

Carla Cesaroni, PhD

Associate Professor and Assistant Dean, Graduate Studies, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities at University of Ontario Institute of Technology

Oshawa, ON, CA

Leading international authority on youth justice, and highly sought expert witness

Carla Cesaroni, PhD, is an Associate Professor and Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies in the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT). Since joining UOIT in 2005, she has held the positions of Graduate Program director, associate professor and assistant professor. Additionally, she maintains an adjunct faculty position in the Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development at the University of Toronto (U of T), as well as associate researcher in the Scottish Centre for Crime & Justice Research at the University of Glasgow/Edinburgh, Scotland.

A revered international authority on youth justice, Dr. Cesaroni is frequently called upon to provide credible testimony within the public court system, and to give expert counsel to key policy makers and stakeholder groups including the Policy Implementation Directorate Programs Branch of the Department of Justice Canada, and the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Ontario. Published reports on her recommendations in the high-profile Ashley Smith Inquest; and on the Use of Segregated Isolation of Youth in Custody in the Province of Ontario in 2012 are playing an important role in shaping legislation in Canada's Justice System.

She credits her incredible mentor Dr. Tony Doob at U of T's Centre of Criminology and one of the world's most cited scholars as her inspiration for pursuing her path in research and demonstrating what a great teacher can do for students. She began her distinguished career in 2002 as a lecturer in the Department of Criminology at the University of Toronto, and the Department of Sociology at Queen's University.

Dr. Cesaroni obtained her Doctorate in Philosophy from the Centre of Criminology at U of T in Toronto, Ontario in 2005. She received her Master of Arts in Criminology from U of T in 1999, a Certificate (Honours) in Criminology from U of T in 1998, and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in International Relations, and Italian from U of T in 1986.

Dr. Cesaroni is a member of the American Society of Criminology, American Psychology and Law Society, and the Society for Research on Adolescence.

Education/Learning, Corrections, Judiciary, Law Enforcement, Public Policy, Research, Legal Services

Corrections/Penology, Youth in Custody, Youth Justice, Offender Reintegration, Male Young Offenders, Female Young Offenders, Peer-On-Peer Violence in Youth Custody Facilities

American Society of Criminology, American Psychology and Law Society, Society for Research on Adolescence, Family Education Resource Network

The Adjustment of Incarcerated Young Adults (18 – 21) in Adult Facilities
Annual Meeting of The American Society of Criminology

Public Opinion Regarding Youth, Social Media, and Suicide
Annual Meeting of The American Society of Criminology

Policing Cyber-bullying: What does the Public Think?
Annual Meeting of The American Society of Criminology

Understanding the Adjustment of Incarcerated Boys and Girls: The Importance of Institutional Culture
Canadian Youth Justice Conference. IIR Healthcare Series

The Intersection of Race, Class and Gender: Aboriginal Girls in Pre-Trial Detention
The International Institute of Special Needs Offenders and Policy Research (Canada)

A Comparative Study of Adolescent Females and Males in Pre-trial Detention
Psychology & Law International, Interdisciplinary Conference

The Experiences of Adolescent Males in Secure Detention
Society for Research in Child Development

Youths' Perception of Rights and Fair Treatment in Detention
Psychology & Law International, Interdisciplinary Conference

University of Toronto
PhD Philosophy, Centre of Criminology

University of Toronto
MA Criminology

University of Toronto
Certificate Criminology

University of Toronto
BA International Relations, Italian

Expert Witness, Ashley Smith Inquest

At the request of the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth, on November 12, 2013, Dr. Cesaroni appeared as an expert witness at the Ontario coroner's inquest into the death of Ashley Smith, a 19-year-old woman who died in 2007 in a segregation cell. Among the 104 recommendations handed down by the jury, many of Dr. Cesaroni's recommendations were affirmed. A report she co-authored on the inquest is available at www.provincialadvocate.on.ca.

Assistant Dean, Graduate Studies, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, UOIT

Dr. Cesaroni has served on dozens of internal university committees including the FSSH Leadership Team Committee, Graduate Program Directors Committee, Graduate Studies Committee, Hiring Committee and Tenure Committee.

Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, UOIT

Dr. Cesaroni teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Punishment and Society, The Prison Experience, and Youth Crime and Violence. She has received numerous teaching and research awards at UOIT including a prestigious Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Award in 2010, the second such award of her career.

Board of Directors, Family Education Resource Network (FERN)

Since 2009, Dr. Cesaroni has lent her expertise to FERN, a not-for-profit, professional and family driven resource and education centre located in York Region, Ontario. FERN is dedicated to providing support, materials, knowledge and guidance to families and educators.

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