

# HIGH ALTITUDE FAMILY VIOLENCE SUMMER CONFERENCE



The Family Violence Institute at Northern Arizona University  
Summer Conference



The Family Violence Institute  
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NORTHERN ARIZONA  
UNIVERSITY  
*College of Social & Behavioral Sciences*

Monday, July 14

**7:00 - 8:00: SBS West, Building 70, Room 200  
Registration & Morning Refreshments**

All Plenary Sessions will be held in SBS West, Building 70, Room 200

**8:00- 8:03: Welcoming Remarks:**  
Laura Huenneke, Ph.D. ,  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

**8:03 - 8:05: Introductions:** Neil Websale, Ph.D., Family Violence Institute

**8:05 - 10:00: Keynote:**  
**From Theory to Practice: Identifying & Responding to Coercive Control**  
Evan Stark, Ph.D.

Dr. Stark will use examples from his forensic practice to review the prevalence, dynamics and consequences of coercive control. Attendees will learn to distinguish coercive control from other forms of partner abuse, outline its importance in risk assessment, and describe the implications of adapting the coercive control model for policy, law, policing, shelters, and counseling with offenders and survivors.

**10:00 - 10:15: Break**

**10:15 - 12:00: Plenary:**  
**Working With Traumatized People**  
Jon Conte, Ph.D.

Dr. Conte will explore the ways in which trauma, by its nature, separates the traumatized from the non-traumatized despite its commonality in our culture. This presentation will discuss the nature of trauma, the impact it has on the traumatized, factors that explain variation in impact, and how trauma-informed agencies and professionals can work more effectively with those who have been traumatized

**12:00 - 1:30: Lunch on your own**

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Monday's workshops will be held in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Raul H. Castro Building, number 65.

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**1:30 - 3:00 Workshop A**  
SBS Room 104

**A: Managing the Relationship Between Personal and Professional Lives: Vicarious Trauma Basics**  
Jon Conte, Ph.D.

Dr. Conte will respond to the increasing awareness that working with traumatized individuals can have a cumulative impact on professionals. He will describe the mutual relationship between professional and personal lives and outline a strategy for managing trauma work in order to sustain a career as a helping professional.

**3:00- 3:15 Break & Light Refreshments**

**1:30 - 3:00 Workshop B**  
SBS Room 111

**B: Improving the Response to Non-Stranger Sexual Assault**  
Sandra Tibbetts Murphy, J.D.

Ms. Tibbetts Murphy will explore the challenges and misconceptions inherent in non-stranger sexual assault cases, including the additional obstacles created by alcohol/drug use by victims and offenders. Practitioners will learn the vital role of detailed and corroborating investigations, anticipation of defenses, and victim support in developing successful prosecution strategies.

**3:00- 3:15 Break & Light Refreshments**

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Monday's 3:15 - 5:00 workshop will be held in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Raul H. Castro Building 65.

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## Monday, July 14

**3:15 - 5:00 Workshop C**  
SBS Room 102

**C: Identifying the Predominant Aggressor and Recognizing Victim Trauma in Intimate Partner Violence**

**Jerald Monahan, Chief of Police**

Chief Monahan will examine strategies to identify the person utilizing coercive tactics in intimate relationships. Attendees will learn to identify and properly document the behaviors, criminal and non-criminal, of the predominant aggressor, (that person most dangerous and trying to control another person(s) through various behavior tactics). The workshop will also discuss the importance of recognizing and properly documenting the signs of short-and long-term trauma on people experiencing intimate partner violence.

**3:15 - 5:00 Workshop D**  
SBS Room 104

**D: Child Sexual Abuse Cases: Investigating, Forensic Interviewing, and Prosecuting**

**Dimitra Sampson, J.D., AUSA**

Assistant US Attorney Dimitra Sampson will address a range of issues connected with investigating and prosecuting child sexual abuse cases. She will pay special attention to the use of forensic interviewing.

**3:15 - 5:00 Workshop E**  
SBS Room 111

**E: Criminal Defense in Cases Involving Domestic Violence**

**Andrew Clemency, J.D.**

**Kathleen Ferraro, Ph.D.**

**Alan Tavossoli, J.D.**

**Pamela Mudryj, L.C.S.W.**

This workshop examines a range of issues related to criminal defense in cases involving domestic violence. Two capital defense attorneys, a capital mitigation specialist and an expert on domestic violence will share the legal, procedural and substantive dimensions of representing defendants with a history of domestic violence victimization. They will focus on cases involving intimate partners as victims as well as child victims and witnesses. They will explain the relevance of domestic violence testimony at guilt and sentencing phases, voir dire, general and specific domestic violence testimony, and the most current scientific literature on the effects of domestic violence on children and adults.

