



Viewing Sexual Violence Prevention from a Culturally Informed Perspective

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*Safer Society Foundation
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Cultural Humility



Having an accurate view of self and greater awareness of limitations



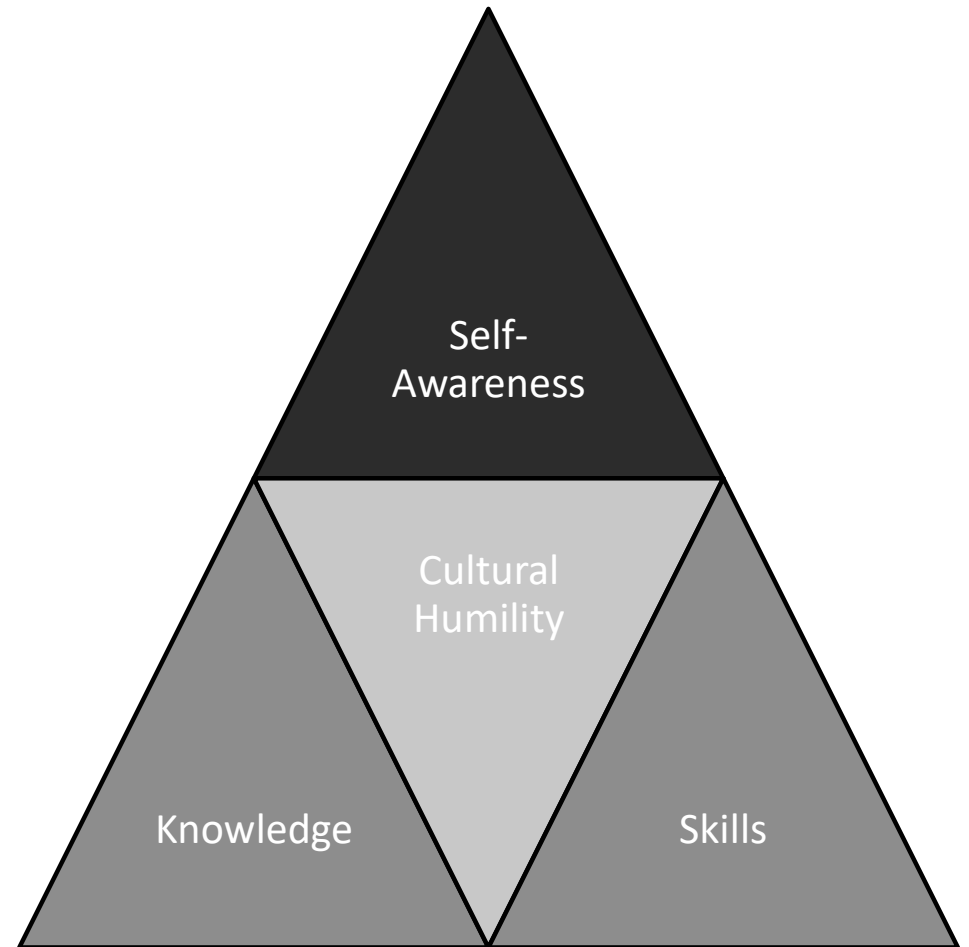
Maintain a respectful, other-focused perspective



Open and aware mindset



Life-long commitment to self-examination and the redress of power imbalances



Child Maltreatment
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Childhood Victimization, Poly-Victimization, and Adjustment to College in Women

Ann N. Elliott

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Thomas W. Pierce

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Jessica M. Richmond

University of Akron

This study examines the relationships among poly-victimization (i.e., high cumulative levels of victimization), six aggregate categories of childhood victimization (property crime, physical assault, peer and sibling, witnessed and indirect, sexual, child maltreatment), and college adjustment in females. This study first examines the relative contributions of poly-victimization and individual categories of childhood victimization in predicting college adjustment. The study then examines whether poly-victimization contributes any unique variance, beyond that accounted for by the combination of all six aggregate categories. Regression analyses reveal that a) poly-victimization accounts for a significant proportion of variability in scores for college adjustment, beyond that accounted for by any of the six categories of childhood victimization alone, and b) the categories of childhood victimization contribute little to no variability beyond that accounted for by poly-victimization. Furthermore, poly-victimization accounts for a significant proportion of variability in college adjustment, beyond that already accounted for by the simultaneous entry of all six categories as predictor variables. Finally, although victimization does not predict GPA, it predicts other domains of college adjustment. Results suggest that counselors working with college students should a) assess multiple categories of victimization and poly-victimization, and b) evaluate clients' adjustment to college across multiple domains (e.g., academic, social, interpersonal).

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Polyvictimization, Childhood Victimization, and Psychological Distress in College Women

Jessica M. Richmond

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Two studies examined the relationships among polyvictimization (i.e., high cumulative levels of victimization), six categories of childhood victimization (i.e., property crime, physical assault, peer/sibling, witnessed/indirect, sexual, and child maltreatment), and current psychological symptomatology in college females. Results indicated that exposure to multiple types of childhood victimization is common. Regression analyses revealed that polyvictimization accounted for a significant proportion of variability in scores for psychological distress beyond that accounted for by any victimization category alone. Moreover, the six categories separately accounted for little to no variability beyond that accounted for by polyvictimization. Finally, polyvictimization accounted for a significant proportion of variability in scores for psychological distress, beyond that already accounted for through the simultaneous entry of all six categories of victimization. Findings reiterate the importance for clinicians and researchers to comprehensively assess multiple categories of childhood victimization and polyvictimization and provide preliminary evidence that the total number of lifetime victimizations is at least as important, if not more important, than individual categories of victimization in predicting psychological distress.

The Family Learning Program

Home About ▼ Information About Sexual Abuse Eligibility Groups ▼ Family Therapy Resources Research Training Documents

Welcome to the Family Learning Program!

The Family Learning Program is dedicated to providing best practice psychological services to improve the lives of children, adolescents and families who have experienced neglect and/or abuse.

FLP provides sexual abuse treatment through the **Sexual Abuse Treatment Program** and contracted psychological evaluations through the **Dependency Evaluation Team** for children, adolescents and adults at risk for maltreatment and out of home placement, those having experienced neglect and/or abuse requiring removal from parents/caregivers and placement in the foster care/dependency system, and pre-adoptive evaluations for children and families with a history of child maltreatment and disrupted placements.



The Family
Learning Program

Our Mission

The mission of the Family Learning Program is to provide best practice evaluation and treatment services for child and adolescent victims, their siblings, and their non-offending caregivers to promote healthy coping and reduce risk of re-victimization.

Our Mission Statement: *"The Family Learning Program is dedicated to providing best practice psychological services to improve the lives of children, adolescents and families who have experienced neglect and/or abuse."*

It's our 25th Anniversary!!!

Established at the Florida Institute of Technology in 1991, the Family Learning Program has provided evidence-based sexual abuse treatment for children and adolescents, their siblings, and their caregivers for 25 years! We are proud to continue to provide no-cost individual, group and family therapy for Brevard families affected by child sexual abuse. Please call us at 321-604-5898 for more information about our program and services.

The Family Learning Program is happy to announce that we are partnering with the Brevard County Sheriff's Office Paws & Stripes Comfort Dog Program to provide families, children, and veterans in need with a comfort dog to improve their mood and overall quality of life.

Download [this PDF](#) for more information on the Comfort Dog Program.

