

Welcome,  
This Web Conference  
Will Begin Soon



Affirmative Consent Policies: Cultural Barriers  
& the Need for Affirmative Sexuality

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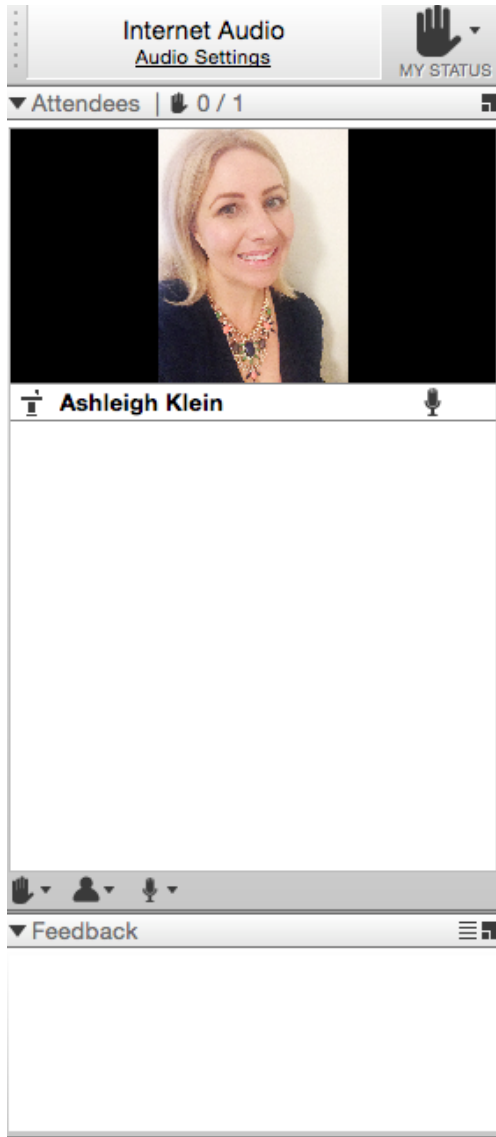
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PreventConnect is a national project of the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault sponsored by U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The views and information provided in this web conferences do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. government, CDC or CALCASA.



# 2016 PreventConnect Campus Web Conferences

Wednesday, February 10

Comprehensive Prevention on Campus

Tuesday, March 22

Selecting the Right Online Module  
for Interpersonal Violence Prevention

Tuesday, May 17

Partners in Prevention: Connecting Sexual Violence  
Prevention and LGBTQ-Inclusive Campus Culture

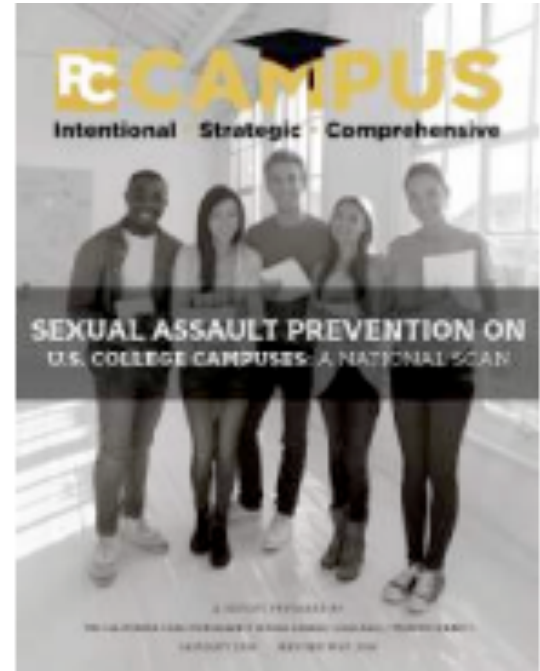
Tuesday, June 7

Affirmative Consent Policies: Cultural Barriers and the Need  
for Affirmative Sexuality

Wednesday, July 20

Prevention on Community College Campuses

**More topics to be announced**





# 2016 Web Conferences

- **May 4** – Shared Roots: Sexual and domestic violence prevention strategies in support of social justice
- **May 16** - #PowerInPrevention: Technology strategies for ending child sexual exploitation
- **May 18** – Coaching Boys Into Men: An introduction to violence prevention with male athletes (Peer Learning Forum, Session 1)
- **June 1** – Coaching Boys Into Men Train-the-Trainer: Community outreach & training coaches (Peer Learning Forum, Session 2)
- **June 8** – Engaging Youth in Shaping Strategies and Solutions to Prevent Sexual and Domestic Violence
- **June 15** – Coaching Boys Into Men Train-the-Trainer: Meeting community needs through program adaptation (Peer Learning Forum, Session 3)
- **July 13** – What About Power and Patriarchy? Examining social cohesion strategies to prevent sexual and domestic violence
- **August 3** – Equity, Trauma and Preventing Sexual and Domestic Violence
- **August 17** – Using Shared Risk and Protective Factors: Research into practice and policy to prevent sexual and domestic violence
- **September 7** – Authentically Engaging Communities to Prevent Sexual and Domestic Violence



# PreventConnect

- Domestic violence/intimate partner violence
- Sexual violence
- Violence across the lifespan
- Prevent before violence starts
- Connect to other forms of violence & oppression
- Connect to other prevention practitioners
- Connect among campus communities



# Who you are

What specific role do you play in campus sexual violence prevention?



