

**Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre  
for Family Violence Research – 2019 Conference**

**Ending Gender Based Violence:  
Harnessing Research and Action for Social Change**



**October 9-10, 2019**

**Wu Conference Centre**

**University of New Brunswick**



Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada

**Canada**



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We respectfully acknowledge that UNB stands on the unsurrendered and unceded traditional Wolastoqey land. The lands of Wabanaki people are recognized in a series of Peace and Friendship Treaties to establish an ongoing relationship of peace, friendship and mutual respect between equal nations. The river that runs by our university is known as Wolastoq, along which live Wolastoqiyik – the people of the beautiful and bountiful river. The Wolastoq is also called the St. John River.

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We encourage all participants to tweet about the sessions in which you participate, tagging us **@CentreMuriel** and using the hashtag **#EndGBV**.

## **Thank you!**

This conference would not be possible without the financial support of the University of New Brunswick's Sociology Department, Gender and Women's Studies Program, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Law, St. Thomas University's Office of Research Services, the Women's Equality Branch (Executive Council Office), Government of New Brunswick, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

We would also like to acknowledge the financial support of the University of New Brunswick and the Fergusson Foundation, without which the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research could not conduct its work.

Finally, we extend our gratitude to Fredericton Tourism for their promotional materials provided for visiting participants. Welcome to Fredericton, New Brunswick!

# AGENDA

## ENDING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE: HARNESSING RESEARCH AND ACTION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

### Wednesday, October 9, 2019

8:00 – 8:30	Registration & Coffee (Wu Centre Lobby)
8:30 – 9:00	Opening Remarks: MC Silke Brabander, MMFC Associate Director Greetings from Mayor Mike O'Brien; Dr. Joanne Wright, UNB Dean of Arts (Auditorium)
9:00 – 10:30	<b>Panel Presentation: The World Wide Parental Alienation/Family Violence Crisis in Family Law</b> Linda C. Neilson, Joan Meier, Adrienne Barnett, and Elizabeth Sheehy <i>*Simultaneous interpretation offered (EN → FR)</i> (Auditorium)
10:30 – 10:45	Health and Networking Break, Sponsored by UNB Faculty of Law
10:45 – 12:00	<b>Panel Presentation (continued)</b> <i>*Simultaneous interpretation offered (EN → FR)</i> (Auditorium)
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch (provided)
1:00 – 2:30	Concurrent Paper Presentations:
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p><b>Option 1: Intervention and Treatment</b></p> <p>1 - Deconstructing the victim-only identity: The challenges of addressing the effects of childhood trauma and inviting people who use violence to take responsibility, Leland Maerz</p> <p>2 - Cultural Considerations in the Treatment of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Canada, Mary Aspinall</p> <p>3 - Outward Bound Canada's Women of Courage program: effective personal growth that supports social change, Moon Joyce</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Room # 204)</p> </div> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p><b>Option 2: Sexual Violence</b></p> <p>1 – Microphone Project, Michelle Harris-Genge</p> <p>2 - Attitudes Towards Sexual Assault Among Evangelical Protestant Youth in New Brunswick, Emma Robinson</p> <p>3 – Tools and Ways to Act &amp; Intervene, Lyne Chantal Boudreau</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>*Simultaneous interpretation offered (EN → FR, FR → EN)</i> (Auditorium)</p> </div> </div>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Option 3: Safety</b></p> <p>1 - A Workplace Response to Recommendations from the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee, Lindsay Manuel &amp; Silke Brabander</p> <p>2 - Engaging in Meaningful Conversations with Muslim Communities about Domestic Violence, Mohammed Baobaid &amp; Catherine Holtmann</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Room # 208)</p>
2:30 – 2:45	Health and Networking Break

2:45 – 4:15	Concurrent Papers:	
	<p><b>Option 1: Gender &amp; Violence</b></p> <p>1 - Cumulative Lifetime Violence Severity: Does It Make a Difference to the Health of Canadian Men? Kelly Scott-Storey, Sue O'Donnell &amp; Judy Wuest</p> <p>2 - Muslim men's conceptualizations of masculinity and sexual violence against women, Sobia F. Ali-Faisal</p> <p>3 - An Intercultural Approach to Gender-Based Violence Prevention in Newcomer Communities, Iman Farhat &amp; Briana Miller</p> <p>(Room # 204)</p>	<p><b>Option 2: Coordinated Community Response to IPV</b></p> <p>How Research is Informing New Brunswick's Coordinated Community Response to High Risk and High Danger Intimate Partner Violence Cases</p> <p>1 - Lauren Stoddard</p> <p>2 - Mary Milliken</p> <p>3 - Stephanie Sanford</p> <p>4 - Andrea Wolf</p> <p>5 - Brandon Gaynor</p> <p><i>*Simultaneous interpretation offered (EN → FR)</i></p> <p>(Auditorium)</p>
BREAK FOR SUPPER (not provided)		
7:00 – 9:00	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Greetings from Hon. Sherry Wilson, Minister responsible for Women's Equality</p> <p>UNB Department of Sociology Nels Anderson Lecture</p> <p><b>Dr. Myrna Dawson</b></p> <p><b>Preventing domestic violence: It's about more than changing individuals, it's about changing our communities and society</b></p> <p><i>*Simultaneous interpretation offered (EN → FR)</i></p> <p>(Auditorium)</p> <p>The presentation will be followed by a reception in the foyer.</p>	

# Thursday, October 10, 2019

8:30 – 9:00	<p>Welcome and Housekeeping</p> <p>Greetings from Danielle Bélanger, Executive Director, GBV Policy, WAGE; Norma Dubé, President of the Fergusson Foundation</p> <p>(Chancellor's Room)</p>	
9:00 – 10:30	Concurrent Paper Presentations:	
	<p><b>Option 1: High-Risk Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)</b></p> <p>1 - Using an intersectional approach to examine the role of perpetrator gender in Intimate Partner Homicides, Julie Poon, Myrna Dawson, Peter Jaffe, &amp; Anna-Lee Straatman</p> <p>2 - Collaborative Leadership and Domestic Homicide Prevention, Melanie Sawatzky</p> <p>3 - The Silent Witness Journey: Two Women's Stories Film and Discussion Guide, Lindsay Manuel &amp; Silent Witness Committee</p> <p>(Room # 204)</p>	<p><b>Option 2: Masculinity &amp; Violence</b></p> <p>1 - Responsibility, Masculinity, Trauma: A restorative approach with men who perpetrate IPV, Tod Augusta-Scott</p> <p>2 - Starting the Conversation: A Content Analysis of the Discussion Guides for the Film <i>A Better Man</i>, Alison Meng</p> <p>3 - Best-practice approach to engaging teenage boys from diverse backgrounds, Morris Green</p> <p><i>*Simultaneous interpretation offered (EN → FR)</i></p> <p>(Chancellor's Room)</p>
10:30 – 10:45	Health and Networking Break	
	Concurrent Paper Presentations:	
10:45 – 12:15	<p><b>Option 1: Children and IPV</b></p> <p>1 - Child Protection and IPV: Is the <i>Family Service Act</i> in New Brunswick out of date? Jenni Cammaert &amp; Marilyn Dupré</p> <p>2 - Canadian Child Protection Responses to Cases of IPV, Kendra Nixon, Bruce MacLaurin, Ramona Alaggia, H. Monty Montgomery, Tara Black, Angelique Jenney, &amp; Lise Milne</p> <p>(Room # 204)</p>	<p><b>Option 2: Religion &amp; IPV</b></p> <p>1 - The theological seminary's role in preparing students to respond to domestic violence, Steve McMullin and Nancy Nason-Clark</p> <p>2 - The Relationship between Gender, Religion and Intimate Partner Violence, Catherine Holtmann &amp; Neda Hosseini Kazemizad</p> <p>(Room # 208)</p>
	<p><b>Option 3: Sexual Violence</b></p> <p>1 - Accessing Sexual Violence Services and Supports: exploring the perspectives of women living in rural places (a proposed study), Clare Heggie</p> <p>2 - The Nurse Practitioner's Role in Addressing Barriers to Follow-up Care for Sexual Assault Survivors, Laura Astle</p> <p>3- Gender, Consent and Sexual Violence Among Students, Sylvie Morin</p> <p><i>*Simultaneous interpretation offered (EN → FR, FR → EN)</i></p> <p>(Chancellor's Room)</p>	
12:15 – 1:15	Lunch (provided)	

