

Dr. Sheetal Ranjan, Ph.D. (Primary Investigator)



Sheetal Ranjan is the Principal Investigator for the Project HEAL evaluation team. She is a Professor and Graduate Director in the Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice at William Paterson University, USA. Her research interests include violence prevention and intervention with a primary focus on applied research. She has received Federal funding from the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (\$600,000) to establish William Paterson University's Campus Violence Prevention Program. Her most recent award in partnership with Jersey Shore University Medical Center (\$2.5 million dollars) uses federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding to establish a hospital-based violence intervention program. Her teaching interests include Research Methods, Statistics, Geographic Information Systems (Crime Mapping), Violence in the Community, Domestic Violence, Victimology, and Juvenile Delinquency. She is an enthusiastic user of technology in pedagogy and believes that students should be equipped with the technological skills necessary to enhance performance in any sphere of life.

Dr. Ranjan currently serves on the Policy Committee of the American Society of Criminology and is a board member of the Crime and Justice Research Alliance (CJRA) which is a centralized resource of authoritative experts and scholarly studies created to provide policymakers, practitioners and the public direct access to relevant research on crime and criminal justice issues.

Dr. Ranjan is an advocate of public higher education and serves on the Board of Trustees of Bergen Community College; Executive Council of the New Jersey Council of Community Colleges (NJCCC); and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee of the National Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT).

Dr. Ranjan is a past chair (2017 to 2019) of the Division on Women & Crime (DWC) of the American Society of Criminology. In her term as DWC's chair, she led its First Congressional Briefing at the Capitol Hill and its first participation in the Commission on the Status of Women CSW63 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

She has also served on the Safe & Inclusive Learning Environment Working Group of the Office of The Secretary of Higher Education of New Jersey (2019); Education, Access and Opportunity Transition Advisory Committee of NJ Governor-elect Phil Murphy (2017) and serves as Secretary on the Study Commission of Violence - New Jersey (appointed in 2014).

Dr. Ranjan has received numerous awards, commendations, citations, and certificates for her dedicated service to the community in her numerous leadership roles. She is a nationally recognized expert on violence prevention and interventions, especially as it relates to gender. She is sought by universities and organizations in the United States and abroad to provide her expertise.