# CAMPUS



**Intentional • Strategic • Comprehensive**



PreventConnect

## Affirmative Consent Policies: Cultural Barriers & the Need for Affirmative Sexuality

June 7, 2016

11am – 12:30 pm PT; 2pm – 3:30pm ET

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# Starting the Conversation



# Current Conversations



# STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence

## **STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence**

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control  
Division of Violence Prevention



<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pub/technical-packages.html>





## STOP SV

	Strategy	Approach
<b>S</b>	Promote <b>Social Norms</b> that Protect Against Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bystander approaches</li><li>• Mobilizing men and boys as allies</li></ul>
<b>T</b>	Teach Skills to Prevent Sexual Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social-emotional learning</li><li>• Teaching healthy, safe dating and intimate relationship skills to adolescents</li><li>• Promoting healthy sexuality</li><li>• Empowerment-based training</li></ul>
<b>O</b>	Provide <b>Opportunities</b> to Empower and Support Girls and Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strengthening economic supports for women and families</li><li>• Strengthening leadership and opportunities for girls</li></ul>
<b>P</b>	Create <b>Protective</b> Environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improving safety and monitoring in schools</li><li>• Establishing and consistently applying workplace policies</li><li>• Addressing community-level risks through environmental approaches</li></ul>
<b>SV</b>	Support <b>Victims/Survivors</b> to Lessen Harms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Victim-centered services</li><li>• Treatment for victims of SV</li><li>• Treatment for at-risk children and families to prevent problem behavior including sex offending</li></ul>



# Facilitator



## **Kristen N. Jozkowski, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Public Health,  
Affiliate Faculty in Gender Studies,  
Director of the Sexual Health Research Lab  
University of Arkansas

Research Fellow  
Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender  
And Reproduction, Indiana University



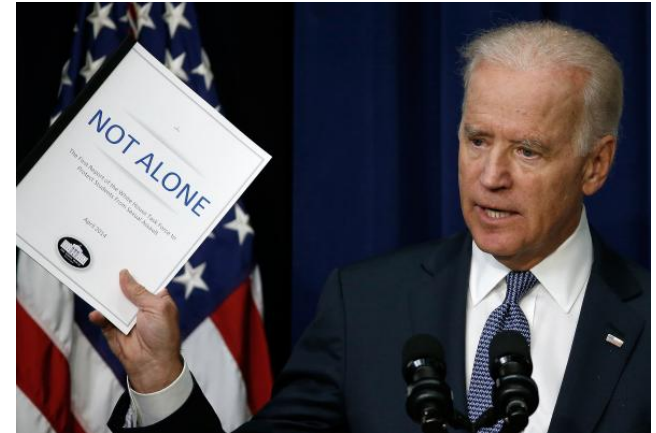
# Learning Objectives

1. Describe cues most frequently utilized by college students to communicate and interpret sexual consent and how such cues fit into the miscommunication theory.
2. Describe socio-cultural factors that serve as barriers to affirmative consent policies and consent-promotion based programming.
3. Identify opportunities to include sexual consent education as part of a comprehensive approach to reducing high rates of sexual assault on college campuses.



# Mechanisms to Address Sexual Assault

- U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights issued the "*Dear Colleague Letter*"
- Development of the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault
- Release of *Not Alone* report
- Launch of the "*1 is 2 many,*" and "*It's On Us*" public awareness campaign
- **Implementation of Affirmative Consent Policies**



# Affirmative Consent

- Affirmative consent policies require students to:
  - Voluntarily communicate consent/agreement to engage in sexual activity
  - Lack of protest, lack of resistance, lack of refusal or silence do not qualify as affirmative consent



# Critiques of Affirmative Consent



# Miscommunication Theory

- Miscommunication theory states that:
  - Some men do not understand that they need to obtain consent or do not understand what obtaining consent looks; this leads to non-consensual sex (Tannen, 1992)
- Miscommunication theory is based on research that suggests:
  - Men over-interpret women's sexual interest (e.g., Abbey et al., 1998; Abbey, 2002)
  - Men interpret women's refusals as "*token resistance*" (e.g., Osman, 2003)
- Rational: Obtaining **explicit** consent more frequently will reduce sexual assault; heteronormative bias



# Refuting the Miscommunication Theory

- The miscommunication theory has been contested:
  - Women communicate consent clearly and men accurately interpret women's consent cues (e.g., Beres, 2010; 2014; Kitzinger & Firth, 1999; O'Byrne, et al. 2008; 2006)
  - Women rarely engage in token resistance; when women **say no**, they often **mean no** (e.g., Shotland & Hunter, 1992; Muehlenhard & Rogers, 1998)
  - Conversational analysis research (e.g., Frith & Kitzinger, 1997; 1999; McCaw & Senn, 1998)





# Audience Question

What other factors influence consent?





