

Queering Supervision

Learning Community - Week 1

Leah Post, LICSW, MSW, MPH

About Leah

she/they

- Queer, Cis, White, Midwestern
 - LICSW and WA state approved clinical supervisor
 - Founder of Perfectly Queer Counseling
 - MSW and MPH from University of Minnesota
 - Dog and Cat Mom
 - I enjoy knitting, swimming and learning about dinosaurs
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Introductions

- Name
- Pronouns
- Work Setting
- What would you like to get from the learning community?



Learning Objectives

- Participants will learn the nuance between “typical” supervision and “queer” supervision.
- Participants will learn how power, privilege and societal norms shape the therapeutic landscape
- Participants will be provided with additional materials and resources to further their own understanding

Be Queer Here

- The origin of the word “queer” is uncertain, but it entered the English language in the early 16th century and meant “strange, odd, peculiar, or eccentric”
- In the late 19th and early 20th century, “queer” was often used as a derogative term
- In the 1960’s and 1970’s, many activists began to reclaim the word as an act of defiance and it is now often used as an umbrella term for the LGBTQ+ community
- “Queer Theory” was a term coined in 1990 and grew out of lesbian, gay and gender studies

“Queering is an ever-emergent process of becoming,

one that is flexible and fluid in response to context, and in resistance to norms. When we queer something, we question and disrupt taken-for-granted practices and we can imagine new possibilities. Queering something breaks rules (usually discursive and social rules, and sometimes legal ones) in order to liberate people who have been held hostage by what the rules require or prevent.”

- Julie Tilsen
Queering your Therapy Practice

**What does
“Queering Supervision”
mean to you?**

In your small group, discuss what “Queering Supervision” means to you

Why Queer Supervision?

- Supervision can be a deeply personal, vulnerable space for many newer clinicians
- Serving queer clients, or anyone with marginalized identities, requires a nuanced approach
- Shared experiences as people and as therapists can be powerful
- Queer theory is often absent from our professional schooling, continuing education and consultation
- Not all queer spaces are safe for all queer people - examine yourself and your own internal biases
- Don't put all of your eggs in the queer basket

Supervision Considerations

Supervision but queer (and intersectional)

- The lens we approach supervision with is shaped by our own experience and the context in which we grew up and were educated
- Intersectionality is not optional for any client, or as the therapist
 - We are all impacted by interrelated systems of power
 - It's important to address these systems of power in session and in supervision
 - What systems of power hold you up? What systems of power have oppressed you?
- Challenging therapeutic interventions through the lens of intersectionality
- Bust the binary
- Don't forget to talk about sex

What does “queer” supervision look like in practice?

- If it's safe and comfortable, share your identity with potential supervisees
- Just because a supervisee is queer, it doesn't mean it's a good match
- Acknowledge your own privileges in the supervision space
- Always strive for intersectionality
- Acknowledge the systems of oppression that supervisor, supervisee and clients may be facing
- Seek out consultation with peers who have different areas of focus - don't silo yourself or your supervisees
- We have to operate in capitalism - don't work for free (and don't price gouge)

Looking Ahead: Queering Ethics

- Question everything - who were our ethical codes created for and by?
 - They also are changed, updated and re-evaluated often
- Ethical codes are often elitist
- Personal Ethics vs. Professional Ethics
- Rigidity can sometimes cause harm to client, and to therapeutic relationship

Resources

- Queering Your Therapy Practice - Julie Tilsen
- White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack - Peggy McIntosh
- On Intersectionality: Essential Writings - Kimberlé Crenshaw
- The History of Sexuality - Michel Foucault
- Gender Trouble - Judith Butler