1:15 – 2:45	Concurrent Papers:	
	<p><b>Option 1: Health &amp; Psychology</b></p> <p>1 - Consideration of personality traits as predictors of subsequent IPV, Olena Gryshchuk, Mary Ann Campbell, Jessica McTague, &amp; Erin deJong</p> <p>2 - Effectiveness of a personalized online safety and health intervention for Canadian women experiencing partner violence, Kelly Scott-Storey, Marilyn Ford-Gilboe, &amp; Colleen Varcoe</p> <p>3 - Examining the applicability and fit of the Composite Abuse Scale Revised, Sue O'Donnell, Kelly Scott-Storey, Marilyn Ford-Gilboe, Colleen Varcoe, Nadine Wathen &amp; Harriet MacMillan</p> <p><i>*Simultaneous interpretation offered (EN → FR)</i> (Chancellor's Room)</p>	<p><b>Option 2: IPV and Indigenous People</b></p> <p>1 - Creating Communities of Care through Customary Law, Shiva Nourpanah, Patricia Gorham, Pamela Glode-Desrochers, Emma Halpern, Crystal John &amp; Paula Marshall</p> <p>2 - The Risk of Assessment: Understanding Service Providers' Use of Risk Assessment for Intimate Partner Violence with Indigenous Populations, Olivia Peters</p> <p>(Room # 204)</p>
	<p><b>Option 3: New Research Directions</b></p> <p>1 - Ending violence against women living with disabilities: Insights into support systems from service providers in New Brunswick, Angela Wisniewski &amp; Morgan Richard</p> <p>2 - "Social Proof": Addressing cyberviolence through participatory verbatim filmmaking with youth, Lida Milchenko, Ashley Moorehouse, Matt Rogers &amp; Tianna Sharpe</p> <p>(Room # 208)</p>	
2:45 – 3:00	Health and Networking Break	
3:00 – 4:30	Concurrent Papers:	
	<p><b>Option 1: Interventions</b></p> <p>1 - A comparative analysis of global models of care/empowerment services for women survivors of D/IPV, Alekhya Das</p> <p>2 - In a violent home everyone is a victim: keeping animals safe, Leanne Sillers</p> <p>3 - Hear the Silence: Giving Voice to Women's Experiences - Music as Social Change Agent, Leslie Monaghan</p> <p>(Room # 204)</p>	<p><b>Option 2: Contextualizing IPV</b></p> <p>1 - Capturing the Complexity of IPV while Examining the Rates of Reporting by European Women, Crestina Matta</p> <p>2 - Women's Help Seeking for Suicidality after Intimate Partner Violence, Petrea Taylor</p> <p>3 – Prejudice, stereotypes and discrimination play an important role in the way we interact, Rina Arseneault</p> <p><i>*Simultaneous interpretation offered (EN → FR, FR → EN)</i> (Chancellor's Room)</p>
4:30 – 5:30	<p>Keynote Closing Plenary:</p> <p><b>Dr. Paul Mazerolle</b></p> <p><b>Exploring the Police Response to Intimate Partner Violence: Challenges and Opportunities</b></p> <p><i>*Simultaneous interpretation offered (EN → FR)</i> (Chancellor's Room)</p>	

# Wednesday, October 9, 2019

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8:30 AM – 9:00 AM | Opening Remarks (Auditorium)

9 AM – 12 PM | Plenary Session (Auditorium):

Panel Presentation on the World Wide Parental Alienation/Family Violence Crisis in Family Law

1. **Linda C. Neilson, Professor Emerita, University of New Brunswick Department of Sociology. “Introduction to Parental Alienation and to International Efforts to Respond to Problems in Family Law Cases for Women and Children”**

Following a video clip titled “No Way Out But One” this presentation will introduce the international parental alienation presenters, will outline very briefly the nature of the ‘alienation’ problem, will mention key themes drawn from the presenter’s review of Canadian Family Law cases, and will outline our collective international efforts to respond collectively, in a research-informed manner, to growing professional, academic and feminist concerns about the implications for women and children of the (mis)use of alienation concepts in family law cases. Other members of the panel will expand on these themes during presentations of empirical findings from family law research conducted in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada.

2. **Joan Meier, Professor of Clinical Law at George Washington University & Director of the Law School's new National Family Violence Initiative**

Professor Meier will report on her 5-year, federally funded national empirical study, *Child Custody Outcomes in Cases Involving Parental Alienation and Abuse Allegations*. This study was launched in an effort to elevate debates about how family courts respond to women and children reporting abuse, and to move beyond the polarized arguments between abuse and family court professionals. The substantial media response to the findings, e.g., <https://centerforjudicialexcellence.org/2019/07/31/a-gendered-trap-when-mothers-allege-child-abuse-by-fathers-the-mothers-often-lose-custody-study-shows/>, has confirmed that neutral empirical data is critical in educating the public and lawmakers about the realities in family court. Findings reported address: (1) rates at which courts accept or believe women’s and children’s reports of abuse by a father; (2) the same rates in cases where the father responds with an alienation claim; (3) rates at which women reporting abuse lose custody to the reported abuser, in cases with and without a cross-claim of alienation; (4) some interesting findings about gender bias and lack thereof; (5) and the increased rates of negative outcomes for mothers when neutral evaluators of Guardians Ad Litem are appointed. The findings provide stunning evidence that alienation claims are powerful in increasing courts’ already skeptical views of women’s (and children’s) abuse claims, as well as increasing rates at which women lose custody, and that neutral appointed professionals appear to reinforce these trends.

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM | Health & Networking Break

3. **Adrienne Barnett, Senior Lecturer in Law, Brunel University, London. “Narratives of Hostility: Parental Alienation in England and Wales”**

This presentation explores the emergence and development of parental alienation (PA) in England and Wales. It considers the background into which PA first materialised in private law children proceedings in England and Wales, and in particular the emergence of ‘hostile mother’ discourses, underpinned by dominant constructions of children’s welfare that valorise father-involvement in the post-separation family. It goes on to examine how



PA progressed in the case law through the changing political and discursive context of private family law from 2000, when it first emerged in the case law, to the end of August 2019. The author's review of the relevant case law revealed a clear pattern of, initially, parental alienation syndrome and subsequently PA being raised in family proceedings and in political and popular arenas in response to concerns about and measures to address domestic abuse. The case law revealed a high incidence of domestic abuse perpetrated by non-resident parents (principally fathers) claiming that the resident parents (principally mothers) had alienated the children against them, which raises questions about the purpose of PA. It also revealed an increased willingness to transfer the care of children from 'alienating' mothers to non-resident fathers, and a growing PA 'industry' comprising experts, therapists and lawyers. The paper concludes that PA has become part of the discursive repertoire of current family law, with increasingly harsh consequences for children and mothers.

**4. Elizabeth Sheehy, Professor Emerita, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa. "Penalizing Women's Fear: Intimate partner violence and parental alienation in Canadian child custody cases"**

This presentation draws on a paper co-authored by Susan Boyd and Elizabeth Sheehy, exploring reported Canadian cases involving claims of parental alienation (PA) from 2014-2018 and assessing the threat to the safety and wellbeing of women and children when intimate partner violence (IPV) is also alleged. We first contextualize our research by reference to data on IPV in Canada and its relevance to custody decision-making. Second, we briefly refer to the literature on PA, with a focus on feminist analyses, and the interplay with IPV. Third, we discuss our research method, limitations, and our data. Fourth, we analyze how claims of IPV are dealt with by judges in cases where PA is also raised, and identify some troubling patterns. We conclude by suggesting that the history of child custody law assists in understanding why PA has achieved such unquestioned status and call for greater focus on safety and women's and children's voices.

