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Deakin Research on Violence Against Women (DRVAW)

2021 Online Inaugural Conference:
Interdisciplinary Research on Family Violence



<https://drvaw.deakin.edu.au/>

Deakin University CRICOS Provider Code: 00113B

► Conference program

Friday, October 22, 2021 10:00am – 4.00pm

The conference will be held **online** via Zoom.

Zoom link: <https://deakin.zoom.us/j/83224038981?pwd=SWVvcUNsWWkrSjZ2TEt2UXBHZ2czQT09>

10.00am:	Opening of Conference and Acknowledgement of Country (Dr Lata Satyen)
10.05am:	Welcome Address by Pro Vice-Chancellor Research Strategy & Performance at Deakin University, Professor Chris McConville (10 mins)
10.15am – 11.00am:	Keynote Presentation (1) Tania Farha , CEO Domestic Violence Victoria & Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria (45 mins)
11.00am to 11.05am	Discussion (5 mins)
11.05am – 11.35am:	Expert Panel Discussion on Intersectional Family Violence research at Deakin facilitated by Dr Mary Iliadis (Co-Convenor DRVAW Hub) (30 mins)
	Panellists:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr Lata Satyen, School of Psychology• Dr Renee Fiolet, School of Nursing and Midwifery• Dr Kim Robinson, School of Social Work and Development
11.35am – 12.00pm	Lunch break (25 mins)
12.00pm – 1.00 pm:	Afternoon Session #1 (60 mins)

► Afternoon Session #1

Police body-worn cameras in response to domestic and family violence: a study of police perceptions and experiences

Dr Mary Iliadis and **Dr Danielle Tyson**, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Education (mary.iliadis@deakin.edu.au and danielle.tyson@deakin.edu.au)

Over the last five years, body-worn cameras (BWCs) have been embraced by Australian police agencies as a mechanism to improve responses to domestic and family violence (DFV). Yet, little is known about their use, potential merits and limitations in DFV specific applications. Addressing this deficit, this project is the first Australian study to examine the merits of police body-worn camera (BWC) technology in response to domestic and family violence incidents in Australia. The first stage of this project included 528 surveys conducted with police officers from the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and Western Australian Police Force (WAPOL), and 30 in-depth interviews with family violence stakeholders in three jurisdictions – Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. Stage 2 of the project is funded by the Criminology Research Grants Scheme and involves a nationwide survey with victim/survivors, and 30 semi-structured interviews with victim/survivors in four jurisdictions – Western Australia (WA), Queensland, New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria. In this paper we present the findings from stage 1 of the project focusing on the survey data.

Image-Based Abuse: A Sexual Offence?

Professor Marilyn McMahon, Deakin Law School (marilyn.mcmahon@deakin.edu.au)

The harms associated with the non-consensual creation and/or sharing online of intimate images have been increasingly acknowledged. All Australian States and Territories now criminalise, in various ways, at least some aspects of this form of abuse. This paper explores the implications of treating image-based abuse as a sexual offence, focusing on the experiences of victims, consent, and the construction of offences. While acknowledging recent scepticism about using the coercive and expressive powers of the criminal law to regulate gendered violence and abuse, there are persuasive reasons to recognise image-based abuse as a sexual offence.

Technology-based responses to technology-facilitated domestic and family violence: An overview of the limits and possibilities of tech-based 'solutions'

Dr Diarmaid Harkin, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, Deakin University (diarmaid.harkin@deakin.edu.au) and **Dr Robert Merkel**, Software Engineer

There has been an emergence of technology-based responses to address technology-facilitated abuse (TFA). This includes internet-based information or reporting services, efforts to promote safer design of technological products and platforms, or the creation of bespoke technical solutions such as spyware detection. Using observations from a number of recent empirical research projects into TFA, it will be shown that technology-based responses are necessary without being sufficient, and that they have persistent limitations that need to be recognised. Relatedly it will be argued that there should be on-going emphasis on the development of human resources as a support for those experiencing TFA.

