

Sex Tech, Chatbots and the Future of Intimacy

Sex tech is advancing at breakneck speed, and our intimate relationships are entering uncharted territory. From AI-driven chatbots that flirt, comfort, and even seduce, immersive sex toys that blur the lines between physical and digital pleasure, haptic technologies, to sex dolls and robots, tech is becoming an ever-present partner in our intimate lives. Cross-cultural trends reveal that people are having less sex together, spending more time with their screens, and reporting higher levels of stress and loneliness—a perfect storm fueling the rise of artificial intimacy. These advances are already here, and research demonstrates that our clients are already engaging them. In this webinar we will explore the latest sex tech and the complex questions they herald: Can a chatbot meet our deepest emotional needs? What happens to human connection when digital intimacy is always just a click away? And importantly, are therapists ready to help clients navigate these new frontiers of love and lust? Join us for this enlightening and critical discussion as we explore the inevitable future of intimacy. Currently, it is the sex tech industry developing a vision of the future of intimacy. The time is now for mental health professionals to join this critical conversation.

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

The webinar outline is attached. See the Live Webinar page for the start and end times.

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 currentl
- 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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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., Laura Davie, LICSW, Tina Jenkins, Psy.D., and Loreen Yearick, MSN, RN. This approval expires on March 1, 2028.

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