



Building Partnerships

In this issue

Spotlight on our Community Liaison Officer	2
Spotlight on our Advisory Board	3
Scotiabank Student Recognition Award 2008-09	4
Voices of Diversity	7
Spotlight on our Research Associate	8
Feminist Perspectives	9
Neighbours, Friends and Families in the Workplace	10
The Book Shelf	11
Upcoming Events	12

Mission

The Centre promotes the development of community-centred, action research on violence against women and children. The Centre's role is to facilitate the cooperation of individuals, groups and institutions representing the diversity of the community to pursue research questions and training opportunities to understand and prevent abuse.

It serves local, national and international communities by producing useful information and tools to assist in the daily work against violence toward women and children.



The Centre Recognizes "Every Day Hero's"

The Everyday Hero's Award is presented by The Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women and Children to recognize the extraordinary efforts that ordinary women and men make in their day to day lives to bring about significant changes that benefit all of us. Dr. Baobaid was the second recipient of the Every Day Hero's award for his work with the issue of violence against women in the Muslim Community.



Mohammed Baobaid

Executive Director

Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration

In 1985 I started working with the criminal justice system in Yemen to provide psychological and social support for children involved with the criminal justice system. Part of my work (my first job after graduating from university) was to help these children reintegrate within their families and their communities during their jail time and after they finished their sentences. My work with these children and their families gave me an opportunity to look at the big picture of the reasons that children came to be involved in the criminal justice system. One thing I learned at that time was the strong correlation between the involvement of children in conflict with the law and domestic violence against their mothers. My role had become more complex than I first anticipated. I had to work on many different levels including intervention, prevention, and community outreach as well as advocacy. I had to use my knowledge, my skills and my connections to make sure that the voices of these unfortunate children reached the society at large and decision makers in particular. One of my accomplishments was the establishment of "crime prevention week" where I was able to persuade opinion makers as well as socially influential leaders to look at involvement of children in the criminal justice system as a social problem rather than as a security or legal problem. It was also an opportunity for me to highlight the

continued on pg. 4

Negative Interpersonal Conflicts of College and University Students

Dr. Paul Tremblay, Ph.D.

Scientist, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

I had a verbally abusive boyfriend. He'd almost weekly put me down. I think he was insecure and needed control. (Female)

I think the prank calls were more serious to me. I received prank calls in First Year residence, which lead to the people leaving messages on my voice-mail. These Messages were quite disturbing and then they became threatening. Where in one message the person said that he would blow up my car. (Male)

When I was told to "shut the F up" and "take off my Paki diaper" which in this girls eyes meant the hijab. (Female)

continued on pg. 6

Spotlight on our Community Liaison Officer

Joy Lang

Joy Lang is the Community Liaison Officer for the Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women and Children at the University of Western Ontario. She comes to CREVAWC with 30 years of experience advocating with and for women and children experiencing violence in their lives, and building community.

Joy was the founding Director of the Chatham Kent Women's Centre Inc. where she dedicated her service from 1979 to 2000. Her deep-rooted commitment to supporting and advocating for women along with her dedication to the elimination of violence against women is grounded in the early shelter movement. In the late 70's and early 80's the establishment of shelters for abused women and their children was an organized response to the dismal failure of mainstream services to recognize woman abuse as a societal problem, to provide appropriate services, or to offer protection from the violence. Joy's first involvement in this great and proud grassroots movement came in the late 1970's when she volunteered at a shelter for abused women in her home town of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. In June of 1979 Joy and her family moved to Chatham Ontario where word about her shelter experience in Sault Ste. Marie quickly spread and as her story would show, Joy's move to southern Ontario was timely indeed. It happened that a group of Chatham women attempting to establish a local shelter for abused women approached Joy to guide the opening of what, on October 15, 1979, would become the Chatham Kent Women's Centre Inc. It was one of the first rural shelters and one of only nine shelters providing services to abused women and their children in the province of Ontario at that time.

It is important to note, given the extensive research and resources available now, that in 1979 there were few resources and very little written or researched on the issue of violence against women. Women's courageous and heart-wrenching accounts of their lived experience formed the foun-



issues of funding presented many challenges as well as opportunities. In those early days many people refused to acknowledge that there were abused women in Chatham and there was tremendous resistance to the creation of a women's shelter. The perseverance and determination of a small but committed group of women did not wane however, and the Chatham Kent Women's Centre ultimately became a respected and vital service in the Chatham Kent community. Many partnerships and alliances were built, helping to ensure that abused women and their children would have access to sensitive and necessary resources after they left the shelter.

Ms. Lang was actively involved in the development and enhancement of programs, services and training related to woman abuse in Chatham-Kent and across the province of Ontario. She was a founding Director of the Chatham-Kent County Task Force on Family Violence and the Chatham-Kent County Child Abuse Co-coordinating Committee. In addition, Joy represented the Chatham Kent Women's Centre as a coalition partner with the Chatham-Kent Sexual Assault Crisis Centre and the Chatham & District Labour Council at the Coroner's Inquest into the workplace murder of Theresa Vince who was killed by her direct supervisor. Since that time Joy has stayed heavily involved in raising awareness about gendered workplace harassment and violence and she remains active in the work to effect change in that regard.

