<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Introduction to FRG and the Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:10</td>
<td>What makes abuse abuse? The process of defining relationship experiences</td>
<td>Courtney Williston</td>
<td>PhD Candidate, Applied Social Psychology</td>
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<td>9:30</td>
<td>A Content Analysis of Rexdale’s Partner Assault Response Program for Early Offending Male Abusers</td>
<td>Crystal Soares</td>
<td>MA Candidate, Social Work</td>
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<td>9:50</td>
<td>Violence Affects All Members of the Family: Safe Pet Programs in Western Canada</td>
<td>Rochelle Stevenson</td>
<td>PhD Candidate, Sociology</td>
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<td>10:10</td>
<td>Judgements of Arrest and Attitudes Toward Women’s Self-Defence in Situations of Intimate Partner Violence</td>
<td>Mia Sisic</td>
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<td>10:30</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
<td>Embracing Diversity: The Dual Role of Gay-Straight Alliances</td>
<td>Twiladawn Stonefish</td>
<td>PhD Candidate, Applied Social Psychology</td>
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<td>11:20</td>
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<td>Aviva Bellman</td>
<td>MA Candidate, Clinical Psychology</td>
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<td>Women in Engineering: Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges</td>
<td>Hoda Eiliat &amp; Hasti Eiliat</td>
<td>PhD Candidate, Engineering &amp; PhD Student, Engineering</td>
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<td>1:00</td>
<td>Outside the margins: Discursive resistance in narratives of sex workers</td>
<td>Karly Van Puymbroek</td>
<td>MA Student, Sociology</td>
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<td>Heather Lynds</td>
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<td>Sandra Gotovac</td>
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<td>Melodie Cardin</td>
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<td>4:00</td>
<td>FRG Thanks and Concluding Remarks</td>
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<td>Ongoing Exhibit</td>
<td>Music and Feminism in Counselling</td>
<td>Shelby Marchand</td>
<td>Music</td>
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Abstracts (in order of presentation):

Courtney Williston (PhD Candidate, Applied Social Psychology)
What makes abuse abuse? The process of defining relationship experiences

Violence against women is a ubiquitous problem in Canada and across the globe. While we may assume that it is easy to recognize abusive experiences as abuse when they occur, for women who live with violence and abuse, this recognition is not always an easy process. To understand women’s help seeking (or lack thereof), it is necessary to understand how women decide that what they are experiencing is abuse. This poster presents selected results of a systematic review of barriers and facilitators of abuse recognition and definition. Forty-six articles (42 qualitative and 4 mixed-method) met the inclusion criteria for this review. A thematic analysis of study findings revealed a number of barriers and facilitators of abuse definition. Main categories barriers to abuse definition include (a) the perspectives of others (i.e., partner and friends or family), (b) stereotyped views of gender and relationships, (c) definitional dilemmas, (d) feelings of personal responsibility, (e) internal barriers, (f) normalization, and (g) social comparisons. Facilitators of definition include (a) increases or changes in the nature of abuse, (b) recognizing a pattern, (c) external influences, (d) a sudden trigger, (e) leaving the relationship, and (f) having a name to describe the experience. The results of this review indicate that defining abuse, as abuse is a complex process, involving internal and external influences. These findings will be discussed in relation to our understandings of help seeking and helper responses for women who experience abuse in intimate relationships.

Crystal Soares (MA Candidate, Social Work)
A Content Analysis of Rexdale's Partner Assault Response Program for Early Offending Male Abusers

The essay analyzes the Canadian human service response to domestic violence. In particular, it is a literature review of how social services has constructed domestic violence programs for male abusers in early intervention, probation and parole, and incarcerated abusers. It will look at the content of such intervention programs, how it has changed within the last 20 years, and how that change has impacted domestic violence cases quantitatively. Research shows methodological limitations to such programs such as a lack of longitudinal reports, a lack of female-victim involvement in therapy, a lack of reporting to police, and generally a disconnected therapy model of abusers and the abused. The essay highlights the benefits of family therapy in domestic violence cases, and proposes a reevaluation of current social service responses.

