



# MMFC e-News

Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research  
Centre Muriel McQueen Fergusson pour la recherche sur la violence familiale

## Ending Gender-Based Violence MMFC'S 2019 Conference

*The Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre cordially invites you to join us for our national research conference on Ending Gender-Based Violence (GBV): Harnessing Research and Action for Social Change on October 9-10, 2019 at the Wu Centre, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton.*

On the evening of October 9, Dr. Myrna Dawson will present a keynote address titled Preventing domestic violence: It's about more than changing individuals, it's about changing our communities and society. Other topics will include parental alienation in child custody cases impacted by domestic violence; responsibility, masculinity and trauma; child protection and intimate partner violence (IPV); intersectional safety planning; intercultural approaches to GBV prevention; women's suicidality after IPV; intersectional examination of perpetrator gender in IPV; links between being victimized and perpetrating violence; sexual violence; and police responses, among many others.

The conference will take place from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm October 9, followed by an evening keynote at 7:00 pm; and from 9 am to 6 pm on October 10, ending with a second keynote address by UNB President Dr. Paul Mazerolle on Exploring the Police Response to Intimate Partner Violence: Challenges and Opportunities.

To register: <https://www.regonline.com/registration/Checkin.aspx?EventID=2565700&fbclid=IwAR3P2r6nK-1VAmljPiYlq58jV5OKP-yznULvZbgxYo4iQjvoK5KQLY1rLkA>

### International Panel on Parental Alienation

**Dr. Linda C Neilson**, Professor Emerita, UNB and MMFC Research Fellow, will lead a panel of international experts on "parental alienation" (PA) in child custody cases impacted by domestic violence. Dr. Neilson is a socio-legal expert on domestic violence and legal systems. She will be joined by Dr. Elizabeth Sheehy from the University of Ottawa; Dr. Adrienne Barnett from Brunel University in the UK; and Professor Joan Meier from George Washington University in the US.

**Dr. Elizabeth Sheehy**, Professor Emerita, Faculty of Law, is a member of the Royal Society of Canada and the Legal Committee for LEAF. She specializes in criminal law and legal responses to violence against women. She is widely published and cited, and has received numerous awards for her research documenting the challenges battered women face in the legal system. She will present on PA research in Canada.

**Dr. Adrienne Barnett**, Senior Lecturer in Law, specializes in family law and domestic abuse. Having practised as a family law barrister for 30 years, she has researched and published widely on the issue of domestic abuse in private law proceedings concerning children. A member of the Advisory Group of Rights of Women and the Women's Aid Expert Advisory Group to the Child First campaign, she is currently assisting the Ministry of Justice in the UK with an inquiry titled "Assessing risk of harm to children and parents in private law children cases." She will present on concerns about PA in the UK.

**Professor Joan Meier** is a Professor of Clinical Law at George Washington University and the Director of the law school's new National Family Violence Initiative. She is an internationally recognized authority on domestic violence and on so-called parental alienation. She founded three pioneering interdisciplinary domestic violence clinical teaching programs, and founded and directed for over a decade the national non-profit,

## International Panel on Parental Alienation (continued from page 1)

Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project (DV LEAP). Her research and publications focus on domestic violence, criminal procedure, civil rights, child custody and misapplication of social science theories. Her work is widely cited. She will report on findings from her major national project (funded by the U.S. National Institute of Justice) on child custody outcomes in cases involving claims of PA and abuse.

The panel will outline international efforts to challenge the scientific and legal validity of PA, will report on recent trends in family law, and will show how PA claims are silencing women and children and are generating concerns around the world about child safety and gender bias in legal systems.

### Upcoming Events



The 7th annual public presentation series on Tools and Resources for Promoting Respect in the Workplace will be held on September 5, 2019, to highlight Respectful Workplace Week (September 2-8, 2019), at the Delta Fredericton. This one-day conference and workshop, hosted by the Workplace Violence and Abuse Team (WVAT) of the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research, will offer presentations and a workshop facilitated by individuals with expertise related to issues of respect in the workplace and who work and conduct research in professional, legal, union and academic environments.

### Training Symposium on Cross-Cultural Support for Immigrant Women Survivors of Domestic or Intimate Partner Violence

A Training Symposium on Cross-Cultural Support for Immigrant Women Survivors of Domestic or Intimate Partner Violence will take place on Thursday September 19, 2019 from 8:30 to 4:30 at the Fredericton Convention Centre. The keynote speaker is Alia Hogben, Executive Director of the Canadian Council for Muslim Women. Themes will include: community outreach and awareness programs, honour-based violence, and cross-cultural approaches to consider in support of survivors of intimate partner violence. Registration and further information can be found here:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/training-symposium-cross-cultural-support-for-immigrant-dipv-survivors-tickets-66883878481>

### Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative



The Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations will officially launch phase 3 of data collection on September 25, 2019. The launch will take place in several locations across Canada including the Atlantic regional launch in Community Room of the MMFC at noon. We want to speak with survivors of severe domestic violence who are now safe or to people who were close to a victim of domestic homicide. We want to learn from people with experiences that occurred between 2006 and 2016 who fall into the following groups: Indigenous, immigrants and/or refugees, living in rural or remote areas or children exposed to domestic violence/homicide. Researchers will ensure the safety and privacy of those willing to speak about their experiences. This project has been reviewed and approved by the University of New Brunswick (REB-2019-058).



For more information, visit:  
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