



# RAPE AFTER FOUCAULT: RETHINKING EXPERIENCE AND RESISTANCE

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Wednesday, February 1, 2012  
Crystal Room, Alumnae Hall  
194 Meeting Street, Providence  
5:30 pm

The current period is characterized by a stark contradiction in regard to rape. On the one hand, sexual violence is a global epidemic, while on the other hand there is a great deal of uncertainty and confusion about the new categories of date rape and sexual harassment, whether incest and child sexual abuse are as rampant as some claim, and whether we are in the midst of a 'culture of victimization.' We need to complicate the issue of the experience of sexual violence more than is sometimes acknowledged in the advocacy literature. Such complexity will actually have positive political effects, enlarging the scope of participants in the public discussion. I will explore the role of the speaking subject in regard to sexual violence—the survivor who speaks as a survivor—in relation to the concept of the complex enunciative modalities that involve distributions of credibility and authority. These modalities are especially important to consider when survivors speak in the first person.