continued on pg. 7

Our Staff

Dr. Peter Jaffe

Academic Director

Ms. Barbara MacQuarrie

Community Director

Dr. Helene Berman

Scotiabank Research Chair

Ms. Maria Callaghan

Manager

Ms. Joy Lang

Community Liaison Officer

Ms. Marcie Campbell

Research Assistant

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Spotlight on our **Advisory Board**

Dr. Gail Hutchinson

Gail Hutchinson is a founding member of the Centre for Research and Education on Violence against Women and Children. She was part of the original Board of Directors of CREVAWC and now has membership on the Advisory Board. For a six-year period Gail served as Chair of the Committee on Evaluation of Intervention Strategies. A large number of grant-funded research projects were completed through the work of the Evaluation Committee. For example a SSHRCC grant for \$70,000 was secured in order to assess the integrated model of woman abuse services in London Ontario. Results of this project were published in *Library and Information Science Research in 2001*. Most recently Gail has been involved with a research committee investigating interpersonal conflicts and exposure to abuse and violence and the impact these experiences have on the emotional, social and academic life of university and college students. A research paper entitled, *Negative social experiences*, is in press with the *Canadian Journal of Higher Education*.

At Western Gail has served for over 20 years as Director of Student Development Services and as a psychologist in the Psychological Services area. SDS offers a wide range of services and programs designed to assist graduate and undergraduate students in making the most of their university experience by providing support, skill-development, advocacy and counselling. SDS is composed of International Student Services, The International Student Centre, The International Exchange Program, Indigenous Services, The Indigenous Services Learning Resource Centre, Learning Skills Services, The Learning Help Centre, Psychological Services, The LGBT Support Program, Services for Students with Disabilities, The Adaptive Computing Technology Centre, The Learning Opportunities Lab, The Volunteers in Progress Program and The Writing Support Centre. In addition SDS has a highly-respected internship and practicum program that has been in place for close



to 40 years. Gail along with other members of Psychological Services hold adjunct faculty positions in Psychology and the Faculty of Education in recognition of the training and supervision provided to graduate All areas of SDS provide services to a large number of participants: 17,000 in International Student Services, 14,000 in the Writing Support Centre and 8,000 in Learning Skills Services.

SDS places a strong emphasis on providing a safe, welcoming space for students. SDS is particularly interested in ensuring that students from diverse backgrounds and cultures as well as students from traditionally disadvantaged groups are provided with the services that they need. SDS also places a high priority on assisting students coping with violence and abuse in their lives. Students are offered same-day crisis intervention services. Increasingly over the years, students present to various areas of SDS with historical and recent trauma and abuse experiences. A large body of research clearly indicates that female university students are in the highest risk age group for dating abuse and sexual violence. With a quarter of female students having experienced sexual or physical violence (Stats Canada, 1994) it is not surprising that a study done at SDS indicated that 41% of our female clients have been sexually abused as children, 34% have been experienced rape or attempted rape and 44% have a history of physical abuse in a dating relationship.

Gail continues to find her involvement on the Advisory Committee of CREVAWC to be invaluable to her role as a university administrator, counselling centre director and psychologist. In addition, staff at Student Development Services have greatly benefited from CREVAWC's research, publications and educational forums.

2009 Advisory Board Members

Mr. Joseph Dunlop-Addley
Chair, CREVAWC Advisory Board
Professor, Fanshawe College

Dr. Gail Hutchinson
Vice-Chair, CREVAWC Advisory Board
*Director, Student Development Centre
University of Western Ontario*

Dr. Nancy Bjerring
Professor Emeritus, Fanshawe College

Ms. Beverly Coulston
Professor, Fanshawe College

Ms. Michelle Doege
Professor, Fanshawe College

Ms. Lisa Heslop
*Supervisor, Family Consultants/Victim Services Unit
London Police Service
London Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse*

Mr. Dermot Hurley
*Assistant Professor, School of Social Work
Kings University College*

Dr. Tracy Isaacs
*Chair, Department of Women's Studies and
Feminist Research
University of Western Ontario*

Dr. Barbara Lent
*Associate Dean, Equity and Gender Issues, and Faculty
Health, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry,
Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine
University of Western Ontario*

Dr. Gloria Alvernaz Mulcahy
At'lohisa Native Family Healing Services

Dr. Julia O'Sullivan
*Dean, Faculty of Education
University of Western Ontario*

Mr. Robert Owens
*Coordinator, Social Service Worker Program and
The Sonier Centre
Fanshawe College*

Justice Eleanor Schnell
*Judge, The Ontario Court of Justice
London Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse*

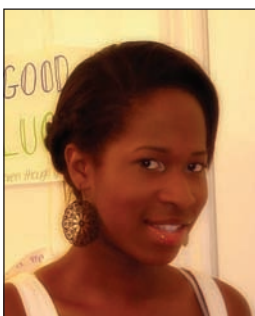
Scotiabank Student Recognition Award 2008-09

The Scotiabank Student Award is presented to undergraduate students in any year of any program who demonstrate strong academic achievement, financial need, and have an interest in and are prepared to work on research projects assigned to them through the Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women and Children. Consideration is given to the candidate's involvement in and connection to a community agency or agencies who's work addresses issue relating to violence against women and children.



Icy Pham

I am currently completing my fourth (final) year of a concurrent degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing program and Bachelor of Arts majoring in psychology at the University of Western Ontario. Throughout my clinical experience and education based learning, I've become greatly interested in women's health and hope to contribute my efforts towards bettering the health of women and children promoting for equality. The award provided by Scotiabank has provided me the opportunity and financial support to allow me to work with "The Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women and Children" on searching for resources to provide educators, parents, and youths the ability to initiate and maintain equal healthy relationship.