**12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | LUNCH (provided)**

**1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Concurrent Sessions**

**Option 1: Intervention & Treatment (Room # 204)**

**"Deconstructing the victim-only identity: The challenges of addressing the effects of childhood trauma and inviting people who use violence to take responsibility." Leland Maerz, Bridges Institute**

Working with people who use violence and people who are victims of violence are sometimes seen as separate therapeutic conversations. One reason for this is the risk of stories of victimization being used to excuse taking responsibility for violence and establishing safer behavior. Yet, to stop the violence, it is important to connect and attend to people's experiences of being victimized and perpetrating violence. Drawing from theory and examples from front line work this presentation will suggest that combining a trauma and attachment informed approach with collaborative conversations can helpfully illuminate the interrelated aspects of working with experiences of victimization and perpetration. A common effect of traumatic experience is for people to develop a need to position themselves as only victims; however, this posture can perpetuate further harm to themselves and others. When people are effectively invited to evaluate how their ideas about gender and justice have been influenced by the effects of trauma, the path to taking responsibility for and repairing the harms of violence and abuse can become less challenging to navigate.



**“Cultural Considerations in the Treatment of Intimate Partner Violence in Canada.” Mary Aspinall, University of New Brunswick, Department of Sociology**

The predominant mode of treatment for intimate partner violence in North America is the Duluth model, arguably based in feminist theory and created primarily for white heterosexual males (Gondolf, 2002). An emphasis on one particular form of intervention may undervalue the alternative needs that minority populations require, resulting in high rates of program dropout (Coulter & Vandeweerd, 2009; Messing et al., 2015). Research suggests that culturally focused counselling results in participants feeling more comfortable sharing their stories, encourages lasting connections, and reduces feelings of isolation (Gondolf, 2004). Secondary data analysis utilizing key informant interviews from the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative (CDHPI) is underway to identify current challenges and achievements in the administration of intimate partner violence treatment programs with members of various cultural groups in Canada. Selected informants identify working with Indigenous and Immigrant/Refugee populations and include treatment program facilitators as well as probation and parole officers who supervise offenders and make referrals to such programs. Preliminary findings highlight the unique challenges faced by offenders and the service providers responsible for their treatment and supervision, as well as the identification of innovative practices that may influence national policy considerations for more effective treatment with our diverse population.

**“Women of Courage program: effective personal growth that supports social change.” Victoria Moon Joyce, Outward Bound Canada**

This lively presentation illustrates the effectiveness of Outward Bound’s Women of Courage (WOC) program for women survivors of intimate violence. Where violence and abuse deeply disempowers women and violates their sense of safety and agency, this outdoor, adventure-based 8 day program motivates women to re-frame and re-script their understanding of themselves in the world so they can undertake the difficult path of personal change. They develop skills and knowledge about self-safety and how to access appropriate supports. Key to this experience of self-reflection through significant physical challenge, the participants gain an appreciation for the other women in their small group. They soon realize that they are capable of more than they imagined when they are amongst a supportive group where there is no blaming or shaming during learning, and asking for and receiving support is key to accomplishing individual goals. Through reflective activities, deep discussions and teamwork, isolation breaks down and women come to trust one another. This expands into an understanding of the social context of gender-based violence. Once empowered and supported, women can begin seeing themselves as part of social change. The presentation includes statistical and qualitative evidence tracked over a 30+ year period.

**Option 2: Sexual Violence (Auditorium)**

**“Microphone Project.” Michelle Harris-Genge, Premier’s Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention Youth Engagement Working Group, PEI**

Kinley Dowling’s song and subsequent video “Microphone” have received much acclaim for bringing attention to sexual assault and its impact on survivors. It is about Kinley’s own sexual assault that happened at her high school prom after-party. “Microphone” tells the chilling story, sadly all too familiar to many, in a powerful anthem that resonates with survivors of sexual assault everywhere. Working with Kinley throughout the process, The Premier’s Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention Youth Engagement Working Group (YEWG) has developed curriculum resources for grade nine health classrooms in Prince Edward Island that use the Microphone video as a focal point in discussion on consent, gender stereotypes, by-stander intervention and sexual assault. In total, four modules have been created. Each of the modules has a lesson plan and a slide show presentation for a teacher’s use. Teachers have been engaged in this process. Members from the YEWG held a day long workshop session with

teachers chosen from schools across Prince Edward Island to review the consent modules. In addition, Kinley Dowling and another member of her video team were in attendance to provide their valuable feedback at the workshop session. Student response has been quite enthusiastic, as well. Students are able to relate to the field-party experience, and many are familiar with the song and/or video. This exercise has been a great example of what can happen when artists, community groups, the educational system, the provincial government (and youth!) work together with a goal of preventing sexual assault in our province.

**“Attitudes Towards Sexual Assault Among Evangelical Protestant Youth in New Brunswick: Preliminary Findings.” Emma Robinson, University of New Brunswick, Sociology Department Graduate Student**

Challenging harmful attitudes towards sexual assault, including victim blame and rape myth acceptance, is an important part of improving peer response to sexual assault survivors. However, while most research on attitudes towards sexual assault has been conducted with university populations, few studies have focused on the perspectives of religious youth. Evangelical Protestant communities offer a unique context for this research as many evangelical communities promote sexual abstinence outside of heterosexual marriage as both religious doctrine and a key component of subcultural identity, particularly for youth. This focus on abstinence may be a barrier to disclosure or a source of shame for survivors who had, prior to their assault, been engaging in consensual premarital sex or sexual activity, and may lead to victim blame from peers. Using intersectional feminist and lived religion lenses, this paper presents the preliminary findings of focus groups conducted in New Brunswick exploring how evangelical youth collectively interpret and respond to (fictitious) sexual assault scenarios, and how evangelical sexual ethics influence these responses. Findings from this research may help advocates engage with evangelical Protestant communities and will highlight unique concerns evangelical survivors may face.

**“Tools and ways to act, intervene or get involved.” Lyne Chantal Boudreau, Université de Moncton\***

A thematic analysis of 37 interviews conducted with students from the Université de Moncton was carried out as part of a qualitative empirical research study exploring consensual and non-consensual sexual relationships. The analysis demonstrated the importance of providing opportunities to address the topic of consent in intimate relationships early on in students’ educational careers in order to better equip them to express consent in their interpersonal relationships. This presentation will submit the results related to this sphere, then discuss the various sexual health programs implemented in New Brunswick to promote prevention and raise awareness among youth. A focus will also be placed on the different ways to act and intervene to adopt practices aimed at fully integrating consent culture into the province’s school curriculum.

*\* This session will be presented in French. Simultaneous interpretation will be available from French to English.*

**Option 3: Safety (Room # 208)**

**“A Workplace Response to Recommendations from the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee.” Lindsay Manuel & Silke Brabander, New Brunswick Family Violence in the Workplace Committee**

The Domestic Violence Death Review Committee (DVDRC) reviews deaths of individuals that occur as a result of domestic violence. This confidential, multi-disciplinary review of domestic violence deaths helps identify any systemic issues, risk factors, and patterns. The committee provides recommendations to address these issues to improve intervention and prevention strategies. Besides delivering these recommendations to specific agencies, the Chief Coroner does include recommendations and agency responses to those recommendations in the annual report. *Family Violence: It’s Your Business (A Workplace Toolkit)* is intended to provide employers, unions and employees with information and resources to recognize and respond to domestic and intimate partner violence situations that enter the workplace. Goals of the New Brunswick Family Violence in the Workplace Committee

include educating and raising awareness of the need for early intervention in situations where family violence may have an impact on the workplace; developing practical, flexible training tools that will help employers deal with the impact of family violence on the workplace; and promoting practices, policies, and procedures that support victims of family violence in the workplace. Recommendations from the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee help improve the response to domestic and intimate partner violence and domestic homicide in our communities and workplaces. This presentation will focus on DVDRC recommendations that apply to workplaces and what appropriate responses to these recommendations could be. This will help better equip employers in their responses and support for victims of domestic violence and help create safer workplaces.

