



INAUGURAL ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON GENDERED VIOLENCE & VIOLATIONS

MASTER CLASS SUMMARY

Date: February 10, 2015

Session title: *Intervention and Prevention in the Digital Age – the intersection between the misuse of technology and gender-based violence*

Presenters: Kaofeng Lee, Deputy Director, Safety Net Project, National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV); and Julie Oberin, National Chair of WESNET (Women's Services Network) and AWAVA (Australian Women Against Violence Alliance)

Convenor: Sanja Milivojevic, Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, UNSW

Summary:

This innovative master class focused on the use of new technologies as both part of the problem and part of the solution pertaining to the issue of violence against women. Presentation topics included how perpetrators use technology such as mobile phones, computer spyware and location trackers to track down their victims, how easy it is to 'stalk your ex' (by using simple Google search), online abuse, and the use of safety apps.

One of the key points made in the master class was that we do not want women not to use technology, so we need to find ways for women to use technology safely and for their own benefit. The presenters stressed that abusers use technology to seek control. Technology can be a very powerful tool in obtaining such control as it creates, stores and facilitates information. However, technology can also be part of the solution, e.g. to tailor safety planning to the needs of each victim/survivor. Technology has the potential to empower and give control back to survivors and provide a channel to access information with relative anonymity.

Recommended resources:

[Safety Net Australia](http://wesnet.org.au/safetynet/safetynetdocs/)

<http://wesnet.org.au/safetynet/safetynetdocs/>

[The New Age of Stalking: Technological Implications for Stalking](#) (2010)

[Cell Phone Location, Privacy and Intimate Partner Stalking](#) (2013)

techsafety.org

<http://nnedv.org/projects/safetynet.html>

<http://techsafety.org/resources/>