



# Normalizing the Conversation: Women's Health & Sexuality

Thursday, May 20, 2021 | 3:30 – 5:00pm  
Friday, May 21, 2021 | 10:30am – 12:00pm, Tokyo

## Speaker Biographies

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### **Brenda R. ALEGRE, PhD**

Lecturer, Gender Studies, The University of Hong Kong and Member, Board of Directors, The Society of Transsexual Women Advocates of the Philippines (STRAP)

Brenda R. Alegre, PhD is a lecturer at the University of Hong Kong where she teaches sexuality and gender. She also serves on the Board of Directors for The Society of Transsexual Women Advocates of the Philippines (STRAP), the pioneer transgender rights advocacy and support organization in the Philippines, and she co-represented STRAP at the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association's Trans Secretariat from 2015 to 2019. As an LGBTQI and women's rights activist, Brenda has been featured as an expert on numerous television and radio programs in the Philippines. In 2018, she was honored with the LGBT+ Public Champion award in Hong Kong. Brenda holds a PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Santo Tomas in the Philippines.



### **Asuka SOMEYA**

Founder, PILCON, Tokyo, Japan

Asuka Someya founded PILCON in 2013, a ground-breaking nonprofit organization for women's health and sexuality in Japan. Its mission is to destigmatize and demystify women's health and sexuality and transform sexual health education. PILCON, which stands for the Program for Ideal Life through Communication and Networking, is known for raising awareness and its successful communication campaigns. PILCON's most recent campaign received over 100,000 signatures for a petition to make emergency contraception available at pharmacies and it was successfully submitted to Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. PILCON also hosts programs and workshops, operates as a social resource network, and works closely with youth and parents to educate them about sexual health.



### **Kristen TRACY**

Author, *Lost It*, Los Angeles, CA, USA

Kristen Tracy writes board books, picture books, middle-grade books, and Young Adult novels and has published over a dozen books with Random House, Simon & Schuster, and Disney-Hyperion. In 2007, she published the critically acclaimed Young Adult novel, *Lost It*, a funny, sex positive book about a girl losing her virginity underneath a canoe. Her poetry manuscript, *Half-Hazard*, earned the prestigious Emily Dickinson First Book Award from the Poetry Foundation, and her poems have appeared in dozens of literary journals including the *New Yorker*, *Poetry Magazine*, and *Southern Review*. Her board book series *A Cub Story* from Chronicle Books is forthcoming. At one time in her life, Kristen was a college professor and aerobics instructor, and at another time, she was a volunteer gardener at Alcatraz and an aspiring bird docent. Kristen grew up in a small town in Idaho, near Yellowstone Park. Her interest in language and disinterest in misogyny led her to leave Idaho and earn an MA in American Literature, an MFA in poetry, and a PhD in English. She now calls Los Angeles home.

#galswithLeadership

#galswithEntrepreneurship

#galswithInspiration



**Mabel WONG MD**

Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Medical Director of Women’s Health, Hawaii Permanente Medical Group, Hawaii, USA [@KPHawaii](#)

Mabel Wong MD has been a practicing OBGyn physician at Kaiser Permanente for 26 years. She cares for women and their health needs from adolescence to geriatrics. Aside from being a practicing physician, she served on the Hawaii Permanente Medical Group board of directors from 2014-2020 and was chairperson of the board of directors from 2018-2020. She has also been the chief of Kaiser Permanente Hawaii region OBGyn since 2012. Mabel was born and raised in San Francisco, California and is a first generation Chinese American. She previously worked as a health educator for a women’s health community clinic in San Francisco serving refugee women from Southeast Asia. This experience spurred her decision to pursue becoming a medical doctor. Mabel received her medical degree from the University of California San Francisco and completed residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Kaiser San Francisco. She attended college at the University of California at Davis where she received her Bachelor of Science in community health.

**Moderator:**



**Radziah MOHD RADZI**

President, Sisterhood Alliance and Changing Faces Alum, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Radziah Mohd Radzi is president of the Sisterhood Alliance, a not-for-profit organization with an element of social enterprise that advocates for social change by empowering young girls through life-skills education and guiding them on their way to becoming intelligent and compassionate changemakers. Radziah is also co-founder and impact builder at MADCash, a new startup that provides access to micro-funds and loans for women owned startups and small businesses. MADCash placed top 6 in the UNCDF B40 Challenge in partnership with MDEC and Bank Negara and in 2019, was named winner of the Islamic Innovation Challenge by Agensi Inovasi Malaysia and Platform Ventures. Radziah is vice president of the Women Entrepreneur Network Association (WENA) and previously served as the organization’s honorary treasurer in 2012. She started her career in business a franchisee of Contours Express, the first women’s health and wellness center in Malaysia. Radziah holds a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Science, Malaysia.