**“Engaging in Meaningful Conversations with Muslim Communities about Domestic Violence.” Mohammed Baobaid, Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration & Catherine Holtmann, University of New Brunswick, Sociology Department.**

Providers of public services for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence may be uncertain how to work with members of minority communities. Uncertainty can turn into inaction when faced with linguistic and cultural barriers. This presentation begins with the analysis of social scientific data collected from Muslim women in New Brunswick based on their experiences of and attitudes towards domestic violence. It then provides information about the Muslim Family Safety Project, which has been successful in reaching out to London, Ontario’s Muslim communities to engage religious and community leaders in culturally and linguistically-appropriate public education campaigns on family violence and to develop the capacity to address the needs of Muslim women who are being abused by family members. Finally, we conclude with suggestions for collaboration between members of Muslim communities and domestic violence service providers in New Brunswick.

**2:30 PM – 2:45 PM | Health & Networking Break**

**2:45 PM – 4:15 PM | Concurrent Sessions**

**Option 1: Gender & Violence (Room # 204)**

**“Cumulative Lifetime Violence Severity: Does It Make a Difference to the Health of Canadian Men?” Kelly Scott-Storey, Sue O’Donnell & Judith Wuest, University of New Brunswick, Faculty of Nursing.**

Little is known about the association between lifetime violence experience as target and/or perpetrator and men’s health. Using an online survey and a convenience sample of 590 English-speaking New Brunswick men, ages 19 to 65, we collected data on demographics, health and health behaviours. Reputable measures of depression, anxiety, chronic pain, posttraumatic stress disorder and alcohol use were included. Lifetime violence experience, which included IPV, sexual violence and bullying (among other types of violence experiences), was measured with 64 study-specific items. Based on the median lifetime violence score, the sample was divided into two groups: Lower and higher cumulative lifetime violence severity (CLVS). We conducted descriptive analysis and bivariate testing for significant differences between Lower and Higher CLVS groups on demographic and health variables. Based on knowledge of relationships between violence and health, we used logistic regression to calculate adjusted odds ratios for violence experience and selected health outcomes. On most measures, men with higher CLVS had significantly poorer health than those with lower CLVS. Higher CLVS had significant odds ratios for depression, daily cannabis use and chronic pain. The adjusted models suggest more complex relationships among higher violence experience and health outcomes. These findings contribute to our understanding of the relationship between cumulative violence exposure across the lifetime and men’s health and raise questions for further exploration.

**“Muslim men’s conceptualizations of masculinity and sexual violence against women.” Sobia F. Ali-Faisal, Department of Psychology, University of Prince Edward Island.**

Conceptualizations of masculinity have received much attention in the literature on violence against women (Murnen, Wright, & Kaluzny, 2002) to understand how men’s attitudes regarding gender may be addressed as a way of preventing such violence (Flood & Pease, 2009). The literature suggests that an endorsement of “hegemonic” masculinity (Connell, 2005) is associated with expressions of physical and sexual violence against women (Flood & Pease, 2009; Murnen, Wright, & Kaluzny, 2002; Reidy, Smith- Darden, Cortina, Kernsmith, & Kernsmith, 2015). The construction of masculinity among marginalized men is often informed by their marginalized social standing (Connell, 2005), including young Muslim men (Hopkins 2006), and therefore requires its own line of inquiry. The current paper will present a qualitative study conducted by the author to explore how Muslim men living in Canada and the United States (n=15) conceptualize masculinity and the ways in which their conceptualizations may inform their views on sexual violence against women. Emerging themes include recognition of toxic masculinity, critique of societal pressures to repress emotions, lack of meaningful connections with others, lack of healthy role models, among others (analysis currently underway). The paper will conclude with recommendations for sexual violence prevention programs aimed at Muslim populations, especially Muslim men.

**“An Intercultural Approach to Gender-Based Violence Prevention in Newcomer Communities.” Briana Miller & Iman Farhat, Gender-Based Violence Prevention Project, YMCA of Greater Halifax.**

The YMCA Gender-Based Violence Prevention Project works in bringing attention to the issue of GBV in newcomer communities in ways that work to break down barriers newcomers face in accessing help. We recognize that strengthening services for survivors from diverse populations will strengthen services for everyone by being more inclusive. We’ve collaborated with over 50 organizations and over 200 service providers. We have developed tools and resources about working with newcomers in settlement and we facilitate ongoing workshops that aim at showcasing an intercultural perspective on GBV. The workshop includes watching a video that offers a look at the experience of newcomer youth, through utilizing the platform of forum theatre. By sharing and lending their first-voice, forum theatre offers these youth the opportunity to explore solutions in a safe environment. This medium gives youth the tools for self-empowerment and social change, while developing their dramatic skills. We’ve also done a project with young men and boys that outlines creative prevention strategies in addressing violence.

The takeaways from our workshop are:

- Focusing on cultural proficiency in understanding GBV in newcomer communities
- Sharing tools and information about GBV prevention programming with newcomers
- Discussing actions we can take to support newcomers in GBV prevention

By highlighting these challenges, we hope to raise awareness about how best service providers can and should approach preventative measures when interacting with newcomers.

**Option 2: Coordinated Community Response to Intimate Partner Violence (Auditorium)**

**“How Research is Informing New Brunswick’s Coordinated Community Response to High Risk and High Danger Intimate Partner Violence Cases.”**

**Lauren Stoddard, CCR Coordinator, Fredericton**

**Mary Milliken, Sociologist and External Evaluator of CCR Pilot**

**Stephanie Sanford, Senior Consultant, Crime Prevention Branch, NB Department of Public Safety**

**Andrea Wolf, Outreach Worker, Liberty Lane**

**Brandon Gaynor, Intimate Partner Violence Coordinator, Fredericton Police Force**

Coordinated Community Response (CCR) is about protecting families, especially women and children, from further violence. All too often, domestic violence death reviews find patterns of risk factors that were known prior to the homicide as well as shortcomings in inter-agency collaboration among health, social services and justice professionals. The aim of CCR is to empower community and justice partners to work together to better respond to the needs of women whose partners are at high risk of re-assaulting them and women who are in high danger of being killed by their partners. Through a client-centered approach, multi-agency CCR teams share risk-related information, coordinate appropriate services, and collaborate on safety planning and risk management strategies. They monitor clients' situations for critical developments that may escalate risk so that they react quickly to review and revise the plans accordingly. An initiative of the New Brunswick's Crime Prevention and Reduction Strategy, the CCR model has been tested with three teams in two sites since April 1, 2017. This panel presentation will explain how research informs CCR policy and practice. Audience members will hear about how CCR operates; key findings of the CCR Pilot Evaluation; and how, collectively, partners are working towards enhancing professionals' understanding of intimate partner violence and implementing better informed policies and practices. CCR is a way for our systems and organizations to share critical information and develop effective strategies that may save lives.

**4:30 PM – 6:30 PM | BREAK FOR SUPPER (not provided)**

**7:00 PM – 9:00 PM | Keynote Plenary Presentation (Auditorium)**

**UNB Department of Sociology Nels Anderson Lecture**

**Dr. Myrna Dawson, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Public Policy in Criminal Justice and Director of the Centre for the Study of Social and Legal Responses to Violence, University of Guelph**

**“Preventing domestic violence: It’s about more than changing individuals, it’s about changing our communities and society”**

Understanding risk and safety for those experiencing domestic violence is a primary concern in policy, research, and practice. We know that effective violence prevention requires the simultaneous consideration of intersecting identities/factors that lead to experiences of victimization and perpetration at multiple levels, moving beyond the emphasis on individual and relationship characteristics. Putting this knowledge into practice can be a challenge, but remains crucial, particularly for vulnerable populations whose risks at the community level (e.g. lack of access to services, language barriers) and/or the socio-cultural level (e.g. colonization, discrimination) may be greater than, or intricately linked to, their individual risks. Drawing from research by the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations, Myrna Dawson discusses the importance of shifting our emphasis to tackle more directly these community and socio-cultural risk factors to more effectively reduce domestic violence and homicide.

