Sexual Violence Prevention through a Social Justice Lens

Please see the presenters section online for biographies of our presenters and facilitators.

Friday, March 28, 2014 at Emory University

8:30am–9:00am Registration & Light Breakfast
Winship Ballroom

9:00am-9:15am Opening Remarks
Winship Ballroom

A welcome to RespectCon 2014 “Sexual Violence Prevention through a Social Justice Lens” and Emory University!

Presenters:

Samira Chowdhury, Nowmee Shehab, Sinkey Huang, Jennifer Hallaman, Lauren (LB) Bernstein, Drew Rizzo, & Dr. Michael J. Huey; Emory University

9:15am-9:25am Break

9:25am-10:35am Breakout Session 1

Addressing Rape Culture with a More Inclusive Lens

Dobbs University Center (DUC) 338

This workshop will focus on the importance of addressing sexual violence and rape culture with a more inclusive lens. It is incredibly important to look at disparities in the demographics of survivors and perpetrators of sexual violence. However, I believe violence prevention and awareness is a social justice topic that should include all identities. As Arundhati Roy once said, "There's really no such thing as the 'voiceless'. There are only the deliberately silenced, or the preferably unheard." I think it's of paramount importance that no voices of survivors and victims of sexual violence go unheard.

Presenter: Caleb Peng, Emory University
What is consent? Considering how persuasion and coercion may impact decision-making about sex in the college population

Dobbs University Center (DUC) 334

How the law defines consent and the higher standard to which we hold our students differ, but how do students themselves view consent? Using data collected for UGA undergraduates, we will examine the role of persuasion and coercion in sexual decision making, and whether students consider this to be part of consensual sex. As a group, we will discuss how we define consent for our college populations, and share challenges and successes of handling the topic of consent with our students when difficult questions arise.

Presenter: Deanna Walters, University of Georgia

Select Respect: Relationship Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking Prevention

The Center for Select Respect, through Prevention and Outreach Services, focuses on the prevention of relationship violence, sexual assault, and stalking at The College at Brockport. Our comprehensive campus-wide prevention programming intervenes at multiple levels of the student life cycle. Select Respect addresses misconceptions and prejudices by taking a critical look at rape culture. How did we get here? Our session will address capacity building for a student-focused violence prevention center and how we overcame barriers to create the Center for Select Respect. Assessment of outreach programs, our peer education model, expansion of EagleCHECK, our award winning bystander intervention program, the location of the Center in the Student Union, and our integrated health service model will be discussed.

Presenters:

Caitlin Powalski, MPH, Coordinator, Center for Select Respect

Anna Marianetti, Graduate Assistant for Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention

Center for Select Respect, the College at Brockport, State University of New York

10:35am-10:40am Break

10:40am-11:50am Breakout Session 2

Saying Yes for all the Right Reasons

Dobbs University Center (DUC) 334
How can getting clear about consent help your sex life be more awesome? Join author and educator Hanne Blank for some real talk about enthusiastic consent and what it means to say yes and really, really mean it. We'll talk about why it can be hard to get to a place of enthusiastic consent, strategies to help you get there, and what to do with your great big yes when you do. This is a discussion, so bring your curiosity and your questions and let's get down and dirty about getting clear on -- and asking for -- what you really really want from your sex life.

Presenter:
Hanne Blank, Emory University

Not My Vagina: On Cultural Dissonance

Dobbs University Center (DUC) 338

Meera will be discussing the extent to which university systems, offices, and programs are inclusive and accessible to women of color and minority women. Using The Vagina Monologues as a microcosm of this fundamental injustice, we will explore the cultural dissonance experienced by minority women who participate in the Monologues, and understand why they feel their voices, struggles, and cultural realities are at odds with, or blatantly ignored by, this facet of the feminist movement. How is this ignorance representative of the larger systems within which students live, work, and play, and what steps can we take as health professionals and advocates to improve systems and afford all women the respect and space they deserve?

Presenter:
Meera Seshadri, Georgetown University

Roundtable Discussion on Rape Culture

Dobbs University Center (DUC) 332

How does rape culture affect our work to prevent sexual violence? How can we change rape culture? What are some ways we can talk about rape culture in a way that is accessible to students/peers?

Presenters:
Kaitlyn Sclaisi, Freelance Sexuality Educator
Corey Ingram, University of South Carolina

11:50am-12:50pm Lunch & Conversation (Winship Ballroom)
12:50pm-1:00pm Break

1:00pm-2:10pm Breakout Session 3

Centering LGBT Communities in Sexual Violence Prevention

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The purpose of this workshop is to equip advocates and educators with tools for effectively engaging in collaboration with lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans*, and queer communities to prevent sexual violence. This will include data and best practices, perspectives from the panelists, and a facilitated discussion with participants.

