

Atlantic Centre
of Excellence for
Women's Health

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SEMINAR SESSION:

COMBATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE WITH E-TECHNOLOGIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Combating gender-based violence with e-technologies in South Africa

By Meredith Evans (mgbevans@gmail.com)

Where did we go?

The ACEWH has been supporting CIDA IYIP interns Meredith Evans and Fiona Guerra, who are currently wrapping up their placements in Cape Town at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) of South Africa (www.hsrc.ac.za/).

What did we do?

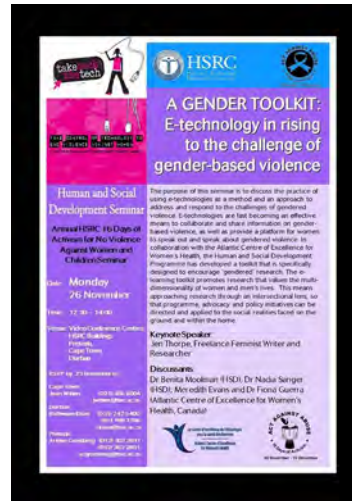
Meredith and Fiona were panelists at a seminar supporting a campaign hosted by HSRC called “16-days of activism against gender-based violence”. The HSRC seminar focused on how e-technologies can be used to combat gender-based violence in South Africa — as part of a collaborative campaign “Take Back the Tech”. You can learn more about the campaign at: www.takebackthetech.net/.



Intern F Guerra

With whom?

The seminar featured South African feminist Jen Thorpe, as well as HSRC colleagues



Benita Moolman and Nadia Benita from the Department of Human and Social Development.

What was discussed?

Jen Thorpe discussed two South African feminist websites that she has created. “My first time” creates a virtual space for women to share stories and experiences, some related to gender-based violence and others not. “Feminists SA” is a blog with contributions from feminist writers in South Africa. You can explore the websites further here:

<http://myfirsttimesa.com/>

<http://feministssa.com/>

In a separate panel presentation, interns Meredith and Fiona, along with colleagues Benita and Nadia, discussed the importance of thinking

about sex- and gender-based analysis in research at the HSRC, how research can be used as a tool for combating gender-based violence, and the practical benefits of disseminating research materials virtually to broad audiences.

What key themes emerged?

Key themes included recognizing the need for online feminist voices, the power of story-telling in combating gender-based violence, and the importance of embedding sex- and gender-based analysis into advocacy and research.



(L-R) B Moolman, M Evans, N Sanger

What was the feedback?

There was a positive response to the seminar, with participants interested in exploring further online mechanisms for feminist social action in research, policy-making, programme development, and advocacy work.

