

SOCIOLOGY OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (SOC 191. Section 1)

Semester: Fall, 2005

Class: Barnard 201

Date and Time: MWF 12:50-1:45pm

Ph. no. (516) 463-5641

Instructor: Dr. Margaret Abraham

Off. Hrs. M, F 11:45 am -1:45 pm, W:3- 4

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In this capstone seminar, sociology majors will draw upon their theoretical knowledge and methodological skills in addressing the issue of violence against women. Violence against women occurs in many forms. In this course we will examine the different sociological perspectives on violence, with a special emphasis on domestic violence. We will explore the politics of violence and the different manifestations of violence against women from historical, cultural, and contemporary perspectives. Mechanisms of institutionalized control and institutionalized responses, particularly in the United States will also be addressed. Throughout the course we will draw upon women's individual and collective strategies to end violence against women.

Goals:

1. To understand how violence and the threat of violence affect women's lives.
2. To understand about individual and collective strategies women have used to resist violence.
3. To understand how gender, race, class, ethnicity, sexuality, and citizenship affect women's experiences of violence.
4. To learn how institutional responses such as social service organizations, medical and legal systems can both perpetuate and alleviate violence against women.
5. To examine and better understand the politics of violence.

Required Books:

1. Bergen, Raquel Kennedy, Jeffrey I. Edleson and Claire M. Renzetti. 2005. *Violence Against Women: Classic Papers* Allyn and Bacon.
2. Natalie J. Sokoloff with Christina Pratt (edited) 2005. *Domestic Violence at the Margins: Readings on Race, Class, gender and Culture*. Rutgers University Press
3. Wallace, Harvey. 2005. *Family Violence: Legal, Medical and Social Perspectives*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. 4th edition. (HW)
4. Abraham, Margaret. 2002. *Speaking the Unspeakable: Marital Violence against South Asian Women*. NJ, New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. (MA)

Additional Recommended Reading

1. Meyers, Marian. 1997. *News Coverage of Violence Against Women: Engendering Blame*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage (MM)
2. Raphael, Jody. 2000. *Saving Bernice: Battered Women, Welfare and Poverty*. Northeastern University Press.
3. Ward, Colleen. 1995. *Attitudes Toward Rape: Feminist and Social Psychological*

Perspectives. London: Sage Publications.

4. Schwartz Martin, D. and Walter S. DeKeseredy. 1997. *Sexual Assault on College Campus: The Role of Male Peer Support*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications

