

LITERATURE HIGHLIGHTS

The works listed in these pages comprise selections from the new additions to the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault library collection over the last six months. They may be borrowed from the Australian Institute of Family Studies library via the interlibrary loan system. Compiled by Institute Librarian, Joan Kelleher.

Campus culture and sexual assault

The sexual victimization of college women, by B.S. Fisher...[et al.], Washington, DC, U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice, [2000].

This study of over 4,000 female college students uses two different survey methods in parallel to learn about the sexual assault of women. The authors estimate that, based on their findings, women at a college with 10,000 female students could experience more than 350 rapes per year – a finding with serious policy implications for US college administrators. The study also reinforces the importance of improving education and knowledge about sexual assault.

Sexual violence on campus: policies, programs, and perspectives, edited by A.J. Ottens & K. Hotelling, New York, Springer, c2001.

This book explores sexual assault and relationship violence within the American campus culture. Topics discussed include date rape, acquaintance rape, same sex assaults, and explores college prevention strategies in the light of student culture.

Court procedures

Carnal knowledge: rape on trial by S. Lees, London, The Women's Press, Revised Edition, 2002.

This book examines how the English criminal justice system responds to sexual assault crimes. Specifically, Lees examines current statistics and attrition rates for rape offences, and through court transcripts explores the current operation of legal and judicial attitudes in applying the rules of evidence and procedure in rape cases.

Reconstituting the 'relevance' of women's sexual histories in rape trials, by M. Heenan, *Women Against Violence - An Australian Feminist Journal*, no.13, 2002-2003, pp.4-17.

This article examines the extent to which women's sexual histories are used as evidence in rape trials, based on a study of rape trials in the County Court in Victoria. The article looks at the frequency of use of women's sexual histories in rape trials with a focus on the mechanisms used for assessing whether a woman's sexual history is relevant in the determination of rape allegations. Findings are compared with other recent Australian studies.

Seeking justice: an inquiry into the handling of sexual offences by the criminal justice system, by The Queensland Crime & Misconduct Commission Brisbane, Qld, Crime & Misconduct Commission, 2003.

The sexual offence charges laid against swimming coach Scott Volkens in late 2002 piqued public attention and significant interest in the transparency of decision-making processes by the police and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. This led to a decision by Queensland's Crime and Misconduct Commission to conduct a formal inquiry into how the criminal justice system deals with sexual offences. The Inquiry did not limit itself to child sexual abuse, but included all forms of sexual abuse whether perpetrated against children or adults. This report covers sexual offence research and legislation, before considering how the Queensland criminal justice system responds to reported sexual offences. The Commission makes several recommendations for reform of the criminal justice system.

Cultural diversity

Cultural diversity and services against sexual violence: a report from the National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence (NASASV), by W. Weeks, Melbourne, Vic, CASA House, 2002.

This report presents findings and recommendations from research into the access and equity practices of funded sexual assault services across Australia in relation to service delivery to women and children from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations, and culturally and linguistically diverse populations. Challenges facing services against sexual violence relating to access and equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children and culturally and linguistically diverse communities are explored, and barriers to access are identified. Case studies of projects and initiatives by services are presented as examples of effective access and equity practices for service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children and culturally and linguistically diverse women and children.

Drug and alcohol facilitated sexual assault

A critical review of field studies on the link of alcohol and adult sexual assault in women, by S.E. Ullman, *Aggression & Violent Behaviour*, vol.8, no.5, Sept.-Oct. 2003, pp. 471-486.

This article reviews studies on the use of alcohol in the context of sexual offences, looking specifically at consumption levels found in or reported by victim/survivors and offenders. The article links prevention with behaviour modification (mostly by victims), assesses the risks and outcomes of alcohol use, and suggests the extent to which alcohol figures in sexual offence cases is significant.

Spiked drinks: 'I'm more worried about getting home on the train', by R. Moreton, *Youth Studies Australia*, vol.22, no.3, Sept 2003, 18-24.

An increase in reports of drug-assisted sexual assault, including those involving spiked drinks, has been noted by a range of service providers across NSW. The project described in this article explores the way young women use alcohol in social situations, their attitudes towards risk and safety and, in particular, their perception of the risk of having a drink spiked. The paper concludes that to have an impact on the incidence of spiked drinks, health promotion interventions need to be multi strategic and involve collaboration with stakeholders from different sectors. (Journal abstract)

Surrendering the night! The seduction of victim blaming in drug and alcohol facilitated sexual assault prevention strategies, by S. Lawson, *Women Against Violence - An Australian Feminist Journal*, no.13, 2002-2003, pp.33-38.

