



West honored with national Outstanding Research Award

IAS Professor [Carolyn West](#) received the "Outstanding Research Award" from the National Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community in December.

Members of the steering committee, composed of prominent scholars and activists from across the nation, selected West for the honor, presented during a December institute conference held in Seattle. The award recognizes her research into dating violence, child sexual abuse, and revictimization.



Dr. West's work complements the mission of the institute. Based at the University of Minnesota, the institute has evolved out of concerns among scholars and practitioners about the plight of the African American community in the area of domestic violence. The institute steering committee believes mainstream perspectives and beliefs explain why approaches and responses, which have been successful with whites, have failed to address the needs of African Americans.

Conventional wisdom is that domestic violence means the same thing to all people, so policies and intervention strategies have typically been designed from a singular mainstream perspective.

Many note the lack of information concerning strategies to address problems of domestic violence among African Americans and a lack of scholars and practitioners in the field who are able to provide guidance in this area. The numbers of scholars exploring this area is growing, and Dr. West is a national leader in this area of research.

The Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community provides an interdisciplinary vehicle and forum for scholars, practitioners, and observers of family violence in the African American community. The institute sponsors research that examines service delivery and intervention mechanisms, and identifies appropriate and effective responses to prevent and reduce family violence in the African American community.

Dr. West is working on a book, called "Violence in the Lives of Black Women: A Feminist Perspective." It will be published simultaneously as a special edition of the journal *Women & Therapy* and as a book with Haworth Press due out in 2002.

—Mike Wark