# Cultural Issues that Influence Consent

1. Sexuality Education
2. Party Culture and Alcohol Consumption
3. Sexual Ambivalence
4. Sexual Uncertainty

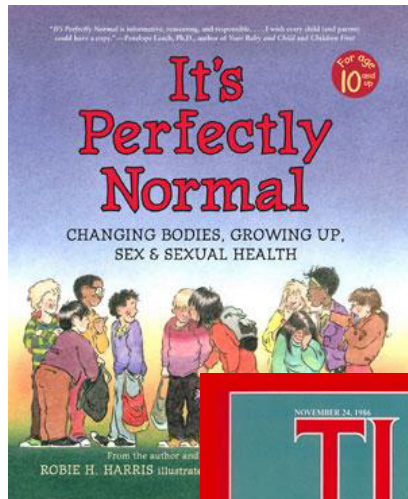


# Sexuality Education in the US: Abstinence-Only Sex Education

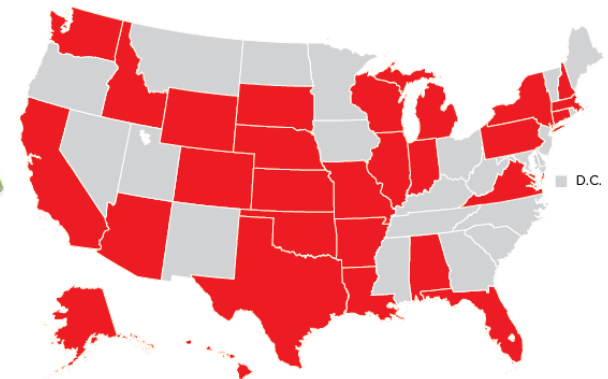


# Sexuality Education

- Adolescent sexuality is controversial

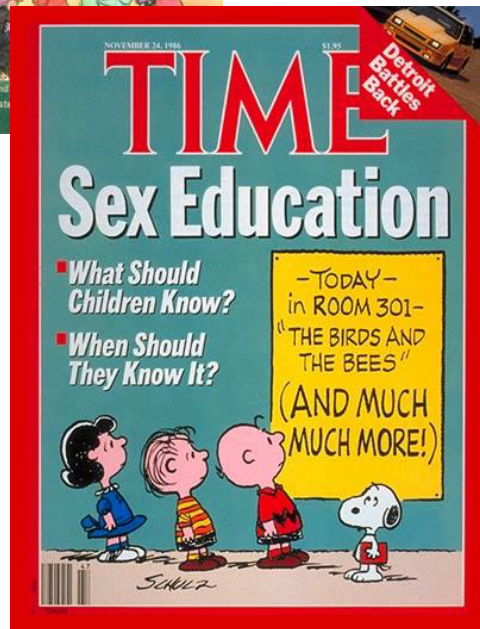


States That Don't Require Sex Education



Note: Sex education typically includes discussion of STIs. In Illinois, sex education is not mandatory, but health education is required, and it includes medically accurate information on abstinence. In Mississippi, localities may include topics such as contraception or STIs only with permission; education is required if the preg-5-17.

THE HUFFINGTON POST

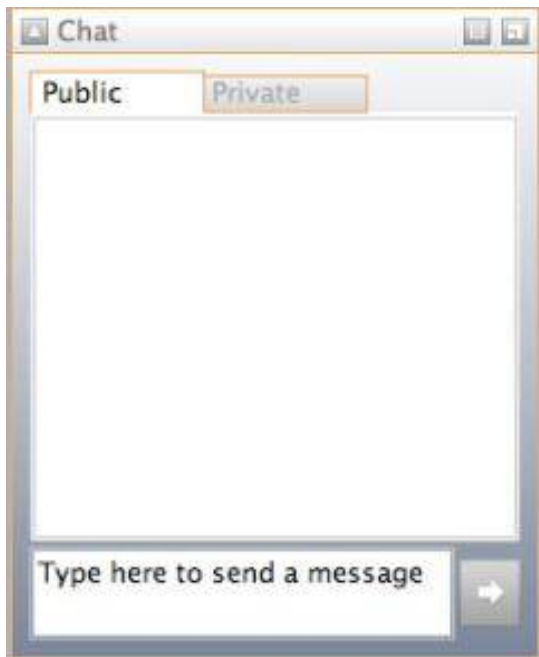


You're Teaching My Child **What?**



# Audience Question

What messages about consent were you exposed to growing up?



# Abstinence-Only Education

- Main focus of programming: “Don’t do it!”
  - Sometimes this can translate into adequate information about sexual refusals, but those messages generally put onus on one partner (i.e., women) to refuse
- Gender-based stereotypes are treated as fact (Jozkowski, 2016; Kantor et al., 2008)
  - Women are taught to fear men
  - Men are depicted as sexually uncontrollable
  - Promote unhealthy gender stereotypes



# Abstinence-Only Education

## Depictions of Consent

- The responsibility for avoiding rape is often placed on girls through their demeanor and attire choices (Jozkowski, 2016)
  - *“You can say NO by the way you act, talk and dress . . . wear clothes that advertise you, not your sexiness.”*  
Sex Respect
  - *“Choose to dress in a way that does not suggest to others that you are looking for sexual activity.”*  
Families, Decision-Making and Human Development
- Such rhetoric sends the message to adolescent girls and boys that consent can be interpreted via clothing and therefore a woman is to blame for enticing a man if he forces sex on her.



