

Ethan Harrison Freedman, LMSW

Human Connection Researcher | Social Systems Designer | Digital and Health Literacy Innovator

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Professional Positioning: Licensed Master in Social Work providing direct clinical care at the intersection of human connection, digital systems, and social research, designing evidence-informed platforms and interventions that translate human connection, intimacy, care, and behavior into ethical, scalable technology and policy solutions. My work bridges clinical practice, academic research, community needs, and product innovation, with a focus on building systems that foster healthier digital and social ecosystems for human connection and wellbeing.

Core Competencies

- **Clinical Practice:** Individual, Couples & Relationship Therapy, Integrative & Evidence-Informed Modalities (CBT, ACT, Narrative, Psychodynamic, Somatic), Sex Therapy (AASECT Track), Clinical Supervision
 - **Research and Analysis:** Human-Centered Research, Qualitative & Quantitative Analysis, Systemic Reviews, Meta-Analysis, Intervention Design and Evaluation, IRB Protocol Adherence
 - **Systems and Product:** Social Systems Design, Platform Governance, Ethical AI & Moderated Discourse, Knowledge Architecture, Product Strategy, User Experience (UX) Principles, Product Development Research
 - **Strategy and Leadership:** Cross-Sector Collaboration (Academia, Tech, Policy, Public Health, Education), Translational Research (Evidence → Product → Policy), Program Management, Financial Management, Community Building
 - **Communication:** Public Speaking, Curriculum Development and Facilitation, Content Strategy and SEO, Copyright, Grant & Proposal Writing, Stakeholder Engagement, Fundraising
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LMSW, Professional Experience, and Research Leadership

Clinical Practice and Direct Service

Wise Therapy | LMSW, Psychotherapist, Sex Therapist | New York, NY

August 2026 – Present

- Deliver individual, couples, and relationship therapy under clinical supervision, specializing in intimacy, sexuality, identity, and relationship structure across LGBTQ+, kink, and polyamorous populations.
- Apply an integrative, evidence-informed clinical model that draws from narrative therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, psychodynamic work, and somatic therapy to ground platform and research work in direct clinical practice.
- Pursuing AASECT certification as a sex therapist while supporting clients navigating digital intimacy, adult content, and emerging sexual technologies, directly informing product and research priorities at Acquaint Education and SIG.

Research and Systems Design

Social Intervention Group | gAyI Research Lab | Data Analysis Practicum II

Graduate Student Researcher, Project Leader, and Assistant | Columbia University School for Social Work and Quantitative Methods in the Social Science, NY | September 2025 – May 2026

- Supported applied research on health equity, HIV prevention, digital interventions, and emerging technologies within SIG, contributing to faculty-led initiatives through literature reviews, archival research, and synthesis of findings across social work and human intimacy topics, building expertise in academic and community-based research environments.
- Designed and led an independent QMSS practicum evaluating LLMs in health education for LGBTQ+ youth, youth of color, and disabled youth via a Cultural Red Teaming Protocol: constructing a 33-scenario dataset (66 outputs) across ChatGPT-4o and Gemini 2.0 Flash using LLM-assisted data collection and mixed qualitative/quantitative coding.
- Developed a five-dimensional failure taxonomy assessing cultural competence, safety, developmental fit, epistemic fidelity, and equity framing in AI-generated health guidance; identified population-specific biases and hidden safety failures obscured by aggregate benchmarks.
- Translated findings into recommendations for AI governance, ethical evaluation, and community-informed accountability in social work and public health; authored an independent research paper extending SIG's work at the intersection of digital health innovation and structural inequity.

Entrepreneurship and Platform Building

Acquaint Education | CEO | Los Angeles, CA

January 2023 – December 2025

- Founded and leading a research-driven platform functioning as a human connection lab, exploring how intimacy, sexuality, health, wellbeing, and community function across digital ecosystems.
- Architected and deployed moderated forums, knowledge databases, and AI-assisted discourse tools centered on ethical human connection, harm reduction, and user safety and experience.
- Forged strategic partnerships with educators, researchers, and human connection and health systems industry stakeholders to translate lived experience into structured, scalable models for education, information, and platform sustainability.

