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The College Campus Sexual Assault Problem: a Gender Socialization Analysis

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Oral Presentation O1.1

**THE COLLEGE CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT PROBLEM:
A GENDER SOCIALIZATION ANALYSIS**

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This study seeks to delve more deeply into the connection between gender socialization and sexual assault with a particular focus on the generally overlooked experience of men. Through analysis of survey data from students at Illinois Wesleyan University and a series of small focus with men there, this study explores how sexual assault is normalized in our culture. When analyzed, this data allows us to better understand how men on college campuses think about their social location and how they learn about issues of privilege, power, violence, and masculinity. It also helps us to better consider the ways that men are constrained by masculinity and the consequences of masculinity policing (Connell 2005). These constraints, institutional shortcomings, and popular misunderstandings of why rape occurs has serious effects on the lives of victims and the culture of a campus. This research concludes by exploring possible solutions to changing campus socialization tactics and climate in order to reduce instances of assault and better support survivors.