# Abstinence-Only Education

## Depictions of Consent

- AOE curricula portrays girls as nonsexual and boys as sexually aggressive and manipulative (Jozkowski, 2016)
  - According to Sex Respect, *“boys tend to use love to get sex. Girls tend to use sex to get love.”*
  - FACTS cautions that *“men may . . . use love to get sex, e.g., tell a girl you love her so she will do things sexually,”* whereas *“women may . . . use sex to get love, e.g., do something sexually to hold on to the boy.”*
- Young men are depicted as being unable to “stop” past a certain point. Therefore, AOE instructs adolescents (especially women) to avoid almost all forms of sexual expression so as not to push men past the proverbial “point of no return.”



# Abstinence-Only Education

## Depictions of Consent

- Abstinence-only education reinforces stereotypical conceptualizations of gender and sexuality:
  - Women, as sexual gatekeepers, are taught they have the right to say “no” to men’s advances as sexual initiators.
  - “Reinforcing girls’ ability and right to say ‘no’ is not enough if boys are not taught to ‘hear and understand the word no’. A failure to do so implicitly exempts boys from such discussions.” (Kantor et al. 2008)
- By reinforcing women and gatekeepers and men as initiators, it will continue to be difficult for young people to develop sexual agency





# College Party Culture & Alcohol Consumption



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
CARRY ON  
PARTYING**



# College Party Culture

- College is considered a time to experiment
  - Partying, including alcohol consumption, is a social expectation
  - Partying is often forced off campus, into gendered spaces (e.g., Fraternities)
- Male-dominated party culture (e.g., Armstrong & Hamilton, 2013; Jozkowski & Wiersma-Mosley, under review)
  - Women “cede control of turf, transportation and liquor” as part of expected party dynamics and are “expected to be grateful for men’s hospitality” (Armstrong et al., 2006, pp. 491)
  - Men disproportionately target first-year women (Cranney, 2015)



# College Party Culture

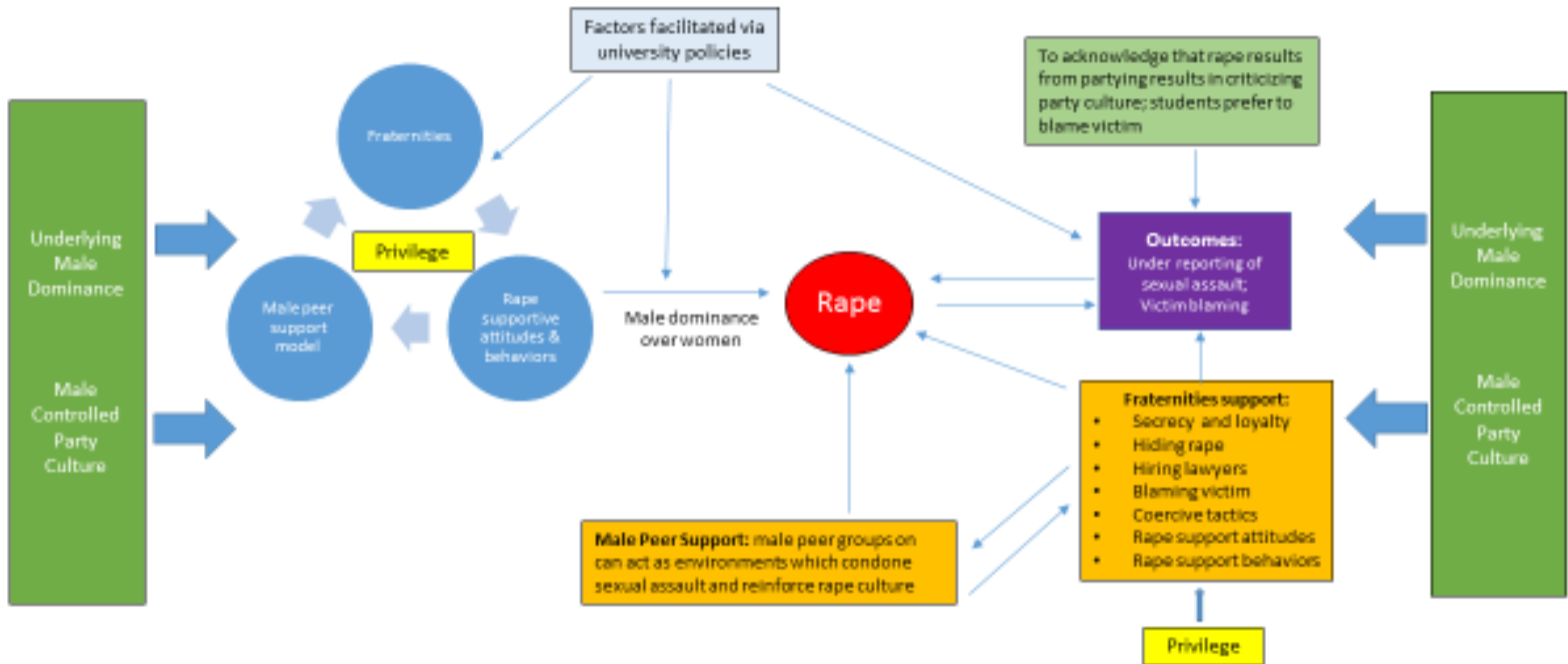


Figure: Recipe for Rape on College Campuses (Jozkowski & Wiersma-Mosely)



# Party Culture & Consent

- **‘Good Girls Can’t Refuse’** (Jozkowski & Hunt)

*There are some guys that kind of want to stay around you because they bought you a drink, because they have that expectation....So the main thing that makes you feel bad in saying no would be hurting his feelings and feeling like on some way I perhaps owe this person something*