This article explores drug and alcohol facilitated sexual assault in Australia. The background of sexual assault involving drink spiking in Australia is discussed. Responses to drug and alcohol facilitated sexual assault are examined with a focus on community education and information campaigns, as well as the implications of these campaigns on victim/survivors of drug and alcohol facilitated sexual assault. Implications for the state of women's social action and sexual assault services are also discussed.

Feminist anti-rape movement

Rape on the public agenda: feminism and the politics of sexual assault, by M. Bevacqua, Boston, Mass., Northeastern University Press, c2000.

This book examines the feminist anti-rape movement, and discusses American feminist, political and social attitudes to rape and rape prevention.

Intimate partner violence

Woman-to-woman sexual violence: does she call it rape? by L.B. Girshick, Boston, Mass., Northeastern University Press, c2002.

This book discusses the incidence and emotional impact of sexual assault by women against women, featuring case studies from an American survey. The book also discusses the response and attitudes of the legal system and social services, language and definition issues, and societal attitudes to lesbians.

Law reform

Sex assault report calls for reform, by J. Silverii, *Law Institute Journal*, vol.77, no.8, Aug 2003, pp.20-21 .

The author outlines the main recommendations of the Victorian law Reform Commission's report 'The Sexual Offences: Interim Report', a report that aims to make the legal system less intimidating for victims of sexual assault. He discusses how the report has been received, and includes statements by commentators to the effect that the report is a step towards a more sensitive legal system.

Sexual offences: interim report, by The Victorian Law Reform Commission Melbourne, Vic, Victorian Law Reform Commission, 2003.

This report outlines current sexual offence laws in Victoria. It also considers the police and criminal justice response to sexual assault including a study that considers changes in reporting figures and prosecution outcomes. Specifically, the report looks at: the trauma of giving evidence, the need for special arrangements to be made for children, and the current legal definition of rape and the meaning of consent, and other sexual offences.

Risk factors

Risk profiles of adolescent girls who were victims of dating violence, by D.E. Howard & M.Q. Wang, *Adolescence*, vol.38, no.149, Spring 2003, pp. 1-14.

This study uses data from the 1999 US Youth Risk Behaviour Survey to determine the prevalence of date violence in adolescent females and suggests there are demographic, psychological and behavioural factors that place young women at greater risk of sexual assault victimisation. ▶

The Women Against Violence journal

The Women Against Violence Journal is a national journal examining issues relevant to the work to stop violence against women. The Journal is founded on the belief that those working against violence against women welcome the opportunity to document initiatives, policy and practice development and encourage debate. The Journal reflects a feminist philosophy and a social justice framework.

The editorial committee is interested in receiving contributions which may stimulate debate on current policy directions, practice issues or share information about new initiatives relating to women as the targets of violence in our society.

Two issues of the Journal are produced per calendar year and subscriptions are for two issues. For more information about the Journal, its editorial policy and guidelines, and subscriptions, phone CASA House on (03) 9347 3066, or visit the CASA House website at www.rwh.org.au/casa/

Sexual offenders

Behavioural indicators of sadistic sexual murder predict the presence of sadistic sexual fantasy in a normative sample, by N.S. Gray...[et al.], *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol.18, no.9, Sept. 2003, pp. 1018-1034.

To shed more light on the etiology of sadistic sex crimes and risk assessment, this study compared non-offending males with sexual murderers using a set of behavioural, experiential, and clinical indicators

Murder and serious sexual assault: what criminal histories can reveal about future serious offending, by Keith Soothill... [et al.], London, Home Office, Policing & Reducing Crime Unit, Research, Development & Statistics Directorate, 2002.

This study focuses on the likelihood of those within the general criminal population committing their first serious offence (murder or sexual assault of an adult women, including rape). It examines the possibility of looking back at the previous criminal histories of those who have been convicted of murder or sexual assault to see if they might provide an insight into patterns in offending behaviour.

Sexual sadism in sexual offenders: an elusive diagnosis, by W.L. Marshall & P. Kennedy, *Aggression & Violent Behaviour*, vol.8, no.1, Jan.-Feb., 2003, pp. 1-22.

