

Charlene Senn

Professor of Psychology and Women's and Gender Studies at University of Windsor

Windsor, ON, CA

Dr. Charlene Senn's research centres primarily on male violence against women with a focus on sexual violence interventions.

Biography

Charlene Y. Senn is a social psychologist and Professor of Psychology and Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada., Her research centres primarily on male violence against women and girls and includes work on sexual coercion and rape and the effects of pornography on women. She is an expert on effective sexual violence interventions, particularly those developing women's capacity to resist sexual assault. Over the past 10 years, with CIHR funding, she developed the Enhanced Assess, Acknowledge, Act (EAAA) sexual assault resistance education program for women in the first year of university. The findings from the randomized controlled trial evaluation were published recently in the New England Journal of Medicine. This 12-hr program resulted in a 46% reduction in completed rapes and 63% reduction in attempted rape experienced across one year, when compared with the control group. EAAA accomplishes this while reducing woman-blaming and self-blame. She recently created a non-profit (SARE Centre) to facilitate scale-up of the EAAA program. With her co-Investigators she has obtained funding from CIHR to conduct an implementation and effectiveness study at 9 Canadian universities over the next four years. With her colleague, Dr. Anne Forrest, she has also worked since 2010 on another important piece of the campus sexual assault prevention puzzle to institutionalize effective bystander education for men and women on campus and to study its impact in the short and longer term. The institutionalization involves integration of both peer facilitator training and a 3-hr workshop (Canadian adaption of the Bringing in the Bystander® program) into the academic curriculum so that it is sustainable.

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning, Research

Areas of Expertise

Women's and Gender Studies, Violence Against Women, Sexual Violence and Campus Interventions, Male Violence Against Women, Applied Social Psychology, Pornography, Sexual Assault Prevention

Affiliations

Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women and Children The University of Western Ontario : Academic Research Associate, University of Guelph : Associated Graduate Faculty (Adjunct Status), Canadian Psychological Association : Faculty Advisor for U of Windsor Student Representative, Section on Women and Psychology (Canadian Psychological Association) : Division 35 (American Psychological Association) Liaison

Education

York University
Ph.D. Social Psychology

University of Calgary
M.Sc. Social Psychology

University of Calgary
B.Sc. Psychology

Accomplishments

Human Rights and Social Justice Award
2015

Office of Human Rights, Equity and Accessibility, University of Windsor, Presented to Forrest, Senn & Johnstone in recognition of the Bystander Initiative to Mitigate Sexual Assault on Campus

Fellow
2014

Division 35, American Psychological Association

Distinguished Member Award
2010

Canadian Psychological Association, Section on Women and Psychology

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science Senior Research Leadership Chair
2009 - 2014

University of Windsor (\$200,000)

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