Simi Caxton-Idowu

Simi Caxton-Idowu is a 3rd year student at the University of Western Ontario currently completing her first degree in BSc. Honours Specialization in Kinesiology. She ultimately wishes to go into medicine once she finishes her undergraduate studies. She is currently the Vice-President of the African Students' Association (ASA) at the university. Throughout recent years Simi has committed hundreds of hours towards volunteering at organizations such as Mount Sinai hospital in Toronto, Hearts of Gold Children's Hospice in Nigeria as well as research in the lab of Dr. Matthew Heath here at university. She is currently an Intern at the Canadian Mental Health Association and this past year was a teaching assistant in the occupational therapy anatomy lab. There is a part of Judaism called Tikkun Olam and it is a Hebrew phrase meaning "repairing the world". It means that the world has been broken into pieces and it is the role of everyone to find the pieces and put the world back together. Simi is very fortunate to have received the Scotiabank Award and to be able to work with the Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women and Children because she feels that it is her duty as a woman to stand up for other women who might not be able to stand up for themselves. Through the Scotia Bank Award Simi feels that she is able to help do her part in putting the world back together.

Everyday Hero's

continued from pg. 1

connection between this problem and domestic violence as well as to point out the responsibility of society to create a better environment for children and their families so as to reduce the incidence of their criminal activities. For the first time many people recognized the extent of the misery of these children in correctional facilities. One of the main outcomes of this campaign was the establishment of the first national Yemeni committee for children's rights. My involvement in all these activities has enabled me to develop a great deal of experience about addressing

complex social problems in very complex circumstances including building relationships with the conflicting parties and channeling their potential influence for a good cause.

I used all the experiences from my work with children in conflict with the law to address violence against women in Yemeni society. This larger situation was more complex and more risky. I had to learn thorough my research and clinical work not only how many Yemeni women had to suffer different forms of abusive behaviour by male members of their families including their husbands, but also how this behaviour was largely supported by their society's cultural beliefs. In the context of collectivist

society it is very easy to justify violence against women in the name of protecting the common interest of the family and or the community.

From working with children involved with the criminal justice system, my journey took me to the field of domestic violence, and eventually to study this relationship in different cultural contexts. When I came to Canada in 2000 and was given an opportunity to continue working in the same field. I have learned that there are many different layers associated with violence against women within immigrant Muslim communities. I have been very privileged to be in a position of gaining the trust of the mainstream anti-violence movement

and also the leaders of the Muslim community to address the issue of domestic violence in a culturally competent manner. Until then I was unsure of exactly what constituted a culturally competent approach meant and how it worked. Since then I have been able to develop better understanding of the complexity of violence against women within Muslim immigrant communities and the dilemmas that Muslim abused women experience when

Based on my observations, at least two main dilemmas emerge:

1. Many Muslim abused women are looking for the kind of services that address their safety concerns. At the same time they do not want these services to affect, negatively, their connection and status within their community of origin.
2. Many Muslim abused women are concerned about “violating” their religious

mistake to underestimate the complexity of violence against women by using a “one-size-fits-all” response. We need to revise our models of service delivery for immigrant families, including Muslim families affected by woman abuse. The main challenge here is how to build effective mechanisms that balance the safety concerns of abused women and the belief systems of their community of origin that may look at violence against women as a relatively private problem.

With respect to Muslim communities, I make three initial recommendations.

1. Develop effective intervention and prevention practices designed to integrate religious and cultural elements that are valued by many Muslim abused women. This strategy requires building relationships with religious and community leaders to develop a safe environment in which women can ask for outside help.
2. Train religious and community leaders to be sensitive to the safety concerns of abused women and to know safe referral procedures.
3. Encourage and support initiatives developed by Muslim communities to respond to domestic violence and to help spiritual leaders to integrate religious and cultural elements in advocating for abused women.

My next steps will be focusing more in working from within the Muslim community to implement these strategies through the Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration that has been just established. The centre will help in building social support networks for Muslim women and children victimized by domestic violence by building capacity for leadership within the community. Certainly, it is expected that making programming available to women in a manner that feels safe and responsive to men and families, members of the Muslim community will be encouraged to participate in programs and to come forward in search of support.



they are victimized by domestic violence. It is extremely important to recognize that Muslim women who experience abuse in their home are living in a completely different situation compared with life in their country of origin. Even though they are living here, in Canada, an egalitarian society where the issues of discrimination against women and domestic violence have been more openly addressed, immigrant women can be subjected to different kinds of violence because of the structure and traditions of their families. They also experience systemic violence because of the way they dress, or look or because of their colour of their skin, and the many other general acculturation issues that apply to most immigrants. In addition, there is a big gap between the way mainstream social agencies deliver their services and the needs of these women to overcome all these forms of abuse and violence perpetrated against them. In recent years I have worked intensively to look at the dilemmas of Muslim abused women in Canada and how mainstream services can effectively respond to their unique needs.

obligations towards their families including their abusive husbands if they ask for outside help. They find it more acceptable to seek the advice of religious scholars and spiritual leaders on what they should do if they are abused.

In other words, Muslim abused women tend to need someone who can not only provide them with advice on physical safety but also understand their dilemmas. Many avoid asking for help from mainstream agencies because they think these agencies might not understand their needs properly.