This article reviews the definitions of sexual sadism used in diagnosis with sex offenders, and comments on their clinical value.

National Project on Drink Spiking

The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) has been commissioned by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department to conduct a national project investigating the nature and extent of drink spiking in Australia.

The AIC defines "drink spiking" as an incident where drugs and/or alcohol are added to a drink without the consent of the person who will be consuming the drink. To get a clearer understanding of the circumstances surrounding incidents that involve drink spiking (location, time, type of drink spiked, type of agent added, effects of agent, whether additional crimes were committed, whether offender is known or unknown to the person spiked), the AIC intends to conduct telephone interviews with people who believe they have been a victim of drink spiking in either 2002 or 2003.

Victims are encouraged to call 1800 008125 (toll free) to discuss the circumstances surrounding the incident. Interviews will commence on Monday 17 November 2003, and conclude on Wednesday 17 December 2003.

It is hoped that the information from the telephone interviews will improve knowledge and understanding about the nature of drink spiking incidents in Australia and assist in the development of effective prevention and information strategies.

For further information about the interviews, access the AIC's website at www.aic.gov.au or contact AIC senior research analyst Natalie Taylor on (02) 6260 9254.

Trafficking in women

An Australian slave trade, by G. Costello, *Eureka Street*, vol.13, no.6, Jul-Aug 2003, pp.33.

The author suggests that any excitement about the Federal Government's claim that it will combat the trafficking of women should be held in check until real measures are introduced to protect the victims and prosecute offenders. She discusses the case of Puongtong Simaplee, a victim of sexual slavery who died in detention. The author suggests measures for preventing the trafficking of women into sexual slavery.

Trafficking in Women: Feminism and new international law, by B. Sullivan, *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, vol.5, no. 1, March 2003, pp. 67-91.

This article examines the new United Nations 'Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children', which opened for signature in December 2000. The author presents a feminist analysis of the Trafficking Protocol and of the feminist discourse involved in its development, beginning with the re-emergence in the 1980s and 1990s of significant feminist concerns about trafficking and prostitution. The author offers a critique of the Trafficking Protocol, concluding that it has some strengths, but also some major weaknesses.

Treatment programs for sex offenders

The biological treatment of dangerous sexual offenders: a review and preliminary report of the Oregon depo-Provera pilot, by B.M. Maletzky & G. Field, *Aggression & Violent Behaviour*, vol.8, no.4, Jul.-Aug. 2003, pp. 391-412.

This article reviews the use of drug therapy, including hormone therapy and antidepressants, to reduce the sex drive of sex offenders as an adjunct to psychotherapy. Preliminary results from a trial of depo-Provera hormone therapy are considered.

Engaging men: strategies and dilemmas in violence prevention education among men, by M. Flood, *Women Against Violence - An Australian Feminist Journal*, no.13, 2002-2003, pp.25-32.

This paper discusses the importance of community education in the prevention of men's physical and sexual violence against women. The focus is on lessening the cultural constructions of masculinity involving dominance and aggression, and undermining the social supports that operate to reinforce violence against women. Community education campaigns are outlined according to three strategy areas: defining manhood as non-violent; drawing on alternatives within masculine culture; and men "speaking out" against violence against women. Key challenges in violence prevention work with men are identified and discussed.

Process variables in the treatment of sexual offenders: a review of the relevant literature, by W.L. Marshall, *Aggression & Violent Behaviour*, vol.8, no.2, Mar.-Apr. 2003, pp. 205-234.

This literature review examines the effectiveness of various factors and techniques in psychotherapy and cognitive behaviour therapy for treating sex offenders, focusing on therapist characteristics and therapeutic frameworks.

Online conference papers

The following on-line papers were given at a Sydney conference in February 2003, titled "Practice and prevention: contemporary issues in adult sexual assault conference", Sydney, NSW, NSW Attorney-General's Department, Crime Prevention Division, 2003, Online only.

A guide for police officers: the prevention of sexual assaults and the investigation and apprehension of sex offenders, by D. Perry. <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/cpd.nsf/pages/perry>

Based on his experience with the Toronto Police Service Sex Crimes Unit, including his involvement in the restructuring process and development of a new mandate for the Sexual Assault Squad, the author presents a guide for law enforcement agencies interested in establishing or enhancing a Sex Crimes Unit or Sexual Assault Squad. He provides a history of the Sexual Assault Squad, which was formed in 1989, and discusses the judicial inquiry that was concerned with the investigative process, the subsequent Campbell Report, and the restructuring of the Sexual Assault Squad. He also discusses the squad's new mandate principles: intelligence led policing, risk management, and pre sexual assault indicators.