Rochelle Stevenson (PhD Candidate, Sociology)
Violence Affects All Members of the Family: Safe Pet Programs in Western Canada

In North America, pets are integral parts of their owner’s lives, yet animal welfare agencies see thousands of cases of animal cruelty each year. Intimate partner violence is also occurring with frightening regularity. Research has shown that animal cruelty is a part of intimate partner
violence, and that women will delay leaving an abusive relationship out of concern for the safety of their pet. Companion animals are an important source of support for victims of violence, while at the same time representing a potential risk factor. This paper is an exploration of the policy response to this risk factor: safe pet programs. Concentrating on transition houses and emergency shelters in Western Canada, over half of the agencies contacted offered a safe pet program in various forms. Some policy recommendations are made, namely asking questions about pets on intake and keeping statistics on the safe pet programs.

This paper is connected to feminism in everyday life in two ways. First, intimate partner violence predominantly affects women, and transition houses tend towards a feminist perspective on violence against women. For women impacted by violence, this is something that impacts their daily lives. Second, the ethic of care and the stance against oppression that are a part of a feminist ethos (broadly speaking) extend beyond a species boundary to include companion animals.

**Mia Sisic (PhD Student, Applied Social Psychology)**

*Judgements of Arrest and Attitudes Toward Women’s Self-Defence in Situations of Intimate Partner Violence*

Recent changes in police enforcement of the policy of mandatory arrest in heterosexual domestic violence situations have resulted in increased rates of women being arrested for assault even though their violence was in self-defence. Fifty-five university students participated in the online pilot study (phase 1) examining the perceptions of stereotypic and non-stereotypic female self-defence. The most (scratching) and least stereotypic (use of a kitchen knife) behaviours were then inserted into scenarios in the main study. Forty five potential police officers from university and college settings participated online in the main study (phase 2) which examined attitudes and reactions to the victim, perpetrator, perceived appropriate interventions and acceptability of violence of both individuals, when a woman has used violence in self-defence. Though the majority of participants condemned the man’s violence and would arrest him, a sizeable proportion of participants did not view the woman’s self-defence as acceptable and would not rule out arresting her.

**Twiladawn Stonefish (PhD Candidate, Applied Social Psychology)**

*Embracing Diversity: The Dual Role of Gay-Straight Alliances*

In the span of a few generations, public perception and tolerance, and political discourse around the issues of “alternative” sexual lifestyles has shifted from complete exclusion to increased recognition of the right to equality and protection under the law (Hammack & Cohler, 2011). Despite legal milestones, society has not realized complete inclusion of those outside the mainstream, heterosexual majority.

Initiated to provide safe spaces and counselling supports within academic settings, Gay Straight Alliances (GSAs) are the cusp of a greater social movement that, building on gay rights movements of earlier decades, are breaking new ground in the areas of equal rights and social accountability. Built on partnerships between LGBTQQ youth and heterosexual allies, GSAs are
extending their reach beyond the confines of academic institutions, challenging prejudice and discrimination on a much larger scale. Schindel (2008) frames GSA efforts as mobilizing education; particularly, each GSA has the potential to become a forum that is not only connected with other community organizations, but creates community connections, fostering education, understanding, and tolerance through communication and frank discourse. In the context of GSAs, education and activism are inextricably linked (Schindel, 2008). This paper in progress seeks to highlight this dual role.

Aviva Bellman (MA Candidate, Clinical Psychology)
*Bicultural Women’s Coping Strategies and Gender Role Expectations Conflict*

The present research utilizes a relational-cultural theoretical framework in exploring the types of coping strategies first and second generation immigrant university women choose in dealing with sex role expectations conflict. Recent findings have revealed that, during the process of acculturation, immigrant women from collectivist, patriarchal societies encounter tensions in negotiating traditional gender roles from their home societies and opportunities for increased power and agency in Western host culture. However, little research exists on the coping strategies bicultural women utilize in managing this specific acculturation-related stressor. The present research project will quantitatively explore the relationships between gender role expectations conflict, acculturation, and coping. Coping will be assessed using both a cross-cultural coping paradigm as well as via Jack’s 1991 concept of ‘silencing the self.’ Results will contribute to better integration of multicultural and feminist coping theories and to increased understanding of the complex contextual experiences of bicultural women.

