Thank you for joining us today!

Abusive Endings: Separation and Divorce
Violence Against Women, a conversation with the authors

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3-4:30pm Central Time

Presenters: Walter S. DeKeseredy, Anna Deane Carlson Endowed Chair of Social Sciences, Director of the Research Center on Violence, and Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at West Virginia University; Molly Dragiewicz, Associate Professor in the School of Justice, Faculty of Law at Queensland University of Technology and Martin D. Schwartz, George Washington University

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Abusive endings: Separation and Divorce Violence against women
Battered Women's Justice Project Webinar
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Walter S. DeKeseredy
West Virginia University
wsdekeseredy@mail.wvu.edu

Molly Dragiewicz
Queensland University of Technology
molly.dragiewicz@qut.edu.au

Martin D. Schwartz
George Washington University
schwartm@gwu.edu
Why a Book about Separation/Divorce Violence against Women?

• We need a thorough analysis of the social scientific literature on one of the most significant threats to the health and well-being of women today.

• We want this book to be a useful resource for practitioners, as well as researchers, activists, and policy makers.
Contents:

1. Conceptualizing Separation/Divorce Violence against Women
2. The Extent and Distribution of Separation/Divorce Assault
3. New Technologies and Separation/Divorce Violence against Women
4. Explaining Separation/Divorce Violence against Women
5. Children as Collateral Victims of Separation/Divorce Woman Abuse
6. What Is to Be Done about Separation/Divorce Violence against Women?
What is Separation/Divorce?

- Separation and divorce means physically, legally, or emotionally exiting a marital or cohabiting relationship.
Why Focus on Separation/Divorce Violence Against Women?

• Consistent with our previous work on this topic, we focus on women-initiated exits because “they are the decisions that challenge male hegemony the most” (Se’ver 1997, 567).
What is Separation/Divorce Violence Against Women?

• Includes the physical, sexual, and emotional attacks on women while they work to try to remove themselves from the relationship, in addition to attacks after physical separation.

• The misuse of power by a partner or ex-partner against a woman, commonly resulting in a loss of dignity, control, and safety as well as a feeling of powerlessness and entrapment, and experienced by the woman as the direct target of physical, psychological, economic, sexual, verbal, and/or spiritual abuse.

• Separation/divorce violence also includes persistent threats or forcing women to witness violence against their children, other relatives, friends, pets, and/or cherished possessions.
Intimate Partner Violence or Violence Against Women?

• Gender-neutral definitions are highly problematic.
• We should use terms like “woman abuse” and “violence against women.”
Theorizing Separation/Divorce Violence Against Women

• Most of the theories covered in our book emphasize the concept of male peer support, which is attachments to male peers and the resources they provide that encourage and justify woman abuse.
New Technologies and Separation/Divorce Violence against Women

• Cyberstalking
• Social network intrusion
• Pornography
• Image-Based sexual abuse
Children as Collateral Victims of Separation/Divorce Woman Abuse

• In 2003, while a Family Court Judge, I made a devastating error . . . I relied on other judges who taught me that I should be suspicious of any woman who makes an abuse allegation during a divorce proceeding. I implemented the policy of the court and as a result I made a horrific and devastating decision. It is too late for me to correct the mistake. Nor can I correct the harm that I caused J.M.

• — Judge Salcido
What Is to Be Done about Separation/Divorce Violence against Women?

• Stricter gun control
• Criminalizing coercive control, as was done in England and Wales
• Criminalizing image-based sexual abuse
• Family law
• Better social services
• Feminist men’s efforts
• New electronic technologies
Thank you for your participation in today’s webinar: **Abusive Endings: Separation and Divorce Violence Against Women, a conversation with the authors**

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