**9:00 PM | End of Day One**

# Thursday, October 10, 2019

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8:30 AM – 9:00 AM | Greetings and Housekeeping (Chancellor's Room)

9:00 AM – 10:30 PM | Concurrent Sessions:

## **Option 1: High-Risk Intimate Partner Violence (Room # 204)**

**“Using an intersectional approach to examine the role of perpetrator gender in Intimate Partner Homicides.”**

**Julie Poon, Western University; Myrna Dawson, University of Guelph; Peter Jaffe & Anna Lee Straatman, Western University**

Although research suggests that there are gender differences among those who perpetrate intimate partner homicide (IPH), research examining gendered risk factors continues to be limited. In particular, there is a dearth of research that adopts an intersectional approach to examine whether gendered risk factors vary by other characteristics of those involved or the homicide itself. Drawing from data collected as part of the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable populations (CDHIPVP), the goals of this presentation are two-fold: (1) To examine whether the precursors to the homicide and perpetrator and/or victim-related risk and protective factors differ for male and female perpetrators of IPH; and (2) focusing on four vulnerable groups, to determine whether gendered risk factors varies for the populations examined by the CDHIPVP: Indigenous, immigrant/refugee, rural/remote and northern intimate partner homicides as well as for children killed in the context of domestic violence. The findings from this research will highlight future opportunities for intervention for both female and male perpetrators of intimate partner violence and, specifically, how these interventions should vary across a combination of social identities.

**“Collaborative Leadership and Domestic Homicide Prevention.” Melanie Sawatzky, Program Director, Home Front Calgary.**

Behind every domestic homicide there is a painful story and continued trauma for families, friends, colleagues, and communities. While research continues on risk assessment and management for domestic homicide prevention, leadership studies continue to move in the direction of collaboration. It is recognized that there is a need for leadership to be multi- dimensional and fluid; which are also necessary ingredients for risk management. This presentation will discuss the synergies between collaborative leadership and domestic homicide prevention, including the need for collaborative leaders to be focused, flexible, action oriented, and pro-conflict.

**“The Silent Witness Journey: Two Women’s Stories Film and Discussion Guide.” Lindsay Manuel, The New Brunswick Silent Witness Committee.**

The NB Silent Witness Committee, in partnership with the Fergusson Foundation, the Women’s Equality Branch and the Department of Public Safety created a documentary style video on the issue of domestic/intimate partner homicide, missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and domestic/intimate partner violence with the primary objective of raising public awareness and education on these issues in New Brunswick.

The documentary film “The Silent Witness Journey: Two Women’s Stories” is of two families from St. Mary’s First Nations who lost their loved one to domestic homicide and are two women among the list of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls in Canada. This video will be used by many more to create awareness about the issue of intimate partner violence and homicide. To help facilitate learning and further explore the topics addressed in the video, the NB Silent Witness Committee is creating a discussion guide. It will include key messages

explanatory material, reflective discussion questions as well as resources to help support victims of intimate partner violence. This workshop will include viewing the video documentary (11 minutes), guided discussion about the video, risk factors, domestic homicide and intimate partner violence and violence against indigenous women and will provide participants the opportunity to give feedback on the discussion guide before it is formalized and distributed.

### **Option 2: Masculinity & Violence (Chancellor's Room)**

#### **“Responsibility, Masculinity, Trauma: A restorative approach with men who perpetrate IPV.” Tod Augusta-Scott, Bridges Institute**

This workshop will illustrate a restorative, narrative approach to working with intimate partner violence. The emphasis of the work is to create a repair plan that can restore safety and respect to the person who was harmed. The process of creating a repair plan is attentive to issues of safety and power, consulting the victim about what they want, and holding those who did the harm responsible to repair it. This process seeks to repair harm without creating more harm. The process of creating and completing a repair plan often does not involve the parties meeting face to face. The repair plan includes: acknowledging the abuse; having a plan for stopping the abuse; acknowledging the effects of the abuse; having a plan to repair the effects and an accountability plan. Toward this end, the process uses narrative conversations to engage men who have perpetrated abuse. This process focuses on identity, masculinity and the negative effects of trauma on men's choices to abuse.

#### **“Starting the Conversation: A Content Analysis of the Discussion Guides for the Film *A Better Man*.” Alison Meng, Sociology Graduate Student, University of New Brunswick.**

Gender-based violence is one of the most pervasive human rights violations in the world. People of any gender identity can use or experience violence, however, intimate partner violence (IPV) remains a gendered form of violence, where the person using violence is more likely to be male and the person experiencing violence is more likely to be female. According to Statistics Canada, women represent 80% of victims and IPV is the most common form of violence experienced by women. This paper details an in-depth, content analysis of the discussion guides of the film *A Better Man*. A qualitative content analysis of the film, which documents a personal experiment for writer and activist Attiya Khan and her ex-boyfriend Steve, who physically and emotionally abused her 20 years ago, was previously conducted. Khan and co-director Lawrence Jackman created detailed discussion guides on the film to be used in settings such as workplaces, schools and counseling. The discussion guides reflect one of the main goals of film: to inspire conversations about IPV. The discussion guides will be analyzed using gender based theories and social learning theory.

#### **“Best-practice approach to engaging teenage boys from diverse backgrounds in conversations about domestic violence.” Morris Green, Consultant, Bridges Institute**

Engaging men and boys in conversations about domestic violence is vital, but few know what effective engagement looks like. A proposed workshop will showcase a best-practice approach to working with teenage boys from diverse backgrounds. In 2012, the Nova Scotia departments of Health and Education collaborated on a prototype grade nine health class for boys to examine a range of issues and their connections with present day expectations around masculinity. Topics have included pornography, body image, consent, healthy relationships, alcohol and other drug misuse, sexuality and injury. The success of the project has opened up an opportunity to expand the work to younger and older youth in 2019 with a focus on sexual violence. Inside the classes, the boys find a safe space to express their thoughts and feelings, and feel vulnerable but comfortable while talking about deeply personal issues that are impacting their health and the health of their peers. The model represents a culturally competent



pedagogy that offers a more effective way to translate knowledge and alter attitudes. Participants in the workshop will learn more about the genesis of the work and how it has evolved, see demonstrations of the approach, hear about what trauma informed practice looks like in the classroom, as well as understand the challenges in creating a different but effective learning environment for young men.

#### 10:30 AM – 10:45 AM | Health & Networking Break

#### 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM | Concurrent Sessions

##### **Option 1: Children & Intimate Partner Violence (Room # 204)**

##### **“Child Protection and Intimate Partner Violence: Is the *Family Service Act* in New Brunswick out of date?” Jenni Cammaert & Marilyn Dupré, School of Social Work, St. Thomas University**

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a pervasive social problem with significant consequences for women and children’s social, emotional, psychological and physical well-being (Bartels, 2010; Olofsson et al. 2011). Considering the substantial lethal risk IPV places on women and children, clear practice guidelines need to be outlined in Child Protection policy. Unfortunately, IPV literature (Alaggia et al., 2007; Douglas & Walsh, 2010; Humphreys & Absler, 2011; Zannettino & McLaren, 2014) identifies substantial gaps in Child Protections response to IPV cases. Similarly, the recent release of the Savoury Report (2018) suggests the current *Family Services Act* in New Brunswick is severely out of date. The purpose of this scholarly paper presentation will be to examine how IPV intersects with child protection based on a Canadian provincial scan. We will discuss the recommendations in the Savoury Report (2018), compare legislative definition of family violence and procedures of child protection, and then use the literature to recommend changes to the *Family Services Act*.

##### **“In Search of Promising Approaches: Canadian Child Protection Responses to Cases of Intimate Partner Violence (Findings from Interviews with Supervisors and Managers)”**

**Kendra Nixon, Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba**

**Bruce MacLaurin, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary**

**Ramona Alaggia, Factor-Inwentash, Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto**

**Monty H. Montgomery, Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina**

**Tara Black, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto**

**Angelique Jenney, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary**

**Lise Milne, Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina**

Qualitative interviews were conducted with several senior-level child protection staff working in Manitoba and Ontario. Participants discussed current changes to their policy and practice with families experiencing violence, including the adoption of new models or practice frameworks, including the Safe & Together practice model adopted by one CPS authority in Manitoba. Participants noted the strengths and limitations of these models. Participants also identified additional gaps/barriers (both internal and external) that impact their staff’s work with families experiencing violence, as well as offered suggestions for further improvements. The current study represents one of the first studies to examine recent Canadian child protection policy and practice changes undertaken to address children’s exposure to intimate partner violence. Investigating these current changes will assist in generating practical knowledge that will assist not only Canadian child protection policymakers but will also assist stakeholders in other jurisdictions who may be contemplating developing similar policies and practices relating to intimate partner violence. Ultimately, well-researched and informed policies will lead to the better protection of abused mothers and their children.

