



PolyColumbus Publicity Policy

last updated December 8, 2015

Background

Education is a Core Value of PolyColumbus. In that regard, we often speak at conferences and events, grant interviews, and otherwise discuss polyamory in public and semi-public spaces.

In order to represent our organization as consistently as possible, some parameters need to be managed in the course of this work. Specifically:

1. Who is authorized to speak on behalf of the organization?
2. How should board members present their title in their everyday life?
3. What should board members keep in mind when discussing polyamory?

This policy addresses each in turn.

Who is authorized to speak on behalf of the organization?

Generally, all requests for or offers of speakers, interviews, comment on a current matter, etc. should go through the Chair of the Outreach Committee. The Outreach Chair can determine if the opportunity is one we wish to engage with, and if so, who should speak for the organization and what they should emphasize.

The Outreach Chair will generally prioritize members of the Outreach Committee for such opportunities. However, a particular opportunity might warrant either a board member not on the Outreach Committee or some other PolyColumbus stakeholder. All PolyColumbus stakeholders are encouraged to suggest outreach opportunities to the Outreach Chair.

Board members often give talks, interviews, etc. on topics unrelated to the Mission of the organization. There is no need to pre-clear or get permission for such events. However, if the board member will be including their PolyColumbus title(s) as part of their background, or sharing insight from their experience with PolyColumbus, then advance notice to the Outreach Chair on the general subject matter is appreciated. This advance notice also allows the organization to promote the event to our membership.

Should the Outreach Chair be unavailable, the Executive Director has inherent authority to act in the stead of the Outreach Chair. The Deputy Executive Director has similar authority should the Executive Director and Outreach Chair both be unavailable.

How should board members present their title(s) in their everyday life?

Board members are encouraged, but not required, to list their PolyColumbus title(s) in their Facebook and LinkedIn profiles, resumes and *Curriculum Vitae*, and other biographies. By being visible in our broader community, we lessen the stigma attached to polyamory.

Board members who blog are to include text substantially similar to the following on their “About” page or equivalent:

“I am the Executive Director and serve on the board of PolyColumbus. Unless explicitly stated, all opinions expressed here are my own, and do not represent the views or positions of PolyColumbus.”

Repeating the disclaimer is encouraged at the beginning of posts relating to polyamory that touch on contentious subject matter. A simple “opinions my own” is suggested (but not strictly required) for a Twitter bio.

Board members may include their title in their personal email signature, but are reminded to be especially careful about how they conduct themselves in email (see next section).

What should board members keep in mind when discussing polyamory?

Regardless how much we disclaim or insist that “we speak only for ourselves and not the organization,” members of the public will impute what we say and what we do back to PolyColumbus, either directly or through the general reputation of the organization. Each board member is a highly visible representative of PolyColumbus at all times, whether we prefer it that way or not.

We encourage caution and empathy when engaging in public or semi-public debates regarding matters of relevance to PolyColumbus. It is especially easy for text-based discussions to become problematic, as the text contains none of the non-verbal cues of in-person dialogue and can easily be taken out of context.



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for Publicity Policy

The core of the PolyColumbus Mission is empowering individuals that either self-identify as polyamorous, open, or ethically non-monogamous, or are exploring such possibilities. Part of this empowerment comes from serving organizations with similar goals by documenting best practices and creating other resources for successfully running such an organization.

Good policies and related documents facilitate the orderly and sustainable growth of communities and events that advance the PolyColumbus Mission, whether in the Columbus, Ohio area or elsewhere.

PolyColumbus does not claim a monopoly on wisdom. What we do claim is fifteen years (and counting) as an organization, and leadership with relevant and valuable education, experience, and training. We have confidence in the documents we draft, as well as the humility to revise them when necessary in light of experience.

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Please contact our board of directors at board@polycolumbus.org with any questions or comments on using our documents.

