girls’ development and teen sexuality, Deborah Tolman launched the ASAP Initiative in 2010. It is housed at the City University of New York, where Dr. Tolman has a joint appointment at the Hunter College School of Social Work and the Graduate Center in the Social/Personality Psychology and Social Welfare doctoral programs.

Before joining CUNY, Dr. Tolman was founding director of the Center for Research on Gender and Sexuality (CRGS) at San Francisco State University. She is a fellow of the American Psychological Association, a co-author of the APA’s Task Force Report on the Sexualization of Girls, and author of Dilemmas of Desire: Teenage Girls Talk about Sexuality, which won the 2003 Distinguished Book Award from the Association for Women in Psychology. Her research has been funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Development, the Ford Foundation, and the Spencer Foundation. She has written extensively in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters and special issues on sexuality, adolescent development and research methods and is a frequently-sought commentator in many media venues. Dr. Tolman earned her Ed.D. in Human Development and Psychology at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 1992.

Senior Research Associate: Dr. Darla Linville

• Darla Linville recently completed her Ph.D. from the Urban Education department at the the Graduate Center at CUNY. She is leading a national participatory action research (PAR) project as part of the SPARK Summit and movement with adolescent girls from various parts of the country. For her dissertation research, she worked with a group of LGBTQ youth in New York City to understand how language about and behavior regarding sexuality and gender expression in school relates to students’ understanding of their own sexuality and gender. She currently works with teachers, administrators, and students in central Maine who are trying to create more inclusive schools and communities for LGBTQ youth. Dr. Linville has received several fellowships for her research, including the Chancellor’s Fellowship, a Sloan Foundation Grant for Technology, and a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship.

Research Associate: Amy Baker

• Amy Baker, a doctoral student in Social Welfare at the Graduate Center and (Continued on next page)
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an alumna of the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Social Policy and Practice, works on several research projects with Dr. Tolman, including a new study on adolescent sexuality and relationship development and the “Hear a Story, Tell a Story” booth at the SPARK Summit. Baker created the “Parents As Leaders” leadership development program for women in West Philadelphia, worked with Women’s Campaign International in Namibia, and served as a social work research fellow with the Homeless Health Initiative of the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. In addition, Ms. Baker provides program support for all of ASAP’s initiatives.

Research Associate:
Fabienne Snowden

• Fabienne Snowden, an MSW alumna of the Hunter College School of Social Work, is a doctoral student in Social Welfare at the Graduate Center. She works on several research projects with faculty associated with ASAP, including a study of at-risk heterosexual women’s experiences negotiating sex in various relational contexts with ASAP Advisory Board Member Dr. Carol Roye and the “Hear a Story, Tell a Story” booth for SPARK. Snowden created the Senegalese Bilingual School Curriculum for Critical Thinking, used in several middle and intermediate schools in Dakar, Senegal. She has led young people from Brooklyn, the South Bronx, and Queens in cultural exchanges in China, Mexico, and the Lakota Nation in South Dakota and assists Dr. Bernadette Hadden at HCSSW in research with HIV-positive African, African-American, and Black women and their experiences in U.S.-based HIV-prevention programs.

Research Associate:
Christin Bowman

• A doctoral student in Social-Personality Psychology at the Graduate Center, Christin Bowman works with Dr. Tolman on various research projects, including the “Hear a Story, Tell a Story” effort at SPARK. Bowman received her M.S. in Teaching from Pace University and her B.S. in Biopsychology and Cognitive Sciences from the University of Michigan. As part of the Teach for America program, Bowman spent two years teaching underprivileged high school students in the Bronx, where after assessing her students’ needs to understand sexuality and sexual health better, she developed and implemented a comprehensive sexual education curriculum.

Intern:
Raquel Rodriguez

A sophomore at Columbia University, Ms. Rodriguez studies anthropology, political philosophy, and Spanish literature. She is a well respected and talented flamenco dancer, who has studied in New York and Seville and performs regularly in New York City. As the first ASAP intern, Rodriguez is instrumental in the organization of the SPARK Summit, where she is organizing the Body Movement program, which will include her own work teaching others the embodied pleasures of flamenco.

Contact us at asap@hunter.cuny.edu for more information.