



## **To all Mental Health Professionals, University and Hospital Clinical Staff**

You are invited to attend the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health Academic Lunch –time Lecture on 12 April 2016.

**Presenter: Dr Taryn van Niekerk**

### **Biography**

**Taryn van Niekerk** recently obtained a PhD in Psychology and is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Psychology at the University of Cape Town.

Her doctoral work explored the social representations of intimate partner violence against women among men, their social networks and in the local media in the South African context. Her PhD emerged from a longstanding interest in men, masculinities and intimate partner violence against women, and theories of intersectionality. Her primary research areas include feminist poststructuralist theories of gender, social psychological and post-colonial theories of identity and subjectivity, men's accounts of their own violence, and the social construction of violence in post-apartheid South Africa.

Taryn is also interested in child protection, strategies for violence prevention and the intergenerational transmission of intimate partner violence. She is also affiliated with the Responses to Interpersonal Violence (RIV) network, an international and interdisciplinary team of leading scholars in the field of interpersonal violence.

### **Topic: Social representations of interpersonal violence against women in Cape Town**

This Doctoral study involves a critical analysis of violence as a 'social act' and employs a unique methodology to examine the social representations of intimate partner violence (IPV) amongst violent men, their social networks, and within the local media. Qualitative data for this study was drawn from two marginalised communities in the greater Cape Town region.

In-depth individual interviews were conducted with men perpetrators of IPV, and focus group discussions were conducted with the men's social network members. In addition, reports on violence against women were collected from two newspapers that draw the largest readership in the Cape Town area. A thematic decomposition analysis revealed how participants' representations of respectability and reputation served to maintain patriarchy, and make violence permissible. The findings also shed light on the polarity of participants' constructions of 'victims' and 'perpetrators' of intimate partner violence. In addition, understanding violence as an intersectional experience – defined by race, class, gender and sexuality in the context of post-apartheid South Africa – is central to the analysis.

Suggestions for prevention and interventions for perpetrators and victims of intimate partner violence, and practical recommendations for improved journalistic practice are provided.

**Time: 12:30 – 13:30 PM**

**Venue: Valkenberg Hospital, Auditorium Education Centre.**