The Family Learning Program provides sexual abuse training and





Childhood Sexual Abuse in Adolescents Adjudicated for Sexual Offenses: Mental Health Consequences and Sexual Offending Behaviors

Hugo B. Morais^{1,2}, Apryl A. Alexander¹,
Rebecca L. Fix¹, and Barry R. Burkhart¹

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Disproportionate Minority Contact Among Juveniles Adjudicated for Sexual, Violent, and General Offending: The Importance of Home, School, and Community Contexts

Rebecca L. Fix¹, Spencer T. Fix²,
Christine M. Wienke Totura¹,
and Barry R. Burkhart¹

JOURNAL OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10538712.2017.1328474>

 Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

 Check for updates

The Effects of Polyvictimization and Quality of Caregiver Attachment on Disclosure of Illegal Sexual Behavior

Megan E. Harrelson^a, Apryl A. Alexander^b, Hugo B. Morais^c,
and Barry R. Burkhart^a

Article

From Family Violence Exposure to Violent Offending: Examining Effects of Race and Mental Health in a Moderated Mediation Model Among Confined Male Juveniles

Rebecca L. Fix¹, Apryl A. Alexander²,
and Barry R. Burkhart³

International Journal of
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Poly-victimization among Adolescents Adjudicated for Illegal Sexual Behavior: A Latent Class Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Justice-involved youth are characterized by higher rates of victimization compared to non-justice-involved youth. Prior research has elucidated the importance of examining cumulative trauma rather than one type of victimization in isolation. The sexually abused-sexual abuser hypothesis has been proposed to explain the pathway from cumulative trauma to offending, accordingly it is critical to examine poly-victimization in adolescents adjudicated for illegal sexual behavior (AISB). The current study aims to investigate categories of poly-victimized AISB through a person-centered analytic approach and compare to a sample of detained general population adolescents. Latent Profile Analysis (LPA) identified a two-class solution for AISB, revealing a *low poly-victimization subtype* (8.85 victimizations) and a *high poly-victimization subtype* (15.86 victimizations and scores in the clinical range on a measure of trauma-related symptoms). Considerations for prevention of the abuse-to-prison pipeline are discussed.

ARTICLE HISTORY

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KEYWORDS

Delinquency; incarcerated youth; juvenile justice; juvenile offenders; latent class analysis; maltreatment; poly-victimization; trauma; abuse-to-prison pipeline

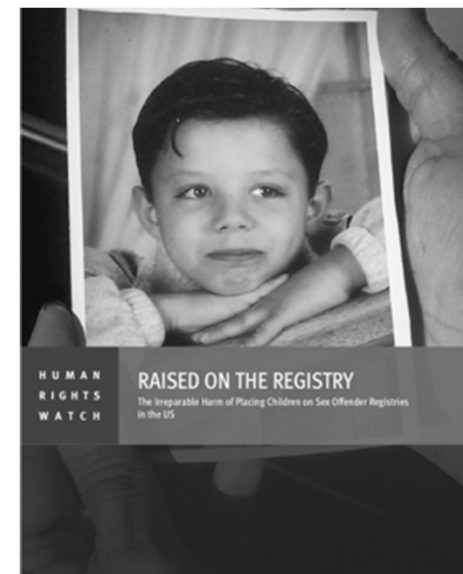
Psychology, Public Policy, and Law

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1076-8971/16/\$12.00 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/law0000094>

Quantifying the Decline in Juvenile Sexual Recidivism Rates

Michael F. Caldwell
University of Wisconsin – Madison

Data from several sources have indicated that violence in general (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2012; Finkelhor & Jones, 2004; Sickmund, & Puzzanchera, 2014), and sexual recidivism in adult offenders (Duwe, 2014; Helmus, 2009; Wisconsin Department of Corrections, 2015), has declined substantially in recent decades. This finding is significant because the potential effectiveness of public policies intended to reduce sexual violence in society rests in part on the base rate for re-offense of adjudicated violent offenders. This study examined whether the recidivism base rate for juvenile sexual recidivism has undergone a similar decline in recent decades. We examined 106 studies from 98 reports or data sets involving 33,783 cases of adjudicated juvenile sexual offenders that were carried out between 1938 and 2014. Results showed a weighted mean base rate for sexual recidivism of 4.92% over a mean follow-up time of 58.98 months ($SD = 50.97$, $Median = 52.75$). The year of initiation of the study predicted the



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

The sexual recidivism drop in Canada: A meta-analysis of sex offender recidivism rates over an 80-year period

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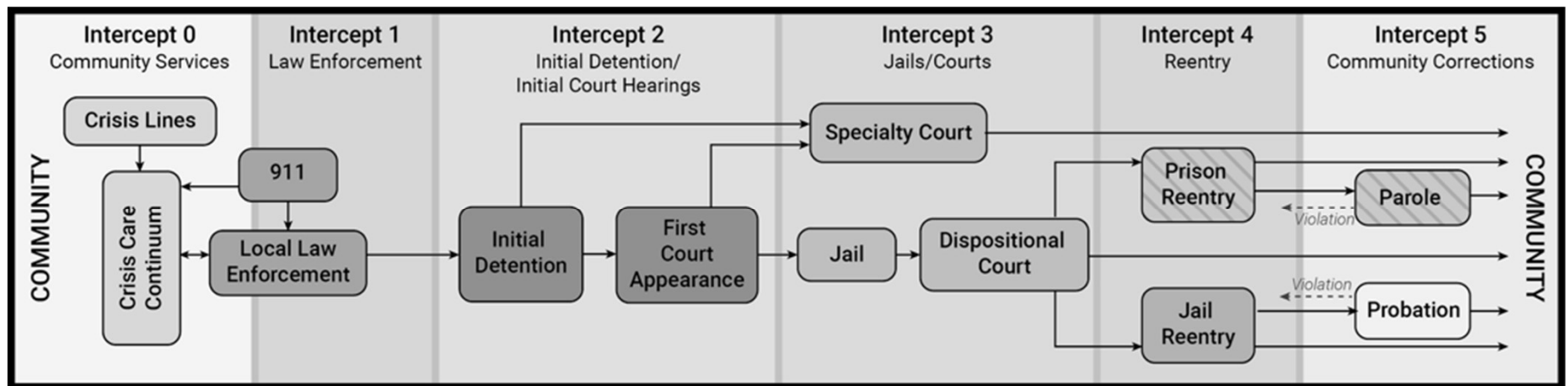
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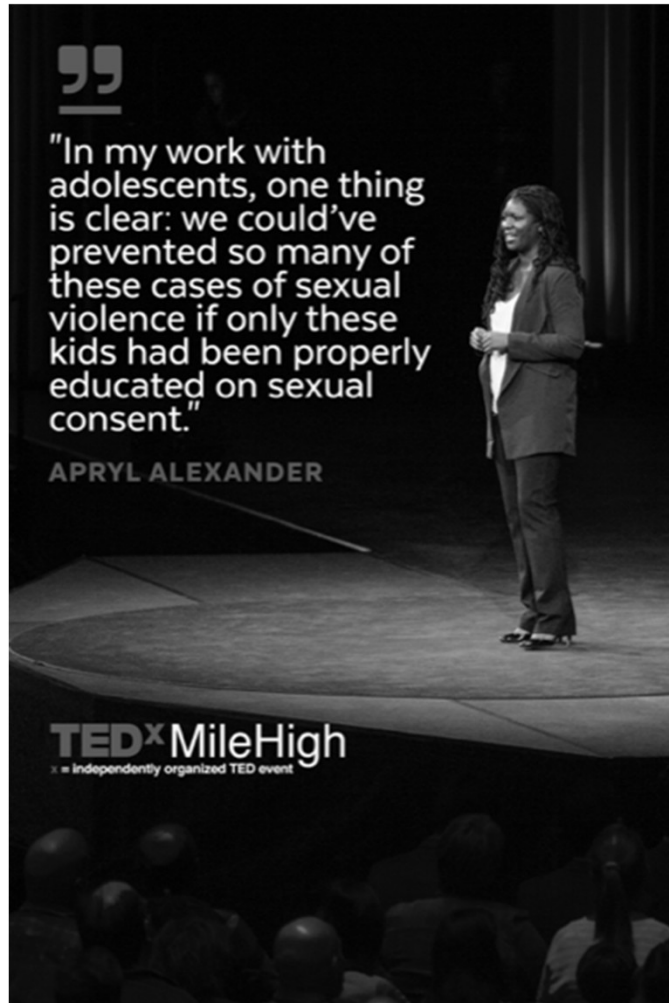
Social Sciences and Humanities Research
Council of Canada, Grant/Award
Number: (SSHRC/CRSH)

Abstract

Research summary: In the past, the Canadian government followed in the footsteps of its American counterpart by enacting “sex offender laws.” Since the 1990s, however, the Canadian criminal justice system has taken a different approach to the issue of sex offender recidivism (SOR), focusing on treatment, rehabilitation, and community risk management. This evidence-based approach has been criticized for not doing enough to prevent convicted offenders from sexually reoffending. This criticism has not been addressed empirically, leaving open the question of whether this Canadian policy shift is associated with changes in the rate of sexual recidivism. The present study uses a meta-analytic framework to look at 185 Canadian-based studies involving over 50,000 offenders, making it possible to combine 226 sexual recidivism rates. After controlling for factors such as follow-up length and the independence of samples, weighted pooled recidivism rates have declined since the 1970s by more than 60%. This trend may have gone unnoticed because it is not related to the year of publication but to the period in which the data were collected.



