

BOLD Ideas, ESSENTIAL Reading

Rape by the Numbers

Producing & Contesting Scientific Knowledge about Sexual Violence

ETHAN CZUY LEVINE

"This book will truly be a welcome wake up call for those social scientists dedicated to studying rape and sexual assault. It effectively reveals the many blind spots of much of the work that has been done over the past several decades, and is refreshingly full of valid and reasonable recommendations and potential solutions to help move this field of study forward most inclusively and productively."

—Deborah White, Professor, Trent University

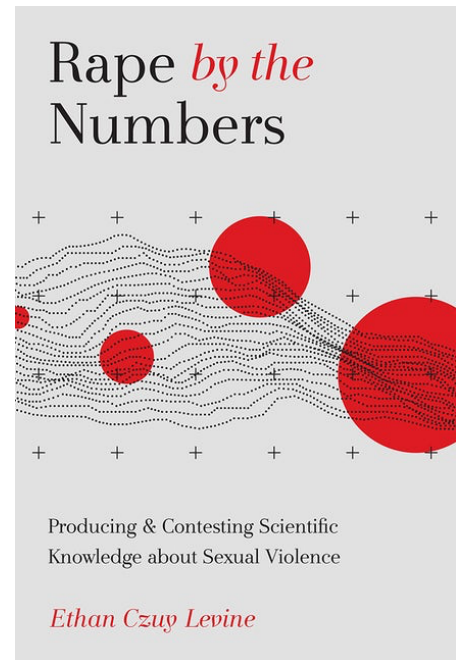
Science plays a substantial, though under-acknowledged, role in shaping popular understandings of rape. Statistical figures like "1 in 4 women have experienced completed or attempted rape" are central for raising awareness. Yet such scientific facts often become points of controversy, particularly as conservative scholars and public figures attempt to discredit feminist activists. *Rape by the Numbers* explores scientists' approaches to studying rape over more than forty years in the United States and Canada. In addition to investigating how scientists come to know the scope, causes, and consequences of rape, this book delves into the politics of rape research. Scholars who study rape often face a range of social pressures and resource constraints, including some that are unique to feminized and politicized fields of inquiry. Collectively, these matters have far-reaching consequences. Scientific projects may determine who counts as a potential victim/survivor or aggressor in a range of contexts, shaping research agendas as well as state policy, anti-violence programming and services, and public perceptions. Social processes within the study of rape determine which knowledges count as credible science, and thus who may count as an expert in academic and public contexts.

ETHAN CZUY LEVINE is an assistant professor of criminal justice at Stockton University in Galloway, New Jersey. He is the author of numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters. This is his first book. He has taught courses in sexuality, research methods, social theory, and social problems. Outside of academia, Levine has 15 years' experience in anti-violence advocacy, primarily working with survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

Critical Issues in Crime and Society

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