## **Option 2: Religion & Intimate Partner Violence (Room # 208)**

### **“The Theological Seminary’s Role in Preparing Students to Respond to Domestic Violence.” Steve McMullin, Acadia University & Nancy Nason-Clark, University of New Brunswick**

Informed by sociological research among more than 1000 students at eleven fully accredited theological seminaries in the United States and Canada, this paper will analyze quantitative and qualitative data from questionnaires collected at a diverse sample of theological seminaries about the students’ preparedness to respond to the needs of victims of domestic violence. The research was conducted in two waves, in 2008-2009 and in 2017-2018, and included seminaries that identify as Roman Catholic, Mainline Protestant, and Evangelical Protestant. Based on the research, the paper will theorize about why theological seminaries have not been more effective in their training of students and why it is important for seminaries to address the problem. The paper will also consider ways that seminaries might better prepare their graduates to address domestic violence and to respond to the needs of those who are affected by such violence.

### **“Gender Roles, Religious Immigrant Families and Intimate Partner Violence.” Catherine Holtmann, Department of Sociology, University of New Brunswick; Neda Hosseini Kazemizad, Faculty of Education, University of New Brunswick**

Many Canadians assume that gender inequality is more pronounced in immigrant families, especially those belonging to patriarchal religious traditions. Many leaders of Muslim and Christian groups promote gender complementarity, essentializing women’s roles as caregivers and men’s roles as providers. Although religious leaders argue that different gender roles are equal in holiness, patriarchal gender roles are unequally valued in secular society. The process of immigration also impacts gender roles within families. Immigrant families must deal with immigration policies that amplify gender inequality and adjust to new gender norms while dealing with the loss of social support networks. This paper presents sociological research conducted with Muslim and Christian immigrant couples in New Brunswick exploring their practices of care – a measure of gender equality. The analysis highlights the influences of religion, family and employment on the ways in which immigrant couples negotiate caregiving responsibilities and do gender on a daily basis. The results contribute to our understanding of the complex relationship between gender inequality and IPV. From a feminist perspective, IPV is rooted in inequalities of power and control between men and women. Yet intersectional theorizing raises questions about the multiple structures that exacerbate or mitigate gender inequality amongst religious immigrant couples.

## **Option 3: Sexual Violence (Chancellor’s Room)**

### **“Accessing sexual violence services and supports: Exploring the perspectives of women living in rural places – a proposed study.” Clare Heggie, Dalhousie University**

Women face significant barriers accessing formal services and informal supports in response to a sexual violence experience. These barriers include but are not limited to: victim blaming, stigma, and fear of a re-triggering or traumatic experience. Rural sexual violence survivors face greater barriers to access. Rural areas generally lack the services available in urban area. Additionally, rural women tend to face higher additional risks and lower socioeconomic status, which exacerbates the previously identified barriers to access. The purpose of this study is to explore and understand the experiences of adult women living in rural Nova Scotia who have experienced sexual violence. Research questions ask: What are the experiences of women living in rural Nova Scotia who attempt to access/access/don’t access formal and informal services and supports after experiencing sexual violence? What services and supports do women who have experienced sexual violence think are needed in rural places? Qualitative, individual interviews will be conducted with women who have accessed/wanted to access formal

services and informal supports. Analysis will follow a critical feminist phenomenological framework. An exploratory understanding of the experiences of survivors living in rural places could improve existing under-used services and inform new approaches to care. Attention will be drawn to the critical need for housing and employment supports in addition to designated sexual violence response services. Women living in a rural place experience a unique construction and embodiment of gender and womanhood. While this is a proposal, recommendations for action can be made based on preliminary literature review and proposal development.

**“The Nurse Practitioner’s Role in Addressing Barriers to Follow-up Care for Sexual Assault Survivors.” Laura Astle, University of New Brunswick, Faculty of Nursing**

Sexual assault is a basic human rights violation and a public health issue worldwide. All forms of violence can have negative implications on a survivor’s physical, mental, sexual, and reproductive well-being. These negative consequences can last longer than the immediate aftermath of sexual assault. Survivors of sexual assault seek care from a variety of healthcare providers and access services at a rate higher than women in the general public. Specialized care providers known as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) are crucial to delivering comprehensive, trauma and violence informed care to survivors. The success of the SANE programs in emergency departments has resulted in over 600 programs being implemented across the United States and Canada. Through collaboration, multidisciplinary community task forces, such as Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART), that consist of SANEs, counsellors, police, prosecutors, victim services, crisis center workers, academic researchers, shelter workers, and advocates further enhance the care of survivors. Despite recommended follow-up visits post initial assault assessment, many women do not engage in follow-up care. In looking towards solutions, there is an opportunity for purposeful integration of Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and their expanded scope of practice within the SANE practice model to address known barriers in follow-up care for survivors; this presentation will examine such opportunities.

**“Gender, consent and sexual violence in students.” Sylvie Morin, Université de Moncton, Edmundston campus\***

As part of a research study on students’ consensual and non-consensual sexual experiences, 37 interviews were carried out among Université de Moncton students. A thematic, systematic analysis (Paillé & Mucchielli, 2012) of these discussions allows us to recognize the influence that gendered socialization has on sexual violence and consent. Feminine stereotypes such as vulnerability, passivity, kindness and emotionality observably contribute to the difficulty women have in asserting their lack of consent and to their tendency to hold themselves responsible for the sexual violence they have experienced. In men, the dominance, sexual depravity and alexithymia that are part of a certain definition of masculinity contribute at once to the difficulty they have in respecting or perceiving lack of consent in their partners, to the normalization of the sexual violence they commit and to their refusal to see themselves as victims in situations where their own consent is disregarded. The experience of consent in and of itself is also heavily influenced by such socialization of femininity, masculinity and gendered social interactions.

*\* This session will be presented in French. Simultaneous interpretation will be available from French to English.*

**12:15 PM – 1:15 PM | LUNCH (provided)**

**Option 1: Health & Psychology (Chancellor's Room)**

**“Consideration of personality traits as predictors of subsequent intimate partner violence.” Olena Gryshchuk, Mary Ann Campbell, Jessica McTague, Erin deJong, University of New Brunswick Saint John**

The purpose of the current study was to determine whether the assessment of personality traits could predict the subsequent occurrence of intimate partner violence (IPV). It was hypothesized that the consideration of antisocial and borderline personality traits would predict IPV above and beyond the existing risk assessment (ODARA) total score for both male and female perpetrators. To test this hypothesis, a sample of 303 male and female IPV cases reported to local municipal police force between 2011 and 2016 were examined and followed for a minimum of one year post-index. Receiver operating characteristic curve (ROC) analyses found moderate to large effect sizes for predicting IPV recidivism for males,  $AUC = .711$ , 95 %  $CI [.639, .783]$ , and females,  $AUC = .817$ , 95%  $CI [.724, .910]$  respectively. These traits had incremental validity over the ODARA based on logistic regression analysis,  $R^2_N = .117$ ,  $\chi^2(1) = 10.141$ ,  $p = .001$ . These results inform potential consideration of the utility of personality traits to better appraise the risk of intimate partner violence in police settings.

