

Feminist Campus Colloquium Fall 2011

“Sexual Violence Against Women in the DRC: Population-Based Estimates and Determinants”

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Wednesday, September 21st — 4pm
Humanities 1008



Sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has garnered much international attention. Reports include gang rape, abduction for purposes of sexual slavery, forced participation of family members in rape, and mutilation of women’s genitalia with knives and guns, among other atrocities. Popular press, peer-reviewed publications, and reports from multinational and non-governmental organizations describe the number of rape victims in the DRC as in the “tens of thousands,” but nearly all state that the true magnitude is unknown. This research represents the first-ever population counts and determinants of sexual violence against women in DRC based on analysis of nationally-representative data collected by the DRC Ministries of Planning and Health. Our estimates demonstrate that the level of sexual violence is both magnitudes higher and more geographically dispersed than previously estimated.

Reception to follow

Sponsored by Women’s and Gender Studies, Department of Cultural Analysis and Theory