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Colorado's 2023 State of Adolescent Sexual Health Report

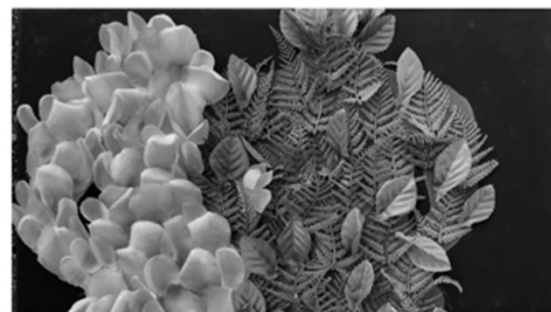
PREPARED BY
Consulting Within Your Context and Trailhead Institute

COVER ARTWORK BY
Julissa Blanco, a student at AUI, Denver

FEBRUARY 2023

CORE BOUNDARIES FOR YOUTH SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION

Starting From an Anti-Oppressive Foundation: Core Boundaries for Sexual Health Education



Untitled, by Aves (He/It) from Inside Out Youth Services

The core boundaries, liberating practices and anti-oppressive recommendations that have emerged from Trailhead's work with Consulting Within Your Context, Talia Cardin and the Youth Sexual Health Program Board lay the groundwork for establishing a new approach to implementing youth sexual health education in Colorado. For systemic change to be effective, it is imperative to first identify and understand the **core boundaries** held by the Board as the foundation from which all engagement, action, and envisioning within the youth sexual health field must embody to be not only anti-oppressive, but liberating.

The delineation of these founding principles as boundaries is inspired by writer and activist adrienne maree brown's description of the term in which she writes, "Your no makes the way for your yes. Boundaries create the container within which your yes is authentic. Being able to say no makes yes a choice."

The core boundaries honored throughout all aspects of the Board's work in the development of the 2023 SASHE report create a foundation for youth sexual health education that is inclusive, pleasure-based, anti-oppressive, and accessible for all.

These core boundaries both contextualize the recommendations developed by the Board and are embedded within the liberating practices as collaborative approaches that all partners should engage in for determining future action. These core boundaries centered by the Board should be embraced by all partners working to further the youth sexual health field in a liberatory manner.

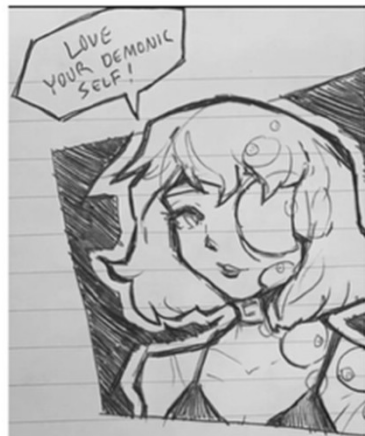
These core boundaries include:

1. Intersectionality is necessary to understand the way different identities are impacted by systems of oppression.

Intersectionality honors the nuance and fluidity to how one identifies and informs how people experience and navigate systems of oppression. In an interview with Time Magazine, civil rights advocate Kimberlé Crenshaw described intersectionality in stating, "Intersectionality is simply about how certain aspects of who you are will increase your access to the good things or your exposure to the bad things in life....It's basically a lens, a prism, for seeing the way in which various forms of inequality often operate together and exacerbate each other."

This same nuance and flexibility needs to be reflected in sexual health education.

Intersectionality was centered from the onset of this report's development with the intentional recruitment of a Youth Sexual Health Program Board made up of young people and adults whose intersectional identities have historically been excluded from sexual health education and initiatives such as the SASH. As a result, the outcome of this report is holistically shaped by the unique living experiences of the Board and presents a pathway for evolving sexual health education that supports all young people by centering those who are most marginalized.



Smearing Paint

by Nora (She/Her) from
Inside Out Youth Services

"When it came to sex education, my dad had decided to take me out of health class to teach me these things himself, believing the school's education would not be appropriate. My sex education came down to abstinence-only which took years to break out of that concept. Not only that, but being a trans woman taught me that my body was abnormal and even demonic to some, so when it comes to self-portraits I decided to embrace this in a positive way and began drawing myself as a beautiful many eyed demon. I also drew art of a character from my comic named Vivi, she is a trans woman as well and embraces her sexuality and desires, in a way she was my own version of the confidence I wished to work towards."

3. Different forms of oppression (isms) must be defined and connected to our existing sex education system.

Sexual health and sex education exist within a modern context rooted in colonialism, capitalism, racism, heteronormativity, ableism, classism, and other forms of oppression. If we are to dream of a new way of showing up in the field of youth sexual health that is centered in anti-oppressive practices, policies and interactions, we must start by learning this history in order to develop action and change that addresses the harms these forms of oppression have on sexual health and education.

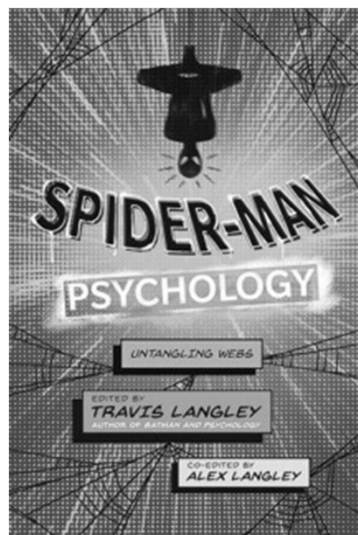
Research produced by Consulting Within Your Context provides an introduction to **how these oppressive systems have impacted sexual health** and is a thoughtful start to learning and acknowledging the oppressions that young people with intersecting marginalized identities have had to endure for generations. This research is only the beginning and we will keep exploring the stories that haven't been emphasized or told. Furthermore, the anti-oppressive recommendations developed by the Board begin to rectify our nation's history of oppression and its impact on sexual health.



Gender Fluidity

by Ariana Rodriguez from AUL Denver

"The meaning behind my artwork is to make a stand as a gender fluid member of the LGBTQ [community]. I want to represent that we shouldn't just have a female and male bathroom. We should always include another for all genders. We are all humans and alike in many ways and I believe we should have an all gender bathroom and get our freedom without getting judged / discriminated when walking into one."



Chapter 13: Like a Lollipop: Toxic Masculinity and Female Sexual Pleasure in Hip-Hop

Apryl Alexander

There is no justice for Black women without pleasure.
—Black feminist scholar and author Dr. Brittney Cooper

In May 2018, an old interview resurfaced with DJ Khaled, a Grammy award winning producer, on *The Breakfast Club*, a popular morning radio show. In this interview, he mentioned that he does not perform cunnilingus, even on his wife, repeatedly stating, "I don't do that." He further explained, "[There are] different rules for men." The remarks sparked controversy on Twitter (or Black Twitter), as many believed these were antiquated thoughts about cunnilingus. However, historically female sexual pleasure and cunnilingus were taboos among male hip-hop artists.

"We Don't Do That!"

Consensual Non-Monogamy in HBO's *Insecure*

APRIL A. ALEXANDER, University of Denver

ABSTRACT—Interest in consensual non-monogamous (CNM) relationships is increasing in both the public and the media. It is estimated between 4–9% of the U.S. population is currently involved in a CNM relationship with even distribution across racial/ethnic groups (Conley, Moore, Matlack, & Ziegler, 2013; Hartmann, Liu, & Kloss, 2001; Kloss, 2010; Shiff & Hammer, 2011). Although public interest in CNM is increasing (Moore, 2010; Balarzini et al., 2018), much bias against CNM relationships still exists among the general public (Lehmiller, 2017). This paper will analyze and discuss a portrayal of a Black CNM relationship in Season 1 of the HBO series *Insecure* (Rae et al., 2018-present). Ultimately the paper will discuss the importance of accurate representation of CNM relationships in Black media.