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## Join us for a Community Lecture 6:30 - 8:00 PM

### WA Franke College of Business, Building 81, Gardner Auditorium Room 101

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) will host a community lecture Monday, July 14, 2014. Dr. Jon Conte will present "Caring for Those Among Us with Trauma Histories." Exposure or risk of exposure to traumatic events is a fact of contemporary life. As human beings we will either be traumatized, love someone who is traumatized or come in contact with someone who has been traumatized. This lecture will discuss what has been learned about trauma exposure over the last 100 years and describe how citizens can care for those who have been traumatized. Dr. Conte will review the concept of a trauma-informed caring community.

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## Tuesday, July 15

**7:00 - 8:00: SBS West, Building 70, Room 200 - Registration & Morning Refreshments**

All Plenary Sessions will be held in SBS West, Room 200

**8:00- 8:05: Opening Remarks: Neil Websdale, Ph.D., Family Violence Institute**

**8:05 - 10:00: Plenary: Working Strangulation Cases**

**Dan Rincon, Sgt. & Jill Rable, R.N.**

Sergeant Dan Rincon and Jill Rable, RN both have extensive experience working strangulation cases. They will discuss the profound significance of non-lethal strangulation as a potent risk marker in intimate partner violence cases and specifically address signs, symptoms, and cutting edge investigative practices and protocols.

**10:00 - 10:15: Break**

### 10:15 – 12:00: Workshop A SBS West Room 110

#### **A: What Happens Before an Intimate Partner Homicide?**

Neil Websdale, Ph.D.

Dr. Websdale will draw upon 20 years experience reviewing and writing about intimate partner homicide to examine what happens before these tragedies and how we might use this knowledge for safety planning and prevention. The presentation will focus on the role of various systems and community stakeholders and explore specific risk markers and the contexts within which they assume meaning.

### 12:00 - 1:30: Lunch on your own

### 1:30 – 3:15 Workshop C SBS West Room 110

#### **C: Child Abuse and Neglect Deaths**

Neil Websdale, Ph.D.

Dr. Websdale will explore what happens before a child abuse and neglect death, examining a number of interrelated antecedents including the role of prior child abuse, the role of domestic violence, prior agency contacts, the significance of poverty, the criminal records of perpetrators, the role of alcohol and drugs, and the availability of weaponry. The workshop will close with a consideration of the plight of children who survive fatal family violence.

### 3:15- 3:30 Break & Light Refreshments

### 3:30 - 5:00 Workshop E SBS West Room 110

#### **E: Survivor Perspectives on Risk and Threat**

Moderator: Melissa Rhodes, L.C.S.W.

Ms. Rhodes will use her extensive experience working with adult and child survivors of family violence to facilitate a conversation with survivors that explores what risk and threat mean to them. Melissa will also examine the complex role of trauma in survivors' decision making, safety planning, and their shifting relationships with children, other family members, criminal justice and social service agencies, and community stakeholders.

### 10:15 – 12:00: Workshop B SBS West Room 200

#### **B: Domestic Violence & Divorce**

Connie J. A. Beck, Ph.D. and Ryan D. Davidson

Dr. Beck and Ms. Davidson will examine the high rates of intimate partner violence in divorcing couples with children and share why it is essential that court personnel, and legal and mental health professionals understand the patterns of abuse and violence in this population. This talk will discuss a large scale longitudinal study of mediating couples with patterns of abuse and violence and present findings on short- and long-term outcomes from court and law enforcement contacts.

### 12:00 - 1:30: Lunch on your own

### 1:30 - 3:15 Workshop D SBS West Room 200

#### **D: The Battered Mother's Dilemma: Reframing Child Maltreatment in the Context of Coercive Control**

Evan Stark, Ph.D.

Using case examples, Dr. Stark will identify the dilemmas in mothering created by perpetrators of coercive control and how these dilemmas are reinforced as abused mothers try to negotiate The "Three Planets" of Child Welfare, Family Court and Criminal Justice. Dr. Stark concludes by identifying the principles and best practices needed to support a consistent response to coercive control that empowers non-offending mothers and holds abusive partners accountable.