Exploring Social Workers' Perceptions and Practices of Technology-Facilitated Domestic Abuse (TFDA) across Victoria

Dr Rojan Afrouz, Lecturer in Social Work, School of Health & Social Development, Faculty of Health, Deakin University (z.afrouz@deakin.edu.au) and **Dr Sevi Vassos**, School of Health & Social Development

Technology-facilitated Domestic Abuse (TFDA) is widely acknowledged as an insidious form of intimate partner violence (IPV) with widespread impacts on women, children and communities. Yet, little is currently known about how social workers at the front line of family violence services respond to TFDA. This research uses a qualitative methodology through semi-structured interviews to obtain rich data on social workers' perceptions and practice responses to TFDA within Victorian family violence services. The study aims to deepen understanding of social workers' perceptions and practice responses to this form of IPV. The study will invariably identify a range of strengths, limitations, opportunities and challenges within current policy, legal and practice responses in this area. As such, the study will potentially enable the Victorian family services sector to further develop its service delivery frameworks, policies and practices in evidence-informed ways.

1.00pm – 1.15pm Short 15 min break

1.15pm – 1.45pm: Higher Degree by Research Students Session (30 mins)





Higher Degree by Research Students Session

1) Cultural Norms and Traditions: A qualitative meta-synthesis of Service Engagement Among Female Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

Jane Green, Doctor of Psychology (Clinical) Candidature, Deakin University (greenjan@deakin.edu.au); Supervisors: Dr. Lata Satyen and Professor John Toumbourou

2) Intimate Partner and Family Violence Among Women Tertiary Students in Australia: Prevalence and Cross-Cultural Differences

Laura Zark, Doctor of Psychology (Clinical) candidate, Deakin University (lzark@deakin.edu.au); Supervisors: Dr. Lata Satyen and Professor John Toumbourou

3) Addressing family violence in migrant communities through a community-oriented approach

Hannah Stephen, PhD Candidate, Deakin University (hvstephe@deakin.edu.au); Supervisors: Dr. Lata Satyen and Professor John Toumbourou

4) Help-Seeking Behaviours Among Australian Adults Who Experience Unwanted Receipts of SEXTS.

Dominika Howard, PhD Candidate, School of Psychology, Deakin University (dominika.howard@deakin.edu.au); Supervisors: Dr. Bianca Klettke and Associate Professor Matthew Fuller-Tyszkiewicz

Sonia Ryert, Honours student, School of Psychology, Faculty of Health.

5) Male Victim Experiences of Sexual Violence and their Help-Seeking Behaviour

April Loxton, PhD Candidate, Criminology, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Education, Deakin University (april.loxton@deakin.edu.au); Supervisors: Dr Andrew Groves and Dr Mary Iliadis

1.45pm – 2.15pm **Keynote Presentation (2) Professor Marilyn McMahon,**
Deakin Law School (30 mins)

Topic: Criminalising Coercive Control: A New Family Violence Offence?

Professor Marilyn McMahon,

Nearly all Australian State and Territory governments are now considering whether to introduce a new, standalone offence that criminalises the coercive control - the physical, sexual, psychological, emotional and/or economic abuse - of a spouse, partner or other person in a specified domestic relationship. The upsurge of interest in this initiative follows the introduction of related laws in the United Kingdom that criminalise 'controlling or coercive behaviour' or 'domestic abuse', as well as high profile cases of family violence in Australia. In this paper I identify the challenges that must be addressed in developing new laws prohibiting coercive control, including: defining and proving intangible harms (psychological and emotional abuse), distinguishing wrongful conduct from normative behaviour, avoiding fabricated or unmeritorious claims (particularly by aggressive men) and preventing the overcriminalisation of indigenous Australians. The analysis points to the likely challenges that would be faced in introducing a coercive control offence, and how those challenges might be addressed.

2.15pm – 2.30pm Short 15 min break

2.30pm – 3.30pm Afternoon Session (2) (60 mins) (5 presentations)

Afternoon Session #2

The Royal Commission into Family Violence: Trends in Help-seeking behaviour among migrant and non-migrant women

Dr Lata Satyen¹ (lata.satyen@deakin.edu.au), **Professor John Toumbourou**¹,
Dr Jess Heerde², **Meu Supol**¹, and **Dr Archana Ranganathan**¹

¹ School of Psychology, Deakin University; ² University of Melbourne

We examined trends in the reporting of intimate partner violence and help-seeking behaviour before and during the Royal Commission into Family Violence across the migrant and non-migrant community in Australia. A nationally representative sample of 677 women demonstrated significantly higher levels of reporting of violence in the year of the Royal Commission. The perceived need to seek help also increased during this period, however, this pattern was not evident for migrant women. The findings demonstrate the role of public inquiries on public behaviour, how they could make further attempts to reach diverse groups and prepare services for predictable changes in community behaviour.

