

Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *The Journal of Kink and Community (JKC)*. This journal was created to offer a dedicated space for work that bridges community experience, academic insight, therapeutic relevance, and personal truth. We are not just filling a gap, we are building a platform that didn't exist. One where kink, healing, and cultural identity are taken seriously and engaged with depth, care, and respect.

JKC was founded with the understanding that the voices, stories, and expertise of kink practitioners, researchers, survivors, clinicians, and community members have too often been left out of formal conversations. Existing academic journals might include occasional work on BDSM or kink, but they rarely reflect the experiences of those who live it. And even less often do they hold the intersections of race, gender, disability, neurodivergence, trauma, and spirituality with the attention and nuance these topics deserve (Turley et al., 2022; Sprott & Hadcock, 2018).

Again, despite the increasing visibility of kink in both clinical and academic settings, there remains a profound absence of peer-reviewed, community-informed, interdisciplinary journals that center kink *as lived culture, as potential healing modality, as identity, and as intellectual pursuit*. Existing academic publications may touch the surface, but often do so from a distance, medicalizing, pathologizing, or depersonalizing the very communities we know and love (Holt, 2016; Turley et al., 2022).

JKC was created to shift that.

Our values are rooted in:

- **Embodiment:** Knowledge that emerges from the body is as valid as knowledge that emerges from books.
- **Community:** We center collective care, accountability, and the wisdom of lived experience.
- **Liberation:** We are committed to dismantling the systems that try to define, undermine, confine, or erase, and to uplifting work that moves us toward freedom.
- **Multiplicity:** We welcome nuance, layered identities, and writing that doesn't fit neatly in academic boxes.
- **Integrity:** We honor truth-telling, transparency, authenticity, and accountability.

Our mission is to make space for thoughtful, grounded contributions that reflect both rigor and relevance. We publish academic research, personal narratives, case studies, theoretical essays,



and practitioner reflections. What connects them is a commitment to honoring lived experience and pushing conversations forward, not just in academia, but in community, clinical work, and beyond.

Our contributors are community members, clinicians, researchers, educators, and activists. Some write from the field, others from the front lines of their own healing. All are here to offer something meaningful. As editor-in-chief, it's an honor to help bring these voices forward.

Thank you for joining us. Whether you're a reader, a writer, a student, or a supporter, you are part of the evolving conversation JKC is helping to shape.

Best,

Dr. Yulinda Renee Rahman

Founder & Editor-in-Chief

The Journal of Kink and Community

Resource List

- Crenshaw, K. (1989). *Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics*. University of Chicago Legal Forum, 1989(1), Article 8.
- Holt, N. (2016). *BDSM and Kink Sexualities in the Therapy Room: The Need for Knowledge and Understanding*. In N. Barker & D. Langdrige (Eds.), *Safe, Sane and Consensual: Contemporary Perspectives on Sadoomasochism*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Nichols, M. (2006). Psychotherapeutic Issues with “Kinky” Clients: Clinical Problems, Yours and Theirs. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 50(2–3), 281–300.
https://doi.org/10.1300/J082v50n02_14
- Turley, E., King, N., & Butt, T. (2022). *Understanding BDSM and Mental Health: A Narrative Review of the Literature*. *The Journal of Sex Research*, 59(4), 488–500.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2021.1907454>
- Sprott, R. A., & Hadcock, B. (2018). *Mental Health Diagnoses and Therapy Experiences of BDSM Practitioners*. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 65(10), 1311–1327.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2017.1374063>
- Wright, S. (2010). *A History of the DSM Classification of Sexual Disorders*. *Journal of Psychology & Human Sexuality*, 21(4), 429–441.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/19317611.2010.482212>