Hoda Eiliat (PhD Candidate, Engineering) and Hasti Eiliat (PhD Student, Engineering)
*Women in Engineering: Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges*

Engineering has been a male-dominated field for many years. This has caused some hardship to women in engineering and delayed their progress to higher levels of organization. Gender-based stereotypes, lower level of compensation compared to men, sexual harassment and inequitable work rights are among the few of challenges women are facing in their careers. Lack of enough female engineer role models and the mentioned problems have caused imbalanced in women employment rates in engineering industries and therefore demotivated female undergraduate students who are interested in pursuing a degree in engineering. This research is focused on finding reasons for this inequity and offers literature-based initiatives to attract and retain more women in engineering.

Karly Van Puymbroeck (MA Student, Sociology)
*Outside the margins: Discursive resistance in narratives of sex workers*

This presentation proposes to look closely at first-person narratives written by various sex workers, and to examine how they come to understand and negotiate their realities and lived experiences through participating in various aspects of standpoint theory. This topic is driven by
my desire to explore how women actively participate in the construction of their own discursive realities via linguistic avenues, and further explore the possibilities of resistance these narratives can create. This presentation contributes to a larger poststructural feminist discussion about how having access to language, particularly access to spaces that accept and value alternative discourses, acts as a catalyst for social change.

This presentation will have a distinct focus on language by employing a feminist Critical Discourse Analysis methodology to deconstruct and analyze both sex worker’s voices and heteronormative discourses about sex work (i.e. looking at creative nonfiction, blogs, interviews, broadcasts). This allows me to discuss patterns and themes that come up among sex worker’s narratives and heteronormative discourses (for example, sex workers often describe their experiences as empowering in their ability to negotiate sex positivity, whereas dominant discourses often frame sex work as inherently victimizing for all parties involved). What do these patterns tell us about sex worker’s experiences? Can looking closely at linguistics or discourse give ‘everyday feminists’ a chance to connect with ‘othered’ experiences? I suggest that interacting with first-person narratives of any woman would allow both the reader and the writer of various texts to symbolically embody the lived experience within the text. I also discuss how such a metaphorical embodiment of feminist space and language acts as a form of resistance to dominant discourses that work to devalue and silence specific experiences. This linguistic embodiment is something feminists could strive to do in their daily lives and may help create symbiotic connections to women whose experiences they have never lived.

Heather Lynds (MA, Political Science)

Where are the Women? A Feminist Institutionalist Analysis of the Role of Gender in Canadian Prostitution Legislation

My research addresses the legislative paradox surrounding prostitution in Canada. Specifically my work is a Liberal Feminist effort that utilizes the methodology of Feminist Institutionalism to identify where women are in this legislative process. Feminist Institutionalism is used by Feminist Political Scientists to uncover gendered norms that exist within institutions and validate the experiences of women affected by these biases.

My research represents a selected chronology of prostitution legislation in Canada spanning from 1839 until present day, with an emphasis on the Bedford v. Canada case. I conducted a qualitative study of Canadian prostitution legislation that evaluated the law making process to determine whether or not the laws were gendered or considered the input of the primarily female group being criminalized. I used the results of this investigation to inform my research question: Does the Bedford v. Canada case represent an increase in gender recognition in the decisions made by the courts? Furthermore, if this is the reality, what has provoked the courts to consider gender as a factor now?

This presentation details the results of this investigation, including highlights from my extensive research on Canadian prostitution legislation and explains how it is gendered. I also take
the opportunity to discuss the unique circumstance of legislated prostitution in Windsor Ontario and how it relates to the Bedford case.