### 3:15- 3:30 Break & Light Refreshments

### 3:30 - 5:00 Workshop F SBS West Room 200

#### **F: Implications of Different Forms of Domestic Violence for Custody Arrangements and Mediation Agreements**

Connie J.A. Beck, Ph.D. & Ryan D. Davidson

Building upon the earlier Domestic Violence & Divorce presentation, Dr. Beck and Ms. Davidson will highlight methods of assessing abuse and violence for adults and children, discuss strategies for assisting couples in negotiating agreements, present findings on implications of parental abuse and violence for children and provide practical recommendations for constructing safe arrangements for children.

**Join us for a Community Lecture & Book Signing: 6:30 - 8:00 PM**

**WA Franke College of Business, Building 81, Gardner Auditorium Room 101**

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) will host a community lecture Tuesday, July 15, 2014. Dr. Evan Stark will present "Coercive Control: How Men Entrap Women in Personal Life."



## PRESENTERS

**Connie J. A. Beck, Ph.D.**, is an Associate Professor in the Clinical Psychology Program at the University of Arizona. She is also the Director of the Department's new Accelerated Master's Program. Her research interests focus broadly on how the legal system can be adjusted to minimize psychological distress for those who use it. Dr. Beck's research has investigated short- and long-term outcomes for divorcing couples experiencing intimate partner violence and mediating their disputes. She also has investigated the effectiveness of parenting coordinator programs for high conflict families involved in family courts. Working with colleagues at Indiana University, Dr. Beck recently developed an assessment instrument for assessing intimate partner violence in the mediation context. With her graduate students Dr. Beck's research is now moving toward issues related to traumatized children involved in the legal system and the successes and failures of the involuntary civil commitment process.

**Andrew Clemency, J.D.**, is a faculty associate in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Arizona State University at the Downtown Campus. In addition to teaching at ASU, he is also a senior attorney for the Maricopa County Public Defender's Office, specializing in the defense of death penalty cases. Clemency also has extensive experience defending a wide variety of other criminal matters, including homicides, sex crimes, assaults, drug crimes, property crimes, white collar crimes, and vehicular crimes.

**Jon R. Conte, Ph.D.**, is a teacher and scholar whose area of expertise centers on mental health issues related to child abuse and trauma. Conte has been with the University of Washington's School of Social Work since 1990. He formally served as director of program evaluation and research at Seattle Children's Home. He maintains a private practice on Mercer Island, specializing in forensic mental health issues surrounding child abuse and the effect of trauma work on health care professionals.

A founding president of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, Conte was honored by the association in 2012 with the designation of professor emeritus for life. In 2009, he received the society's Ron C. Laney Award for Distinguished Service. Conte is the editor of the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence and Trauma, Violence and Abuse: A Review Journal*, and is the consulting editor for the *Journal of Forensic Social Work*. He has written scores of articles, chapters and monographs, and has edited several books including his most recent publication *Child Abuse and Neglect Worldwide* which examines classic, current and emerging research on child neglect and abuse in countries around the world. He has presented papers at numerous conferences and meetings throughout the United States as well as internationally.

**Ryan Davidson** is currently a clinical psychology graduate student at the University of Arizona working under Dr. Connie Beck. Previous work includes research on intimate partner violence in mediating divorcing couples. Her research interests include understanding short- and long-term psychological and physiological outcomes for families involved in the legal system, including children exposed to stressful life events.

**Kathleen J. Ferraro, Ph.D.**, is the Chair and a Professor of Sociology and Social Work at Northern Arizona University. She has worked as an educator, researcher, volunteer and community advocate in the domestic violence movement since 1975. Her scholarship includes numerous articles, book chapters and reports on domestic violence. Her book *Neither Angels nor Demons: Women, Crime, and Victimization* was a Choice Outstanding Academic Title in 2007. Ferraro has served on the Arizona Governor's Commission to

Prevent Violence Against Women, chaired the board of the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and served on the boards of several shelters and programs for women. Since 1985, she has been an expert witness on the effects of battering in over 120 criminal, civil and clemency cases. Currently, Ferraro chairs the Coconino County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team.

**Chief Jerald Monahan** is a 34 year public safety official having begun his law enforcement career with the Casa Grande Police Department. He went to work at the Pinal County Sheriff's Office in 2002 as a Captain and was appointed Chief Deputy in 2005. In June of 2008 he was appointed as the Chief of Police with the Apache Junction Police Department, and in March of 2013, was appointed as the Chief of Police for the City of Prescott.