Presenters:

Emily Crutcher, University of California- Santa Barbara
Jen Przewoznik, North Carolina Coalition against Sexual Assault
Neil Vasudeva, Emory University

Sexual Violence Prevention & Social Psychology

The fields of sexual violence prevention, response, and advocacy attract individuals from a wide variety of disciplines – while this session will give an introductory, but thorough, examination of two central concepts in the field, “rape culture” and “bystander intervention”, from a social psychology perspective. We will examine these concepts’ foundations in research on “intuition”, i.e. the cognitive heuristics, attributions, and shortcuts that literally enable human beings to misperceive basic facts and misjudge the world around them. The goal is to provide attendees with a basic background on the useful foundational research of social psychology which underpins much work on sexual violence. We will end the session exploring how many awareness-raising and social norms-based prevention strategies attempt to “re-wire” these mental shortcuts, and how we can improve these strategies to be more effective.

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Presenter: Drew Rizzo, Emory University

Roundtable on Engaging Students

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How can we engage students of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and interest level in the issue of sexual violence? What strategies have been successful? We will share success stories and brainstorm new possibilities.

Facilitators:
Sabrin Chowdhury, Out Against Abuse

Rev. Diane Dougherty, One Billion Rising

2:10pm-2:15pm Break

2:15pm-3:25pm Breakout Session 4

Engaging Men: No Shave November

Dobbs University Center (DUC) 334

No-Shave November for consent is a sexual assault prevention campaign in which participants sign a pledge to grow a beard (if possible) and practice consensual sex in their relationships. After signing, participants receive a t-shirt or pin that says "ask about my beard". When asked, participants then have an opportunity to discuss the importance of consent and communication. This campaign was originally implemented at the University of Michigan and has since spread to the University of Georgia and Concordia University in Portland.

Presenters from UGA and U of M will discuss the No-Shave November for consent campaign and its efficacy in engaging a significant male audience with the movement to end sexual violence. Topics will include how the framing of sexual assault prevention in terms of sex-positive communication between partners and consent can be an effective way to provide engagement opportunities to a large audience of men, how the existing cultural phenomenon of No-Shave November and the masculine connotation of beard growth assist in engaging men with the campaign, how relatively light engagement opportunities allow men to engage with the movement in a fun way and the various challenges and successes of specific implementations of the campaign at UGA, Concordia University and U of M.

Presenters:

Meghana Kulkarni, University of Michigan

Lauren, University of Georgia

James McNulty, University of Michigan

Killian, University of Michigan

Kate Irani, University of Michigan

Someone from UGA
Cultivating Happiness: Building the Movement without Destroying Yourself

Dobbs University Center (DUC) 338

Research suggests that activism is linked to increased happiness, but it is also linked to increased burnout. While we work to ensure that others flourish, we must remember we deserve happiness ourselves. How can you sustain yourself, your organization, or your community, and be in the present moment while you work to achieve a better future and change culture. Incorporating positive psychology, social justice, and mindfulness perspectives, this interactive workshop will combine theory and practical skills to help you flourish as a leader or activist.

Presenters:

Marc Cordon, Emory University

Lauren Bernstein, Emory University

Roundtable on Restorative Justice

Dobbs University Center (DUC) 332

Restorative Justice is a theory of justice that seeks to address the needs of survivors of violence, those who committed the offense, and the involved community, instead of focusing on satisfying abstract legal principles or punishing the offender. The emphasis of this system is to give voice to survivors and hold those who offend accountable for their actions in a way that is productive and sustainable. As many critics and scholars have noted, the prison system is an industry that upholds racial and economic inequalities and does not adequately deal with violence. Also, as a recent survey of higher education sanctioning practices demonstrated, few colleges and universities are incorporating survivor input or feedback into their sanctioning practices or are assessing whether their sanctioning is meeting needs of survivors. What might an alternative system like restorative justice look like? How can restorative justice be used to provide justice for sexual violence survivors? How can colleges implement alternative justice system? What practices or safeguards should be put in place to protect survivors from re-victimization? How do we make decisions about when to consider restorative justices practices and when not to? These are a few of the many topics to be explored among practitioners at this roundtable.

Presenters:

Holly Rider-Milkovich, University of Michigan

Nowmee Shehab, Emory University
3:25pm-3:35pm Break

3:35pm-4:35pm Closing

Charette Process

Winship Ballroom

Imagine what our campuses would look like/feel like if they were free from sexual violence. What are the factors that are stopping our campuses from getting there? What can we do in our own roles to make that vision a reality?

Presenters:

Nowmee Shehab, Emory University

Moderated by Heather Zesiger, Emory University