KEYWORDS—nonmonogamy; polyamory; monogamy; media

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EDITED BY JONATHAN COHN AND JENNIFER FORST



FOREWORD BY
HENRY JENKINS
AFTERWORD BY
SUZANNE SCOTT





9

BLACK GIRL MAGIC

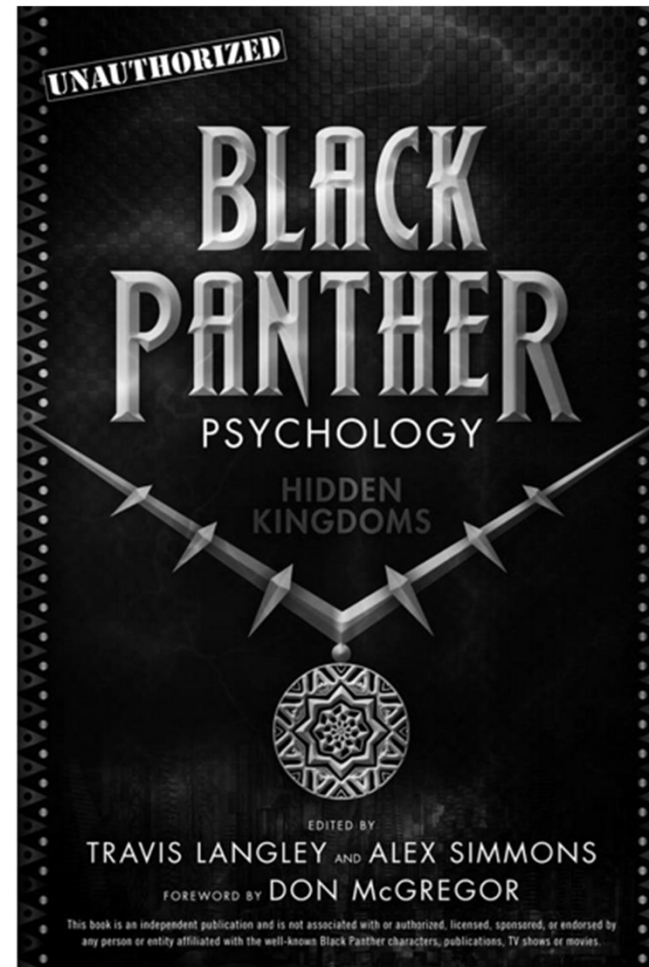
BLACK WOMEN AS LEADERS OF WAKANDA

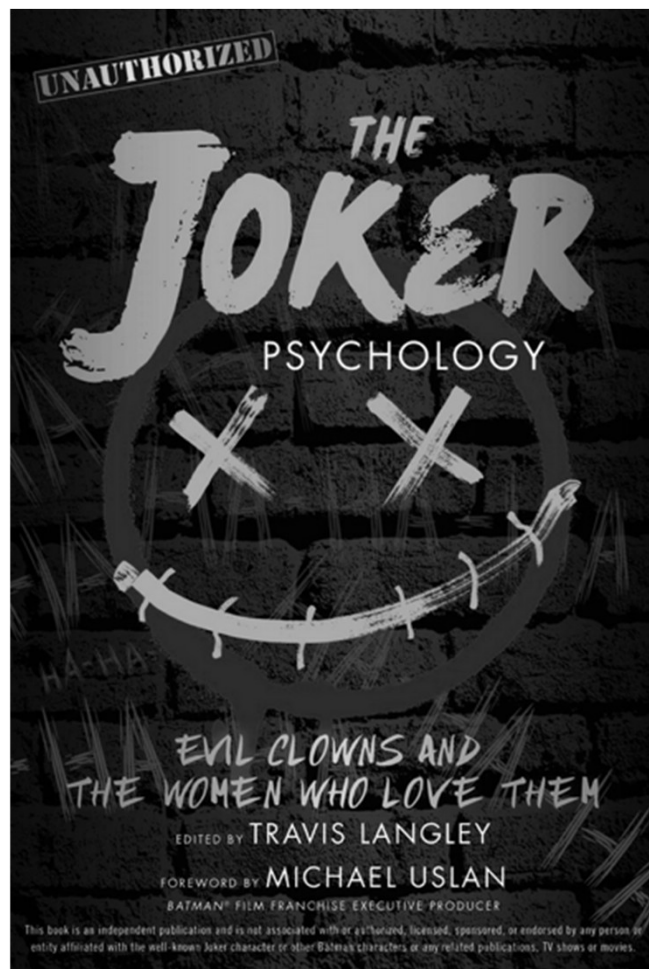
Apryl A. Alexander

"The empowerment of black women constitutes therefore the empowerment of our entire community."



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Why did we write it?

In the decades since *The Handmaid's Tale* was originally published in 1985, the story has never ceased to capture attention, serving as a pit-in-the-stomach fear for many. The original novel has never gone out of print, and the television series has been extremely popular and award-winning. And perhaps there has never been a more important time for a psychological analysis of Atwood's world, given the modern political climate. Atwood's prescient vision has increasingly become a reality. Legislation shows us time and again that feminism is not welcome, that there is no real separation of church and state, and that women are second-class citizens - especially women of color, LGBTQIA2S+ women, or women of other marginalized populations. Consider some specific examples. In Missouri, a rule was passed in 2023 requiring women to cover their arms inside the state's House of Representatives chamber.² The message: Women should dress modestly and conservatively, and men should decide how that is defined. Only about half of the states in the U.S. have banned sexual orientation "conversion therapy" for minors, despite its barbaric values, lack of empirical support, and incredibly harmful effects, essentially equating to torture in some cases.³ All over the country and elsewhere in the world, laws are being passed that ban trans people from participating in sports, going to work, or even going to the bathroom in spaces where they ought to feel safe.⁴ And of course, women's reproductive rights are more precarious than they have been in 50 years.

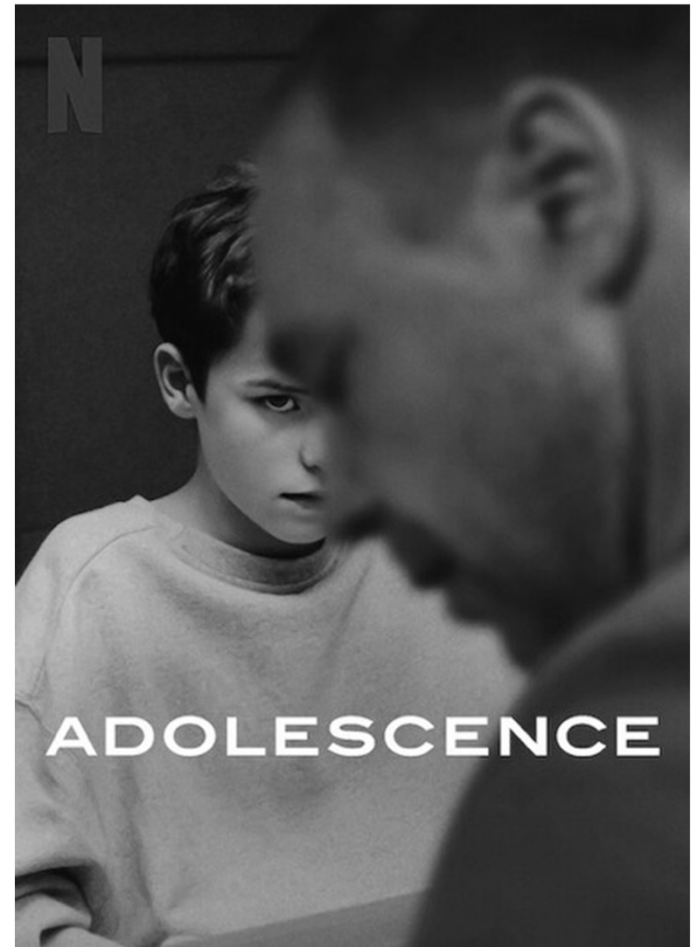
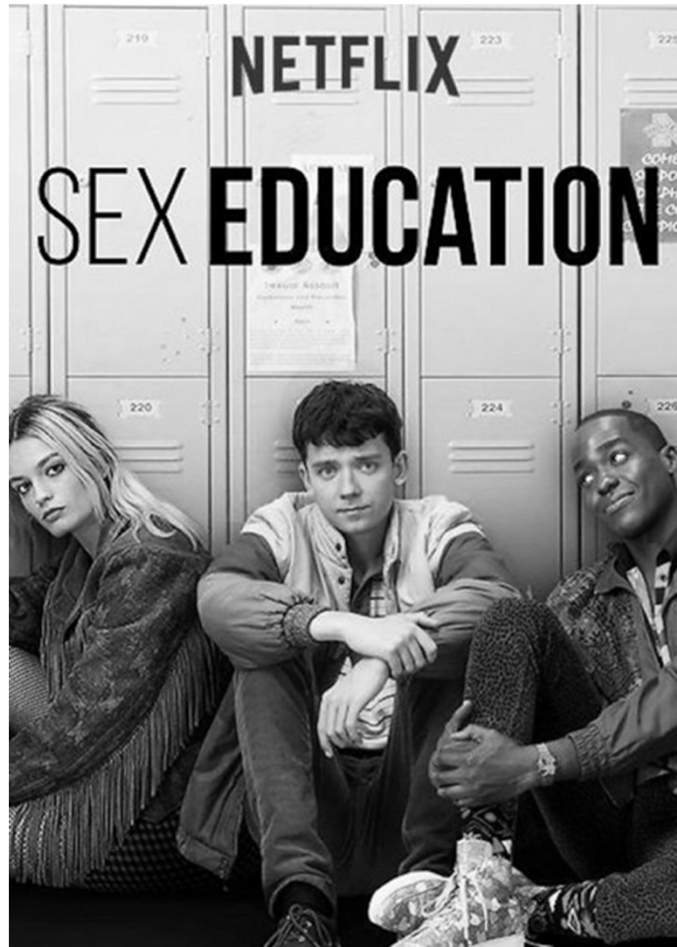
<https://www.bps.org.uk/psychologist/why-gilead-personal>

