

# Sex Trafficking in the U.S.:

## Researching Vulnerable Populations

### 2012 INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

LASELLS STEWART CENTER

OSU CAMPUS

CORVALLIS, OREGON

The conference theme, "Vulnerable Populations," focuses on those most at risk for sex trafficking and the related methodological and ethical issues involved in this research. This conference brings together experts for cross-disciplinary discussion about the research challenges involved in studying vulnerable populations enmeshed in sex trafficking in the United States. It features scholarship that examines risks, experiences, consequences, and interventions of sex trafficking across differences of race/ethnicity, nation of origin, socioeconomic class, sexual and gender identities, ability, and age. In particular, the conference presents research on trafficking of ethnic minority women and girls in the United States, especially in rural areas. The conference is an expansion on the existing scholarship on sex trafficking as it focuses on underrepresented populations and on domestic sex trafficking in the US.



#### Tentative Schedule

The conference begins with a keynote address at 7 pm on Thursday, February 16, and continues with concurrent and plenary sessions on Friday and Saturday, February 17 and 18.

<b>Registration</b>	<b>Before Jan. 21</b>
Conference Participants	\$100
Students	\$25

**NOTE:** Registration rates increase to \$125 on Jan. 22, 2012, so register today!

- Your conference registration includes:
- Breakfast, Lunch and light breaks Friday and Saturday, February 17-18, 2012
  - Reception on Thursday, February 16, 2012
  - All pertinent conference materials



Photo by Jennifer Parsons

Early registration is now open. Register now at:

<http://oregonstate.edu/conferences/event/sextrafficking2012/>

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#### Keynote Speaker

"Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women in Minnesota"

Nicole Matthews, Executive Director

Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition

Nicole Matthews is a member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe, and is the Executive Director for Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition, a statewide coalition for American Indian Sexual Assault Advocates in Minnesota. The mission of this coalition is to strengthen the voices of American Indian women to create awareness, influence social change, and reclaim the traditional values that honor the sovereignty of American Indian women and children thereby eliminating the sexual violence perpetrated against them.

#### Plenary Speakers

"What Goes Around, Comes Around:

International Human Trafficking and United States Law"

Carrie Baker, Assistant Professor, Program for the Study of Women and Gender  
Smith College

Carrie Baker teaches courses on gender, law and public policy, including topical courses on sex trafficking, sexual harassment, reproductive justice and violence and holds a B.A. in philosophy from Yale University and a J.D. and Ph.D. in women's studies from Emory University. Baker's primary areas of research are women's legal history, gender and public policy, and women's social movements. Her current research is on sex trafficking, recently featured in an article in the summer 2010 issue of Ms. magazine on domestic minor sex trafficking.

"Journey through Wonderland"

Dawn Schiller, Survivor and Activist

Schiller has worked as a sex trafficking activist since her escape from the dark underworld of sexual exploitation, brutal domestic violence, drug addiction, and the Wonderland massacre experienced during her tumultuous relationship with infamous porn star John Holmes. Schiller has written her autobiography, *The Road Through Wonderland: Surviving John Holmes* and is currently on the board of directors for "Shelter From the Storm", her local women's shelter, an advisory board member for the American Domestic Violence Crisis Line, Voices Set Free, and the National Center for Victims of Crime out of Washington, D.C.