

Sex Tech, Chatbots and the Future of Intimacy

We are part of a massive social experiment. Sex, gender, and relationship dynamics are changing faster than at any point in the history of humanity, and all within the backdrop of exploring sex tech and artificial intelligence. Younger generations are increasingly comfortable with technology interfacing their lives, even in intimate ways. Today, virtual reality porn, sex with avatars, and chatbot lovers are increasingly commonplace. Experts predict that within 20-50 years, robots that move and interact in humanoid ways will be affordable for many. It is thus conceivable that an infant born today could have their first sexual experience with a robot. While human intimacy remains the gold standard, sex tech will be increasingly compelling to the degree it satisfies unmet needs. Mental health professionals will better serve their clients if they understand these new technologies, as well as the potential positive and negative impact these developments in sex tech and AI can soon have on sex and intimacy.

Target Audience

Psychologists Social Workers Counselors
Therapists Psychiatrists Nurses
Course level: Intermediate

Learning Objectives

At the end of this seminar, participants will be able to:

1. Identify at least three advances in sex tech today that may already be impacting clients' intimate relationships.
2. Recognize four potential risks to advancing sex tech as it exists today and the near future.
3. Distinguish four potential benefits of advancing sex tech for individuals and couples.
4. Explain three likely challenges that advancing sex tech will bring to intimate relationships.
5. Identify three populations expected to find advancing sex tech most compelling.

Seminar Schedule

Typically begins at 12 PM and ends at 3:15 PM Eastern time. There is one 15 minute break. However, check the webinar schedule.

Outline

12PM ET Begin

Overview of developments in sex tech over last 20 years
Potency of sex tech as examples of supernormal stimuli
Discussion of current trends in today's intimate landscape
Chatbot girlfriends
VR porn
Smart sex toys paired with VR porn
Avatar sex paired with haptics (wearables)
Sex doll brothels

Research demonstrating the populations showing most interest current!

1:30-1:45PM ET BREAK

Research demonstrating intensity of advancing sex tech in terms of oxytocin release etc.
Expected benefits of advancing sex tech
Expected risks of advancing sex tech
Relevant legal issues and controversies
Challenges we can expect in our therapy rooms
Our tasks as therapists as we prepare for the future of sex
3:15 PM ET Ends

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Continuing Education Credit

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The Presenter

Dr. Marianne Brandon is a clinical psychologist and Diplomate in sex therapy. She writes the popular Psychology Today blog "The Future of Intimacy." She is author of *Monogamy: The Untold Story, Unlocking the Sexy in Surrender: Using the Neuroscience of Power to Recharge Your Sex Life*, and co-author of *Reclaiming Desire: 4 Keys to Finding Your Lost Libido*. She co-hosted a talk radio show, is a past book review editor for the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists, past board member of The International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health, and regularly writes and lectures for professional and lay audiences. She has served twice as a panel member for FDA hearings evaluating medications relevant to female sexual function. Her areas of expertise include the conceptualizing human sexuality and sexual dysfunction from an evolutionary perspective. You can learn more about her work at www.drbrandon.net, join her on twitter @DrBrandon, and on facebook / DrMarianneBrandon. Dr Brandon is in private practice in Sarasota, Florida.

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This seminar has been reviewed and approved by Keith Hannan, Ph.D., Phil Rich, LICSW, Daphne Fatter, Ph.D., and Loreen Yearick, MSN, RN. This approval expires on March 1, 2025.

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