In my journey as a researcher and clinician involved in the issue of the violence against women in the Middle East and Canada, I have reached several conclusions. While I strongly believe that power imbalance in the family and the society is the main source for violence against women, I also believe that violence against women is a more complex phenomenon, especially when it comes to immigrant families from a collectivistic cultural background coming to live in Western society. It would be a big

Negative Interpersonal Conflicts

continued from pg. 1

Some guys were talking in class and I had enough and I asked them to be quiet but they decided to tell me to shut up and move if I wanted quiet. (Male)

I was sexually assaulted while living in a residence during my first year university. It was by someone that was visiting from another university and it occurred in a study room late at night while no one else was around. (Female)

This sample of experiences reported by college and university students remind us that campus life for some is not always a positive experience. In 2005, a group of researchers from Western, CAMH, and Fanshawe College who are affiliated with the Centre for Research and Education on Violence against Women and Children set out to investigate students negative interpersonal experiences while they were attending college or university.¹ Some of the main results of our study will be published in the Canadian Journal of Higher Education.²

A major objective of our research was to gain a better understanding of the various types of abuse, harassment, aggression, and violence experienced during the stage of postsecondary education and the impact of these experiences. A random sample of 5000 students at Western and 2500 students at Fanshawe College were invited by email to complete an online survey about their negative experiences during their postsecondary education. A total of 674 university and 500 college students (total = 1,174) filled out the survey.



The main categories of experiences included mild verbal (hurtful comment, name calling, humiliation), gossip, jokes, severe verbal (yelling, swearing, threats of harm, intimidation), mild physical (inappropriate touch, grabbing, restraining, pushing due to crowding), severe physical (physical assault, kicking, forceful pushing, slapping, hitting, biting), sexual advances, sexual incidents excluding rape (attempted rape or sexually aggressive behaviours such as trying to put hands down another person's pants), rape, stalking/following, theft, graffiti/vandalism/print media, noise disruption, phone/computer (online harassment, website photo displays, prank phone calls), policy/rules (institution-related problem, e.g., university/college procedures, perceived unfair

workload, grades, insufficient office hours). We did not find any major differences in the incidents of college and university students.

Nearly two thirds of students reported negative experiences, most of which were verbal in nature and had relatively little emotional or academic impact. However, the experiences quoted in the introduction speak for themselves. A small proportion of students reported experiencing serious violent incidents such as physical assault, sexual assault or rape, and these incidents had a significant impact on their lives.

Many of the reported experiences included "low-intensity" deviant behaviours that fall under the category labelled by other researchers as 'incivility' and include acts such as insults and condescending remarks. Other studies have shown that incivility that occurs with some frequency over time can produce cumulative stress effects that have an impact on well being. In fact, in an ongoing longitudinal study by myself and colleagues investigating relations between conflict situations and depression, we have found that the reported harm from conflicts correlates with symptoms of depression and stress levels.

As part of the survey, we also asked students about their beliefs about why the incidents happened. Some of the themes that emerged were: jealousy/lack of trust, member of minority group/different than others, alcohol, easy target/vulnerable, wrong place at the wrong time, misunderstanding, trying to impress others, bad judgment, health issues, crowding, physical appearance, unaware of inappropriateness of actions. In psychology, we use the term causal attributions to denote these perceived reasons. A particularly interesting aspect of these attributions is that they vary in terms of perceived control (i.e. whether the persons involved could have done something different or can take action in the future).

Where do we go from here? One positive example in the direction of prevention is the video, *Voices of Diversity* produced at Western (Western's Caucus on Women's Issues) which examines discrimination, intolerance and safety issues on campus from the perspective of a range of graduate and undergraduate students, faculty, support staff, student services coordinators and counsellors, college and university administrators and leaders. As we proposed in our article², programs focusing on prevention of sexual assault and violence against women should remain a priority, as should support services for people living with the aftermath of such experiences. In the book *Guyland, The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men*,³ Kimmel presents a troubling account of some young men's behaviours based on nearly 400 interviews. For example, the author states: "In other words, what enables men to choose to commit rape and call it something else are some of the core elements of Guyland—the culture of entitlement, silence and protection" (p. 227). Debates will probably ensue over the validity of Guyland as a stereotype or even an archetype given that it certainly applies only to some men. This book as well as the *Voices of Diversity* video and the results of our study all speak to the importance of prevention and intervention at the level of social norms to reinforce boundaries of unacceptable behaviour.

¹This study was supported by a Scotiabank Community Grant from the Centre for Research and Education on Violence against Women and Children.

²Tremblay, P. E., Harris, R., Berman, H., MacQuarrie, B., Hutchinson, G., Smith, M.-A., Braley, S., Jelley, J., & Dearlove, K. (in press). Negative social experiences of university and college students. *Canadian Journal of Higher Education*.

³Kimmel M. (2008). *Guyland. The perilous world where boys become men. Understanding the critical years between 16 and 26.* New York: HarperCollins.

Voices of Diversity

Provocative, insightful and highly personal, **VOICES OF DIVERSITY: Creating a culture of safety, respect and belonging on campus** is a timely and unique video. The video challenges preconceived ideas about what it means to study, live and work at a Canadian university or college.

VOICES OF DIVERSITY examines issues of discrimination, intolerance and lack of safety. The video captures the experiences, observations and analytical perspectives of a diverse range of graduate and undergraduate students, faculty, support staff, student services coordinators and counsellors, college and university administrators and leaders.