Family violence during the COVID-19 pandemic: The impact on women on Humanitarian and Temporary Protection Visas.

Dr Rojan Afrouz, School of Health & Social Development, Faculty of Health, Deakin University (z.afrouz@deakin.edu.au)

Dr Kim Robinson, Senior Lecturer in Social Work, Deputy HDR Co-Ordinator, School of Health & Social Development, Faculty of Health, Deakin University (kim.robinson@deakin.edu.au)

Women from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities in Australia who experience family violence (FV) face barriers to accessing help, including a lack of financial and social support, limited English, and temporary visa status. During the COVID-19 pandemic, women on Humanitarian and Temporary Protection visas experienced inequality in relation to FV support and services. Our methodology is based on a review of both academic and grey literature that privilege the lived experience of women affected by the pandemic. Our paper explores the newly emerging literature highlighting FV during the pandemic from a critical social work and human rights perspective.

A Retrospective Study of Traumatic Brain Injury in Victims of Assault

Professor Karen Caeyenberghs, Cognitive Neuroscience Unit, School of Psychology, Deakin University (k.caeyenberghs@deakin.edu.au)

Physical violence (domestic violence, random assault) in Australia is a recognised social and public health problem that has reached epidemic proportions. There has been increasing awareness of assault victims suffering from traumatic brain injury (TBI). Despite the high rates of assault, there are few scientific studies investigating the inter-relationship between violence and TBI. We will utilize a retrospective cross-sectional design to analyse medical record data of assault victims collected between 2011-2021, who presented to the emergency departments across metropolitan Melbourne. These findings will have direct implications for developing screening tools and better preventive and ameliorative interventions for assault survivors.

Afternoon Session #2

The co-design, development and launch of a culturally appropriate online resource for First Nations peoples experiencing family violence: introducing Burndawan

Dr Renee Fiolet RN, Lecturer, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Health, Deakin University (renee.fiolet@deakin.edu.au)

Drawing on community-based participatory research methods including semi-structured interviews, focus groups, community validation methods and pilot testing, this presentation will discuss research collaboratively done with a First Nations community to develop an online family violence resource for their peoples. The community felt that three components (modules) are necessary for online resources to be informative and supportive. The first module “Assess” offers users the opportunity to assess their relationships and prioritise their needs. The second module “Act” encourages users to pull together a plan of action for managing their situation and provides access to helpful Indigenous and non-Indigenous resources. The third module is “heal” and incorporates elements that promote Indigenous social and emotional well-being such as connection to culture and mob.

Preventing family violence and violence against women among Buddhist communities in Victoria, Australia

Associate Professor Anna Halafoff, Deakin University (anna.halafoff@deakin.edu.au); **Jessica Wilson**, Buddhist Council of Victoria; **Diana Cousens**, Buddhist Council of Victoria and Australian Catholic University; **Dr Ruth Fitzpatrick**, Deakin University

Family violence and violence against women affect significant numbers of women in diverse faith communities. This presentation reports on a project conducted by the Buddhist Council of Victoria, to build the capacity of Buddhist faith community and leaders to effectively identify, respond to and prevent family violence and violence against women. This project was conducted in 2019-2021, as part of a broader initiative on ‘Faith Communities Supporting Healthy Family Relationships,’ funded by the Premier and Cabinet in Victoria. The BCV partnered with the Multicultural Centre for Women’s Health, and the project team included researchers at Melbourne University and Deakin University. Buddhists from a range of ethnicities and traditions attended training and co-designed culturally relevant resources aimed at preventing and responding to family violence, which were disseminated across the Victorian Buddhist community. They include help cards, a toolkit, posters and videos, in multiple languages. This presentation will focus particularly on the collaborative and participatory methods employed in this project by the BCV and its partners, which drew on both primary prevention and Buddhist frameworks, for addressing family violence and violence against women in Victoria’s Buddhist communities.



3.30pm – 3.45pm Conference close by DRVAW Hub Co-Convenors
(**Dr Danielle Tyson**).

Thank you for joining us!

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