MIAMI LAW

CONVERGE!

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
SCHOOL OF LAW
1311 MILLER DRIVE,
CORAL GABLES, FL

Feb 7-8, 2014

Re-Imagining the MOVEMENT to End Gender Violence
CONVERGE! Re-imagining the Movement to End Gender Violence

Hosted by the University of Miami School of Law, University of Miami Race & Social Justice Law Review, Miami Workers Center Sisterhood of Survivors, and The Center of Applied Feminism (University of Baltimore School of Law)

Program

http://www.law.miami.edu/academics/converge/
Speaker Bios are available on the website

FRIDAY, February 7

8:00-8:30 Breakfast
Alma Jennings
Student Lounge

8:30-8:50 Welcome
Room E352
Dean Patricia White, Miami Law
Krupali Patel, Editor-in-Chief, University of Miami Race & Social Justice Law Review
Donna Coker, Conference Co-Chair and Professor of Law

8:50-9:40 Keynote Beth Richie, Re-imagining the Movement: Anti-racism, Prison Abolition, Women of Color Feminisms and other Radical Visions of Justice

9:40-10:55 Plenary 1 Reflections & Analysis
Room E352
Rossana Araujo, Wanda Gomez, Reina Fernandez, Reina Gomez, Lavon Morris-Grant, Eesha Pandit (moderator)

Survivors of intimate partner violence will examine the successes and failings of community system (law, social services, and the public) responses to intimate partner violence. Presenters will reflect and respond to Beth Richie’s keynote speech based upon their own experiences and the experiences of others with whom they work.

10:55-11:10 BREAK
Student Lounge

11:10-12:40 Concurrent Workshops & Panels
Room F109
A1 The Violence of the Legal System
Wayne Thomas, Alesha Durfee, Joan Meier, Angela Diaz, James Ptacek (moderator)

The law’s treatment of victims of gender violence has improved, but there remain occasions where the law is abusive, and this may be particularly true for poor women, women of color, and LGBT litigants. Advocates and lawyers are also being abused by the legal system while working on behalf of survivors. This panel will discuss several different ways that the legal system traumatizes victims and their advocates, and offer proposals to change this.
Coalitions are state-level organizations working to bridge mainstream domestic and sexual violence programs and those at the margins. State and national organizations could and should intentionally shift power, resources and visibility to the margins. Presenters will discuss their experiences with moving State Coalitions to expand work beyond the criminal justice system; to integrate the movement to end violence with other social justice movements, including those focused on reproductive rights, labor issues, immigration reform, economic justice, disability rights, sex trafficking, environmental issues, and children’s, youth, and senior advocacy; and to create an intergenerational movement by engaging young people.

Room E352  **B4 Immigrant Rights, Women, & Gender Violence: Structural Violence & Organizing Strategies**  
Rebecca Sharpless, Ramandeep Kaur Mahal & Beatrice Bianchi; Lis-Marie Alvarado; Maria Rodriguez; Donna Coker, (moderator)

Low income and undocumented immigrant women are vulnerable to gender violence – from Intimate and former intimate partners, from employers, and from the state. Presenters are activists/organizers, lawyers, and students involved in direct practical work. Presenters will discuss empirical local data on the number of women in civil immigrant detention who have histories of gender violence and describe the barriers – both legal and cultural – to providing assistance to these women; describe successful organizing efforts among farm-workers and other immigrant groups to address workplace sexual harassment, sexual assault, and other workplace exploitation; and discuss the negative impact of US “crimmigration” policies and the potential for building coalitions for meaningful immigration reform and securing immigrant rights.

Room F309  **A4 Colonization, Culture, & Resistance**  
Val Kalei Kanuha, Eesha Pandit, Sarah Deer, Zanita Fenton (moderator)

The term “culture” is frequently used by majority culture to describe the perceived failings of minority culture. “Culture,” in this telling, plays a role in supporting racist and colonizing practices. But gender violence activists and scholars identify an alternative use of culture: culture as resistance to oppression. Presenters will discuss the connections between the ongoing colonization of Native peoples and gender violence, and the potential uses of culture to resist domination that is simultaneously based in gender, race, and colonization.