While *Voices of Diversity* offers a window on academic and campus life, the video's compelling stories are of interest to anyone interested in creating inclusive working and learning environments.

At school and at work, issues of safety, disrespect and exclusion are often not recognized, discussed or addressed. The social norms and power relations that create advantages for some and harm others are familiar, but not always acknowledged. This video provides insight into these themes – and how individuals and the quality of campus life are affected.

The need to ensure safety, respect and a sense of belonging on campus are the key themes that emerge. Woven into this tapestry of experience and analysis of hurt and hope, are concerns about individual and systemic power and privilege, social norms and their influences, what creates a culture that values everyone – or does not, the effects on individuals, groups and institutions, and how to make a difference and bring about change.

The voices in the video and guide book were gathered from over two years of research, involving hundreds of on-camera and off-camera interviews with:

- aboriginal students, staff and faculty
- international students
- members of the GLBT community (gay men, lesbians, bisexual and transgendered people)
- people of diverse ethnic, religious and racial backgrounds
- people with disabilities or who are differently abled
- women and men
- people who reflect the intersections among these and many other identities

Designed to be flexible, the 55-minute video can be shown in its entirety or by specific topics or 'chapters' (from 1 to 10 minutes in length). Included with the video is a detailed Facilitator's Guide that provides options for leading discussions.

What people are saying about *Voices of Diversity*. . . .

"It's not good enough to say this kind of discrimination is systemic in our communities. Universities have an obligation to lead, and indeed to show others the path to take to create an equitable community. This video and the accompanying Facilitator's Guide will

help raise awareness and enable the kinds of discussion required in order to have meaningful change."

— Jane Toswell

President of the Western Caucus on Women's Issues and Associate Professor in Western's Department of English.

"The spirit of the intent is that we are all in this together. It's good for you, it's good for me, it's good for the community – to make us better people. There will be good times and there will be bad times, it's all part of the process."

— Professor Mac Saulis

Tobique First Nation, Coordinator, Master of Social Work, Aboriginal Field of Study, Wilfrid Laurier University

"The stories in this video clearly demonstrate we have work to do, and our goal should be no less than to make ours an inclusive and caring environment for all students, faculty and staff who come here,"

— Paul Davenport

President of The University of Western Ontario.

Order the video from the UWOO Bookstore at www.bookstore.uwo.ca.

Joy Lang

continued from pg. 2

In 1995 while fulfilling her full-time responsibilities as the shelter's Executive Director, Joy earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Windsor through part-time studies while also raising three children. That same year Joy was honoured to be given the opportunity, through the Ursuline Sisters, to work with women in Chiclayo, Peru. The women in this tiny barrio were so welcoming and generous to this stranger who spoke very little Spanish. Joy felt it was an honour to experience the way in which the Ursuline Sisters empowered women to provide for themselves and

their children. More recently Joy acted in a consultant role to the From Isolation to Action project that followed the conviction of Father Charles Sylvestre in a major child sexual abuse case. In addition she is proud to be involved with the Londoners for Afghanistan's Women, a group of women who raise funds for women and children struggling in Afghanistan.

Joy's continued work in the areas of woman abuse, sexual harassment, homelessness, domestic violence and community building through her participation in research and clinical services at The Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System of the London Family Court Clinic, the Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women

and Children at the University of Western Ontario, and The London Co-ordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse, is truly informed by the early shelter movement, the experience and very real lives of women. Joy has found advocating for women to be one of the most rewarding aspects of her life, especially throughout her role as Executive Director of the Chatham Kent Women's Centre. Women seeking shelter services demonstrated so much strength and resilience, Joy believes that "they gave me the determination to take advantage of the opportunities and work through the challenges and to never give up."

Spotlight on our Research Associate

Myrna Dawson

Canada Research Chair in Public Policy in Criminal Justice, University of Guelph



In October 2008, Myrna Dawson, an Academic Research Associate with the Centre since 2003, was awarded a Canada Research Chair in Public Policy in Criminal Justice by the

Government of Canada. The five-year renewable appointment is located at the University of Guelph where Myrna is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. The Canada Research Chair program was established by the federal government in 2000 as a way of enabling Canadian universities to attract and retain excellent faculty. The new position will allow Myrna time to focus more intensively on her research which has examined social and legal responses to violence in Canada, particularly violence against women by intimate partners, for the past decade. Her interest in criminal justice issues goes back much further than this, however, to her first career as a journalist during which she wrote on issues related to violence, crime and justice in New Brunswick and later in Ontario. During this time, she realized that she wanted to do more than ask questions and let someone else provide the answers – she wanted to ask the questions and look for the answers herself. Her graduate studies in the 1990s at the University of Toronto provided her with the opportunity to begin this process.

Myrna's interest in violence against women was intensified early in her graduate studies when she became involved in a study on intimate femicide in Ontario that examined the killing of women by male partners. In addition to exploring patterns in these crimes over time, this work allowed her to begin an ongoing examination of how the criminal justice system responds to homicides, depending on the relationship that existed between the victims and their

killers. Also during the 1990s, Myrna was part of the evaluation team for the first two specialized domestic violence courts in Toronto. She has continued her research on specialized courts, examining various questions such as what role does victim cooperation play in decisions to prosecute in these cases, what effect do family-based factors have on sentencing decisions and, most recently, do institutional and other supports help victims effectively negotiate their way through the criminal justice system. In her latest project, which is part of her Canada Research Chair research program, Myrna has begun to examine the growth of domestic violence resources and initiatives in Canada and its effect on patterns and trends in intimate partner violence.