Articles: On Electronic Reserve

- Abraham, Taisha. "The Politics of Patriarchy and Sathin Bhanwari's Rape" In Taisha Abraham ed., *Women and the Politics of Violence*. Shakti Books/HarAnand Publication, New Delhi 2002.
- Bograd, Michelle. 1988. "Feminist Perspectives on Wife Abuse: An Introduction." In Kersti Yllo and Michele Bograd eds., *Feminist Perspectives on Wife Abuse*. Newbury, CA: Sage.
- Cho, Joo-Hyon. 1999. "Violence Against Wives in Korea: A Feminist Perspective." In Fanny M. Cheung, Malvika Karlekar, Aurora De Dios, Juree Vichit-Vadakan & Lourdes R. Quisumbing eds., *Breaking the Silence: Violence in Asia*. Equal Opportunities Commission, Hong Kong.
- Collins, Patricia Hill. 1993. "The Sexual Politics of Black Womanhood." In Pauline B. Bart and Eileen Geil Moran eds., *Violence Against Women*. Newbury, CA: Sage.
- Davis, Martha. F. 1999. "The Economics of Abuse: How Violence Perpetuates Women's Poverty." In Ruth A. Brandwein. ed., *Battered Women, Children and Welfare Reform: The Ties that Bind*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- D'Monte, Darryl. 1999. "Mass Rape in Bihar by Police." In Madhu Kishwar and Ruth Vanita eds., *In Search of Answers*. New Delhi: Manohar.
- Dobash, R.E and R.P Dobash. 1988. "Research as Social Action: The Struggle for Battered Women." In Kersti Yllo and Michele Bograd eds., *Feminist Perspectives on Wife Abuse*. Newbury, CA: Sage.
- Kalpana Kannabiran. 1996. "Rape and the Construction of Community Identity." In Kumari Jayawardena and Malathi de Alwis eds., *Embodied Violence: Communalizing Women's Sexuality in South Asia*. New Delhi: Kali for Women.
- Klein, Ethel, Jacquelyn Campbell, Esta Soler and Marissa Ghez. 1997. "Domestic Violence in Public Context." *Ending Domestic Violence: Changing Public Perceptions/halting the Epidemic*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Kurz, Demi. 1993. "Social Science Perspectives on Wife Abuse: Current Debates and Future Directions. In Pauline B. Bart and Eileen Geil Moran eds., *Violence Against Women*. Newbury, CA: Sage.
- MacKinnon, Catherine A. 1993. "Feminism, Marxism, method and the State: Toward a Feminist Jurisprudence. In Pauline B. Bart and Eileen Geil Moran eds., *Violence Against Women*. Newbury, CA: Sage.
- Mies, Maria. 1986 *Patriarchy and the Accumulation on a World Scale*. London: Zed Books. Chs. 3 & 5.
- Patel, Vibhuti. 1999. "Caste, Class and Police Violence: Caste-Hindus Attack Dalits in Maharashtra." In Madhu Kishwar and Ruth Vanita eds., *In Search of Answers*. New Delhi: Manohar.

- Radford, Jill and Diana Russell. 1992 *Femicide: The Politics of Woman Killing. Introduction and Sexist Terrorism Against Women.*
- Richie, Beth and Val Kanuha. 1993. "Battered Women of Color in Public Care Systems: Racism, Sexism, and Violence." In B. Blair and S. E. Cayleff, eds. *Wings of Gauze: Women of Color and the Experience of Health and Illness.* Wayne State University Press.
- Schneider, Beth "Put up and Shut Up: Workplace Sexual Assaults"
- Schornstein, Sherri. L. 1997. "The Medical Response." *Domestic Violence and the Health Care: What Every Professional Needs to Know.* Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Tetreault, Mary Ann. 1997 "Accountability or Justice? Rape as a War Crime." In Laurel Richardson, Verta Taylor and Nancy Whittier eds., *Feminist Frontiers IV.* New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Williams Doris Campbell, Beckie Masaki, and Sara Torres. 1997. "Changing Domestic Violence Perceptions in the African American, Asian American, and Latino Communities." In Klein, Ethel, Jacquelyn Campbell, Esta Soler and Marissa Ghez eds., *Ending Domestic Violence: Changing Public Perceptions/halting the Epidemic.* Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Yllo, Kersti. 1988. "Political and Methodological debates in Wife Abuse Research." In Kersti Yllo and Michele Bograd eds., *Feminist Perspectives on Wife Abuse.* Newbury, CA: Sage.

Course Requirements

1. This class is for sociology majors who have completed more 75% of their sociology course requirements.
2. Since this is an capstone seminar and due to the intensity of the course material, it is imperative that students complete the assigned readings before each class period to have productive discussions.
3. Participation in class discussion is important and required. At pre assigned dates specific students will be expected to lead the class on an assigned topic/book from the required book list. The goal of these class discussions is stimulate each student's ability to think critically, to communicate effectively, to listen effectively and to demonstrate an understanding of the lectures and the reading materials.
4. During the semester each student will present a summary/reflection/analysis on an assigned article.
5. Each student will compile a portfolio of newspaper/magazine coverage on violence against women. You will write a five-page paper analyzing and interpreting the material you have put together.
6. Each student will be expected to go on at least four websites that address violence domestic violence, sexual assault, family violence or violence against women and explain what these sites provide.
8. Each student will develop a comprehensive bibliography in the area of their research paper.
8. Each student will write a research paper on an aspect of violence against women. The topic will be selected by the student and agreed upon by the instructor. Students will be expected to work on this research paper during the entire semester. Throughout the semester, during my office hours, we will discuss the progress on your individual research papers. Papers should be

typed, double spaced and approximately 12-15 pages. Students will complete a research paper on a topic selected by the student and agreed upon by the instructor. Late papers will not be accepted.