**“Effectiveness of a personalized online safety and health intervention for Canadian women experiencing partner violence: iCAN Plan 4 Safety.” Kelly Scott-Storey, University of New Brunswick, Faculty of Nursing; Marilyn Ford-Gilboe, Western University; Colleen Varcoe, University of British Columbia**

Women who experience intimate partner violence (IPV) are at increased risk of poor health and injury. Online safety and health interventions that are tailored to the unique features of women's lives and emphasize choice and control can reduce access barriers, and improve fit and inclusiveness, maximizing their potential effectiveness for diverse groups. This study tested the effectiveness of a personalized online safety and health intervention for Canadian women experiencing IPV. A randomized controlled trial of 462 Canadian women from NB, ON, and BC who had experienced recent IPV compared outcomes for women who completed an interactive online safety and health intervention (iCAN Plan 4 Safety) and those who received general online safety information. Outcomes were collected at pre-intervention and 3, 6, and 12 months later, and included measures of depression and PTSD (primary outcomes), safety actions, safety planning self-efficacy, decisional conflict, coercive control, and mastery. In-depth interviews with 52 women from both groups explored engagement with the intervention and processes of change. Over a 12 month period, women in both groups showed improvement in symptoms of depression and PTSD, self-efficacy for safety planning, helpfulness of safety actions, and mastery. The tailored online tool demonstrated differential benefits in improving women's mental health and reducing IPV for 4 groups: women who were parenting dependent (<18) children, had separated from their abusive partner, lived in medium-sized and urban centers, and experienced more severe violence. Women who completed the tailored intervention rated it more favorably than the generic intervention in providing support to make decisions, understand risks and options, and in terms of fit with needs and priorities. Results support effectiveness of iCAN Plan 4 Safety and reinforce the need to tailor intervention content to the unique conditions of women's lives and their varied priorities and preferences.

**“Examining the applicability and fit of the Composite Abuse Scale Revised – Short Form (CAS<sub>R</sub>-SF) for Men”**

**Sue O'Donnell, University of New Brunswick**

**Kelly Scott-Storey, University of New Brunswick**

**Marilyn Ford-Gilboe, Western University**

**Colleen Varcoe, University of British Columbia**

**Nadine Wathen, Western University**

**Harriet MacMillan, McMaster University**

The new Composite Abuse Scale Revised–Short Form (CAS<sub>R</sub>-SF) captures a broad range of types of IPV, as well as the severity and intensity of these experiences in a short 15-item scale (Ford-Gilboe et al., 2016). While an important advancement in the measurement of IPV, because the scale was developed based on samples of women, the extent to which the CAS<sub>R</sub>-SF is robust in other samples, including men, requires testing. To address this, we conducted a project funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada that involved: (1) completing a literature review focused on men's experiences of IPV, (2) consulting and administering a survey to 23 international IPV and/or gender experts to examine and rate the applicability and fit of the CAS<sub>R</sub>-SF for men and (3) conducting cognitive testing with 18 men to examine and discuss the applicability and fit of the CAS<sub>R</sub>-SF based on their experiences of IPV. We found that to understand patterns and variations in experiences of IPV, it is important to consider factors such as sex, gender and sexual identity of the survivor and perpetrator. Fear as experienced by the survivor also shows potential in being able to explore patterns of IPV according to factors such as sex and gender. We also identified that a potential gap in the CAS<sub>R</sub>-SF based on men's IPV experiences is sexual humiliation. Overall, findings suggested that the CAS<sub>R</sub>-SF is applicable and fits with men's experiences of IPV. In ongoing work, we are now testing the 15-item CAS<sub>R</sub>-SF with an additional question focused on sexual humiliation among a large Canadian sample (all individuals not limited to men), paying particular attention to sampling for diversity including gender and sexual diversity. More broadly, the CAS<sub>R</sub>-SF is now being used in two-national level surveys.

#### **Option 2: Intimate Partner Violence & Indigenous Peoples (Room # 204)**

##### **“Creating Communities of Care Through Customary Law: Setting the Stage.”**

**Shiva Nourpanah, Transition House Association of Nova Scotia Centre for the Study of Social and Legal Responses to Violence, University of Guelph**

**Patricia Gorham, Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women**

**Pamela Glode-Desrochers, Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre**

**Emma Halpern, Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia**

**John Crystal, Nova Scotia Association of Black Social Workers**

**Paula Marshall, Mi'kmaw Legal Support Network**

*Creating Communities of Care Through Customary Law* is a historic and innovative project funded through an agreement between the federal government and the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women to address the challenges facing women who have experienced gender-based violence from urban Indigenous and African-Nova Scotian communities. This presentation will describe the context of the project development, drawing on research and extensive stakeholder consultations, including consultations and focus groups with women who have experienced such violence. We will cover the historic and structural racism embedded in our societal systems including criminal justice, education and welfare, and discuss the lived experience of survivors which have informed our project design. We will then introduce the application of customary Indigenous law and Afrocentric worldviews as an alternative and complementary means to redress challenges in a culturally-sensitive and effective way. We will share our findings which indicate the necessity for the development of a wide range of culturally-relevant and integrated programs and resources to support women from these communities, while working towards a deeper knowledge that will guide policy and system change. Ultimately, our project

development will enable a cultural shift towards more effective and appropriate responses to gender-based violence in urban Indigenous and African-Nova Scotian communities.

**“The Risk of Assessment: Understanding Service Providers’ Use of Risk Assessment for Intimate Partner Violence with Indigenous Populations.” Olivia Peters, University of Manitoba, The Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations**

Risk assessments for intimate partner violence (IPV) focus on the risk a victim may face of being revictimized and/or the likelihood that a perpetrator will reoffend. In many cases, these risk assessments involve an actuarial assessment of these risks, paying little attention to contextual and historical risk factors. With the over-representation of Indigenous populations in IPV victimization and perpetration, it is imperative that risk assessments consider the impact of colonization on Indigenous people’s increased vulnerability to IPV. This presentation is based on graduate research using data from the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations. This research uses a convenience sample of 30 telephone interviews with service providers who work in the anti-violence sector with Indigenous populations. The sectors represented include, police, shelters, healthcare, victim services, and probation in Manitoba, British Columbia, Alberta, and Nunavut. This presentation (1) identifies useful “promising practices” and barriers to effective risk assessment as identified by service providers; (2) discusses the ways in which these findings can be used to conceptualize an alternative approach to risk assessment; and (3) provides recommendations for the future of risk assessment.

**Option 3: New Research Directions (Room # 208)**

**“Ending violence against women living with disabilities: Insights into support systems from service providers in New Brunswick.” Angela Wisniewski, St. Thomas University; Morgan E. Richard, University of New Brunswick**  
Interpersonal violence, including physical, emotional, sexual, and economic abuse, is a reality that impacts 26% of women in Canada (Burczycka & Conroy, 2018). Women living with disabilities face increased risk of violence (Cotter, 2018), from disability-related abuse including shaming and denial of access to care or transportation (Powers et al, 2009). We share results from an online survey and focus groups discussions carried out with professional service providers in the fields of social work, health, community, and government services. The study provides a baseline understanding of the institutions involved in preventing or responding to violence against women with disabilities living in New Brunswick. We discuss the types of violence that New Brunswick service providers provide aid for, and provide information about service gaps. The results set the stage for a broader conversation about the diversity of experiences of women living with disabilities and the multiple meanings of accessibility.

**“Social Proof: Addressing cyberviolence through participatory verbatim filmmaking with youth.” Lida Milchenko, Ashley Moorehouse, Matt Rogers, Associate Professor (Faculty of Education, UNB), Tianna Sharpe**  
This presentation will include a screening of, and discussion about, the youth-produced short film, *Social Proof*. The film is the result of a participatory dissemination strategy associated with the MMFC and NBSWA research “Project to Prevent and Eliminate Cyberviolence against Young Women and Girls in New Brunswick”. The dissemination project draws on methodologies of participatory filmmaking and verbatim cinema. In developing their script, the youth used direct quotes and themes drawn from broader research in Atlantic Canada on the topic of cyberviolence and cyber-exploitation. After the screening, the film production team will reflect on their experience producing the film and address some of the complexities they have experienced in production and in presenting this work publicly. For example, the presenters will share some of their critiques of some of the discourses that have influenced audiences’ responses to the films and to the overall project. After this discussion,

the team will lead more conversations on the methodological, ethical, and institutional implications related to using participatory verbatim filmmaking with youth.