-Jessica, 22

*If anything a huge blow to the ego [rejecting a man’s invitation for sex]. I mean in their head if they’re preparing themselves to take this girl home and do whatever. They’ll find any excuse to blame... I know girls who would just go to sleep on the couch and I don’t think the guys are too happy about it.*

-Erika, 19

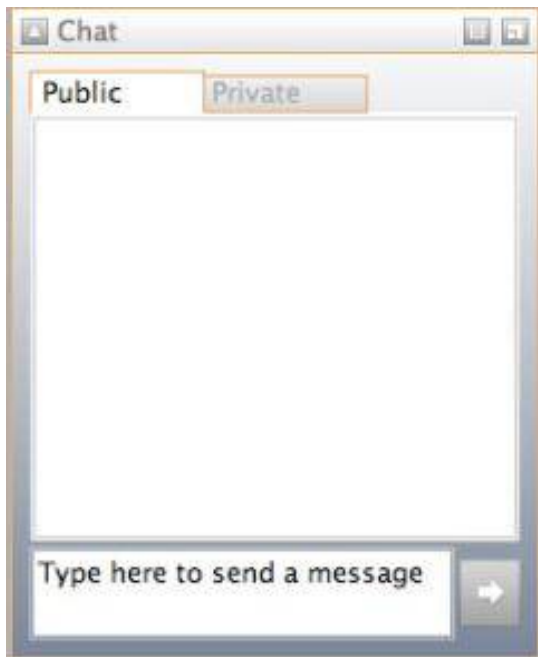
*But then a lot times I do feel like girls do feel that pressure especially if they’re at the fraternity house if they go to sleep there they’re expected to basically reciprocate for staying there*

-Jennifer, 20



# Audience Question

What is the culture like on the campus you work with?



# Alcohol & Consent

- Alcohol is a significant part of college life, but it is challenging to study alcohol and consent: (Jozkowski & Wiersma, 2015)
  - “Consensual, drunk sex”
  - At what point is one incapacitated/too drunk?



# Alcohol & Consent

- Alcohol in combination with sexual activity is problematic because it exacerbates a number of risk factors:
  - Alcohol consumption makes it difficult to understand the sexual intent of others, whether they are sober or intoxicated
  - Ambiguous nonverbal cues may be seen as more consensual when consuming alcohol
  - Alcohol influences decision-making and reduces people's perception of risk in situations
  - In the bar context, alcohol consumption increases men's level of aggressiveness and invasiveness towards others (particularly women)

(Graham et al., 2014; Jozkowski & Wiersma, 2015; Muehlenhard, Humphreys, Jozkowski, & Peterson, 2016)



# Alcohol & Consent

- **Men put in ‘work’ and women ‘owe’ sex (Jozkowski & Hunt)**

*Well, so here is the thing—if you take drinks all night from a guy, you are sort of telling him you will have sex...Some girls will drink all night, letting him pay for it without having sex, but she probably should do it.*

*-Stacey, 19*

*If she is drinking, she’s more likely to ya know, let it happen. So I’ll sometimes buy a girl that I like a drink to help things along*

*-Russ, 23*





# Alcohol & Consent

- **‘Good Girls Don’t Have Sex’** (Jozkowski & Hunt)

**Sandra (21):** *I have this one friend who gets drunk so she can have sex, an excuse to have sex. That’s another thing she says too, ‘oh I had sex with such and such’ and it’s like, ‘oh I was drunk.’ She uses that as an excuse. Sometimes she’s not always drunk but she...and a whole lot of people use that as an excuse to why they hooked up with someone. It’s like, ‘oh I was drunk or that happened because I was drunk.’*

**Kristen:** So a lot of your friends have used alcohol consumption as an excuse to have sex?

**Sandra:** *Yes! Well, the girls. [Kristen: just the women?] You know—they do it because then they have the reason to have sex. Or else, they are just being kind of, well you know, trampy.*



# Sexual Ambivalence



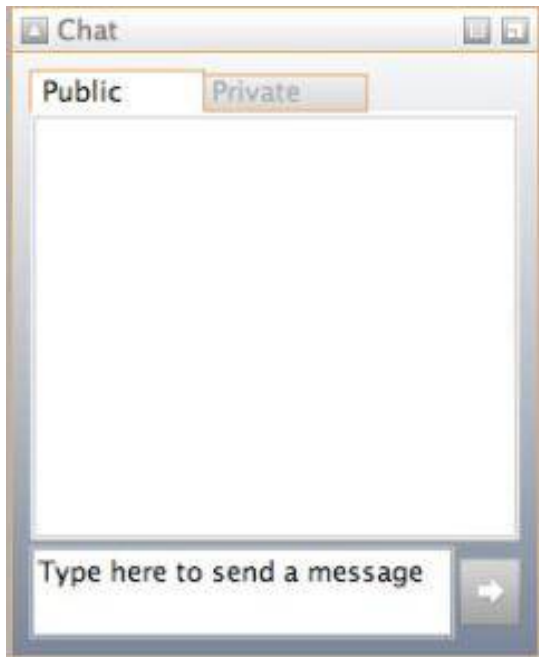
# Sexual Ambivalence

- People sometimes feel ambivalent towards:
  - Sex in general
  - Sex with a particular partner
  - Sex under particular circumstances
- People sometimes have positive and negative feelings about:
  - The sexual encounter itself
  - Potential outcomes of the encounter
- There are gender specific reasons for sexual ambivalence (Muehlenhard & Peterson, 2005)
- Feeling ambivalence towards sex can influence consent



# Audience Question

What have you heard from college students that might contribute to why they feel ambivalent towards sex?