Community Leadership and Program Development

Sex, Sex Therapy, and Research Caucus | Co-Leader, Columbia University School for Social Work

September 2024 – May, 2026

- Lead a university-wide initiative to build a community of practice for social workers, providing tools and platforms to foster safe discourse on human sexuality in clinical practice, community organizing, and policy.
- Spearheaded the creation of a centralized, university-based archive for research on human sexuality and health education to preserve and legitimize knowledge for collective benefit.

Partnerships with Children, Social Work Intern, Bronx, NY

September 2024 – May 2025

- Designed and developed emotional, psychosocial, and cognitive services to students at a Bronx, NY middle school to help them succeed in academics, society, and their goals.
- Advocated for at-risk scholars in individual and group counseling sessions in efforts to guide students towards accountability and confidence, ensuring strong integration into secondary school.

- Located health education curricula for scholars to utilize for better emotional, social, and biological health and wellness (especially subjects of puberty, healthy relationships, and hygiene).

Colgate University Office of LGBTQ+ Initiatives, *Student Ambassador*, Hamilton, NY

September 2023 – May 2024

- Spearheaded 10+ large (100+ persons) events a year (social mixers, creative workshops, seminars, and activities) focused on supporting LGBTQIA+ students locally on campus with information and resources.
- Cultivated reports and analyses on community praxis to ensure implementation of reliable methods for facilitation of events and activities to run enthusiastically, effectively, and equitably.
- Coordinated and led weekly meetings to personally assist the director of LGBTQ+ Initiatives and map iijout projects, goals, and resources ensuring maximum engagement with the community.

Haven Center for Sexual Violence Survivor Support, *Sex Educator, Student Counselor, and Ambassador* | Colgate University, Hamilton, NY

January 2021 – May 2024

- Facilitated a seven-week sexual health education curriculum to 100+ university students over a span of 3 years to ensure safety and knowledge of sexual climate on campus and in broader society.
- Briefed 300+ incoming first-year students on Title IX policy, consent practices in corporate settings, and bystander intervention to ensure base knowledge amongst the broader student body, faculty, and admin.

Shaw Wellness Center, *Bystander Facilitator and Ambassador*, Hamilton, NY

January 2021 – May 2023

- Partnered with ambassadors for interpersonal and intimacy violence prevention in order to develop positive discourse around sex and sexuality that is sensitive to the domain of survivor and victim experiences.
- Reinforced bystander intervention techniques via facilitation of 20+ orientation classes to incoming freshmen to ensure confidence in intervening during preventable problematic situations.

Industry Consulting, Content Strategy, and Innovative Marketing

Sextech School, *Student*, New York, New York and Australia

May 2024 – May 2025

- Developed expertise in integrating AI advancements into human connection and health platforms, focusing on enhancing personalized user experiences, product development, and social systems.
- Acquired and applied practical skills in designing and evaluating sexual technologies through the lens of UX research, human-centered design, and economic inclusivity.

Red Cheeks Academy, *Intimacy Coordinator* | Amsterdam, Netherlands

January 2024 – March 2024

- Examined the history and stigmatization of adult film and media to identify ethical principles relevant to prevention, intervention, and cultural accountability.
- Developed frameworks for ethical communication and brand identity grounded in consent, boundary setting, and relational clarity.
- Evaluated psychological safety considerations in human connection media production, including scene facilitation, labor dynamics, and professional sustainability.

xoafterglow, *Production and Content Consultant*, Austin, TX (Remote)

April 2022 – August 2022

- Advised on adult film production, leveraging research on ethical and consensual content to inform and elevate industry standards for health, education, and social connection development.
- Managed content licensing, restructured production workflows, and implemented new backend platform tools to improve customer service and content organization for user experience.
- Drove brand growth by delivering research-backed creative content aligned with SEO trends, expanding the company's mission of human connection that is pleasurable and rooted in theory.

