



# SOCIOLOGY SPEAKER SERIES WINTER 2013

## Are we there yet? Respecting the human rights of crime victims in Canada

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In Canada, we began to recognize and respond to the concerns of victims in the late 1960s. Building on the women's movement in the early 1980s to address the poor treatment by the justice system of women who were assaulted, sexually assaulted, blamed for their own victimization, disbelieved and often ignored - while their safety remained at risk, crime victim advocates highlighted public safety concerns and difficulties dealing with the police, the courts and all aspects of the criminal justice system.



Advocates called for increased information for victims, participation in critical decisions, practical assistance, financial assistance and more sensitive treatment from criminal justice system personnel. Today, there are several Criminal Code provisions intended to benefit victims including: testimonial aids, victim impact statements, community impact statements, victim surcharge, restitution, publication bans, non-communication orders, and peace bonds. Yet, many victims continue to feel alienated by an imbalance between the rights afforded to those accused or convicted of crime and those persons who are harmed by crime. The lecture will address the fact that crime victims in Canada are not guaranteed basic rights by governments to safety, reparation or justice and discuss ways for Canada to advance the human rights of crime victims in order to better meet their needs.

**Wednesday, March 20, 2013 – 12:00-13:15**  
**Arts & Administration Building, Room A1045**