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Counseling Female Offenders and Victims: A Strengths-Restorative Approach. Katherine Van Wormer.
Reviewed by Elizabeth C. Pomeroy.

Elizabeth C. Pomeroy
University of Texas, Austin

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e.g., classroom-based child abuse prevention programs, intensive family preservation programs, and post-adoption holding therapies—prior to rigorous evaluation and then lose credibility, when their efficacy is found to be seriously wanting. This may also be the path of FGC—there is little science in this volume to suggest otherwise. If the editors had asked authors to raise and answer serious concerns, FGC would be better protected against later disappointment.

The evaluation section acknowledges or addresses a few of the numerous and massive evaluation challenges attendant to such a flexible broadly focused intervention, but provides little guidance about approaches that will be most useful in future evaluation efforts. FGC evaluation efforts must recognize findings summarized by Sundel (and observed by others), “today it is understood that one FGC does not bring about instant change, but that a series of FGCs are needed where a succession of problems are dealt with, and the extended family is motivated to continue to support the child and parents” (p.205). None of the authors directly addresses the question of which designs and statistical treatments are most useful for capturing the benefits of such a fluid and ongoing intervention.

Yet, the assumptions of family group conferencing are so compelling that variations on this practice will undoubtedly continue to develop without evaluation endorsements. The field is better off now that this volume is available to guide that development.

Richard P. Barth

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Maluccio, A.N. & Daly, J. (2000). Family group conferencing as “good” child welfare practice. In Gail Buford & Joe Hudson (Eds.), *Family Group Conferencing: New Directions in Community-Centered Child and Family Practice* (pp. 66–71). New York: Aldine DeGruyter.

Sundel, K (2000), ‘Family group conferences in Sweden.’ In Gail Buford & Joe Hudson (Eds.). *Family Group Conferencing: New directions in Community-Centered Child and Family Practice* (pp. 198–205). New York: Aldine DeGruyter.

Katherine Van Wormer, *Counseling Female Offenders and Victims: A Strengths-Restorative Approach*. New York: Springer Publishing Co., 2001. \$49.95 hardcover.

While there has been a large body of research and literature on victims of family violence and a growing body of knowledge concerning prison inmates, Katherine Van Wormer has written an innovative volume that examines the similarities and differences between females who are victims and those who are incarcerated as offenders. As a starting point, the author points out that both female victims and female offenders must cope with a male-dominated criminal justice system. Secondly, while victims are often intimately tied to perpetrators of violence, the vast majority of female offenders have a past or current history of victimization. Finally, Van Wormer proposes a strengths-restorative approach to counseling both female victims and offenders that forms a bridge between the two, traditionally discrete populations of women.

For United States social workers, social work students and other professional mental health clinicians in the field of criminal justice and domestic violence, this book is an exciting addition to the list of interesting and comprehensive texts. It provides an insightful examination of the problems confronting women on both sides of the criminal justice system. In addition, it defines precise social work techniques and methods for working with women who are victims, offenders or both.

The book is divided into two major sections. The first section of the book focuses on women's victimization. The first two chapters provide an overview of women involved in the criminal justice system and a framework for empowering women utilizing the strengths-restorative approach whether they are victims or offenders. Chapter 3 contains a detailed description of abuse and sexual assault of women both within and outside of intimate relationships. The final chapter of this section, Chapter 4, describes guidelines for counseling and empowering victims of violence.

In addition to providing an important historical perspective of women and the criminal justice system, the author leads the reader through a paradigm shift from a retribution model of justice to a restorative-strengths model that could empower female victims and prevent female offenders from cycling through the

criminal justice system with no hope of improving their lives. The first section includes case examples and clearly delineated methods for social work counseling with victims and offenders.

The second section of the book is divided into three chapters that focus on women who commit illegal acts. While women continue to account for only a small percentage of all arrests, the author suggests that the increase of female arrests in the last two decades could be accounted for by a male oriented justice system embracing an "equality with a vengeance" attitude toward women. The author delineates the prevalence rates for female arrests and discusses the nature of female crime. She makes a solid argument for the higher number of arrests of females being due to new mandatory arrest policies leading to increased arrests of females caught in domestic violence situations. While the majority of social workers working in the field of domestic violence clearly understand from their practice experience that female perpetrators are most often victims themselves, the reasons for this dual role have rarely been clearly defined from a sound theoretical set of assumptions.

Paralleling the section on female victims, the final chapter of the book provides clear guidelines for counseling female offenders. The author describes current prison programs available for women and proposes a counseling program framework that focuses on empowering female inmates to resolving past issues, increasing self-awareness and making a contribution to others. The author draws on existing literature and her own research and practice experience to develop this "five state empowerment model" for counseling female offenders. It is a clear and comprehensive framework that students and social workers in practice can easily use in their work with this population. The author uses many case vignettes to exemplify how this model can be used to help incarcerated women. The final chapter summarizes the needs of female victims and offenders and the logic behind a strengths-restorative approach to counseling these women.

Katherine Van Wormer is a prolific and gifted author. Her current and newest textbook is an exciting addition to the social work literature. Van Wormer has compiled over two decades of literature, case studies and her own research in a very unique volume juxtaposing the experiences of victims and offenders. She

provides comprehensive guidelines for working with both populations of women. Perhaps, the book could have been strengthened with the addition of questions for discussion at the end of each chapter. While the chapters provide a wealth of information for student learning, it would have been useful to have questions to contemplate for classroom discussion. With this exception, the text reads like a good novel. It is rare when one reads a textbook and feels excited about getting to the next chapter. I would highly recommend this text for both undergraduate and graduate social work students as well as practitioners working in the field regardless of area of practice. The issues addressed in this text are so pervasive in our society today that all social workers could benefit from the information contained in these pages. Van Wormer has made a significant contribution to the social work literature.

Elizabeth C. Pomeroy
University of Texas at Austin

Barbara Perry, *In the Name of Hate: Understanding Hate Crimes*. New York: Routledge, 2001. \$22.95 papercover.

The Southern Poverty Law Center is the premiere resource on hate crimes in the United States. The Center has established the socio-legal context for understanding the prevalence, determent, and eradication of such crimes. *In The Name of Hate* by Barbara Perry uses data from The Southern Poverty Law Center, FBI Uniform Crime Statistics, and the Anti-Defamation League survey of hate crime laws as well as the growing body of literature on oppression based on race/ethnicity, gender, class, and sexual orientation to explain the structural and cultural context of hate crimes. This work is well documented, objectively confirming what women studies scholars and scholars of race and ethnic relations already know.

In the Name of Hate is an ambitious undertaking which represents a painful reality in the wake of the national tragedy of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack against the United States. While published prior to that date, this work adds a rather unique dimension to the scholarship on power and institutionalized discrimination and has global as well as domestic implications. Vivid