Sandra Gotovac (PhD Student, Applied Social Psychology)

*Pursuit of Weight Loss: Eating Disorders and Obesity*

Current public health discourse operates under a weight-based model of health that conceptualizes obesity/fatness as a disease epidemic caused by personal choices of poor diet and inactivity that lead to disease and premature death. By virtue of fatness being illness, by definition weight loss is medical treatment. However, evidence suggests that factors such as SES, social stigma, and stress can explain the relationship between weight and health. The pursuit of weight loss as conceptualized in obesity research (as a positive health behaviour) is in direct contradiction to eating disorder research, where the pursuit of weight loss is defined as a risk factor for eating disorders. By conducting a synthesis of published eating disorder research this research investigated how the concept of obesity (or obesity as a disease) is understood in this body of literature. Several themes were identified in the way obesity was discussed: 1) higher BMI is associated with risk factors for eating pathology; 2) binge eating and obesity are conflated; 3) body dissatisfaction as motivation for change/weight loss; 4) positive attitudes about fat and lower incidence of dieting in non-white women is problematic; 5) stereotypes about fat and prescription for dieting; 6) dieting is ineffective for long-term weight loss. These themes suggest that there is now a dichotomy between normal/underweight people and overweight/obese people in terms of risk factors and eating pathology. The findings are discussed using Foucault's concepts of *biopower* and *medico-moral discourses* as a framework for understanding how obesity/medical science is an oppressive force targeting marginalized groups.

Kendall Soucie (PhD Student, Psychology, Wayne State) and Jennifer Rinaldi (PhD Student, Critical Disability Studies, York University)

*Untold Stories and Silenced Selves: A Critique of Psychosocial Discourses on Eating Disorder Recovery*

This presentation will showcase the subversive potential of the untold or silenced self-story. *Silencing* refers to the explicit or implicit view that one's stories (and, consequently, aspects of oneself) are unacceptable, irrelevant, or unworthy of being told because they do fit a culturally and socially appropriate meta-narrative. The appropriate canonical narrative is thus given voice, status, and privilege over the non-canonical narrative, and we argue that this is problematic for identity development both globally and within specific domains of the life story. The redemption story in particular operates as a regulatory modern (and socially acceptable) meta-narrative that delegitimizes nonconforming lived experiences, thereby limiting the identities that are culturally available for meaningful self-construction. The redemption story can be found especially in discourses on weight management, from overeating to disordered eating. These stories gloss over experiences of struggle, and serve a regulatory function, shaming women who fail to reach socially appropriate body standards.
In a collaborative endeavour, two students, one in Psychology and the other in Disability Studies, will first discuss which types of stories are silenced by showcasing digital stories about weight management. These stories were produced thanks to a research initiative that takes an interest in knowledge creation for the purpose of challenging common representations of disability, disorder, and difference. They will next explore why activities of silencing take place, and the consequences for the development of identity. They will then integrate the deleterious effects of the meta-redemption narrative as applied to identity development in general, and weight management and eating disorder recovery in particular. Their purpose is to legitimize and empower these aspects of the self-story that were once silenced in an attempt to break down the master stories that motivate problematic self-management practices.

**Dennis Bernard (MA Candidate, History)**

*Hunting for Healing: Sport-hunting and the reinforcement of masculinity at the turn of the twentieth century*

This paper investigates the use of sport-hunting and nature tourism as tools to reinforce established power structures during the turn of the twentieth century. It examines how urban environments created severe anxieties for upper and middle class men concerning their body image and masculine identity. In particular it considers the impact of worker’s and women’s movements on this identity, as well as the health concerns of industrial environments. The paper argues sport-hunting was used to reassert a connection to primitive masculinities and pre-conceived notions of healthy male bodies. It also addresses the limited access to this male-dominated activity women had. These arguments are based on commentary gleaned from sport-hunting magazines, hunting narratives, and hunting iconography from the period. This commentary exposes the romanticism of wilderness masculinities, in particular those of Native hunting guides. By considering these findings it becomes clear that sport hunting helped to prop up an acceptable upper class masculine identity during a period when it was being threatened. It also demonstrates a historical precedent for some of the anti-modernist masculine centred media of today, such as the television shows Duck Dynasty and Survivorman.

