INTRODUCTION TO PART 3: ABOUT THE RAPIST

This part of the proceedings is relatively meagre in contrast to the previous section which looked at survivors. The dearth of material is at least in part reflective of the disagreement among those in the field about who the rapist is; the false myths would evoke an image of the stranger/psychopath whilst feminist theory perceives the rapist as another by-product of patriarchy and misogyny. (The emphasis on survivors is also a consequence of the organisers' ideological stance.)

When Frey and Douglas ask the question 'What is it about men that make them do the things they do?', they appear to subscribe to the latter orientation explaining how violence is an integral part of masculinity in Australian culture. This includes the emphasis upon aggression and the process of objectification—treating people as instruments for one's own ends. The authors discuss Men Against Sexual Assault (MASA) and their role in encouraging all males to choose non-violent behaviour through activism, education and support.

From a similar theoretical perspective, Goldsmith explores pornography and its connection with sexual offences. She cites research conducted overseas which has shown a connection between the two. She provides other examples which demonstrate a causative relationship and explains some ways in which depictions of naked women—violent or non-violent—may contribute to higher incidents of rape. Goldsmith also attempts to estimate the level of sexual violence in Australia by taking reported rapes and multiplying by the estimated rate of non-reporting. She concludes that, in New South Wales, every female has a one-in-eight chance of being raped during their lifetime.

Cull reviews treatment programs for sex offenders. In Western Australia, the Department of Corrective Services provides three different models, two are within prisons with the third on offer for those on a probationary or parole order. Cull describes each program, explaining how assessment is conducted and what criteria are used for assessing suitability for participation. The treatment goals and content are set out in detail. She concludes that it is too early to measure the efficacy of these services but is hopeful based upon overseas experiences of success.

Crake surveys some of the psychological literature on rapists and case studies drawn from his work, also with the West Australian Department of Corrective Services. It must be pointed out that such a population of rapists—that is, rapists who are incarcerated—are probably not reflective of the total group of offenders. He reports that there are so many
different alternative theories concerning rapists that it is best to only answer the question 'Who is the rapist?' in reference to the individual case. The case studies provided do point to the diversity of type even within this particular sub-sample of those who sexually assault.

Glaser, also a psychologist, examines the best predictors of recidivism for sexual assault offenders. The three best known risk factors are youth, prior violence history and possession of psychopathic traits. Models have been constrained by practitioners' limitations in knowledge which stem from professional attitudes, the response by the law and media which have too willingly believed the offender and disbelieved the victim. Similar to Crake, Glaser proposes that any prediction model needs to be individualised: a victim-responsive prediction paradigm should be constructed.

The last paper on offenders demonstrates that professional pathologising of criminal behaviour generates a view of 'madness rather than badness'. Wallace first discusses drug induced exculpation and how damaging it has been in the context of sexual violence. He supports Scutt's view that a pathologising focus is not helpful in the long run and that a view of alcohol abuse as causative acts to justify or rationalise violence towards women and in doing so actually increases the prevalence of rape.