The New Campus Anti-Rape Movement: Networked Survivors Fighting for Reform

Dr. Caroline Heldman, Occidental College

History of Sexual Assault Activism

Rape Myths

- MYTH: Rape is perpetrated by strangers.
- FACT: Nine-in-ten survivors know their rapists.

- MYTH: Men can’t be raped.
- FACT: 6% of men are assaulted/raped on campus.

- MYTH: False rape reports are common.
- FACT: 2.2% of reports are “unfounded.”

- MYTH: Rape is an alcohol-fueled miscommunication.
- FACT: 91% of rape is perpetrated by 4% of serial rapists.

Campus Rape Data

- Fewer than 5% of completed and attempted assaults are reported to campus authorities (DOJ, 2001).

- Fewer than 1% of U.S. college campuses have “promising practices” to address sexual assault (DOJ, 2005).
New Networked Movement Tools

• Social Media/ Survivor Stories

• Group Lawsuits

• New Policy

• Federal Complaints

University of Madison, Wisconsin

Laura Dunn files Title IX Complaint in 2006

ED finds UW’s 9-month process and outcome (no investigation) “reasonable”
Tufts University

Wagatwe Wanjuki starts blog “Raped at Tufts University” in 2009

Files Title IX complaint that same year, yet is dismissed because of 180 day requirement

Yale University

Alexandra Brodsky files Title IX Complaint with 15 other students in March 2011

Details a “sexually hostile environment”
Amherst College

Angie Epifano writes her story of rape in student newspaper, *The Amherst Student*, in October 2012

Reveals “appalling treatment”

UNC – Chapel Hill

Annie Clark and Andrea Pino file Title IX and Clery Act complaints in January 2013

Launch national DIY chain of complaints under “IX Network”
Occidental College

Oxy Sexual Assault Coalition (OSAC) files Title IX and Clery Act complaints on behalf of 37 students, faculty, and staff in April 2013

Now 52 complainants

First Wave of Filings – May 2013

Swarthmore

Dartmouth

UC Berkeley

USC
Second Wave – 2013-2014

**Summer 2013**
- CU Boulder
- Eastern Michigan

**Fall 2013**
- Vanderbilt
- Amherst
- UConn

**Spring 2014**
- U of Texas Pan American
- U of Akron
- Smith & Hobart

... 80 Complaints Opened

President Obama: “I’ve Got Your Back”

January 27, 2014 weekly address puts campus sexual assault on the national agenda

- “It’s On Us” Campaign launched in September, 2014
Thank You!

Caroline Heldman, Ph.D.
@carolineheldman
heldman@oxy.edu

Faculty Against Rape
@FacultyAgainstRape
FacultyAgainstRape.net