THE HANDMAID'S TALE PSYCHOLOGY



SEEING OFF RED

EDITED BY **TRAVIS LANGLEY**
CO-EDITED BY **WIND GOODFRIEND**



*What do you
like to be
called?*

Hello
my name is

Guest Editorial

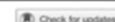
Promoting Accurate and Respectful Language to Describe Individuals and Groups

Sexual Abuse
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Across psychology and criminology research, persons who have engaged in offending behavior are often referred to collectively as “offenders,” or categorized according to their criminal convictions (e.g., “sex offenders,” “fire setters,” “murderers”). However, it is well-known that individuals with similar criminal convictions do not represent homogenous groups. Recent articles in *Sexual Abuse* and elsewhere draw attention to problems with using the same terms to describe knowingly diverse populations (e.g., Harris & Socia, 2016; Willis, 2018). In this editorial, we summarize these problems and introduce a new journal submission guideline intended to promote accurate and respectful language to describe persons and groups in *Sexual Abuse*.

PSYCHOLOGY, CRIME & LAW, 2018
<https://doi.org/10.1080/1068316X.2017.1421640>



Why call someone by what we don't want them to be? The ethics of labeling in forensic/correctional psychology

Gwenda M. Willis

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ABSTRACT


Labeling a person by their past behavior or a criminal conviction is commonplace throughout forensic and correctional psychology. Labels including ‘offender’ and ‘sex offender’ infiltrate academic writing and conference presentations, names of professional organizations and treatment programmes and, at times, traverse therapeutic work. That such labels are frequently used and rarely advocated against suggests that helping professionals either (i) don't recognize labeling as an ethical issue, or (ii) don't consider it their role to challenge. The current paper aims to encourage critical reflection on the use of labels in forensic and correctional psychology. Key concerns are illustrated through a focus on labels commonly assigned to individuals who have sexually abused, where labeling is especially prolific. The scope of labeling is reviewed, and implications for rehabilitation and reintegration discussed. Next, an analysis of the ethics of labeling individuals on the basis of criminal convictions, past behavior or psychological phenomena is presented. It is argued that the use of such labels contradict core ethical principles including beneficence and nonmaleficence, respect for the dignity of all persons, and responsibilities to society. A de-labelling movement for forensic/correctional psychology and related fields is proposed.

ARTICLE HISTORY

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KEYWORDS

Labeling theory; pygmalion effect; professional ethics; desistance; rehabilitation

AT-RISK YOUTH  AT-PROMISE YOUTH

In 2019, California Governor Gavin Newsome signed a law removing “at-risk youth” from California’s Education and Penal Codes and replaced the term with “at-promise youth.”


What Are Our Options?

- *Persons with sexual offense histories*
- *Individual who has been adjudicated for...*
- *Child/adolescent with sexual behavior problems*
- *Child/adolescent adjudicated for illegal sexual behaviors*
- *Person with pedophilic interests*

*Each acknowledges the behavior, and we can still hold a person accountable for that behavior!
Language change doesn't change the other amazing work we're doing.*

JOURNAL OF AGGRESSION, MALTREATMENT & TRAUMA
2021, VOL. 30, NO. 3, 347–367
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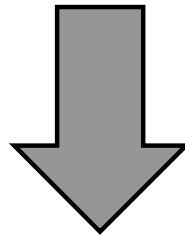
Poly-victimization among Adolescents Adjudicated for Illegal Sexual Behavior: A Latent Class Analysis

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^aGraduate School of Professional Psychology, University of Denver, Denver, CO, USA; ^bDepartment of Psychological Sciences, Auburn University, Auburn, AL, USA



ASSOCIATION FOR THE TREATMENT OF SEXUAL ABUSERS (ATSA)



ASSOCIATION FOR THE TREATMENT & PREVENTION OF SEXUAL
ABUSE (ATSA)

Sex Offender Management Board Votes to Change Language in Standards & Guidelines for Treatment Providers

(November 19, 2021) - The Colorado Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB) voted today to use “adults who commit sexual offenses” in place of “sex offenders” in the standards and guidelines used by treatment providers who assess, evaluate and treat people convicted of sexual offenses.

After discussion and public comment, the board voted 10-6 to make the language change to the [Standards and Guidelines for the Assessment, Evaluation, Treatment and Behavioral Monitoring of Adult Sex Offenders](#). This revision to the Standards will be open for public comment for 20 days. The Board will then review the public comment, discuss any adjustments based on the public comment, and ratify the language revision during the [Board's next public meeting](#).

Members of the public can submit their comments using this form by **December 12, 2021 at 5:00 pm**.

The language change applies only to the SOMB Standards; the term “sex offender” will continue to be used in Colorado statute and the criminal justice system, including courts, law enforcement and the Colorado Sex Offender Registry. The name of the SOMB itself will also remain unchanged.

The SOMB is a 25-member board created by the Colorado General Assembly in order to establish “evidence-based standards for the evaluation, identification, treatment, management, and monitoring of adult sex offenders and juveniles who have committed sexual offenses at each stage of the criminal or juvenile justice system to prevent offenders from reoffending and enhance the protection of victims and potential victims.”

Members of the public and the media can review the minutes, discussions and votes of SOMB meetings, including video recording of past board meetings, by browsing the [SOMB Public Records repository](#).

Recent

[Statement on Referral of VRA Complaints to Colorado Attorney General](#)

(February 16, 2022) - Colorado's Constitution and statutes clearly define certain rights for victims of crimes. The Victim Rights Act (VRA), in particular, ensures that crime victims are treated with...

[Governor Polis Proclaims January 11 as Human Trafficking Awareness Day](#)

(January 11, 2022) - January is National

NEWS > CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY • News

Colorado board reverses controversial change to “sex offender” label at urging of Gov. Jared Polis and his appointee

In November, the state Sex Offender Management Board voted to replace “sex offenders” with “adults who commit sexual offenses.” Then the board opened that decision up to public comment, and that’s where things went off track.

The Denver Post (2021, Dec 20)

“The research is overwhelming that how we label people impacts their ability to build healthy, prosocial identities and lifestyles that are incompatible with sexual offending,” Laurie Rose Kepros, director of sexual litigation for the Office of the State Public Defender, told The Denver Post. “The SOMB Standards provide the regulations that govern the professionals charged with supporting these positive changes, so the language should support that mission. Do we want these clients to reoffend or not?”

The Denver Post (2021, Dec 20)






AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

Apology to People of Color for APA's Role in Promoting, Perpetuating, and Failing to Challenge Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Human Hierarchy in U.S.

