

Piercing the Myths: Girls, Aggression and Violence

Girls are becoming increasingly more involved in violent activities, shattering stereotypes of girls as “sugar and spice and everything nice.” The speakers in this series will explore girls’ involvement in violent and aggressive activities and discuss some motives behind their actions.

All events will take place from 4:30 – 6:30 pm in the Rutgers-Camden Campus Center, Conference Room West-ABC.
326 Penn Street

Light refreshments will be served

Professional development hours will be available upon request.

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Between “Good” and “Ghetto”: African American Girls and Inner City Violence

Dr. Nikki Jones, University of California – Santa Barbara

Over the last several decades our attention has been drawn to the crisis of the poor, urban Black male with increasing urgency. Yet, the crisis of contemporary inner cities involves more than the damage done to the lives of urban, Black boys. Adolescent girls who live in poor, urban neighborhoods are not insulated from witnessing or experiencing aggression or violence in their schools, neighborhoods, or homes. Over time, urban, adolescent girls also come to realize how reputation, respect, and retaliation—the fundamental elements of “the code of the street” (Anderson 1999)—organize their social world. Dr. Jones will describe how Black inner city girls move between the gendered ideals of “good” and “ghetto” as they work to ensure their own survival in distressed, urban neighborhoods. The talk will also illuminate how the contemporary circumstances of inner city life shape not only the everyday experiences of poor, urban girls but their identities as well. Dr. Jones book on African American girls and inner city violence is forthcoming with Rutgers University Press series in childhood studies.

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Annie Gets Her Gun: Girl Soldiers in Contemporary Armed Conflicts

Dr. David Rosen, Farleigh Dickinson University

Over the last few decades girl soldiers have played important roles in guerrilla armies, insurgency groups, and terrorist organizations. Focusing primarily on Africa and the Middle East, Dr. Rosen will examine the factors that serve to draw girls into armed forces and groups and well as recent attempts by the international community to make this unlawful. Dr. Rosen is the author of *Armies of the Young: Child Soldiers in War and Terrorism* published by the Rutgers University Press series in childhood series.

Thursday, April 17, 2008

The Gendered Context of Young Women’s Violence

Dr. Jody Miller, University of Missouri – St. Louis

Although the largest gender gaps in offending are for violent crimes, recent studies of girls’ violence suggest that it is more common than previous work suggests. There is considerable debate about the extent to which young women’s motives for violence converge or diverge with those of young men. Often girls’ violence is characterized as expressive or relational, while boys’ violence is portrayed as instrumental. Weighing in on these debates, Dr. Miller draws from a contextual qualitative study to examine the nature, circumstances, and meanings of fights between girls. Her research suggests that the situational contexts of girls’ fights are often distinct from those of young men. At the same time, there are important facets of overlap, particularly the role that respect plays as a trigger for violence.