12:40-1:30  **LUNCH**  
Student Lounge

1:30-2:45  **Plenary 2 Redefining Gender Violence**  
Room E352  
SpearIt, Andrea Ritchie, Juanita Flores, Julie Goldscheid, Leigh Goodmark (moderator)

The national “violence against women” frame often addresses only intimate partner violence and sexual assault of women. But organizing efforts all over the country are addressing a broader scope of gender violence against women from workplace violence, to street violence, to violence in the home, to police violence, to violence against men and women in prison. Further redefining “gender violence” is uncovering intimate partner violence against LGBT individuals and the inclusion of violence used as a tool to police and define the boundaries of gender.
Activists have identified the ways that the current heavy reliance on criminal justice interventions to gender violence has been problematic for communities of color and immigrant communities. The last several years have seen a renewed energy around developing innovative strategies and community capacity building that is not focused on criminal intervention or is focused on a re-imagined criminal justice response. Transformative justice and restorative justice strategies may improve outcomes for poor women, LGBTQ victims, immigrant survivors and women of color. Presenters will describe the reach of criminalization and its harms, and also share the vision, successes, and challenges of transformative justice and restorative justice initiatives.

The problem of human trafficking, and in particular sex trafficking, has received unprecedented international attention in recent years. Scholars and advocates have debated how to best eradicate the practice while ensuring that the economic and other needs of those engaged in sex work are met. This panel will highlight the debates in the field and offer perspectives from academics and practitioners on the law and policy issues raised by efforts to combat sex trafficking.

Restorative Justice, Transformative Justice, community-based organizing, school-based remedies, and civil remedies offer alternatives to a criminal justice system-centered response to gender violence. Working within diverse communities including LGBT teen and adult communities and South Asian NYC communities, and on behalf of victims of child sexual assault, presenters will provide hands-on descriptions of projects that they have initiated (or propose).

Much of the U.S. response to gender violence is organized around a particular feminist paradigm: irredeemable male perpetrators and female victims involved in current or former heterosexual intimate relationships. This panel explores feminist analysis of these assumptions looking specifically at men who abuse, women’s use of violence against female family members, and the ways in which the dominant response to intimate partner violence reflects heterosexual norms that may not be appropriate for heterosexual individuals, and that fail entirely for LGBT individuals.
Room F209  A2  Seeking Autonomy versus Exercising Authority: The Diversity of Women’s Experiences Navigating Coercive Control  WORKSHOP
Susan Miller and Lisa Larance

Using an interactive format, presenters will first provide an overview of their ongoing evidence-based research regarding women’s responses to intimate partner violence and/or coercive control. Presenters will then introduce their newly developed evolving visual tool which depicts women’s experiences navigating their relationships. Presenters will encourage participant feedback regarding the tool’s effectiveness.

6:00-7:30  RECEPTION IN LAW SCHOOL COURTYARD

Please return interpreter equipment to the Registration desk at the close of Friday’s session.

SATURDAY, February 8

8:30-9:00  BREAKFAST
Student Lounge

9:00-10:15  Plenary 4  Mobilization
Room E352  Carrie Bettinger-Lopez, Nan Stoops, Cindy Wiesner, Terra Slavin, Quanita Toffee (moderator)

Presenters will discuss particular mobilization efforts in work to end gender violence, including human rights activism and litigation in light of the Lenahan v. U.S. case; state coalition organizing; VAWA anti-discrimination efforts; and grassroots organizing for social and economic rights.

10:15-10:30  BREAK
Student Lounge

10:30-12:00  Concurrent Workshops & Panels

Room F109  B3  Women’s Self-Defense
Martha Mahoney, Aleta Alston-Toure’, Donna Coker (moderator)

From the inception in the 1970s of “women’s self-defense cases,” the law’s response to women who use violence to defend themselves has undergone significant change. Yet, women’s rights to a fair trial remain seriously challenged. African American women, poor women, and women who do not conform to stereotypes of “battered women” are particularly unlikely to get a fair trial. Presenters will discuss the history and current state of law reform and activism regarding women’s self-defense, including the Free Marissa Now! campaign on behalf of Marissa Alexander.

