

## SEMINAR SERIES 2010

### Violence against women: the impact of economic stress, social stress and social support

Adjunct Professor **Don Weatherburn**, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

**Date** Tuesday 10 August 2010

**Time** 12.30pm - 1:30pm

**Location** Room 250, Robert Webster Building (G14)  
UNSW Kensington

**RSVP** (02) 9385 7802  
[sprcseminars@unsw.edu.au](mailto:sprcseminars@unsw.edu.au)  
by 6 August 2010

**Campus Map** <http://www.facilities.unsw.edu.au/Maps/pdf/kensington.pdf>



Don Weatherburn is Director of the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research in Sydney. He received his PhD from Sydney University in 1979. He was awarded a Public Service Medal in 1998, appointed an Adjunct Professor in the School of Social Science and Policy at the University of New South Wales in 2005 and made a fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia in 2006.

Theorists have long speculated on the possibility of a link between stress, frustration and human aggression, yet the influence of stress and social support on violence against women has received only limited attention. The few studies that have been conducted have mostly involved non-representative samples and/or limited controls. This study uses data from a large representative sample survey to examine the influence of financial stress, social stress and social support on the risk of violence against women. The results are consistent with the hypothesis that financial stress and social stress increase the risk of violence against women while social support reduces that risk. These effects hold up after controlling for age, marital status, alcohol use and personal efficacy. The effects of financial stress appear more pronounced among those who are facing social stress. There is also some evidence that the effects of social stress are more pronounced among those who lack social support. The policy implications of these findings are discussed.