9. Students will take a midterm & final exam. There will be no make up exams unless there are extenuating circumstances.

10. Throughout the semester students will keep a journal on the articles that you have read and explain the key points of the article.

Grading

Research paper 20%; Midterm Exam 15 %; Final Exam 15% Media Portfolio 15 %,
Website search & summary 5%, Journal 10%, Bibliography 10% , Class participation 10%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Sept. 7 & 9

Introduction to Course: Why Study Violence Against Women?

Week 2: Sept. 12 & 16

Types of Violence Against Women

Mies, Maria. 1998. Ch.5 “Violence Against Women and the Ongoing Primitive Accumulation of Capital.” Patriarchy and the Accumulation on a World Scale. London: Zed Books.

Weeks 3& 4: Sept. 19, 23, 26 & 30

Situating Women’s Experiences: Gender, Race, Ethnicity, Class, Sexuality and Citizenship

MA: ch 1

- Collins, Patricia Hill. 1993. “The Sexual Politics of Black Womanhood.” In Pauline B. Bart and Eileen Geil Moran eds., *Violence Against Women*. Newbury, CA: Sage.
- Williams Doris Campbell, Beckie Masaki, and Sara Torres. 1997. “Changing Domestic Violence Perceptions in the African American, Asian American, and Latino Communities.” In Klein, Ethel, Jacquelyn Campbell, Esta Soler and Marissa Ghez eds., *Ending Domestic Violence: Changing Public Perceptions/halting the Epidemic*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Davis, Martha. F. 1999. “The Economics of Abuse: How Violence Perpetuates Women’s Poverty.” In Ruth A. Brandwein. ed., *Battered Women, Children and Welfare Reform: The Ties that Bind*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Patel, Vibhuti. 1999. “Caste, Class and Police Violence: Caste-Hindus Attack Dalits in Maharashtra.” In Madhu Kishwar and Ruth Vanita eds., *In Search of Answers*. New Delhi: Manohar.
- Radford, Jill and Diana Russell. 1992 *Femicide: The Politics of Woman Killing. Introduction and Sexist Terrorism Against Women*.
- Richie, Beth and Val Kanuha. 1993. “Battered Women of Color in Public Care Systems: Racism, Sexism, and Violence.” In B. Blair and S. E. Cayleff, eds. *Wings of Gauze: Women of Color and the Experience of Health and Illness*. Wayne State University Press.

Week 5: Oct. 3 & 7

Domestic Violence: Theories on Domestic Violence

HW: Chs. 8,

MA: Ch. 1

- Kurz, Demi. 1993. "Social Science Perspectives on Wife Abuse: Current Debates and Future Directions. In Pauline B. Bart and Eileen Geil Moran eds., *Violence Against Women*. Newbury, CA: Sage.
- Bograd, Michelle. 1988. "Feminist Perspectives on Wife Abuse: An Introduction." In Kersti Yllo and Michele Bograd eds., *Feminist Perspectives on Wife Abuse*. Newbury, CA: Sage.
- Yllo, Kersti. 1988. "Political and Methodological debates in Wife Abuse Research." In Kersti Yllo and Michele Bograd eds., *Feminist Perspectives on Wife Abuse*. Newbury, CA: Sage.
- Cho, Joo-Hyon. 1999. "Violence Against Wives in Korea: A Feminist Perspective." In Fanny M. Cheung, Malvika Karlekar, Aurora De Dios, Juree Vichit-Vadakan & Lourdes R. Quisumbing eds., *Breaking the Silence: Violence in Asia*. Equal Opportunities Commission, Hong Kong.