# Men disvalue women who have sex

- **‘Good Girls Don’t Have Sex’** (Jozkowski & Hunt)

*Afterwards [referring to after college] you want a wife and not a woman who’s done all these people. You know? It’s like when you get a new car. You don’t want a lot of mileage on it. -Damien, 22*

*A girl that hasn’t had sex, they’re typically in a lot higher – they’re a lot nicer, they know what they want in life -Joe, 19*

*I guess it's deemed socially acceptable in a sense, that a guy can have as many partners as possible or whatever, because he's seen as that guy or he's a pimp or he's a player or whatever. But for a woman, she has negative labels. She's a ho, she's a slut or whatever. -Rushard, 20*

*Yeah, the guy is going to try. He’s going to try. If she don’t move your hand when its on her, you know, she wants it, but she has to act like she has standards so she has to move away, but you have to try, you know. -Eric, 22*



# Sexual Uncertainty



# Sexual Uncertainty

- Some discussions of consent are predicated on the assumption that people know in advance if they will consent to a sexual encounter
- Research suggests that people are often uncertain about whether they will agree to sex (Beres et al., 2014; O'Sullivan & Gaines, 1998)
- Factors related to feeling willing to have sex may be contextual, situational, and/or gender-based



# Perceptions of Uncertainty

- **Women can be “Convinced”** (Jozkowski & Hunt)

*I had some experiences to where I've convinced the woman, you know, to change her mind because the whole time you're wondering if she wants to do it but is saying no to put up the little friction to make me work for it, I guess. So that's why it's confusing because you don't know. In different cases, you don't know if this girl is like the other girl [who cannot be “convinced”]. Does she really want to do it and she wants you to work for it or does really not want you to do, but just kind of wants to be held. So that's where the confusion comes in.*

-Eric, 22

*Yeah, if she doesn't really seem sure when she says 'no', she can be convinced in the mind. That means it probably depends, but if she's confident like yeah, 'no, back up,' then you back up.*

-Damien, 22





# Perceptions of Uncertainty

- **Women can be “Convinced”** (Jozkowski & Hunt)

*If it's real soft [her refusal], it's like that's not really clear to me, you know, so I'm going to try again. And if it's still soft, it's like okay, I've got some options here. I could probably convince her, you know. I might try a little something here on the neck or you know, just to kind of wear her down.*

-Rushard, 20

*So it's kind of -- not to say it's on her, but if she gives, if she gives a clear signal that it's not going to happen or shouldn't happen, he should know and if he doesn't -- if he knows that she doesn't want it and he tries, like it's almost sport for him, so I just say clear signals are meant to be, but not to be just so blunt that it's awkward*

-Mike, 20



What should we make of this?



# Gender and Consent

- Gendered nature of sex education, particularly messages from abstinence-only programs (Jozkowski, 2016)
- Gendered nature of the party culture and alcohol consumption
  - Gender dynamics exist partially because of pre-determined gender stereotypes (Hunt & Jozkowski)
  - Party culture reinforces gender imbalances because of male-controlled spaces (e.g., Armstrong et al., 2006; Jozkowski & Wiersma-Mosley)
- Gendered nature of how men and women are *supposed* to feel about sex and engaging in sex with others
  - Feelings of ambivalence and uncertainty inherently influence how men and women approach consenting to sex (Jozkowski & Hunt; Hunt & Jozkowski)



# Gender Norms

- Cultural norms create gender imbalance and privilege men:
  - Men hear and understand women’s refusals, but prefer to seek an “obvious gestures” (e.g., Jozkowski & Hunt; O’Byrne, et al. 2006; 2008)
  - Young adult women rationalize that uncomfortable or unwanted sex is part of “relationship maintenance” (Burkett & Hamilton, 2012; Jozkowski & Hunt)
  - Men do not provide an opportunity for refusal (e.g. Jozkowski & Peterson, 2013)