Room E352  A3  Intersections of Gender, Economic, Racial, and Indigenous (In) Justice
James Ptracek, Hillary Potter, Nicole Matthews, Margaret Johnson

While intimate partner violence may be found in virtually every community within the United States, deep social divisions mark women’s vulnerability. Combining social science research and on-the-ground activist
experience, presenters will examine the connections between racial and economic injustice, colonization, and gender violence, and the implications of those connections for activism and research.

Room F309  D3 Organizing Campaigns  
Cathy Albisa, Ted Bunch, Lumarie Orozco, Jodeen Olguin-Tayler

Presenters will discuss a diverse set of strategies – human rights framing, organizing men to oppose violence against women, organizing around domestic worker’s rights, strategies to enhance the leadership of Latin@ communities – to explore the connections between their respective work, the possibilities for collaboration, and the difficulties of doing “intersectional” organizing.

Room F209  E2 Social Justice Pedagogy & Academy/Community Collaboration  
Etiony Aldarondo, Deborah Weissman, Rosa Gonzalez-Guarda & Ivon Mesa, Natalia Villegas

Presenters will discuss social justice pedagogy in work on gender violence, providing guidance on successful collaborations between community-based organizations and academics, and highlighting teaching that expands the boundaries of social justice work to end gender violence.

12:00-1:00  LUNCH  
Student Lounge

1:00-2:30  Concurrent Workshops & Panels

Room F209  D1 Campus & Youth Respond to Gender Violence  
Laura Dunn, Rebecca Wyss, Jessica Williams, Mary Anne Franks

Presenters will draw from their work as campus activists and scholars for a discussion of responses to youth and campus-based gender violence. Presenters will examine the recent flurry of Title IX complaints against colleges, education activism as Know Your IX, and policy efforts through ED ACT NOW; responses to revenge porn and cyber stalking; campus activism to change “rape culture”; and research regarding teen dating violence.

Room F309  D2 Using a Human Rights Framework  
Ejim Dike, Rosie Hidalgo, Heidi Notario, Marleine Bastien

Feminist activism has resulted in the wide-spread understanding that violence against women is a human rights issue. But the human rights framework has been less successful in the U.S. than elsewhere. Activists and lawyers will discuss the use of a human rights framework that links the relationship between inequality and human rights violations, including all forms of gender violence.

Room F402  E4 The Possibilities and Limits of Criminal Justice Reform  
Sandra Park, Leigh Goodmark, Michelle Kaminsky, Connie Burk

Despite years of movement work to change the culture of police and prosecutors, many advocates and scholars question the degree to which the criminal justice system can change and whether efforts to change the criminal justice system are the best use of activist’s resources. Given the high rates of intimate partner
violence perpetrated by police officers, the paternalistic (at best) and racist (at worst) nature of the criminal justice response, is there a way towards reform of the criminal justice system that is worth the costs?

**Room F109  D4 New Possibilities for Reframing Work to End Gender Based Violence**
Marcia Olivo, Neil Irvin, Jackie Payne, Monique Hoeflinger (moderator)

Local and national organizations such as The Miami Worker’s Center, Men Can Stop Rape, and NoVo Foundation’s Move to End Violence program are actualizing a vision to end gender based violence by deepening their local work and focusing on coalition building with other social justice movements. The work of these organizations recognizes the need to address racial, economic, and social injustice, and youth-inclusive work, as a foundation for moving a political agenda towards ending gender based violence. Presenters will discuss their work within a local and national context, the role of funders, and the limitations and challenges of doing inclusive work.