Chief Monahan has been actively involved in addressing issues of violence against women with each agency he has served. He was appointed to the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women in 2003. In January of 2011, Chief Monahan was named as the Chairperson. He has served on the Executive Board for the Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police since 2009 and is the current President of the Association. Chief Monahan holds a Master of Science degree in Leadership with an Emphasis on Crisis Management and disaster preparedness from Grand Canyon University, a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Safety Administration from Grand Canyon University, and an Associate of Applied Science degree in the Administration of Justice from Central Arizona College. He is a graduate of the FBI's National Academy, the 230th Session, Sept. 2007.

**Pamela Mudryj, L.C.S.W.**, has developed a unique perspective on domestic violence from her 4.5 years of experience as a Capital Crimes Mitigation Specialist for Maricopa County, Arizona. Pamela's earlier work in various aspects of child advocacy, where she dealt with abused and neglected children, has helped her to understand the impact of a person's early years, as well as the dynamics within their family of origin, upon their actions as adults. Pamela earned her Master's Degree in Social Work from Case Western Reserve University in 1996.

**Jill Rable, R.N.**, has practiced as a nurse for the last 16 years. She is a board certified Advanced Forensic Nurse. Jill is also certified as a pediatric nurse and a SANE-A forensic nurse examiner. For the past 7 years she has provided nursing care to over 700 patients affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. In 2012, Jill was an active participant in establishing a medical forensic domestic violence strangulation protocol for victims in Maricopa County. Jill is an active board member of Arizona's East Valley Fatality Review Board, New Life Domestic Violence shelter and Arizona Foundation for Women's Greater Arizona Anti-Strangulation Project.

Jill has traveled Arizona and other states training health care agencies, first responders, law enforcement, attorneys, and judges in the areas of sexual assault, abuse, domestic violence, and strangulation. Jill provides expert witness testimony in federal, superior, city and military courts regarding forensic nursing, strangulation, sexual assault, and domestic violence. Jill is an active member of International Association of Forensic Nurses.

**Sgt. Daniel Rincon** is a 23-year veteran of the Scottsdale Police Department (Arizona) and earned a Bachelors of Science Degree in Justice Studies from Arizona State University. He has been a Sergeant for the past ten years and was the Domestic Violence Unit

supervisor for over five years. Dan has served on the East Valley Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board (Phoenix Metropolitan Area), and currently serves as faculty for the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention (Nat'l Family Justice Center Alliance – San Diego), and is a commissioner on the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women.

Sergeant Rincon's investigative experience includes being case detective or supervising Homicides, Sexual Assaults, Major Assaults, Domestic Violence cases, Child Abuse and Gang related investigations. While under his leadership, the Scottsdale Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit increased its arrests made by the unit's detectives 230%, decreased individual caseloads by 80%, and created a Domestic Violence Repeat-Offender Database that gave first responders the ability to access an offender's criminal history and convictions while still at the scene of a reported DV crime. These initiatives contributed to a 7% decrease in domestic violence in the City of Scottsdale in 2008, which was the first decrease in domestic violence cases in over a decade. Since 2009, Sergeant Rincon has dedicated himself to educating Law Enforcement Professionals, Prosecutors, Victim Advocates and others stakeholders in the area of strangulation investigations both Nationally and throughout Arizona. Sergeant Rincon current is assigned to the Internal Affairs Unit.

**Melissa Rhodes, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.,** currently teaches full time in Northern Arizona University's Bachelor of Social Work program and does clinical social work with Navajo children and their families. The past eleven years have been dedicated to clinical work with Hopi and Navajo children and adolescents, trauma work in Flagstaff and psycho-educational services through the Coconino County Integrated Family Court. Prior clinical social work has included individual and family therapy with child, adolescent and adult clients in private practice, school and community mental health settings. Melissa has a long-standing interest in helping children and families heal from trauma and loss of all origin. She is also involved with Coconino County Victim Witness Services as a volunteer victim advocate and assists with the Domestic Violence Support Group.

**Dimitra Sampson, J.D., A.U.S.A.,** is an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Violent Crimes Section of the Phoenix Office and currently serves as Tribal Liaison for the central portion of the state. She has been prosecuting Indian Country cases with the USAO since May 2008. She's been the prosecutor for the FBI's Northern Arizona Safe Streets Task Force for the last two years, concentrating efforts on proactive community impact initiatives in Indian Country. Dimitra previously worked as a prosecutor for the Maricopa County Attorney's Office from 1998 to 2004, prosecuting almost exclusively sex crimes. Prior to joining the USAO, Dimitra was an associate in a private law firm, handling primarily medical malpractice defense. She graduated from Arizona State University's College of Law in 1998.

