

Encounters with Octopus People: Consciousness-Raising on Everyday Assaults

On Oct 10 2016, author Kelly Oxford aimed to raise awareness about the ubiquity of sexual assaults by inviting “women: tweet me your first assaults,” followed by a brief description of her own (by a stranger at age 12). Nearly 27 million people responded just over a weekend. Although media coverage and awareness of assaults has increased, it is rare to come across public discussions of “everyday” sexual aggressions of the nature that Donald Trump boasts of committing. In the words of victim Jessica Leeds, Trump went after her **“like an octopus.”** Although he denies accusations and dismisses his own video confessional as “locker room talk,” so many of us have been targeted in similar ways, and never spoken up.

In this reality, we are holding a consciousness-raising event. We aim to create a safe space, particularly for students, enabling each other to share experiences of predatory encounters and “microassaults” in order to better understand these moments from our own viewpoints, demonstrating how these are not isolated incidences, but heartbreakingly common. Please join us and share your story, erase stigma, build camaraderie, and show support.

MONDAY, NOV 14

4:45 - 6:15 PM

303 INTERNATIONAL CENTER

**Questions? Email Juliet Guzzetta:
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