

Call for Papers

Violence Against Women Special Issue

“Rape and Sexual Assault Prevention, Resistance, Education, and Intervention: The Role of Self Defense”

Edited by Martha McCaughey and Jill Cermele

Sexual violence against women is a global health problem. Although there is solid, and growing, scholarship on the reality and efficacy of women’s resistance to rape and sexual assault, many scholars, activists, funding agencies, and members of the lay public remain skeptical about women’s right and capacity to thwart an attack, and about the ethics of teaching and funding of self-defense.

Moreover, while both scholarly and advocacy literature on violence against women often discusses prevention, resistance, and intervention, these concepts do not always imply women’s use of verbal and physical self-defense techniques. Increasingly, we see positive images of women successfully defending themselves against perpetrators of violence in popular culture, but scholars of violence against women have much to communicate to both scholarly and lay audiences about women’s use of self-defense.

This special issue calls for papers that focus on the ways in which women prepare to defend themselves against sexual assault, the multiple and diverse methods women employ – including the use of physical aggression and violence – in their own defense, the effectiveness of self defense, and how self defense and resistance to sexual assault is understood and constructed in individual, social, cultural, and legal contexts. We define the term sexual assault broadly, to include verbal, non-verbal, and physical threats or acts of sexual violence, both implied and enacted; similarly, we define the term self-defense to include verbal and physical strategies, including aggressive, violent, and lethal means, that thwart imminent or ongoing acts of sexual violence and to serve to maintain women’s physical, sexual, and psychological integrity.

Possible topics include:

- Efficacy of physical and verbal resistance against sexual assault
- Efficacy of self-defense training
- Comparative studies of different types of self-defense programs
- Beliefs about resistance and self-defense training for women and girls
- Self-defense training as a clinical intervention
- Defining resistance, self-defense, and violence
- Identity, intersectionality, and resistance
- The collection of crime victimization data and women’s self-defense
- The impact of women’s self-defense training on rates of acquaintance rape

- The funding models impacting women's opportunities to learn self-defense through schools, community centers, shelters, and crisis centers
- Where the training or use of self-defense fits into feminist discourses of sexual assault prevention
- Self-defense training in the workplace, on campuses, in public schools, in NGOs
- Where women's self-defense fits into the gun control debates
- Gender, self-defense, and the law

We invite articles using a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches, including empirical research, research notes, review essays, legal notes, and clinical notes. Empirical research articles should not exceed 30 pages, and all other submissions should be between 12 and 18 pages, including references, tables, and figures. Manuscripts should be typewritten, double-spaced, with footnotes, references, tables, and charts on separate pages, and should follow the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th edition).

Each article should begin with an abstract of about 100 words. For further details, consult the manuscript submission guidelines at http://www.sagepub.com/journalsProdDesc.nav?ct_p=manuscriptSubmission&prodId=Journal200837

All submissions will be subjected to review, and submission does not guarantee acceptance in the special issue.

To discuss a possible submission or the scope of the issue, or to submit a manuscript, contact Martha McCaughey at mccaughey@appstate.edu or Jill Cermele at jcermele@drew.edu.

Closing date for submissions is April 13, 2012.