

SHAPING THE FUTURE

2019 ATSA Conference | Wednesday November 6 | 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM

P-27

Cognitive Distortion or Social Norm? Identifying and Addressing Sociocultural Factors in Treatment

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In this seminar, we will explore sociocultural factors that contribute to sexual aggression, such as patriarchal social norms, hegemonic masculinity, and cultural elements in ethnic minority groups and immigrant groups. In addition, we will discuss a number of biases that can impact how these factors are assessed and addressed in treatment, such as implicit bias, heuristic bias, and blind spot bias. Finally, recommendations as to how to address these issues critically in treatment will be provided.

Learning Goals:

- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify how patriarchal norms can facilitate conditions conducive to sexual aggression.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify how hegemonic masculinity can facilitate conditions conducive to sexual aggression.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify how some cultural elements can facilitate conditions conducive to sexual aggression among some ethnic minority and immigrant groups.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify biases that may impact both the assessment and the addressing of sociocultural factors in sex offender treatment.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify how to identify and manage their own personal biases as they provide assessment and treatment to individuals who have committed sexual offenses.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify ways to explore sociocultural factors that contribute to sexual aggression with their clients in a critical manner that could facilitate individual change.

Alejandro Leguizamo earned an undergraduate degree at Boston University and a doctorate in Clinical Psychology at the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor. He completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Forensic Psychology at the University of Massachusetts Medical

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School. He previously worked in a variety of forensic settings, including Bridgewater State Hospital and in Court Clinics in Southeastern Massachusetts. He is a former Clinical Director of the Sex Offender Treatment Program at the Massachusetts Treatment Center, where he also provided treatment to Spanish-speaking inmates and civilly committed men. He is currently a member of the Psychology faculty at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island. In addition to his academic work, he conducts evaluations and specialized treatment for the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services. His current research focuses on multicultural factors in sex offending and predictors of psychological well-being in diverse community samples. Dr. Leguizamo regularly presents at regional and national conferences.

Kristin Mahan is currently a graduate student at Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI studying in the Forensic and Legal Psychology program on track to complete the program in May of 2020. She obtained her B.A. in Applied Psychology with a minor in Business Administration from Bryant University in December of 2017. Throughout her time studying in the field, Kristin has been interested in researching sexual offenses from both the victim and the offender perspectives, with much of her interest lying in resilience among survivors as well as motivation and risk factors of offenders. Kristin's undergraduate capstone examined combined effects of childhood trauma and anxiety on one's autobiographical memory as an adult and her Master's Thesis is examining etiological factors of sexual offending from the offender perspective. She currently works as a Graduate Assistant with Residence Life and Housing, a Teaching Assistant for undergraduate Research Methods in Psychology, and as a Milieu Associate for Bradley Hospital. Kristin hopes to enter into a Clinical Psychology PhD program in the fall of 2020 to continue to research sexual offenders, clinicians in the field, and survivors of assault.