

## ***BLENDING VOICES. STRENGTHENING LIVES.***

2020 ATSA Conference | Wednesday October 21 | 1:45 PM – 3:45 PM

### **WED-PM-02**

#### **Primary Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse: Current Approaches and New Directions**

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University of Massachusetts Lowell

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Bloomberg School of Public Health  
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In the United States, 17% of girls and 5% of boys experience CSA, and the impact of this trauma can be substantial. In response, a host of criminal justice and therapeutic interventions were developed, but these approaches largely ignored the primary prevention of CSA. Although recent advances in primary prevention suggest a shift in perspective is underway, researchers and practitioners may be unacquainted with this approach. The goal of this seminar is to address this gap by examining what is known about primary prevention of CSA. To that end, key issues in prevention science will be investigated, and evidence-based and promising programs will be reviewed.

This seminar is rated: Youth | General

#### **Learning Goals:**

- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify three usual categories of responses to CSA.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to describe three types of prevention efforts.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to distinguish between different types of prevention targets.

**Ryan T. Shields, PhD** is an assistant professor in the School of Criminology and Justice Studies at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. He is the former Associate Director of the Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. His scholarship centers on the intersection of criminology, criminal justice, and public health. His recent work has examined policies aimed at youth who have sexually offended, such as juvenile transfer to adult court and sex offender registration and notification policies. He is also currently leading a project to develop an online prevention intervention for adolescents with a sexual interest in children.

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**Amanda E. Ruzicka, MA**, is a research associate at the Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse in the Department of Mental Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Amanda has a background in clinical psychology. Her work centers around the development and testing of CSA prevention interventions targeted at youth and young adults. Amanda has research experience designing, implementing, and managing research projects at non-profit and academic institutions and completed a clinical internship at a residential treatment facility for youth with problem sexual behaviors. At the Moore Center, she focuses on research project and intervention development and manages the Center's research studies, events, and administrative functions.