

Open Call for Proposals Journal of Social Issues (JSI) “Sexual Harassment Among Young People”

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In recent years, public discussions emerging from the #MeToo-movement have put the adversities of sexual harassment in the spotlight. Indeed, sexual harassment is a serious and widespread social issue affecting young people across the globe. Studies show that half or more of teenagers in Europe and the U.S. report having been the target of sexual harassment by peers (Hill & Kearle, 2011; Lichty & Campbell, 2012; Petersen & Hyde, 2009; Vega-Gea et al., 2016; Young et al., 2009). Research interest in sexual harassment has also grown substantially in the social sciences during the last decade. Important new insights have been gained since the earliest attempts to study sexual harassment. For instance, we now know that sexual harassment emerges early (even before puberty, Gillander Gådin, 2012), that both girls and boys are the victims and perpetrators of sexual harassment (Chiodo et al., 2009; Ybarra & Thompson, 2019), and that sexual harassment is disproportionately distributed among racial/ethnic (Clear et al., 2014) and sexual identity groups (Mennicke et al., 2020). Yet, many gaps in knowledge remain, especially when it comes to the antecedents, experiences, and consequences of sexual harassment among young people (i.e., 10-20 years old) and the role of social policy and practice in combatting sexual harassment in this age group.

The Journal of Social Issues (JSI) and special issue editors seek proposals for a special issue on “Sexual Harassment Among Young People.” The aim of this special issue is to describe and explain the role of sexual harassment in the lives of young people and to show scientific attempts to prevent and combat sexual harassment and its harmful effects using different disciplinary approaches, different methodologies, and data from different countries. To the best of our knowledge, there are no other special issues on sexual harassment among young people (i.e., 10-20 years old) in the scientific literature. We hope that a wide audience, including researchers interested in child and adolescent well-being and development, practitioners working with young people, and policy makers, will find this special issue informative and helpful to their work and that it will inspire future efforts to understand and combat sexual harassment among young people.

The impetus for this special issue grew from a recognition of the alarming numbers of young people reporting being sexually harassed (Hill & Kearle, 2011; Kaltiala-Heino et al., 2016; Lichty & Campbell, 2012; Petersen & Hyde, 2009; Vega-Gea et al., 2016; Young et al., 2009), the harmful effects of sexual harassment on a variety of central developmental domains (Bendixen, Daveronis, & Kennair, 2018; Brown et al., 2020; Chiodo et al., 2009; Dahlqvist et al., 2016; Hatchel et al., 2018; Petersen & Hyde, 2013; Sagrestano et al., 2019; Skoog & Kapetanovic, 2020), and the apparent difficulty to prevent sexual harassment (Dahlqvist, 2016; Stein & Taylor, 2018). We seek proposals for papers that investigate a variety of topics related to sexual harassment among young people, including but not limited to A) sexual harassment in relation to intersecting identities (e.g., race/ethnicity, sexuality, gender identity, and/or other intersecting identities), and B) aspects of social policy (and practice) in relation to sexual harassment. We welcome proposals utilizing quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods approaches in addition to empirical or theoretical reviews of the literature and conceptual pieces. Moreover, we welcome proposals from both junior and senior scholars from various countries and disciplines including but not limited to criminology, education, psychiatry, psychology, public health, gender studies, anthropology, and sociology.

If you are interested in contributing to this special issue, please submit a detailed abstract of 3-6 pages in length along with short author biographies (no more than half a page in addition to the

abstract) to therese.skoog@psy.gu.se by May 1, 2021. The detailed abstract should conform to the 7th edition of the APA style manual. For empirical reports, the abstract should include descriptions of the sample, methodology (including power analyses, where relevant), and primary results. Authors reporting qualitative research should consider COREQ or SRQR guidelines. Authors of mixed methods papers should consider the MMARS standards when preparing their abstracts. For review articles, the abstract should include a discussion of criteria for inclusion and primary conclusions. All submissions should include some consideration of implications for and applications to social policy. The special issue editors aim to make decisions regarding abstracts to be included in the special issue proposal by June 2021. After consideration by the JSI editorial board, feedback will be given on all accepted abstracts and full papers will be due by September 1, 2021 for potential inclusion in the final special issue.