**Victoria O’Meara (MA Candidate, Communication & Social Justice)**

*SlutWalk in the news: Women, protest and the Canadian media*

This presentation will explore the representation of the SlutWalk movement by the *Globe & Mail* and *Toronto Star* in an effort to understand the ways in which feminist protest, and by extension a feminist ideology, is rendered intelligible in Canadian public discourse. SlutWalk is an international protest march aimed at combatting fallacies about rape as they circulate in both institutional and popular realms. As a contemporary example of popular feminist protest, SlutWalk provides an opportunity to generate insight into the current mediascape that confronts feminist activism and its transformative aspirations. Employing a multimodal critical discourse methodology, the research dissects a variety of news media texts including, print articles, online articles, videos, and images from the aforementioned Canadian news organizations. Findings
demonstrate that although some progressive shifts in representation have emerged, the coverage largely encourages a carnivalesque view of the protest and frames the nature of the women’s dissent as temporary with few lasting repercussions for the status quo.

Melodie Cardin (MA Candidate, Communications & Social Justice)
Social Media in Steubenville: Understanding the Power Dynamic of Rape Culture

This paper explores the power dynamic created by rape culture through the lens of Foucault’s writings on power and language. It uses the case of “Jane Doe”, a young girl who was raped at a party in Steubenville, Ohio, in August 2012, as a focal point from which to understand the prevalence of rape culture.

During the night in which Jane Doe was dragged from one party to another and repeatedly raped, many partygoers texted and uploaded photos, videos, and jokes about the assault to social media. No one intervened. The case garnered nationwide attention because of the role social media played: in providing evidence resulting in the convictions of two young men, and in demonstrating unpleasant truths about rape culture. The very fact of the social media content about an assault – and the light-hearted or graphic nature of the content – demonstrated a widespread, cavalier attitude towards rape which shocked many. Media coverage of the trial also demonstrated this attitude, through victim blaming and sympathizing with the rapists.

This paper examines this event from the perspective provided by Foucault’s writings on power, comparing his analysis of the relationship between power and violence to feminist analyses. It examines the feminist resistance against rape culture using Foucault’s methodology for understanding power. It asks fundamental questions about the power dynamics inherent in rape and rape culture, in recognition that if we can ever hope to reverse rape culture, we must first recognize, and challenge the discursive myths that maintain it.

Shelby Marchand (Music)
Music and Feminism in Counselling

This exhibit presentation will discuss the value of music and feminism in counseling young girls. Through the use of song writing, lyric analysis, singing, instrument playing, and guided imagery with music, I attempt to empower the young girls I work with and give them a safe space to express themselves. Most of the girls I work with have experienced significant trauma in their childhood, and are now struggling with behaviour and emotional problems as a result. The idea I take into counseling these girls is that if I create a safe and comfortable space for them to express themselves, the music itself will act as the counselor. Through discovering who they are as young women, rediscovering their strengths, and working through their weaknesses, I am able to break down the barriers they have built up, and guide them in realizing their true potential. When memories begin to rise to the surface and words become too much, music takes over; there is no need to verbalize what can be banged out on a drum or whispered through the trill of a flute. My feminism is being able to support these young women through song and dance, and give them back what was taken from them – the ability to laugh, smile, sing, and cry; the ability to be happy.
in being a girl. I would like to use this exhibit to show how powerful music can be in the realm of counseling and giving these girls back their voices. This exhibit will be an interactive one. I will show examples of songs written by these powerful young girls, as well as artwork and audio recordings. I will also have drums and other instruments to try and some song writing activities available for those who like to experience what I do first hand.