**Room E352  E1 Beyond the Rape Exception: Using Law and Movement Building to Ensure Reproductive Health and Justice for All Gender Violence Survivors**
Angela Hooton, Jessica Gonzalez, Sara Ainsworth, Lillian Hewko, Jamie Vanaria (moderator)

Utilizing a reproductive justice framework, panelists will examine the myriad harms of reproductive coercion (both state and individual) and offer alternative civil legal responses to violent victimization that restore autonomy and health to the survivor.

**2:40-3:45 Break out sessions**
Participants will meet in small group facilitated sessions to discuss setting priorities for re-imagining the movement to end gender violence. Throughout the day on Friday and again on Saturday morning, participants will have the opportunity to propose a group gathering and invite others to sign up. Groups will be organized around arenas for advocacy. Examples of such groupings might include (1) Florida gender justice priorities; (2) setting priorities for advocacy related to federal spending and legislative priorities; (3) setting priorities for legal services lawyers. Facilitators will work with the groups to develop concrete action items that we can take away from the conference. The closing session will allow for reflection on the discussions and priorities set in the various break out groups.

**4:00-4:30 Closing, planning**
Room E352

The conference will close with reflections on the themes of the conference, and the issues that were raised in the small group meetings. The purpose of the breakouts and the closing session is to further a national agenda for changing the focus of work to end gender violence.

**Bus transportation to the airport is available for participants departing at 4:45.**
**Sign up is available at the registration desk and must be completed Friday morning.**

**Please remember to return interpreting equipment.**

**Filming** – The entire conference, with the exception of the break out sessions (2:40-3:45) will be filmed. We will create an edited video available on line and the Race & Social Justice Law Review may publish edited transcripts of selected panels and plenaries.
CONVERGE! Speakers

Aziza Ahmed  
Northeastern University School of Law

Sara Ainsworth  
Seattle University School of Law

Cathy Albisa  
National Economic & Social Rights Initiative

Etiony Aldarondo  
University of Miami, Dunsbaugh-Dalton Community and Educational Well-Being Research Center in the School of Education

Aleta Alston-Toure’  
Free Marissa Now!

Lis–Marie Alvarado  
Community Organizer

Rosana Araujo  
Miami Workers Center Sisterhood of Survivors

sujatha baliga  
Restorative Justice Project, National Council on Crime and Delinquency

Sienna Baskin  
Urban Justice Center, Sex Worker’s Project

Marleine Bastien  
Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami, Inc. (Haitian Women of Miami)

Carrie Bettenger-Lopez  
University of Miami School of Law

Beatrice Bianchi  
University of Miami School of Law

Alisa Bierria  
UC Berkeley, Center for Race and Gender

Ted Bunch  
A Call to Men

Connie Burk  
NW Network of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian & Gay Survivors of Abuse

Cyra Choudhury  
Florida International University School of Law

Donna Coker  
University of Miami School of Law

Sarah Deer  
William Mitchell College of Law

Angela Diaz-Vidailliet  
Victim Response, Inc.

Ejim Dike  
US Human Rights Network

Laura Dunn  
University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

Alesha Durfee  
Arizona State University, Women and Gender Studies

Jennifer Felipe  
University of Miami School of Law

Zanita Fenton  
University of Miami School of Law

Reina Fernandez  
Miami Workers Center Sisterhood of Survivors

Juana Flores  
Mujeres Unidas y Activas

Mary Anne Franks  
University of Miami School of Law

Rashmi Goel  
University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Julie Goldscheid  
CUNY School of Law