OCTOBER 2021

Article

Sick and Shut In: Incarceration During a Public Health Crisis

Journal of Humanistic Psychology
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Apryl A. Alexander¹ , Hailey Allo¹,
and Hannah Klukoff¹

Abstract

COVID-19, the latest infectious coronavirus disease, was discovered in December of 2019 in Wuhan, China, and has rapidly reached pandemic levels. The World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have released recommendations to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, including hand washing, covering coughs, and social/physical distancing, but what happens to those who are incarcerated? Over 1.4 million adults in the United States are currently incarcerated in state and federal prisons and over 80,000 individuals are incarcerated in local jails. Correctional settings are often deprived, overcrowded, and unsanitary environments, which do not lend themselves to the prevention, treatment, or recovery from illness. Incarcerated individuals are at a much higher risk to become infected due to a variety of factors, such as generally higher rates of chronic conditions than the community and overall lack of screening for certain illnesses. The present article discusses how smart decarceration tactics, such as compassionate release, offer options to compensate for overcrowding in correctional facilities and reducing the spread of COVID-19.




Article

Sick and Shut In: Incarceration During a Public Health Crisis

Apryl A. Alexander¹ , Hailey Allo¹,
and Hannah Klukoff¹

Abstract

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Translational Issues in Psychological Science

<https://doi.org/10.1037/tps0000386>

Addressing Mass Incarceration Amid a Pandemic: Psychology Informing Decarceration as a Racial Justice and Public Health Response

Apryl A. Alexander¹, Hannah Klukoff², and Claire Gaglione³

¹ Department of Public Health Sciences, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

² McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University

³ Graduate School of Professional Psychology, University of Denver

Inequities and inequalities are apparent to psychologists who work at the intersection of the criminal legal system. The COVID-19 pandemic raised many concerns surrounding the spread to over 1.4 million people incarcerated in jails and prisons in the United States. Correctional settings are often deprived, overcrowded, and unsanitary environments, which do not lend themselves to preventing or recovering from illness. Furthermore, it is difficult for incarcerated individuals to adhere to recommendations to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, such as hand washing and social/physical distancing. Disproportionate minority contact, which describes the overrepresentation of minoritized racial/ethnic populations in the criminal and juvenile legal systems, also estimates precisely who is most at risk for contracting COVID-19 in these settings. For instance, Black people are more likely to be incarcerated and suffer from health conditions that increase their risk for infection; therefore, those incarcerated are at exponential risk of infection. As the American Psychological Association recently adopted a resolution to combat racism, addressing structural and institutional racism within the criminal legal system is critical. The present article discusses how psychologists can use social science to inform smart decarceration tactics to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and mass incarceration.

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The Same Dynamics, Different Tactics: Domestic Violence During COVID-19

Emma A. Sower, BS, and Apryl A. Alexander, PsyD

slidesmania.com

OPINION, OPINION COLUMNS

Opinion: Why too few Black women and girls report sexual violence

As we strive to prevent and end sexual violence, we must start by interacting with survivors in a supportive, empathetic, and trauma-informed manner.



Apryl Alexander

2:55 AM MDT on Apr 6, 2021



"Where's the evidence?"

"Why doesn't she come forward?"

"Why didn't she call the police?"

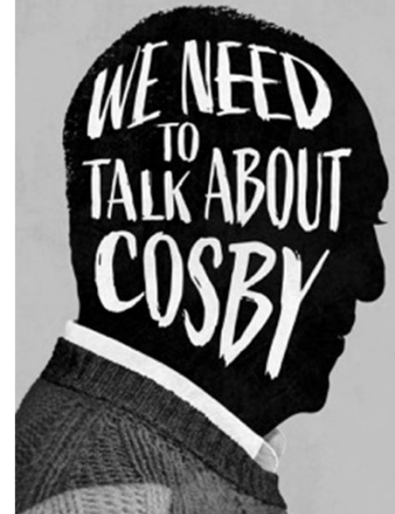
The Cultural Betrayal of Black Women and Girls

A Black Feminist Approach to Healing from Sexual Abuse

Jennifer M. Gómez



A DOCUMENTARY SERIES DIRECTED BY W. KAMAU BELL



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Public perceptions of castle doctrine and stand your ground cases

Emma Sower¹ | Apryl A. Alexander² | Hannah Klukoff³

¹Clinical Psychology Department, Palo Alto University, Palo Alto, California, USA

²Department of Public Health Sciences, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA

³McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University, Washington, District of Columbia, USA

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Funding information

University of Denver Professional Research Opportunities for Faculty Grant

Abstract

Introduction: Stand your ground (SYG) and castle doctrine (CD) laws are presently growing throughout the United States. The present study aims to better understand public perceptions of SYG and CD cases and demographic factors that influence judicial decision making.

Methods: Participants were 204 adults who were randomly assigned one of four vignettes that depicted a CD or SYG scenario and varied by defendant demographics. After reading the vignette, participants completed a questionnaire assessing whether they believed the defendant was guilty of the murder and whether the homicide was justified.

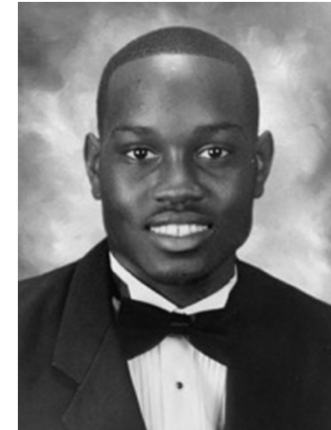
Results: Results indicated participants were more likely to assign a guilty verdict to the SYG scenario, compared to the CD scenario. Additionally, participants assigned to the SYG vignette believed the male defendant was more justified in killing the victim, compared to participants assigned the female defendant.

Conclusion: Results from this study reveal how potential jurors may harbor sex/gender bias in determining justifiable homicide in stand your ground cases.

KEYWORDS

castle doctrine, gender, justifiable homicide, policy, race, self-defense, stand your ground laws

On September 6, 2018, 31-year-old police officer Amber Guyger (a White woman) stated she mistakenly entered the wrong apartment and fatally shot 26-year-old Botham Jean (a Black man), as he was sitting on his couch watching television and eating ice cream. Guyger was initially charged with manslaughter but was later indicted by a grand jury for murder. On September 30, 2019, Dallas District Court Judge Tammy Kemp instructed jurors to consider Texas' castle doctrine (CD) in deciding their verdict for Guyger. On October 3, 2019, Guyger was convicted of murder and sentenced to 10 years in prison (eligible for parole in 5 years). Former Texas State Senator Jeff Wentworth, who created the Texas bill for the CD statute in





JOURNAL OF PROGRESSIVE HUMAN SERVICES
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10428232.2020.1852865>

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Defund the Police: Moving Towards an Anti-Carceral Social Work

Leah A. Jacobs^a, Mimi E. Kim^b, Darren L. Whitfield^a, Rachel E. Gartner^a,
 Meg Panichelli^c, Shanna K. Kattari^d, Margaret Mary Downey^e,
 Shanté Stuart McQueen^f, and Sarah E. Mountz^g

^aSchool of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA; ^bSchool of Social Work, California State University, Long Beach, CA, USA; ^cSocial Work, West Chester University, USA; ^dSchool of Social Work, University of Michigan, USA; ^eSchool of Social Work, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, USA; ^fSchool of Education, Portland State University, Portland, OR, USA; ^gSchool of Social Welfare, University at Albany, USA

ABSTRACT

This article addresses social work's place in the movement to "defund the police." We argue that social work's collaboration with police and use of policing constitutes *carceral social work*. In defining carceral social work, we specify the ways in which coercive and punitive practices are used to manage Black, Indigenous, other people of color, and poor communities across four social work arenas – gender-based violence, child welfare, schools, and health and mental health. To inform *anti-carceral social work*, we provide examples of interventions in these arenas that dismantle police collaborations and point to life-affirming, community-centered, and mutual aid alternatives.

