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You are invited to a Legal Intersections Research Centre Seminar:

**Real men don't hit women:
Constructing masculinity in the prevention of violence against women**

Presented by Dr Michael Salter, University of Western Sydney

Date: Wednesday 3 September 2014
Time: 4.30 - 6.00 pm
Location: Building 67, Room 202
RSVP: [Online](#) by 29 August

Abstract:

"Real men don't hit women": Constructing masculinity in the prevention of violence against women.
Dr Michael Salter, University of Western Sydney

Over the last decade, the primary prevention of violence against women (VAW) has become a national and international priority for researchers and policy makers. The VAW primary prevention agenda has invigorated anti-violence research and policy in multiple ways, including the recognition of the critical role of boys and men in addressing VAW as a social problem. This paper is concerned with the tensions that are becoming evident in the construction of masculinities within the VAW primary prevention agenda nationally and internationally. Some applications of VAW prevention frameworks attempt to engage boys and men by invoking tropes of "real", heroic and authoritarian masculinities while others seek to contest these very gender norms. In both cases there is a strong focus on the cultural and attitudinal correlates of VAW, a lack of attention to the material bases of inequality, and a reliance on direct participatory programs that enjoin boys and men (often young or disadvantaged) to take responsibility for personal, institutional and social change. This paper raises questions about the relative invisibility of the political and economic antecedents to VAW in primary prevention and the responsabilisation of specific populations of boys and men to prevent VAW in the absence of macro-level interventions.

Biography:

Dr Michael Salter is a lecturer in criminology at the University of Western Sydney. He is a consultant to VicHealth and Women NSW on the primary prevention of violence against women. His research is focused on the intersections of gender, violence and culture. His book *Organised Sexual Abuse* (2013, Routledge) was the first Australian study of multi-perpetrator child sexual abuse, and he has a forthcoming book on the gendered impacts on abuse and harassment on social media. He was recently awarded the 2014 New Scholar Prize by the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology for his study of online revenge and justice-seeking following sexual assault.