Week 6: Oct. 10 & 14

Domestic Violence: Domestic Violence – The Immigrant Context

Abraham, Margaret. 2000/2002. *Speaking the Unspeakable: Marital Violence Against South Asian Women*. NJ, New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. Chs. 2 – 8

Monday October 17th

MIDTERM EXAM

Weeks 7 & 8: Oct. 21, 24 & 28

Institutional Responses to Domestic Violence: Social, Medical & Legal

HW: Chs. 9, 11, 12, & 16.

MA: Ch. 6

- Klein, Ethel, Jacquelyn Campbell, Esta Soler and Marissa Ghez. 1997. Domestic Violence in Public Context." *Ending Domestic Violence: Changing Public Perceptions/halting the Epidemic*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Schornstein, Sherri. L. 1997. "The Medical Response." *Domestic Violence and the Health Care: What Every Professional Needs to Know*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Week 9: Oct. 31& Nov 4

Media Coverage of Violence Against Women.

Meyers, Marian. 1997. *News Coverage of Violence Against Women: Engendering Blame*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage (MM)

Week 10: Nov 7 & 11

Sexual Assault

Schwartz Martin, D. and Walter S. DeKeseredy *Sexual Assault on College Campus: The Role of Male Peer Support*.

Week 11& 12 Nov. 14, 18, 21

Stranger Rape, Marital Rape, Date Rape, Rape as a War Crime, Rape and Communal Violence

- Ward, Colleen. A. 1995. *Attitudes Toward Rape: Feminist and Social Perspectives*. London: Sage.
- Tetreault, Mary Ann. 1997 “Accountability or Justice? Rape as a War Crime.” In Laurel Richardson, Verta Taylor and Nancy Whittier eds., *Feminist Frontiers IV*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Patel, Vibhuti. 1999. “Caste, Class and Police Violence: Caste-Hindus Attack Dalits in Maharashtra.” In Madhu Kishwar and Ruth Vanita eds., *In Search of Answers*. New Delhi: Manohar.
- Kalpana Kannabiran. 1996. “Rape and the Construction of Community Identity.” In Kumari Jayawardena and Malathi de Alwis eds., *Embodied Violence: Communalizing Women’s Sexuality in South Asia*. New Delhi: Kali for Women.
- Agnes, Flavia ed. 2002 *Of lofty claims and muffled voices: a perspective of the Gujarat carnage* (selected excerpts)

Friday Nov. 25

Thanksgiving Break

SCHOOL CLOSED

Week 13: Nov. 28 & Dec 2

Institutional Responses to Sexual Violence Against Women

- MacKinnon, Catherine A. 1993. *Feminism, Marxism, Method and the State: Toward a Feminist Jurisprudence*. In Pauline B. Bart and Eileen Geil Moran eds., *Violence Against Women*. Newbury, CA: Sage.
- D’Monte, Darryl. 1999. “Mass Rape in Bihar by Police.” In Madhu Kishwar and Ruth Vanita eds., *In Search of Answers*. New Delhi: Manohar.
- Farooqi, Vimla. 1999. “A Case of Police Harassment.” In Madhu Kishwar and Ruth Vanita eds., *In Search of Answers*. New Delhi: Manohar.

Week 14: Dec. 7 & 9

Ending Violence Against Women

HW: Ch. 16

MA: Ch. 8, 9

- Mansoor, Waheeda. *The Mission of RAWA: Freedom, Democracy, Human Rights* In Sunita Mehta ed. *Women for Afghan Women*.
- Dobash, R.E and R.P Dobash. 1988. “Research as Social Action: The Struggle for Battered Women.” In Kersti Yllo and Michele Bograd eds., *Feminist Perspectives on Wife Abuse*. Newbury, CA: Sage.

Week 15: Dec 12 Final Exam Review