



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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Eastern Student to Present at Conference

Willimantic, Conn. – Eastern Connecticut State University alumna Jessica Giordano '07 of Tolland, has had her independent study project, “Associations Among Female Sexual Behavior, Body Image and Feminist Ideology,” accepted for presentation at the annual conference of the Eastern Psychological Association. Giordano will present her project in a poster session at the organization’s conference on March 14-15 in Boston.

Giordano received funding for the trip from Eastern’s School of Arts and Sciences Student Fund for Research, Creative, and Scholarly Activity. The Department of Psychology will submit a manuscript of Giordano’s research to the journal, “Psychology of Women Quarterly,” later this month.

“Having my research showcased at the conference is a big deal because it is my first large research study and it will be my first time at a conference,” said Giordano. “My research helps me to offer contributions in the field of psychology in regards to gender and sexuality studies.”

In her study, Giordano examined the relationships between risky female sexual behavior and attitudes, body image and liberal feminist ideology among college-aged women. A sample of 162 women (18- 50 years old) were surveyed at a New England liberal arts university. Feminist ideology was linked to liberal attitudes towards sex.

Certain definitions of risky sexual behavior were linked to liberal feminist ideology, including the number of sexual partners and permissive sexual attitudes. In addition, attitudes towards safe sex discussions and STD safety were linked to liberal feminist ideology. Body image self consciousness during sex was correlated with liberal feminist ideology and risky sexual behaviors. Giordano also discusses the implications of these findings for future research. Jennifer Leszczynski, professor of psychology at Eastern, was Giordano's advisor on the project.

Giordano is working on her master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy at Springfield College. She is a member of Psi Chi, the psychology national honors society, and teaches yoga at Eastern part time.

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Eastern Connecticut State University is part of the Connecticut State University (CSU) system and is the state's public liberal arts university. ECSU serves more than 5,000 students each year on its Willimantic campus.

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