# Where does this leave Affirmative Consent?

# YES

means yes

i want this

i want you

i want to be here

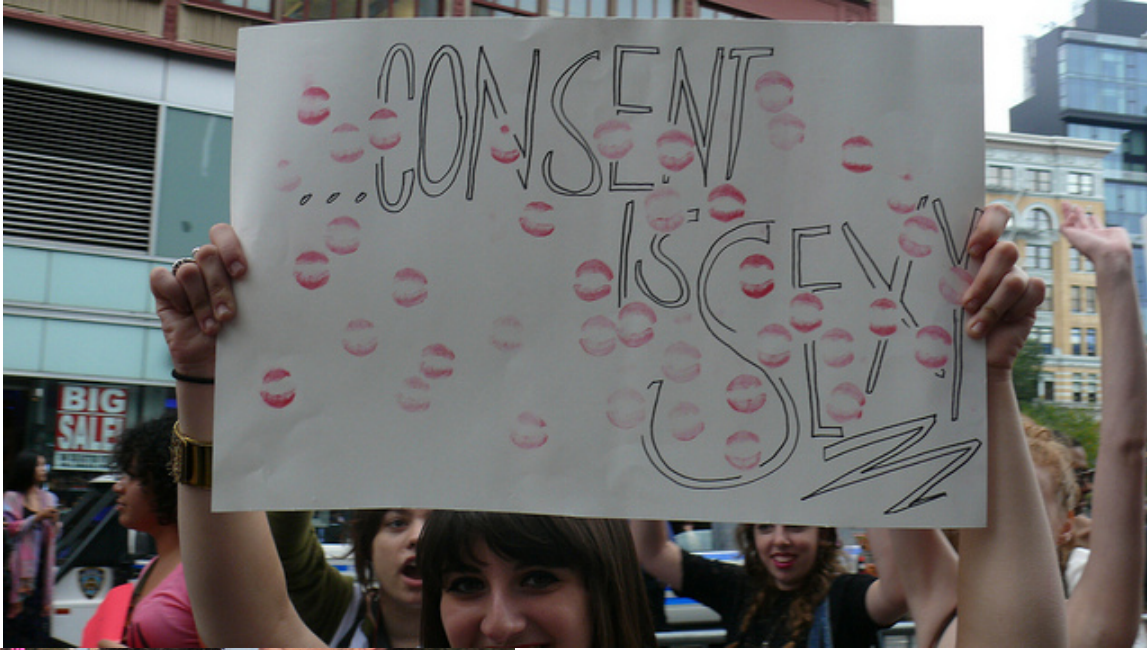
i am consciously choosing

i respect your boundaries

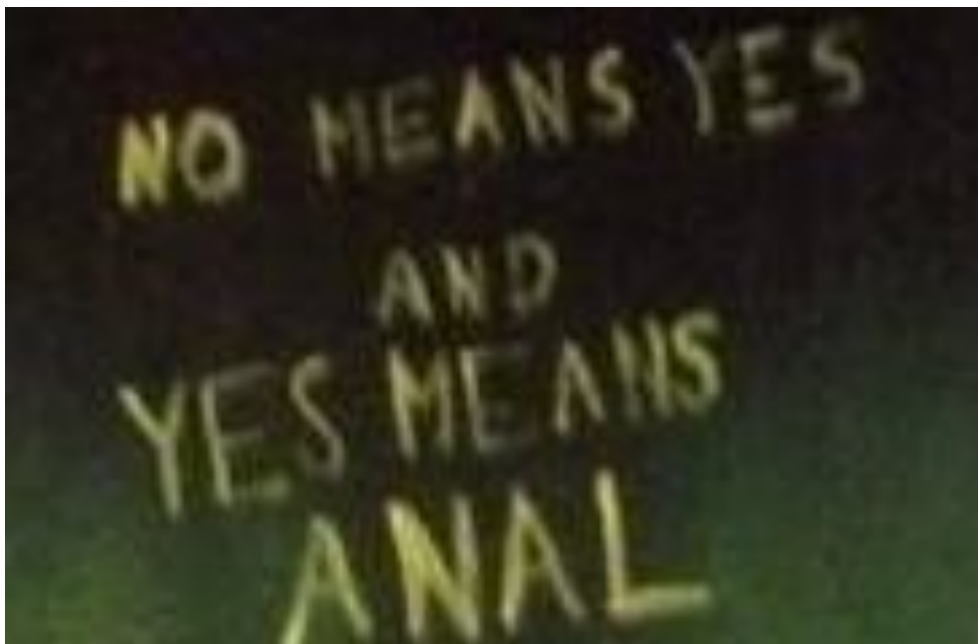
i will ask if i am in doubt











## Yale Frat's Rape Chant Caught on Tape

'No means yes, yes means anal!' boys yelled as they marched

Oct 15, 2010 1:44 PM CDT







## Top Ten Ways to Get Away with Rape

- 1) Put drugs in the woman's drink, therefore she won't remember you
- 2) When you see a woman walking by herself take advantage of the fact that she is alone
- 3) Wear protection
- 4) If a woman's window is unlocked sneak in and rape her to teach her not to do it again
- 5) Sex with an unconscious body does count, so don't back down if she's sleeping
- 6) Honesty is the best policy, if the girl says she doesn't want to have sex tell her you are going to get her a drink, slip some roofies in it and you'll have her in bed in no time
- 7) Practice makes perfect, the more you rape, the better you get at it
- 8) If you're afraid the girl will identify you slit her throat
- 9) Never take pictures with or give your number to the girl you rape
- 10) RAPE RAPE RAPE, its college boys live it up!!

