

RESEARCH

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The Center for Research on Violence Against Women was created in 2002 as a joint project of the University of Kentucky and the Office of the Kentucky Governor. The Center is committed to preparing students and advancing scientific inquiry into the legal and clinical complexities presented by domestic violence, rape, stalking and related crimes against women. The Center is dedicated to enhancing the welfare and safety of those impacted by these crimes through research, scholarship and public service.

Carol E. Jordan, Director



Research/ Advocate Collaboration: Taking the Next Step

April 14-15, 2004
Lexington, Kentucky

Many thanks to our generous sponsor

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Thank you to the law firm of
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AGENDA

April 14th
7:00 pm

Dinner at Spindletop
Setting the Stage: the Advocates' Perspective
All Participants

April 15th

8:15 am – 8:45 am

Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:45 am – 9:15 am

The Challenges of Researching Domestic Violence and Rape
Carol E. Jordan, M.S., Director
Center for Research on Violence Against Women, University of Kentucky

This session will address the specific challenges associated with research in the violence against women area. It will provide a view of the state of research nationally in the violence against women field.

9:15 am – 9:45 am

Using Research in Direct Service Practice: A Case Example
Ginny Sprang, Ph.D., College of Social Work, University of Kentucky
Jim Clark, Ph.D., College of Social Work, University of Kentucky

This session will offer the specific example of the University of Kentucky CATS clinic as an example of how research can daily influence the delivery of services to families suffering maltreatment. The discussion will also briefly address the use of science by advocates and other experts in the courtroom.

9:45 am – 10:15 am

Effective Methods of Collaboration: Findings of the National VAW Prevention Research Center Focus Groups
Mindy Mechanic, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology
California State University – Fullerton

This session will address how to effectively conduct research in the violence against women area, specifically including how to safely and collaboratively conduct studies using samples of women in shelter. The presentation will also include discussion of findings from the National Violence Against Women Prevention Research Center focus groups on researcher-advocate collaboration.

10:15 am – 10:30 am

Break

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

And Just What Do We Mean by "Research"? An Introduction to Research Methods
Rebecca Campbell, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Psychology
Michigan State University

This session will provide an overview of research methodology to assist advocates and practitioners in collaborating on research projects. It will begin with an explanation of the similarities and differences between research designs, including pure experimental design, quasi-experimental design, surveys and qualitative designs.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Lunch

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Creating Tools for Advocates and Practitioners
1) Evaluating Proposals for Research Projects 2) What Does That Article Say, Anyway?

This session will discuss two concrete tools for advocates and practitioners to use – one for programs to use when evaluating a research proposal from a local university. The second will be a tool to help advocates know how to read and benefit from peer-reviewed journal articles.

2:00 pm – 2:15 pm

Break

2:15 pm – 3:30 pm

From Direct Service Question to Research Study: Making Research Come to Life
All Participants with Advocate/Practitioner Facilitators

The final session of the day will be an exercise of taking questions which arise in the course of providing services to women and children, and turning them into research studies.

3:30 pm – 3:45 pm

Wrap Up With Final Recommendations

Faculty Bios

Rebecca Campbell, Ph. D. is an Associate Professor of Quantitative & Community Psychology at Michigan State University. She teaches research methods, statistics, and program evaluation for college students as well as for rape victim advocates and other community practitioners. Her research focuses on ways to improve how the legal, medical, and mental health systems can better respond to the needs of rape survivors. She is the author of "Emotionally Involved: The Impact of Researching Rape" (2002, Routledge), which won the 2002 Distinguished Publication Award from the Association for Women in Psychology.

Carol E. Jordan, M.S. currently serves as Director of the University of Kentucky Center for Research on Violence Against Women and holds faculty appointments in the Department of Psychology and the College of Social Work. Ms. Jordan's areas of writing and research interest include the nexus of mental health and criminal justice, particularly as it relates to the experience of women. Ms. Jordan has published numerous articles on violence against women and the legal system, and has co-authored two books which address violence against women, the mental health effects of victimization, the experience of women in the court of justice, and practice implications in forensic mental health. Ms. Jordan has twenty years of experience in public policy, legislative advocacy, and the development of programs addressing domestic violence, rape and stalking. Before coming to the University, Ms. Jordan served for eight years as Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Services.

Mindy B. Mechanic, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor at California State University, Fullerton in Clinical Psychology. Dr. Mechanic's work addresses the psychosocial consequences of trauma, victimization, and interpersonal violence. Specific topics she has studied include: intimate partner violence, stalking, domestic homicide, and the co-occurrence of child maltreatment and intimate partner violence. Dr. Mechanic is also interested in the development of more effective legal, criminal justice, and social policy responses to interpersonal victimization to complement individual psychological intervention strategies targeting posttrauma symptoms. She also works in the area of psychology and law and forensic psychology and has served as an expert witness in cases involving battered women charged with crimes and other legal cases involving victimization.

Ginny Sprang, Ph.D., L.C.S.W. is an Associate Professor at the University of Kentucky with a joint appointment in the College of Social Work and the College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Sprang is the recipient of the 2002 Outstanding Trauma Research Award for her empirical work in the area of traumatic stress and complicated mourning, and has completed a series of studies on post-disaster co-morbidity patterns following the Oklahoma City bombing. Dr. Sprang was an invited contributing author for the recent internationally released book "Terrorist, Victims and Society: The Psychological Impact of Isolated Acts of Terrorism", published by John Wiley & Sons. Dr. Sprang is a Principal Investigator and Co-Director of the Comprehensive Assessment and Training Services (CATS) project, a nationally-recognized assessment and treatment center for abused and neglected children and their families. The CATS project has been highlighted as a "Model Real-World Laboratory" by the American Public Human Services Association in Washington, D.C., and was a finalist for the 2002 American Psychiatric Association Psychiatric Services Gold Award. She is also the Principal Investigator of the Bioterrorism in Behavioral Health project, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.