KEYWORDS

Abolition; police; social work; transformative justice; White supremacy



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Toward an Abolitionist Practice of Psychology: Reimagining Psychology's Relationship With the Criminal Justice System

Journal of Humanistic Psychology
2021, Vol. 61(4) 451–469
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Hannah Klukoff¹, Haleh Kanani¹,
Claire Gaglione¹,
and Apryl Alexander¹

Abstract

The social justice uprisings that have stemmed from several recent highly publicized murders of Black people by police have shed increasing light on the systems of oppression, inequity, and white supremacy that have been the backbone of the United States' policing and criminal justice systems since their inception. The American Psychological Association, along with many professional organizations across the subfields of psychology, has released its statement outlining how psychology must contribute to the eradication of systemic racism and white supremacy. In this article, we address the need for psychology and its subfields to acknowledge our complicity in certain systems of oppression, such as our ties to law enforcement and the police, our support of mental health reforms that merely increase the scope of a punitive criminal justice system, and our complicity in the harm done by our current immigration policies. We argue that the best way, in fact the only way, for the profession to move toward an antiracist psychological practice is to embrace an abolitionist framework so that we may reimagine our relationships with historically oppressive institutions and rebuild our



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Hannah Klukoff¹ , Haleh Kanani¹,
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ALAN J. DETTLAFF

Confronting the Racist Legacy of the American Child Welfare System



THE CASE FOR ABOLITION





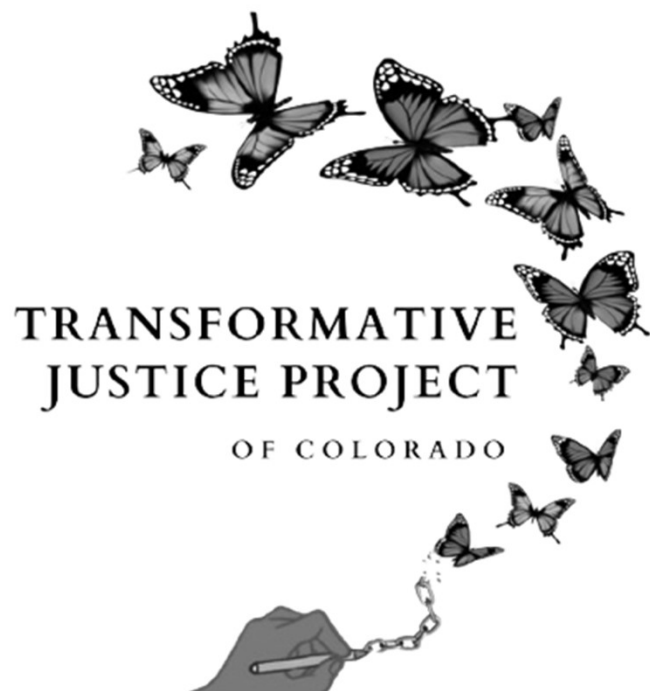
THE DENVER POST

Crime and Public Safety | Critics seek reform of Colorado sex offender...

NEWS > CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY - News

Critics seek reform of Colorado sex offender laws they say can do more harm than good

Lawmakers, researchers and even some victims seek reform of state's Sex Offender Management Board



CRIME AND COURTS, HEALTH, POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

State and local laws push more registered sex offenders into low-income Colorado communities

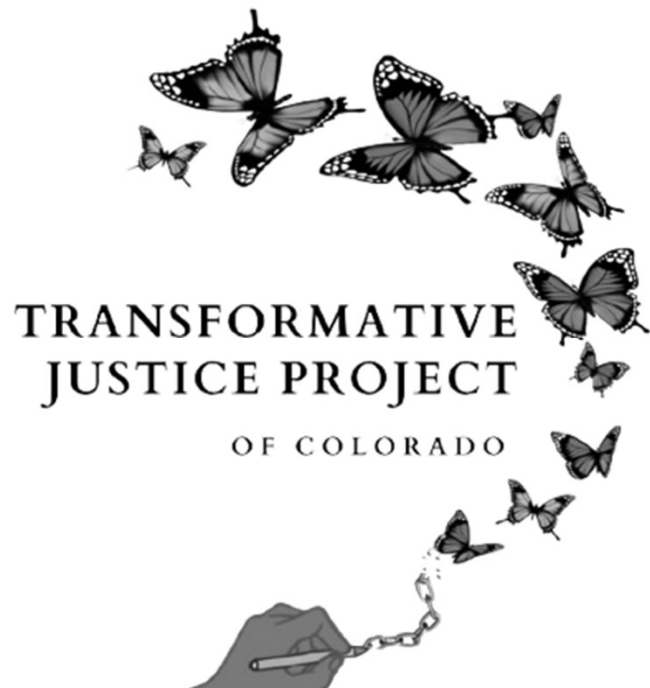
Data shows disproportionate number of offenders live in impoverished neighborhoods, and community organizers aren't happy about it.



Karen Augé

5:05 AM MDT on Jul 24, 2019

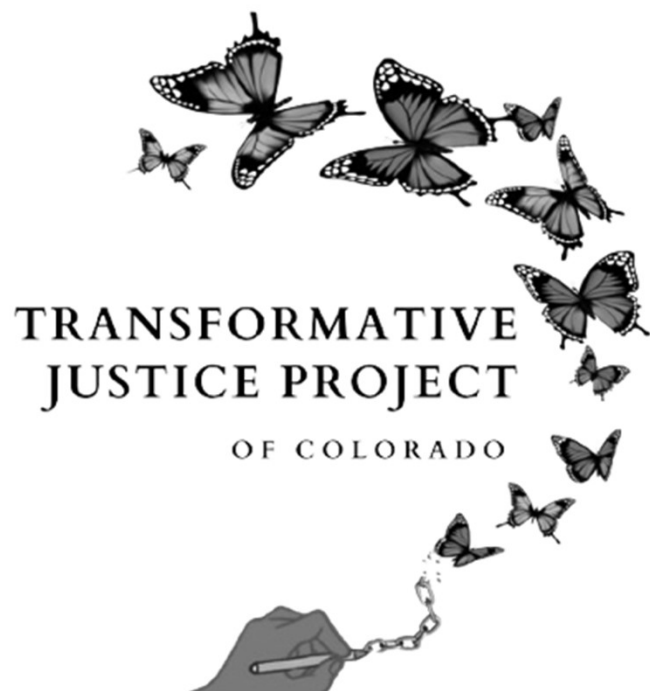
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Fears vs. facts

When affluent communities zone out sex offenders, they often do so because they share the widely held belief that living near sex offenders puts people, especially children, at greater risk. But there is little data to support those assumptions.

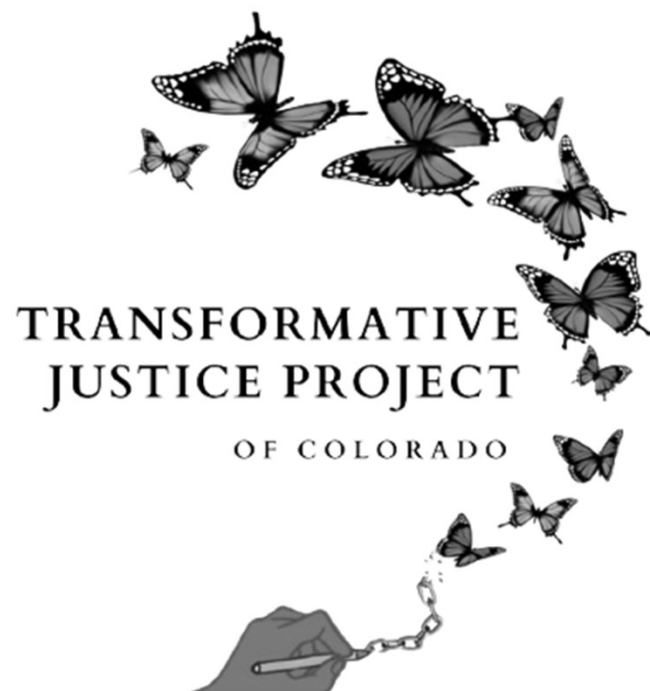
In a [2017 article](#) published by the American Bar Association, sex-crime policy researcher Jill S. Levenson noted that, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, 93% of children who are victims of sex crimes are abused by family members, friends or acquaintances. “Sex offenders do not molest children because they live near schools. They abuse when they are able to establish relationships with children and their families and misuse positions of familiarity, trust and authority,” Levinson wrote.



Homelessness is prevalent among sex offenders. In Sterling, a small city in northeastern Colorado, 11 of the city's 55 registered sex offenders are homeless. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation map shows a cluster of seven sex offenders living in an undeveloped area along the South Platte River in the town of Sheridan, where the average household income is just over \$40,000 and the poverty rate is 21.5%, according to Census data.