## **2:45 PM – 3:00 PM | Health & Networking Break**

### **3:00 PM – 4:30 PM | Concurrent Sessions**

#### **Option 1: Interventions (Room # 204)**

##### **“A comparative analysis of global models of care/empowerment services for women survivors of D/IPV.”**

**Alekhya Das, New Brunswick Community College, Applied Research and Innovation Department**

Key findings will be presented from a study (implemented in 2017 on behalf of MMFC), for advising an external project focusing on women survivors in New Brunswick, who are at risk of homelessness. Utilizing secondary and tertiary data (UN surveys, governmental records, studies by nonprofits, etc.), cross-national comparisons were conducted (for Australia, Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden – nations with gender equity and lowest D/IPV). The study’s objective was to identify best practices and successful models, for overall framework, immediate interventions, and long-term strategies, of empowerment services for survivors. Successful frameworks entail targeted actions towards reducing gender inequity, such as, endorsement of economic, social and political rights of women (Spain), or widespread inclusion of men in feminist organizations (Iceland). An illustration of effective immediate care is constant and dedicated resources for victims, such as, specialized units in all levels of law enforcement for D/IPV, always open safe houses for women and children, with child delivery services (Slovenia). Long-term empowerment and rehabilitation strategies consist of assured housing without duration limits (Iceland); integrated delivery of wide-ranging care services (Australia); and, dedicated programs for women survivors with disabilities, or women suffering disability due to D/IPV (Germany).

##### **“In a Violent Home Everyone is a Victim.” Leanne Sillers, Animal Safekeeping Coordinator with the Saskatchewan SPCA**

Animal safekeeping programs support the decision making of victims planning to escape interpersonal violence (IPV) and abuse. The Saskatchewan SPCA is working in partnership with the human service and the animal welfare sectors to build an expanded range of animal safekeeping supports and services to assist both the human and the animal victims of abuse. Animals play an important role in many Canadian households. Pets provide companionship and emotional support for adults and children in times of crisis. Horses, cattle, and other livestock are a source of income for farm and ranch families. The mutually beneficial and dynamic relationship between people and animals is referred to as the human-animal bond. The dark side of the human-animal bond may be seen in situations involving interpersonal violence and abuse. Research shows there is a “link” between all forms of violence: domestic, child, elder, and animal. When people are being abused, animals may be at risk; when animals are being abused, people may be at risk. Abusers may kill or threaten to harm animals as a way to control the actions of the victim. Sillers will discuss the results of a 2016 study conducted jointly by the Saskatchewan SPCA, STOPS to Violence, and the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services (PATHS). The goal of the study was to determine whether the concern for the safety of animals is a barrier to victims escaping domestic violence in Saskatchewan. This study revealed that women who own animals face additional barriers when leaving IPV. The presentation concludes with a review of pet safety planning strategies, and the current collaborations the Saskatchewan SPCA is working on in the province.



**“HEAR the Silence: Giving Voice to Women’s Experiences.” Leslie Monaghan, Child and Youth Services Branch, New Brunswick Department of Social Development**

This workshop weaves lessons learned from a rural MMFC research team (*Prevention of Family Violence in Rural Town, Island and Geographically Isolated Communities Determining Sociocultural Influences on the Meanings of and Responses to Woman Abuse, Helpers Exploring Abuse and Responding Team*) and the stories of the [Silent Witnesses](#) into a musical tapestry that will take the listener on a journey that will inform, challenge and inspire us to improve individual and collective response to IPV. Workshop themes include the complexity and unique nature of rural IPV, our responses to victims and best practice suggestions. Artistic expressions, including original songs, will illustrate innovative ways to educate, challenge assumptions and encourage action:

- “*Other People’s Business*” - Illuminating the paradox of public vs private knowledge in rural and isolated communities
- “*In My Shoes*” – Examining the barriers/fears in leaving an abusive relationship and the stigma around help seeking
- “*I’ll Be Leaving Again*” – Understanding leaving as a process, not an event
- “*Not For My Daughter*” – Breaking the “cycle” in the hope of a better life for her children
- “*No More Shelters*” – Envisioning a world free of domestic violence

**Option 2: Contextualizing Intimate Partner Violence (Chancellor’s Room)**

**“Capturing the Complexity of Intimate Partner Violence While Examining the Rates of Reporting by European Women.” Crestina Matta, University of New Brunswick Master’s Student in Sociology**

Intimate partner violence is a complex social phenomenon that cannot be explained by any one cause; as a result, it is difficult to measure or capture. However, national and international surveys help to understand the types and forms of violence committed by intimate partners. This paper uses the Violence against women: EU-wide survey, conducted by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). This survey data is collected from approximately 40,000 women in 28 countries. In this research, women’s ethnicity in relation to religion, age, income, and educational attainment is analyzed, in terms of reporting intimate partner violence (IPV). This research draws from the intersectional feminist framework where women’s experiences based on their ethnicity, religion, and socio-economic status explicate the relationship between social structures and disclosure of IPV.

**“Women’s Help Seeking for Suicidality after Intimate Partner Violence: A feminist grounded theory and photovoice study.” Petrea Taylor, University of New Brunswick, Faculty of Nursing**

Women reach out to Health Care Providers (HCPs) for a multitude of health problems in the aftermath of intimate partner violence (IPV), including suicidality. Despite the urgency of suicide, little is known about how they seek help for suicidality. The purpose of this study was to develop a substantive theory of women’s help-seeking for suicidality in the context of IPV. Feminist Grounded Theory (GT) and Photovoice (PV) multiple qualitative method were used in the design of the study. Interviews were conducted with 32 women from NB and seven from this sample participated in five PV meetings where they critically examined their self-generated photos. Data was analyzed using the constant comparative analysis of GT. The process of women’s help-seeking for suicidality, *Hunting to Feel Human*, helped women to manage *System Entrapment*, a sense of dehumanization as a result of perceiving HCPs’ invalidation. Alternatively, HCPs’ validation lead to *Feeling Human*, a sense of belonging and personal value, promoting the capacity to continue living. Women fought to *Feel Human* by *Gauging for Validation* and through several *Hunting* sub-processes. Shifting from an individualist medical model toward a trauma and violence informed approach will help create a more validating health care environment. Understanding the contextual factors influencing women’s suicidality may reduce victim blaming.

**“Prejudice, stereotypes and discrimination play an important role in the way we interact.” Rina Arseneault, A & A Consultants Ltd.\***

Every individual in society holds prejudices. All of us make assumptions, arrive at conclusions and make decisions throughout the entire day. Without our even realizing it, our brain tends to sort and group together countless bits of information related to the people we have met and the things we have seen, heard or perceived. We are constantly being bombarded with information, sounds and smells. The effect of this is far from inconsequential. Throughout their lives, individuals learn about the norms and values that characterize the group to which they belong; these, in turn, influence their attitudes and behaviours. In the workplace, prejudices can lead to decisions or trigger reactions that may be considered to be stereotype-based. It is important to recognize, understand and manage one's prejudices in order to foster and maintain inclusivity in workplaces and within communities.

Presentation objectives:

- to understand how prejudice, stereotyping and discrimination affect our actions
- to discuss methods to lessen the impact of prejudice, stereotyping and discrimination

*\* This session will be presented in French. Simultaneous interpretation will be available from French to English.*

#### **4:30 PM – 5:30 PM | Plenary Session (Chancellor's Room)**

**Paul J. Mazerolle, President and Vice Chancellor, Professor of Sociology, University of New Brunswick.**

#### **“Exploring the Police Response to Intimate Partner Violence: Challenges and Opportunities.”**

Intimate partner violence continues to negatively impact families and communities across Canada, indeed the world. The consequences for public health and safety are many and varied as well as intergenerational. This presentation explores the police response to intimate partner violence and seeks to illuminate the criticality of this relationship. In this talk, I explore current evidence in relation to the police response to intimate partner violence as well as challenges to the current knowledge base. The importance of police officer education and training in domestic violence is explored as an instrumental area to shape effective responses for victims and communities. Implications for current research and practice are also discussed.

*Note: All presentations will be offered in English unless otherwise indicated. Simultaneous interpretation will be offered for all sessions held in the Auditorium on Wednesday and the Chancellor's Room on Thursday.*

## Notes

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## Map of the University of New Brunswick (UNB)'s Fredericton Campus

Enter Campus here from College Hill Road

Parking

Wu Centre