Myrna has published widely in her research field, including scholarly articles, book chapters and research reports and has presented her research in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and, most recently, in Australia where she gave a keynote address on Domestic Homicides in Canada at the First International Conference on Homicides in December. Myrna is a member of the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee for the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario; a member of the Academic Advisory Committee for the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, and a Co-Investigator for the Canadian Observatory for the Justice System Response to Intimate Partner Violence. With funding from the Canadian Foundation of Innovation, she has established the Social and Legal Responses to Violence in Canada Research Unit at the University of Guelph which supports the above projects and other initiatives in various stages of development and where she works with a number of undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral students.

2009 Research Associates

Academic

Dr. Gloria Alvernaz Mulcahy
Dr. Laura Béres
Dr. Claire Crooks
Dr. Myrna Dawson
Dr. Walter S. DeKeseredy
Dr. Molly Dragiewicz
Dr. Roma Harris
Dr. Lori Haskell
Dr. Gail Hutchinson
Dr. Yasmin Jiwani
Dr. Holly Johnson
Dr. Beverly Leipert
Dr. Alan Lescheid
Dr. Robin Mason
Dr. Susan Rodger
Dr. Dora Tam
Dr. Paul Tremblay
Dr. Leslie Tutty
Dr. Christine Wekerle
Dr. Sandy Welsh
Dr. David Wolfe

Community

Dr. Mohammed Baobaid
Ms. Mandy Bonisteel
Ms. Catherine Burr
Ms. Jacquie Carr
Ms. Pamela Cross
Ms. Jude Fairweather
Ms. Cathy Hird
Ms. Janet Izumi
Mr. Tim Kelly
Ms. Anna-Lee Straatman
Mr. Alfredo Marroquin
Mr. Larry Marshall
Mr. Al J.C. O'Marra
Ms. Maureen Reid
Ms. Deborah Sinclair

Feminist Perspectives

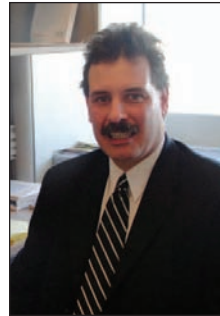
Reflections on the Life and Work of a Feminist Man

Walter S. DeKeseredy, Ph.D.

*Professor of Criminology, Justice and Policy Studies
University of Ontario Institute of Technology*

In the fall of 2006, I met with my daughter's principal to discuss developing woman abuse prevention and awareness workshops at her all-female school. At the start of the conversation, she asked me, "So, how did you come to do work on violence against women?" I expected to hear this, given that many other women I meet ask me the same question after they discover what I do for a living. A large number of people are taken aback that man would study and struggle to end a major social problem deemed by thousands, if not millions, of North Americans to be a primarily a woman's issue.

Most men, however, are surprised by my research, attitudes, and beliefs because they neither embrace feminism nor see woman abuse as a significant issue and thus find it difficult to accept that I am distinct from them. Unfortunately, there is ample evidence



and ending the myriad of ways in which millions of women around the world are abused in private and public places.

Much of my research and theoretical work focuses on how all-male, patriarchal peer groups perpetuate and legitimate woman abuse. I have also spent much time and effort examining woman abuse in university/college dating, public housing communities, and in rural parts of Ohio.

Further, my view of any research method, regardless of whether it is used by feminists or mainstream researchers, is that it is simply a tool. Even so, tools can be used in positive or negative ways. Consider a shovel. It can help build a battered women's shelter or a pornographic billboard. My methodological tools are always used to enhance women's safety and to reduce male violence.

My policy work focuses heavily on chipping away at broader patriarchal forces that contribute to crime and societal reactions to it. For example, informed by the work of feminist male educators such as Rus Funk, Jackson Katz, and Tony Porter, I publicly protest against pornography and war, and I confront men who engage in sexist behaviours. I also work with progressive all-male collectives around North America to encourage men to break out of what Tony Porter refers to as the "man box" and to lead peaceful lives dedicated to ending sexism, racism, and other forms of inequality. I am obviously not the only person to promote and do such work. In fact, I learned about these initiatives from engaging with my peers. They helped me change my life, and I am trying to do the same for others.

Feminist work excites me, and while I publicly identify myself as a feminist man, my transition is not over. Fortunately, we are witnessing more men becoming "deviant" like me or who are seriously considering "crossing over to the dark side." Regardless of how long it takes to get there, the long, hard journey toward a truly egalitarian society is worth it, and I encourage all men to become fellow travelers and allies with women.



*Photo from:
Men Can Stop Rape, Inc.
(MCSR), an international
organization whose mission
is to mobilize men to use
their strength for creating
cultures free from violence,
especially men's violence
against women.
www.mencanstoprape.org*

showing that it is men who do not engage in or who do not directly or indirectly support woman abuse who are the deviants in North American society. So, let's rephrase the principal's question: "How did you come to be a deviant man?" Here, I define deviance as behaviours, attitudes, and beliefs that support ending all forms of male violence and the transition to a society based on gender, race, and class equality. I publicly identify myself as a feminist and I have devoted over 20 years to carefully studying

Neighbours, Friends and Families in the Workplace

Barbara MacQuarrie
Community Director, Manager of NFF Project

The long-term goal of the Neighbours, Friends and Families campaign is to have every adult in Ontario recognize the signs of woman abuse/domestic violence and be able to offer an appropriate intervention. Workplace-based training is a strategy to meet that goal.