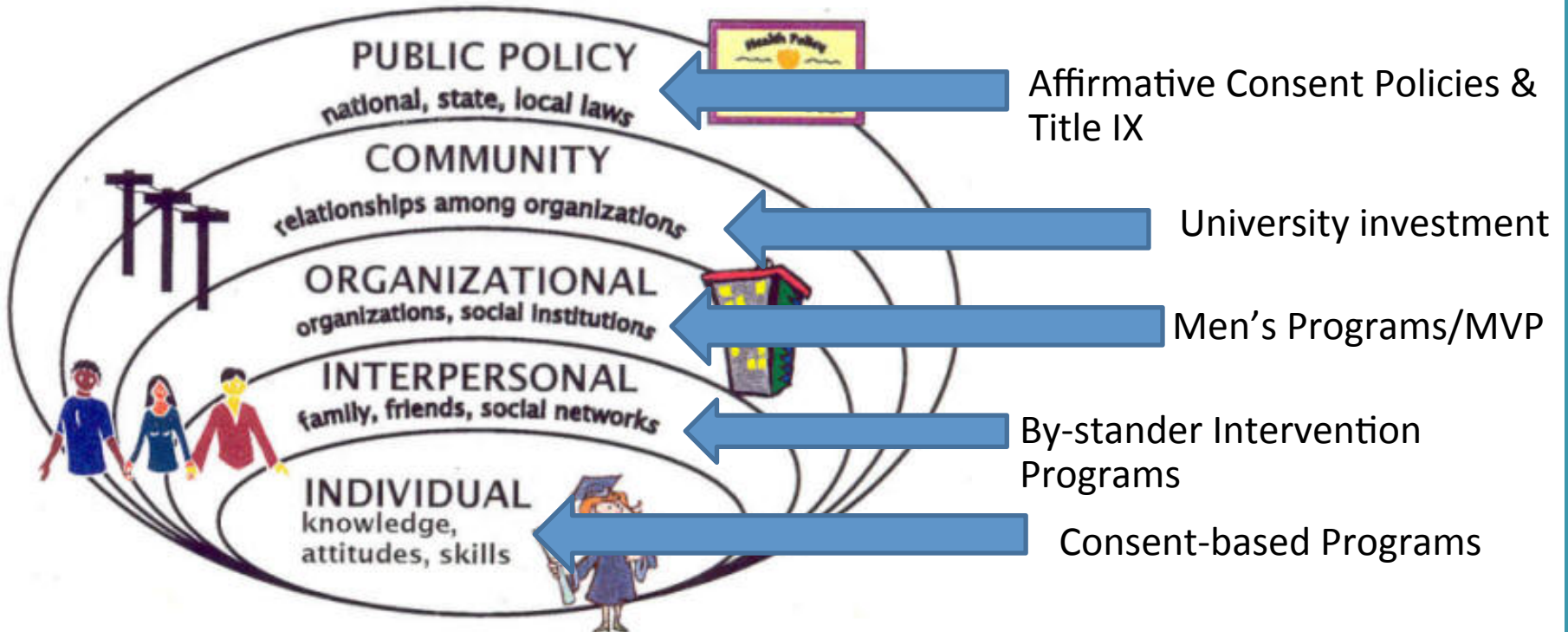


# Recommendations

- **Affirmative Sexuality → Affirmative Consent**
  - Socio-cultural shifts in gendered expectations in regard to sex (Jozkowski & Humphreys, 2014)
    - Student initiatives to promote empowered female sexual agency
    - Administrative initiatives to shift victim blaming culture via Title IX and Student Conduct hearings (Jozkowski, 2015a)
  - Socio-cultural shifts in rigid sexually scripted roles
    - Shifts away from a hegemonic masculine ideal (Jozkowski & Humphreys, 2014)
    - Permission for men to refuse sex (Jozkowski, 2015a)
  - Promotion of a pleasure ideal that includes affirmative consent (Jozkowski, 2013)



# An Ecological Perspective

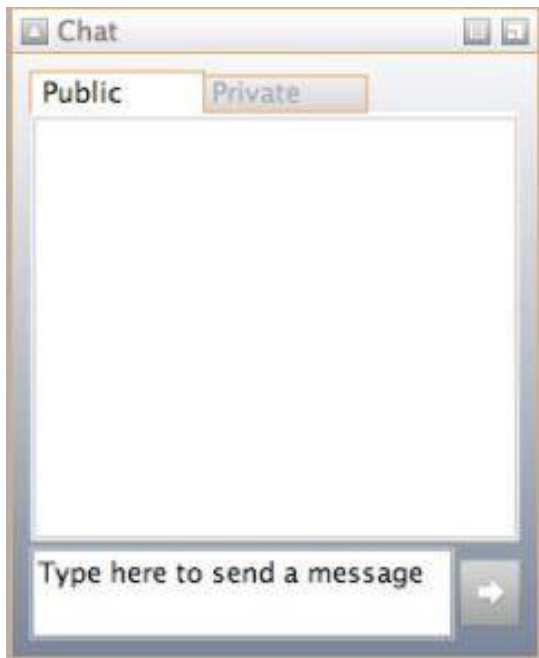


(Jozkowski, 2015a; 2015b; Jozkowski & Humphreys, 2014)



# Audience Question

Given this discussion, what are your ideas for including consent in sexual violence prevention work on campus?



# Presenter Contact Info

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HEALTH  
RESEARCH  
LAB**



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# PreventConnect Campus Web Conferences



**Wednesday, February 10**

Comprehensive Prevention on Campus

**Tuesday, March 22**

Selecting the Right Online Module  
for Interpersonal Violence Prevention

**Tuesday, May 17**

Partners in Prevention: Connecting Sexual Violence  
Prevention and LGBTQ-Inclusive Campus Culture

**Tuesday, June 7**

Affirmative Consent Policies: Cultural Barriers and the Need  
for Affirmative Sexuality

**Wednesday, July 20**

Prevention on Community College Campuses

**More topics to be announced**



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