

Name: Lanette Ruff

Title: Postdoctoral Fellow
Institution: **Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research**

Mailing address:
Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre
P.O. Box 4400, Fredericton, NB
E3B 5A3
Telephone: (506) 447-3480
Fax: ((506) 453-4788
Email: lruff@unb.ca



Website: <http://www.unbf.ca/arts/CFVR/>
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In September 2008, Lanette Ruff began a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research under the direction of Carmen Gill. One of three Postdoctoral Fellows funded through the Canadian Observatory on the Justice System's Response to Intimate Partner Violence, an international research network funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada's (SSHRC) Strategic Knowledge Clusters Program, she is benefitting from the opportunity of conducting her research study in an environment supported by leading researchers in the field. Her research project is entitled "An Exploration of Police Response to Intimate Partner Violence in Fredericton" and focuses on the variations in response to domestic dispute calls before and after officer training in the use of risk assessment.

After receiving approval from UNB's Research Ethics Board, Lanette spent much of the fall and winter months working onsite at the Fredericton Police Force where she collected data from all 2007 and 2008 domestic dispute police files (n=1032). Currently at the analysis stage of her project, she is examining the nature of police documentation on victim and accused characteristics, statements and events resulting in the call, risk assessment, referrals to victim services, and possible shifts in police officer response to such calls. Lanette will begin the dissemination of the results of her study in the fall. In addition to providing a report to Fredericton's police management, she will share her findings at the annual meeting of the Canadian Observatory on the Justice System Response to Intimate Partner Violence. She is also scheduled to present a paper at the "The École Polytechnique Massacre Twenty Years On: Male Violence Against Women and Feminists" conference in December 2009.