Sex With Emily, *Content Production Intern*, Los Angeles, CA

June 2021 – August 2021

- Contributed to a 20% increase in podcast listenership, reaching 1.8 million monthly downloads, by researching and developing content on intimacy, sexuality, and pleasure.
- Supported talent acquisition, marketing, and strategic planning, helping to align the executive's brand with daily operational priorities.

Publications and Research Articles

Available at Acquaintedu.com or <https://orcid.org/0009-0009-5215-8604>

Remote Training of Behavioral Intervention Facilitators: Model Development and Lessons Learned, *Frontiers in Digital Health* (2026)

- Lee YG, Vinogradov V, Freedman EH, Reeder KG, Davis A, Paine EA, Laughney CI, Káli SV, Yelkeyev A, Alipova K, Mergenova G, Yang X, Primbetova S, Terlikbayeva A and Wu E (2026) Remote training of behavioral intervention facilitators: model development and lessons learned. *Front. Digit. Health* 8:1768119. doi: 10.3389/fdgth.2026.1768119

Psychedelics and Intimacy Defined as Closeness, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY (2026)

- Bradford, A., Freedman, E., & Dinero, R. E. (2025). Psychedelic Use and Intimacy: A Systematic Review of Experimental and Naturalistic Research. *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02791072.2025.2577311>

Sex Education Methodologies and Advancements to Sexual Technologies, NY and Netherlands (2025)

- Assessed and worked first-hand with adult industries, human intimacy organizations, and sexual technology companies to think critically about incorporation of human intimacy topics in their industry.
- Presented at Love, Sex, and Robots Congress, University of Quebec, Montreal (2025).

Parasocial Relationships and the OnlyFans Platform, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY (2024)

- Reviewed literature centering around the role that the OnlyFans platform plays in creating and facilitating parasocial relationships with content creators and their clients, specifically in the context of interpersonal dynamics with sex workers and adult content.

Sex Education Methodologies and Pornography, Hamilton, NY and Amsterdam, Netherlands (2023)

- Assessed and worked first-hand with adult film companies to generate inquiry and question the incorporation of comprehensive sex ed. curriculums to better navigate discourse on pleasure and consent.
- Presented at New York Six Liberal Arts Consortium, Hobart and William Smith Colleges (2023).

Education and Honors

Columbia University School of Social Work | Master's Candidate in Social Work

August 2024 – May 2026

- **Specialization:** Leadership, Management, & Entrepreneurship within Health Care Systems
- **Relevant Coursework:** Foundations in Social Work, Human Behavior and the Social Environment, Human Sexuality, Program Planning and Development, Macro Community Practice, Human Resource Management, Financial Management, Program Evaluation.
- **Specialized Practicum:** Social Intervention Group, Columbia School of Social Work | *September 2024 – May 2026*
- **Generalist Practicum:** Partnership with Children, Boys Prep Bronx Middle School | *September 2024 – May 2025*

Colgate University | Bachelor of Arts, Hamilton, NY

May 2024

- **Majors:** Psychology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- **Relevant Coursework:** Social, Biological, Attachment, and Developmental Psychology, LGBT Health, Psychological Research Methods and Statistics, Non-Normative Research Methods

School for International Training (SIT) | Amsterdam, Netherlands

January 2023 – May 2023

Windward School | Culver City, Los Angeles | May 2020 | High School Diploma

Skills

Technical: LLMs / Artificial Intelligence, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Google Suite, WordPress, Overleaf, Search Engine Optimization, Canva, Figma, Photoshop, Systematic Review, Meta-Analysis, SPSS, Notion (Super and AI), Git.

Social: Talent Communications and HR Management, Marketing Connections, Creative Scouting, Social Media (Reddit, TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, etc.)

Leadership: Sex Ed. Facilitator, Camp Harmony Counselor, and Collegiate-Level Rowing Team Captain

Languages: Elementary Dutch, Intermediate Spanish