Keynote address, by C. L'Heureux-Dube. <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/cpd.nsf/pages/lheureuxdube>

Claire L'Heureux-Dube, the celebrated though retired Supreme Court Justice in Canada, discusses legislative moves in Canada and by the United Nations to address the widespread problem of violence against women, and in particular, sexual assault. She emphasises the importance of eliminating myths and stereotypes about gender from law, and ultimately from social values and customs. She explains how the legal process can

revictimise complainants, undermine their credibility and deny them justice through biased legal interpretations of concepts such as rape, consent, discovery and self-defence. She presents cases in which myths and stereotypes were recognised by the Supreme Court of Canada and discusses three sections of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms that potentially affect the way in which the state treats sexual violence against women.

Refugee women, sexual assault and communities, by J. Savage. <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/cpd.nsf/pages/savage>

The author discusses the context of state organised or state sanctioned violence and sexual assault, the intention of sexual assault as a weapon of war, the effects that this has upon victims, survivors and their families and community, and the implications for refugee survivors of sexual assault and their communities of the increasingly state sanctioned voicing of racist opinion and commentary in Australia today. The author discusses her experience of working with refugee women clients and warns that the current Australian political climate of racism will only further the trauma experienced by these women.

Sexual abuse of people with a disability, by J. Blyth. <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/cpd.nsf/pages/blyth>

In considering the issue of people with an intellectual disability who have been sexually assaulted, the author discusses the following areas: understanding the meaning of disability; a profile of sexual assault for this group of people; and responses to these issues. She presents information on the diversity of people with an intellectual disability and some historical background on how they have been treated by the community and by the law. In profiling sexual abuse of this group, ►

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Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault

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the author identifies ways in which victim/survivors face particular difficulties in disclosing and/or in accessing support in relation to sexual assault. She also outlines the effects of the abuse, components of prevention, addressing safety, and interviewing about sexual assault.

Sexual assault and Indigenous communities, by P. Greer. <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/cpd.nsf/pages/greer>

The author documents the growing awareness of the prevalence of rape in Aboriginal communities across Australia from the 1980s until the 1990s, and the work being done to address the problem. She remains incredulous that there is still inadequate information about the topic to work with and emphasises the need to act now to prevent the continuation of the extremely high levels of violence being perpetrated against Aboriginal women and children.

Sexual assault and the admission of evidence, by Justice Wood. <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/cpd.nsf/pages/wood>

Some of the evidentiary considerations relevant to sexual assault cases are the reason that many victims avoid reporting sexual assaults. Justice Wood presents a checklist of directions that judges are now obliged to deliver to juries in sexual offence trials. He details the distinction between a comment and a warning, and then discusses a range of the directions in more detail that include: the Murray Direction, the Longman Direction, and evidentiary considerations, including coincidence, relationship and 'guilty passion' evidence, the use of evidence where there is more than one

complainant, the hearsay rule, the issue of delay in, or absence of, complaint, and evidence of recently recovered memory. Some suggestions for reform are also considered.

Sexual assault, criminal justice and law and order, by J. Stubbs. <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/cpd.nsf/pages/stubbs>

The author offers a critical analysis of the existing data concerning adult sexual assault in the NSW criminal justice system. She engages with questions about the role of the criminal justice system in responding to sexual assault and challenges the assumption that punitive policies allied with law and order rhetoric offer improved safety for women. She discusses how partial our knowledge about sexual assault is in that the criminal justice system responds to only a very small proportion of sexual assault matters that are then the subject of continuous attrition cases proceed through the courts. (Author abstract, edited)

Sexual assault within a human rights framework, by N. Cowdery. <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/cpd.nsf/pages/cowdery>

The author discusses the protection of the individual's human rights within sexual assault cases. He outlines international declarations and conventions that uphold human rights, and discusses to what extent the ways in which sexual assault offences are prosecuted in domestic law raise human right implications. He states the need for a balance to be struck so that victims are not revictimised and the legitimate rights of accused persons and others involved in the process are not infringed upon.

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