Reina Gomez  
Miami Workers Center Sisterhood of Survivors

Wanda Gomez  
Miami Workers Center Sisterhood of Survivors

Rosa M. Gonzalez-Guarda  
University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization/Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas</td>
<td>National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health</td>
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<td>Leigh Goodmark</td>
<td>University of Baltimore School of Law, Center on Applied Feminism</td>
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<td>Lillian Hewko</td>
<td>National Women's Health Network</td>
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<td>Rosie Hidalgo</td>
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<td>Monique Hoeflinger</td>
<td>Social Justice Activist/Lawyer</td>
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<td>Angela Hooton</td>
<td>Center for Reproductive Rights</td>
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<td>C. Quince Hopkins</td>
<td>Florida Coastal School of Law</td>
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<td>Neil Irvin</td>
<td>Men Can Stop Rape</td>
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<td>Tiloma Jayasinghe</td>
<td>Sakhi for South Asian Women</td>
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<td>Margaret E. Johnson</td>
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<td>Michelle Kaminsky</td>
<td>Author, Reflections of a Domestic Violence Prosecutor: Suggestions for Reform</td>
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<td>Val Kalei Kanuha</td>
<td>University of Hawaii at Manoa, Sociology</td>
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<td>Mimi Kim</td>
<td>Creative Interventions</td>
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<td>Lisa Young Larance</td>
<td>Reflectively Embracing Nonviolence through Education for Women</td>
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<td>Tamara Lave</td>
<td>University of Miami School of Law</td>
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<td>Elizabeth L. MacDowell</td>
<td>William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada Las Vegas</td>
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<td>Ramandeep Kaur Mahal</td>
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<td>Martha R. Mahoney</td>
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<td>Nicole Matthews</td>
<td>Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition</td>
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<td>Joan Meier</td>
<td>George Washington University Law School</td>
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<td>Anne Menard</td>
<td>National Resource Center on Domestic Violence</td>
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<td>Ivon Mesa</td>
<td>Coordinated Victim Assistance Center, Miami-Dade Department of Human Services</td>
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<td>Susan Miller</td>
<td>University of Delaware, Sociology &amp; Criminal Justice</td>
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<td>Kelly Miller</td>
<td>Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence</td>
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<td>Lavon Morris-Grant</td>
<td>Lavon Morris-Grant, LLC</td>
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<td>Adele M. Morrison</td>
<td>Wayne State University Law School</td>
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<td>Heidi Notario-Smull</td>
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<td>Sandra S. Park</td>
<td>ACLU Women’s Rights Project</td>
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<td>Jackie Payne</td>
<td>Move to End Violence</td>
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Hillary Potter      University of Colorado at Boulder, Sociology
James Ptacek       Suffolk University in Boston, Sociology
Beth E. Richie     University of Illinois at Chicago, Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy
Andrea L. Ritchie  Streetwise & Safe
Maria Rodriguez    Florida Immigrant Coalition
Rebecca Sharpless  University of Miami School of Law
Sandy Skelaney     Consultant | Entrepreneur | Speaker | Advocate
Terra L. Slavin     L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center
Speartt            Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Andrew Sta. Ana    Day One
Nan Stoops         Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Wayne Thomas       GLBTQ Domestic Violence Project
Quanita Toffie     Miami Workers Center
Natalia Villegas Rodriguez University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies
Deborah M. Weissman University of North Carolina School of Law
Cindy Wiesner      Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
Jessica R. Williams University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies
Rebecca Wyss       Ohio University
Special Thanks

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- University of Miami School of Law
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- The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
- Southern Wine and Spirits
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- OUTLaw
- Child Advocacy & Family Law Society
- Law Students for Reproductive Justice
- LAFAC
- HOPE Public Interest Resource Center
- Miami Law Human Rights Clinic
- UM School of Education and Human Development
- UM Department of English
- SAVE Dade
- Richard Milstein & Eric Hankin
- Florida New Majority
- Miami Women's Fund
- UM Women & Gender Studies Program
CONVERGE! Staff

CONVERGE! Conference Co-Chairs
  Donna Coker
  Leigh Goodmark
  Marcia Olivo

CONVERGE! Student Team
  Thomas Davis
  Jenifer Felipe
  Alex Friz
  Francesse Lucius
  Paulina Valanty

CONVERGE! Advisory Group
  Carrie Bettinger-Lopez
  Julie Goldscheid
  Mimi Kim
  Anne Menard
  Kelly Miller
  James Ptacek
  Leta Pittman
  Maria Rodriguez
  Deborah Weissman

CONVERGE! Coordinator
  Sabrina Segura