**Evan Stark, Ph.D.,** is a forensic social worker and award-winning researcher with an international reputation for his innovative work on the legal, policy and health dimensions of interpersonal violence. Dr. Stark was a founder of one of the first battered women's shelters in the US. In the 1980's, he and Dr. Anne Flitcraft co-directed the Yale Trauma Studies, path-breaking research that was the first to document the significance of domestic violence for women's injury, child abuse a range of health problems. Dr. Stark has served as an expert in more than 100 criminal, civil cases and child welfare cases.

He has consulted with numerous federal and state agencies, won a number of prestigious awards for his research and advocacy and provided training on the dynamics of partner abuse for a range of health, criminal justice, legal and child welfare professionals throughout the US, Scotland, England, Turkey and many other countries. A widely published author, his critically acclaimed book, *Coercive Control: The Entrapment of Women in Personal Life* (Oxford, 2007) was named the best social science book published in 2007 by the American Pub-

lishers Association and has led to a major reconceptualization of partner abuse. He has held visiting appointments at the Universities of Essex and Bristol and most recently served as a Visiting Leverhulme Fellow at the University of Edinburgh. Dr. Stark received his PhD in sociology from the State University of New York and did his clinical training in social work at the US Veterans' Hospital National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. He is Professor Emeritus at the Rutgers University School of Public Affairs and Administration in New Jersey.

**Alan Tavassoli, J.D.,** is currently a capital defense attorney for the Office of the Maricopa County Public Defender, and has been a capital defense attorney in this capacity for nearly 9 years. Alan has participated in the trials of a number of high profile capital cases over this period of time as both lead and co-counsel. Alan graduated from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Psychology, and holds a Juris Doctorate degree from Northern Illinois University College of Law in DeKalb, Illinois. In addition, Alan is a past president of the St. Thomas More Society and still serves on its Board of Directors, and currently serves as a Cub Scout Webelos Den Leader for Pack 278 of Ahwatukee, in Phoenix, Arizona.

**Sandra Tibbetts Murphy J.D.,** serves as an Attorney Advisor for the Battered Women's Justice Project, a national resource center providing training and technical assistance to advocates, battered women, civil attorneys, prosecutors and police on civil and criminal domestic violence issues. At BWJP, she focuses on criminal justice issues, in particular prosecution and law enforcement responses to domestic violence, has written policy pieces and training materials regarding advocate confidentiality, and co-authored amicus briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court. She also serves as a trainer for the National Judicial Institutes on Domestic Violence and the National Institutes on the Prosecution of Domestic Violence. Previously, Ms. Tibbetts Murphy was the Assistant County Attorney assigned to the Violence Against Women Prosecution Team of the Cerro Gordo County Attorney's Office (Iowa), handling misdemeanor and felony-level domestic violence and sexual assault cases exclusively, as well as overseeing the office's VAWA and VOCA grants.

**Neil Websdale, Ph.D.,** is Director of the newly formed Family Violence Institute at Northern Arizona University and Director of the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative (NDVFR). He has published work on domestic violence, the history of crime, policing, social change, and public policy. Dr. Websdale's five books include: *Rural Woman Battering and the Justice System: An Ethnography* (Sage), 1998, which won the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Outstanding Book Award in 1999; *Understanding Domestic Homicide* (Northeastern University Press), 1999; *Making Trouble: Cultural Constructions of Crime, Deviance, and Control* (Aldine Books, co-edited with Jeff Ferrell), 1999; *Policing the Poor: From Slave Plantation to Public Housing* (Northeastern University Press), 2001, winner of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Outstanding Book Award in 2002 and the Gustavus-Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights Award in 2002. His latest book, *Familicidal Hearts: The Emotional Styles of 211 Killers* was published by Oxford University Press in 2010. Dr. Websdale is currently working on a new book, tentatively titled, *The Tale the River Told: The Murder of Susan Casey*.

His social policy work involves helping establish networks of domestic violence fatality review teams across the United States and elsewhere. He has also worked on issues related to community policing, full faith and credit, and risk assessment and management in domestic violence cases. Dr. Websdale trained as a sociologist at the University of London, England and currently lives and works in Flagstaff, Arizona.