

# Culturally Informed Rape Responses: A Workshop on Building Community with Advocates, SANEs, and Law Enforcement

## Workshop Goals

This workshop aims to train rape responders, including victim advocates, police responders, and sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs), about the role of diversity in collaborative sexual assault responses. Based on forthcoming research conducted by Dr. Melinda Chen, participants will learn how rape response teams (sexual assault response teams, SARTs) have historically approached and currently approach collaboration during acute rape crisis moments in the U.S., as well as how these moments of collaboration are intertwined with larger social dynamics pertaining to race, gender, sexuality, and more. Participants will engage in a roundtable-like discussion about the ways that their role as either an advocate, police responder, or SANE has contributed to their understanding of culturally informed rape responses, with the intent to generate a better understanding of each other's position. Participants will learn culturally effective communication and cross-role community trust-building, skills that equip rape responders to support diverse victims of sexual assault, reduce team conflict, and facilitate community action. By the end of the workshop, attendees will be able to identify sites of cultural dissonance during collaborative rape responses and practice showing cultural sensitivity to one another and victims of abuse.

## Objectives

1. Identify three or more new contacts in other disciplinary-related rape responder fields for future communications
2. Identify two or more ways that rape response procedures impact marginalized victims
3. Learn two or more ways to communicate with marginalized victims
4. Be knowledgeable of at least one culturally specific agency for future consultation, such as further information about care and response

## Measurement Tool

Assessment of the success of this workshop will be based on a pre- and post-evaluation survey. Deidentified information gathered by the surveys may be used to conduct future research.

This **event is free to attend** at no cost to the participants. Open to victim advocates, police responders, and SANEs or registered nurses interested in rape response training. Breakfast is included.

## Workshop Structure

- Welcome, housekeeping, and brief intro of who we are [10 min] - additional 5 min to account for stragglers
- Pre-test [5 min]
- Breakfast, intra-profession networking and discussion about table questions [15 min]
- Hamilton: Presentation of information from articles / Link to intra-professional discussion [10 min]
- Chen: Presentation of book themes [10 min]
- [10 min] Discussion of articles/book themes
- Workshop [30 min: 10 min rotation each x 3 groups] Inter-profession networking and sharing of answers & an exploration of different perspectives
  - Targeted workshop: Assessing the role of identity in professional rape responses
- [20 min] Debrief of activity + All-group discussion regarding improved victim service delivery and future agency collaboration
  - Example from the book
- Post-test [5 min]
- Evaluation/Feedback forms and Conclude [5 minutes]
- [15 min] Flex time

Total time: 120 minutes

## Speaker Outline

Melinda Chen

- Terminology
- Workshop background + aims (Cerulli 2011)
- Book Overview (*Killing Radicalism: Neoliberalism, Normativity & the Anti-Rape Movement*)
  - Method: Survey & Interviews with 63 rape responders
  - Traces financial and policy procedures (neoliberalism) in rape responses, specifically victim advocacy, to understand identity-based disparities (normativity) in victim service delivery

Andi Hamilton

- Review 3 critical articles
  - Greeson et al. 2018: The community's norms and beliefs around sexual violence influence SARTs to change service accessibility and quality for victims, usually in reduction.
  - Cole 2016: Individuals' perceptions of professionalization and power disparities between professions pose challenges to interprofessional SART collaboration.
  - Cayir et al. 2021: Rape responses are guided by White dominance, essentialized womanhood and heteronormativity, and Christian nationalism

Melinda

- Chapter 4: Our Carceral Creep: Performing Panoptic Policing of Marginalized Victims Overview
  - Evidence: Advocates reported feeling peer pressure from rape response collaborators to adhere to normative policies, such that they do not fulfill their role to empower survivors and guard survivors against systems professionals.
  - Takeaways
    - Inability to present as oneself due to policies and expectations of one's role produces discontent and job dissatisfaction
    - Communication about "political" (e.g., racialized, gendered) topics with community partners alleviates collaborator assumptions
- Communication Strategies
- [Group Workshop Activity]
- Case Study

## Direct References\*

- Greeson, M. R., Soibatian, C., & Houston-Kolnik, J. D. (2018). The Influence of Community Sociocultural Context on Creating an Effective, Coordinated Response to Sexual Assault. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 42(4), 445-460. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.lib.ou.edu/10.1177/0361684318790233>
- Cole, J. (2018). Structural, Organizational, and Interpersonal Factors Influencing Interprofessional Collaboration on Sexual Assault Response Teams. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 33(17), 2682-2703. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.lib.ou.edu/10.1177/0886260516628809>
- Cayir E, Spencer M, Billings D, Hilfinger Messiah DK, Robillard A. Working Against Gender-Based Violence in the American South: An Analysis of Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Sexuality in Advocacy. *Qual Health Res*. 2021 Nov;31(13):2454-2469. doi: 10.1177/10497323211041327. Epub 2021 Sep 18. PMID: 34541961.
- Cerulli, Catherine. (2011). Research Ethics in Victimization Studies: Widening the Lens. *Violence Against Women* 17(12): 1529-1535. Doi: 10.1177/1077801211436304

\*References will be directly included in speaker content.

## Additional Reading

- Mulla, Sameena. *The Violence of Care*. New York: NYU Press, 2014.
- Corrigan, Rose. *Up Against a Wall: Rape Reform and the Failure of Success*. New York: NYU Press, 2013.

- Maier, S. L. (2012). Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners' Perceptions of Their Relationship With Doctors, Rape Victim Advocates, Police, and Prosecutors. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 27(7), 1314-1340. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.lib.ou.edu/10.1177/0886260511425242>
- Cole, J. (2011). Victim Confidentiality on Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 26(2), 360-376. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260510362895>
- Wegrzyn A, Greeson MR, Rice J. Sexual Assault Response Team Goals and Motivations for Development. *J Interpers Violence*. 2024 Mar 12;8862605241235913. doi: 10.1177/08862605241235913. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38470067.
- Phyllis Adams Mathews, Linda Hulton. (2020). Interprofessional collaboration practice: Are you doing it well? Individual perceptions within Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). *Journal of Interprofessional Education & Practice* Volume 19. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.xjep.2020.100326>
- Jordan, S. P., Mehrotra, G. R., & Fujikawa, K. A. (2020). Mandating Inclusion: Critical Trans Perspectives on Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy. *Violence Against Women*, 26(6-7), 531-554. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801219836728>
- Maier, S. L. (2013). Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners' Perceptions of the Influence of Race and Ethnicity on Victims' Responses to Rape. *Feminist Criminology*, 8(2), 67-86. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.lib.ou.edu/10.1177/1557085112454190>
- Madison Pauly, "How the Mainstream Movement Against Gender-Based Violence Fails Black Workers and Survivors," *Mother Jones*, <https://www.motherjones.com/criminal-justice/2022/03/racism-domestic-violence-sexual-assault-movement-anti-me-too-black/>

### **Training Information**

Date: Friday, September 6, 2024

Time: 9AM-11AM

Location: Dale Hall Tower, Seminar Room 906

Breakfast will be provided.

Credit hours available for LCSW social workers and CLEET law enforcement.