

THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING

Departmental Research Seminar



An Open Secret: Network Silence around Sexual Harassment By

Prof. Jennifer Berdahl
University of British Columbia

Date : 16 Dec 2021 (THU)
Time : 9 am – 10:30 am
Venue : Online via Zoom

Abstract

#MeToo inspired the voices of millions of people (mostly women) to speak up about sexual harassment. In many cases, this sexual harassment was an "open secret" -- something that was widely known, but shrouded in silence, even for decades. This talk will discuss the important role that social networks play in promoting silence around sexual harassment, and how certain network composition and belief systems tend to instill this silence. Ways that organizations can break this silence will also be discussed.

Prof. Jennifer Berdahl (PhD, Social Psychology) is a Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of British Columbia. Her research focuses on the social psychology of gender and power at work, specializing in the relationship between organizational culture and sexual harassment. She regularly presents her research to professional, media, and academic audiences. She serves as an expert witness in individual and class action discrimination cases in both the U.S. and Canada.

All interested are welcome.



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