In Canada, woman abuse in the workplace has been invisible until recently. We have little research to demonstrate the costs to employers (we are relying on US data) and we have no organization to champion the issue in the business community. The tragic death of Lori Dupont, murdered at Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital, by a doctor with whom she had ended a relationship, has alerted us to the fact that woman abuse or domestic violence is a workplace issue.

Existing research tells us that 70% of individuals suffering from woman abuse are victimized at work and in 9 out of 10 incidents that occur in the workplace, the victim later confides in a co-worker. (Swanberg 2005) There is good reason to build the capacity of key workplace stakeholders to recognize the signs of abuse and to respond appropriately.

The new Neighbours, Friends and Families Workplace Training Strategy has a number of objectives:

- Empower women at risk to seek and make use of workplace resources that will foster her safety, as well as enhance her job satisfaction and productivity during a stressful and unsafe time in her life,
- Inform the creation or adaptation of workplace policies, procedures and practices that will help the workplace prevent and respond effectively to domestic violence that enters the workplace,
- Encourage effective organizational change in workplaces,
- Promote collaboration with local community experts and services.

We have developed a three level approach for implementation:

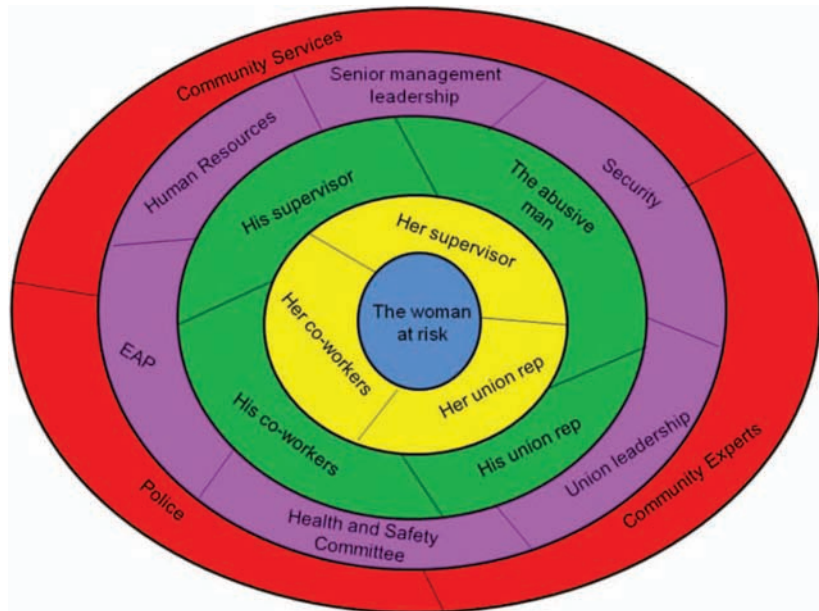
- Level 1 provides information about NFF resources to all employees in a standard email. NFF brochures are made available to staff and to the public interacting with the workplace.
- Level 2 increases understanding through NFF forums at staff meetings, lunch and learn sessions, etc for discussion about practices and policies.
- Level 3 engages the workplace in lasting organizational change through supporting the development of policy and procedures and through training internal staff to become knowledgeable educators and first responders.

NFF Workplace Consultants and the NFF Training Kit will be available to guide workplace decision makers to effectively adapt and implement this training program in their organization, including as a larger workplace violence training program.

Coordinating Committees and NFF community representatives will be invited to trainings in their communities. The workplace will be encouraged to work with their local Coordinating Committee and NFF campaign on an ongoing basis.

We hope that this work will also be adapted for First Nations workplaces, French language workplaces and workplaces that employ immigrant workers, newcomers and marginalized workers.

If you are interested in having your workplace participate in the NFF Workplace Training, please contact Ms. Barbara MacQuarrie bmacquar@uwo.ca.



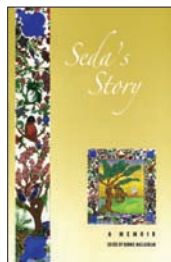
Circles of Recognition, Response and Referral
Catherine Burr, MIR/Master of Industrial Relations

The Book Shelf

SEDA'S STORY

Sumach Press

Edited by Bonnie Maclachlan



This book is intended to fulfill the second promise Seda extracted from her mother. It would be Seda's hope that, although she took her own life, and although she routinely engaged in what is commonly recognized as self-abuse, it is inner strength that shines through Seda's words. It would be her hope that all women who find resonance in the struggles she faced will be helped by these words to move forward, defining themselves as agents rather than victims. She would want them to know that they have a companion - a strong spirit - beside them, living in their hearts, one who understands the dark spaces of their lives. Seda's writing is organized into three sections. The first consists of her "letters to Sharzad." Here she draws from the depths of an unsuppressed memory the graphic accounts of her father's violation of her young body. The second section consists of poetic and prose reflections that follow the contours of her life. The third section, "In a Far-Off Land: A Persian Tale," is a fictional narrative that projects the very real fears and fantasies of a woman living under the constant threat of male violence. Following the text is a select bibliography. These resources are recommended works that address the situation of women like Seda, their families or other individuals offering them support.

