

Student Incivility, Bullying, and Aggression

Presentation and Discussion

University of Alaska Fairbanks

February 6th, 2012

Seminar Abstract:

- This seminar consists of a presentation followed by discussion. Dr. Lampman will be presenting the results of a recent, nationwide U.S. study on *contrapower harassment*, where a person with less institutional power (like a student) harasses someone with more power (like a professor). Contrapower harassment from students can take various forms including: (1) classroom incivility (like frequently interrupting a professor or challenging his or her authority), (2) bullying (such as threatening law suits or physical harm), (3) sexual harassment (like stalking a professor or offering sex in exchange for grades), and (4) aggression or threats of violence (like damaging a professor's car or threatening his or her family). Dr. Lampman will discuss the consequences of contrapower harassment for faculty (e.g., anxiety, depression, stress-related illness, and failure to achieve tenure and promotion). She will also discuss reasons for the rise of incivility and bullying in our world, including generational shifts in traits such as narcissism and entitlement, changes in parenting styles, educational trends including grade inflation and online courses, and the rise in use of electronic communication and social networking sites that make it easier for us to lash out and spread rumors and gossip. She will present evidence that some educators are more at risk than others – namely women, minorities, and younger faculty -- and discuss how gender and racial stereotypes, power norms, and teachers' own use of social networking sites to communicate with students may make some educators more vulnerable than others. The talk will conclude with recommendations for things that faculty members and administrators can do to help curb and cope with bullying and contrapower harassment. Following the presentation, Dr. Lampman will invite discussion.

Speaker bio:

- Dr. Claudia Lampman is Professor of Psychology at the University of Alaska Anchorage where she has been on the faculty since 1992. She received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Boston University in 1984, and both a Master's Degree (1987) and a Ph.D. (1990) in Applied Social Psychology from Loyola University of Chicago. Dr. Lampman's area of specialization is in the study of gender, sexual harassment, and bullying. She teaches courses in Social Psychology, Gender, the Psychology of Women, Research Methods, and Statistics. Her most recent research focuses on the experience of contrapower harassment in academia. Since 2005 she has conducted several studies (including a recent national U.S. survey) on faculty members' experience with student incivility, bullying, aggression and sexual harassment. Her research has been published in such journals as *Sex Roles*, *Sexuality and Culture*, *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*, *American Psychologist*, *Birth*, *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, and the *NASPA Journal about Women in Higher Education*.