

### Researchers and Partners Bio Sketches

**Victoria Banyard, Ph.D.** is a professor in the Rutgers School of Social Work. She is also associate dean for faculty development and associate director of the Center on Violence Against Women and Children at the Rutgers School of Social Work. She has authored over 150 articles on risk and protective factors for interpersonal violence and how to prevent it. She uses mixed methods designs including participatory action research and longitudinal survey designs to understand what works in prevention. She is an author of the forthcoming book “Preventing Violence and Risky Behaviors: Toward Strengths-Based Approaches.”

**Rev. Gena C. Jefferson, LCSW**, is the founder of Just As I Am YOUTH, a leadership program promoting mental wellness and moral development in youth. She is also the senior prevention manager at the NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault. Her work for over 30 years focuses on impacting youth, families, and professionals in the areas of positive youth development, mindfulness education, and fostering resilience in communities of color through healing justice and mental wellness education. Jefferson has master’s degrees in education, social work, and educational administration. She has lectured at the MSW programs of Fordham, Columbia, and Rutgers Universities.

**Anna Segura, Ph.D.**, is a postdoctoral research associate at the Center on Violence Against Women and Children at the Rutgers School of Social Work. She received her Ph.D. from University of Barcelona, where her dissertation highlighted the effects of poly-victimization on mental health problems, and risk and protective factors among adolescents in residential care in Catalonia. Her research focuses on the effects of victimization experiences and poly-victimization on children and adolescents including understanding resilience and risk and protective factors. She also examines the effectiveness of sexual and dating violence prevention programs and implementation of services in child welfare systems internationally.

**Susan G. Forman, Ph.D.**, is university professor at Rutgers University. She has served as chair of the Department of Applied Psychology, and director of clinical training for the School Psychology Program in the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology, and as vice president for undergraduate education. Her research and scholarship focus on factors that influence intervention implementation, implementation of interprofessional collaborative approaches to pediatric behavioral healthcare, and the effectiveness of behavioral and cognitive-behavioral interventions in educational settings. Her publications number over 100. Her work has been supported by grants including the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Department of Education, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Science Foundation, and the American Psychological Association.

**Mary Haviland, JD** is a lawyer and community activist who brings 40 years of experience in violence against women programming and advocacy. In 2011, she became Executive Director of the NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault. Before this, she served executive functions at the NYS Office of Victim Services and was a founder and Co-Director of CONNECT, a prevention-focused domestic violence organization. She most recently Co-chaired the 90-member Downstate Coalition for Crime Victims. Haviland received her law degree from NYU Law School and is author of multiple publications on gender-based violence. She recently stepped down from the Alliance to pursue other interests.

**Sarah McMahon, Ph.D.** is an associate professor at the Rutgers School of Social Work and serves as the director for the school's Center on Violence Against Women and Children. Her research focuses on using ecological, social justice-based frameworks to examine the prevention of interpersonal violence, as well as mechanisms for engaging individuals, communities and institutions in social change. McMahon's work also explores the ways in which participatory, collaborative processes can enhance the translation of research to practice in community settings.

**Abigail R. DeSilva, BASW**, is a research and evaluation assistant at the Center on Violence Against Women and Children at the Rutgers School of Social Work. She is completing her MSW at the Rutgers School of Social Work. Her research focuses broadly on interpersonal violence, specifically the evaluation of programs to enhance victim services on college campuses. Her interest within the gender-based violence field focuses on the experiences of adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse, including program development and the evaluation of services as well as help-seeking behaviors. DeSilva's hope is to eventually pursue a Ph.D. in this area.

**Victoria Frye, MPH, DrPH** is a medical professor in the Department of Community Health and Social Medicine at the CUNY School of Medicine. Her research characterizes how social stratification produces health disparities, applying epidemiological and social science theories to identify multilevel determinants of HIV and intimate partner and sexual violence using mixed methods. She applies results to design and test multilevel prevention interventions, using experimental and quasi-experimental study designs. In the late 1990s, she mapped the epidemiology of femicide in New York City and was part of a national team that identified interpersonal and environmental risk factors for intimate partner femicide.

**Saswati Sarkar, MBA, MS, MA** has served in a variety of roles within social justice agencies over the past 15 years, mobilizing communities and building strong organizational infrastructures. Currently she serves on the Board of Directors of New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault. In her prior position she served as the deputy director at NYC Alliance against Sexual Assault. Formerly, Sarkar served as a national technical assistance provider for several years building state capacity in violence prevention and community development. Sarkar draws upon her graduate degrees in management (MBA), women's studies (MS) and philosophy (MA) to design and lead sustainable community-driven solutions to large-scale social problems.