Bakersfield College Distinguished Speaker Proposal; 2023/24

Journalist, Abigail Shrier

<https://www.abigailshrier.com/>

Journalist, Abigail Shrier holds an A.B. from Columbia College, where she received the Euretta J. Kellett Fellowship; a B.Phil. from the University of Oxford; and a J.D. from Yale Law School and is the author of the best-selling book, *Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing* *Our Daughters* (2020). The book was named a "Best Book" by the Economist and the Times (of London) and has been translated into eight languages. She has also been awarded the Barbara Olson Award for Excellence and Independence in Journalism.

In her book, Abigail Shrier states that she began to investigate adolescent-onset gender dysphoria after being contacted by the mother of a young adult with no apparent history of [childhood gender dysphoria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender_dysphoria_in_children), who identified as transgender in college. She describes and discusses the difficulties facing teenagers who were [assigned female at birth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sex_assignment), isolation, online social dynamics, restrictive gender and sexuality labels, unwelcome physical changes and sexual attention. She profiles several teenagers who questioned their gender identities or came out as transgender. She also discusses [Lisa Littman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lisa_Littman)'s 2018 journal article on rapid onset gender dysphoria (ROGD) and potential concerns of ROGD.

Other topics discussed in the book include sex-specific privacy concerns, the role of celebrities in increasing trans acceptance, conflict between transgender people, and lesbians or radical feminists, transfeminine/male-to-female athletes competing in girls' and women's sports, the use of trans-inclusive language, intersectionality, and identity politics.

A core value of Bakersfield College is [Diversity](https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/about):

*“We insist that diversity be valued and promoted, recognizing that multiple perspectives lead to a better education and knowledge of the world; listening and witnessing different experiences helps us to understand and contextualize power and privilege related to gender, race, class, religion, disability, and sexuality in terms of access and barriers to resources and opportunities.”*

The material and concepts covered may (or will) be considered controversial. These conversations are critical to open and honest discourse. These conversations will continue to promote BC students, staff, faculty, administration, and community members to think critically and promote continued communication concerning sexuality and gender.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joe Saldivar, Ph.D.