A lot of current treatment for sex offenders now focuses on reintegrating them into their community, said Apryl Alexander, an assistant professor at the University of Denver graduate school of professional psychology. Alexander is director of the Denver Forensic Institute for Research, Service, and Training (Denver FIRST) Outpatient Competency Restoration Program.

"When we have these residency restrictions, you're going to be displacing people," making it hard to forge those connections that help prevent offenders from committing additional crimes, she said.



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Sex offender registration and notification act with adolescents adjudicated for illegal sexual behavior: a therapeutic jurisprudence perspective

Apyrl Alexander^{1*}, John Michael Falligant^{2,3}, Cory Marchi⁴,
Erica Floding⁴ and Marissa Jennings⁴

¹University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC, United States, ²Johns Hopkins Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, United States, ³Kennedy Krieger Institute, Baltimore, MD, United States, ⁴University of Denver, Denver, CO, United States

Adolescents adjudicated for illegal sexual behavior (AISB) are subjected to the same Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) policies as adults with sexual offense histories despite current research documenting their relatively low likelihood of recidivism. Therapeutic jurisprudence is a framework which suggests the law should value psychological well-being and strive to avoid imposing anti-therapeutic consequences. The purpose of this article is to analyze the use of SORNA policies with AISB from a therapeutic jurisprudence perspective. Given the current literature documenting the collateral consequences of SORNA on AISB and their families and the lack of efficacy in reducing recidivism, we argue SORNA should not be applied to children and adolescents. We conclude with a discussion of future directions for the juvenile justice system and public policy reform.

KEYWORDS

juvenile delinquency, policy, registry, sexual offending, therapeutic jurisprudence

In 2021, Governor Polis signed HB21-1064, which automatically removes youth from the sex offense registry when they turn 25 or seven years after their second offense, as long as they haven't gone on to re-offend as an adult

Also, in 2021, the Colorado Supreme Court (No. 19SC690 People in Int. of T. B.) stated it is unconstitutional to require youth convicted of repeat sex offenses to register for the rest of their lives—lifetime registration is cruel and unusual punishment under the 8th Amendment

Both The Courts And Lawmakers Have Ruled That Juvenile Sex Offenders Will No Longer Be Automatically Registered For Life

By Megan Verlee and Paolo Zalcita - Jun. 29, 2021, 4:00 am



The Colorado Supreme Court building in Denver.

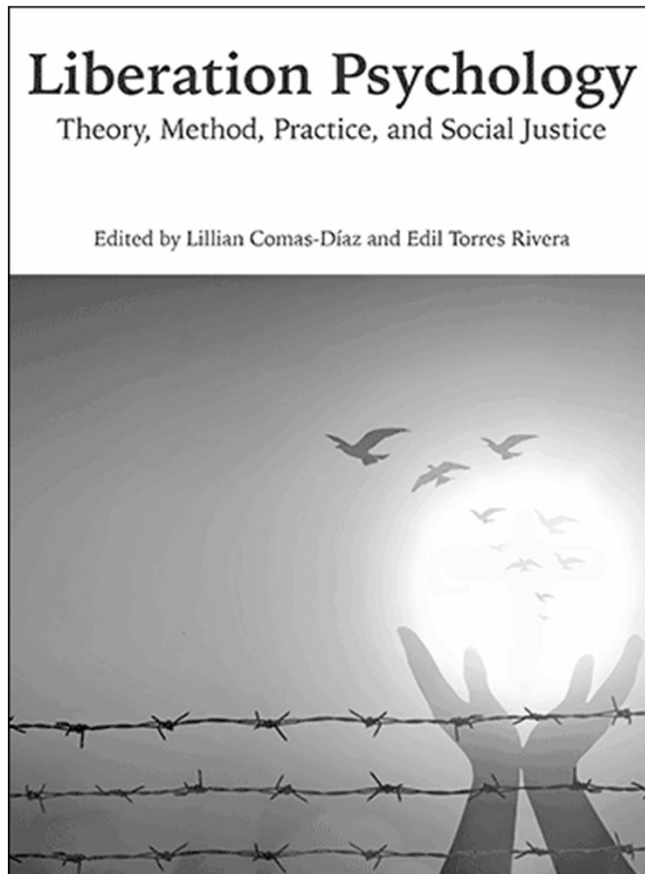
Hart Van Denburg/CPR News

Liberation

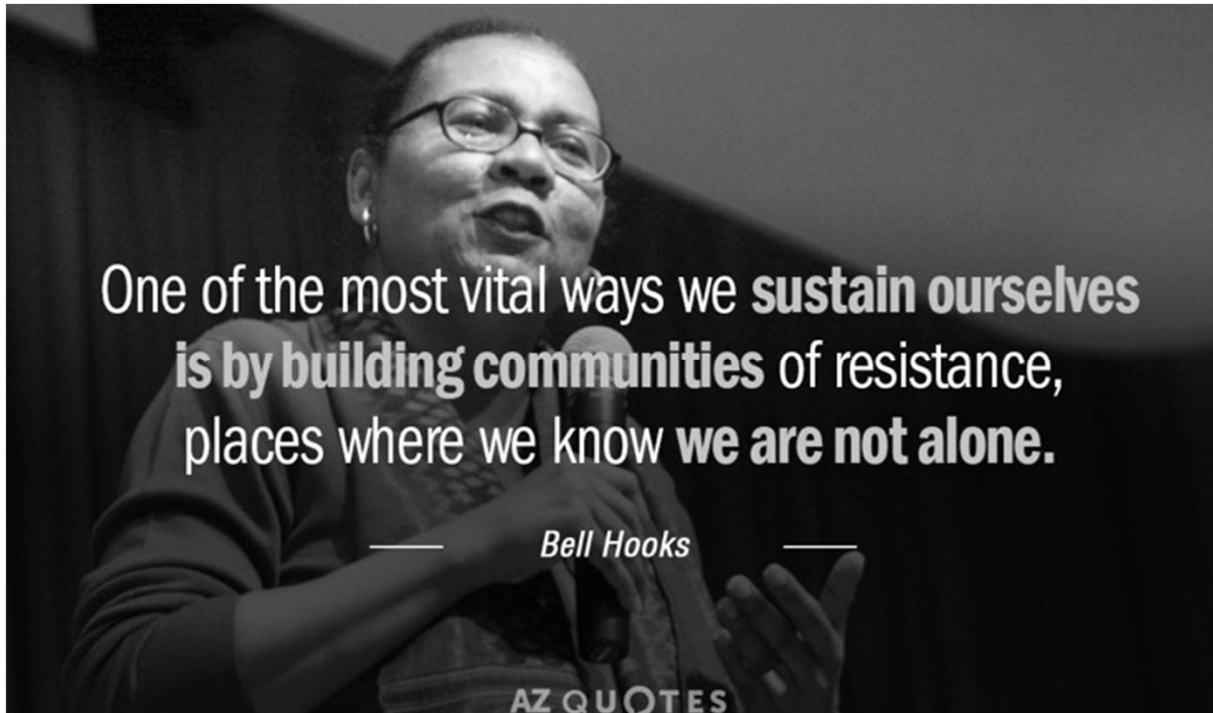


- *Safety*
- *Security*
- *Belonging*
- *Love*

Liberation



- *Safety*
- *Security*
- *Belonging*
- *Love*



One of the most vital ways we **sustain ourselves**
is by building communities of resistance,
places where we know **we are not alone.**

— Bell Hooks —

AZ QUOTES

Liberation

- *Nurturing and caring for each other*
- *Providing a safe and supportive environment*
- *Recognizing humanity*
- *Multiple forms of healing and therapy*

Concluding Remarks

Challenging Road Ahead

HEALTH

HHS guts sexual violence prevention division, leaving local efforts adrift

APRIL 8, 2025 · 5:15 AM ET

HEARD ON ALL THINGS CONSIDERED



Selena Simmons-Duffin



3-Minute Listen

+ PLAYLIST

TRANSCRIPT



Concluding Remarks

- *There's still a lot to learn.*
- *The community has guided my work and will continue to do so.*
- *Education and truth-telling*
- *Realities of institutional and sociopolitical barriers*
- *Liberation through
Direct Action. Litigation. Policy change.*

Thank you!

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