HOPE IN SHADOWS

Stories and Photographs of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside

Brad Cran and Gillian Jerome



With foreword from Libby Davies, Member of Parliament for Vancouver East.

Arsenal Pulp Press. Pivot Legal Society

Residents of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside are not bound by poverty or addiction but rather driven by a sense of community, kinship, and above all, hope. For each of the past five years, Pivot Legal Society's annual Hope in Shadows photography contest has empowered residents of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside by providing them with 200 disposable cameras to document their lives - thus giving them an artistic means to enter the ongoing and often stormy dialogue over the place they call home. Since the contest's inception, DTES residents have taken over 20,000 images of their neighbourhood. Working with this archive, Brad Cran and Gillian Jerome have collected the personal stories behind these stunning photographs. In surprising and astounding ways, Hope in Shadows will not only change the way you think about the Downtown Eastside and other impoverished neighbourhoods; it will also change your view of society as we know it.

DANGEROUS EXITS

Escaping Abusive Relationships in Rural America

Walter S. DeKeseredy and Martin D. Schwartz

With a Foreword by Joseph F. Donnermeyer
Rutgers University Press. New Brunswick, NJ



Decade after decade, violence against women has gained more attention from scholars policy makers, and the general public. Social scientists in particular have contributed significant empirical and theoretical understandings to this issue.

Strikingly, scant attention has focused on the victimization of women who want to leave their hostile partners. This groundbreaking work challenges the perception that rural communities are safe havens from the brutality of urban living. Identifying hidden crimes of sexual assault, physical abuse, economic blackmail and psychological mistreatment, and the complex relationship between patriarchy and woman abuse, Walter S. DeKeseredy and Martin D. Schwartz propose concrete and effective solutions, giving voice to women who have often suffered in silence.

Walter S. DeKeseredy is professor of criminology, justice and policy studies at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology. He is the recipient of the 2008 Linda Saltzman Memorial Intimate Partner Violence Researcher Award from the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma and he received the 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society of Criminology's Division on Critical Criminology.

Martin D. Schwartz is professor of sociology at Ohio University and has received major awards for his research from two divisions of the American Society of Criminology.

Upcoming Events



Safe, Respectful & Inclusive Workplaces: Stakeholders & Strategies

MAY 28 & 29, 2009

LONDON CONVENTION CENTRE

Key note Speaker Anita Hill

The conference will appeal to a wide range of stakeholders: Labour and management; community advocates; academics; legislators and policy experts; woman abuse experts; human resource and health safety practitioners; trainers; consultants; equity committees; etc

Registration Fees:

Early Registration (Until April 30, 2009): \$350

Registration after April 30, 2009: \$425

Student Registration: \$300

Dinner and Keynote Speaker Anita Hill only: \$125.

For details & registration information please visit our website: www.CRVAWC.ca



JUNE 14 – 16, 2009

LONDON CONVENTION CENTRE

The conference is intended to enhance networking and partnerships amongst social science researchers, policy makers and practitioners (coroners, medical examiners, police, crown attorneys, anti-violence community agencies) in their review of domestic homicides across Canadian provinces and territories. The Conference proceedings will focus on common risk factors and systemic gaps in policies, training and resources that are related to domestic homicides. The ultimate goal of this work is to prevent domestic violence and save lives lost to these tragedies.

Registration Fees:

Early Registration (until April 30, 2009): \$275

Registration after April 30, 2009: \$325

Student Registration: \$275

For details & registration information please visit our website: www.CRVAWC.ca

Annual Father's Day Breakfast: Engaging Boys & Men on Male Violence against Women

JUNE 2, 2009 – 8:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

LONDON CONVENTION CENTRE

Guest Speakers:

- Scott Russell, CBC Sports
- Peter Jaffe, Academic Director, CREVAWC
- Ray Hughes, National 4th R Coordinator, Centre for Prevention Science(CAMH),
- Katie Cole, Media Violence Specialist, Medway High School, TVDSB

Tickets are \$20.00

Registration to lardila@uwo.ca

Rethinking Relationships in the Lives of Boys and Girls Conference:

November 19 & 20, 2009, London Convention Centre

The Centre for Research on Violence against Women and Children (CREVAWC) would like to extend an invitation for you to join us for the conference Rethinking Relationships in the Lives of Boys and Girls. This conference will explore and highlight promising practices for engaging youth from diverse communities in the work of challenging violence and fostering healthier, more equitable, patterns of social interrelationships. The conference is being held on November 19-20th, 2009 at the London Convention Centre in London, Ontario.

Rethinking Relationships provides an interactive, innovative and creative forum for exploring meaningful and empowering, yet flexible, strategies for engaging both male and female youth. This exciting province wide-event is collaborative and youth-centred and will feature diverse voices, including Francophone and Aboriginal perspectives. A particularly exciting aspect of this conference is the inclusion of many youth-led sessions. An all ages event will be held on Thursday November 19th, 2009 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm with a full day conference on Friday November 20th, 2009.

The conference package will feature the release of a publication that draws attention to new and innovative approaches, strategies and tools for using arts-based approaches for engaging youth, resources that can be adapted with youth locally.

For more information please contact:

Michelle Pajot, Project Coordinator, Rethinking Relationships

Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women and Children (CREVAWC)

Tel: 519-661-2111 ext. 88303; email: mpagjot@uwo.ca

We look forward to seeing you at the conference!