



## SEXUALITY AND GENDERS RESEARCH

Presents

# ONLINE ABUSE AND HARASSMENT: NEW TECHNOLOGIES, OLD INEQUALITIES

Thursday 17 August 2017  
3.00pm to 4.30pm  
Bankstown campus BA-03.G.55

This Sexualities and Genders Research seminar brings together three leading Australian criminologists in the field of online abuse and harassment to examine how new technologies are being integrated into, and transforming, patterns of inequality and exploitation. Light refreshments will be provided.

**Dr Bianca Fileborn** Conceptualising online harassment: a new frontier, or virtually more of the same?

**ABSTRACT:** In this presentation, Dr Fileborn will examine the implications of dominant conceptualisations of online harassment. To what extent does online harassment constitute a 'new' or distinct form of violence in comparison to other forms of public sexual harassment? Does the focus on the 'virtual' medium merely distract from the ways in which online harassment forms another component of the continuum of sexual violence, and thus cannot be viewed as an isolated occurrence in women's lives? Yet, this is further complicated by the need to take the spatial and cultural locations of violence seriously. In this presentation Dr Fileborn will consider whether the category of 'online' ultimately constructs a false dichotomy between the online/offline world, and the ways in which these intertwine in lived experiences of harassment.

**BIOGRAPHY:** Dr Bianca Fileborn is a Lecturer in Criminology in the School of Social Sciences, UNSW. Her current research examines street harassment and online justice responses

**Dr Bridget Harris** Digital domestic violence: Understanding place, space and spacelessness

**ABSTRACT:** In recent years, technology has been used by perpetrators of intimate partner violence to abuse and stalk victim/survivors. These practices are not divorced from, but inextricably linked to other forms of violence and must be recognised as tactics of coercive control, used in attempts to intimidate, monitor and cause harm. There are distinct features of 'digital domestic violence' (DDV) which warrant further attention, such as its 'spacelessness', which influences how victim/survivors experience and respond to violence. However, 'place' is important to investigate. Although DDV transcends fixed geographic locations, boundaries are not irrelevant. State and platform policing of DDV is governed by legislation and codes in particular jurisdictions. Additionally, incidents and impacts of DDV differ based on where a survivor resides, whether in a metropolitan, regional, rural or remote location. Place, space and spacelessness then, need to be explored and understood.

**BIOGRAPHY:** Dr Bridget Harris is a Lecturer and Member of the Crime and Justice Research Centre in the School of Justice, Faculty of Law at Queensland University of Technology.

**Dr Michael Salter** Image-based abuse across the lifespan: Childhood, adolescence, adulthood

**ABSTRACT:** The emergence of various forms of online abuse and exploitation involving the misuse of nude and sexual images has triggered a proliferation of descriptive terms: sexting, revenge porn, sextortion, sextortion. These terms have originated in media coverage and there have been moves in the academy to bring them under the standardised terminology of "image-based abuse" or "image-based sexual abuse". This presentation reflects on the implications of this turn, and discusses the continuum of image-based abuse from the production of child exploitation material to the non-consensual distribution of self-produced sexual images of adults. Drawing on interviews with survivors of child sexual exploitation, as well as focus groups with young adults about online sexuality and technology, the presentation emphasises the importance of recognising the full breadth of image-based abuse and the similarities and differences in victimisation experiences across the lifespan.

**BIOGRAPHY:** Dr Michael Salter is a Senior Lecturer in Criminology at Western Sydney University, where he leads the Violence and Power in Context strand of the Sexualities and Genders Research program.