Sex, sexuality and sexual health are often viewed through a narrowly biomedical lens. This ignores the fact that they are profoundly social and historical in character. Recent work in Southern Africa (and beyond) has sought to challenge this perspective, asking important questions about how to move beyond notions of damage and risk in relation to sex, sexuality and health, to a focus on recognition, rights, respect and pleasure.

Building on the contributions in the recently published book – *Sex, Sexuality and Sexual Health in Southern Africa* – and the experiences of seminar participants, this event will take the lid off these and related concerns. This event will be of special interest to scholars, health professionals, community workers and activists seeking new ways of understanding and engaging with old issues.

Deevia Bhana is the DSI/NRF South African Research Chair (SARChI) in Gender and Childhood Sexuality at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Her research examines gender and sexuality across the young life course focusing on agency, masculinities, inequalities, reproduction, health, violence and education.

Mary Crewe trained in the social sciences and education at the Universities of Natal (Pietermaritzburg) and the Witwatersrand. She has extensive experience in high school and tertiary education. Currently, she is a Research Associate in the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies at the University of Pretoria.

Peter Aggleton holds senior professorial positions at a number of universities including The Australian National University in Canberra, UNSW Sydney, and UCL in London. He is an adjunct professor in the Australian Research Centre for Sex, Health and Society at La Trobe University in Melbourne. Peter has served as a senior adviser to UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA and WHO. He has worked extensively across Africa, Asia and Latin America.