

The Union College Psychology Department Speaker Series and Honors Colloquium welcome

Tomi-Ann Roberts, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair, Department of Psychology, Colorado College
for a public lecture entitled

Objects in Mirror are Closer than They Appear

Thursday, October 8, 2020

1:10 - 2:25 via Zoom (ID: 832 634 7213)

In this talk, Roberts will review over 20 years of theory, research, and advocacy on objectification, sexualization, and self-objectification, springing from her co-authored Objectification Theory, the most cited article in the 40-year history of the APA journal *Psychology of Women Quarterly*. In 2017 she was featured in many media sources, including the *New York Times*, regarding her experience as a college student and aspiring actress being sexually harassed by Harvey Weinstein. Her own experiences, and bearing witness to countless examples of so many of us being diminished by the cultural attitude that women's sexualized bodies are the most important thing about them, continue to motivate her research, applied consulting work, and advocacy efforts as a scholarly voice in the #MeToo movement to promote girls' and women's right to their own bodies, and to their seen and heard contributions to the world as fully-fledged human beings.



Dr. Tomi-Ann Roberts is professor of psychology and Chair of the psychology department at Colorado College. She earned her BA from Smith College (1985) and her doctorate in psychology from Stanford University (1990). Her work focuses on the objectification and sexualization of girls and women, self-objectification, and the consequences of these for living in and with the feminine, corporeal, body. The first paper she co-authored on this topic, *Objectification Theory*, was published in 1997 and argued that sexual objectification is a form of sexism wherein women and girls are treated as bodies, or collections of body parts, valued predominantly for their use or consumption by others, and provided a framework for understanding the cascade of psychological consequences that spring from the continuum of objectifying treatment that characterize women's lived experience. This was the first paper to expand on philosophical treatments of related concepts to offer psychological science testable definitions and predictions for understanding of the psychic, interpersonal and even political and socio-structural consequences of objectifying treatment and of self-objectification. Objectification Theory has been a highly generative contribution to feminist psychology and to gender studies more broadly, is the most cited article in the over 40-year history of the journal *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, and indeed helped the journal gain its standing as #1 in women's studies. In addition to her scholarly publications and teaching, she served on the American Psychological Association's Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls, the Task Force on Educating Through Feminist Research, and as President of the Society for Menstrual Cycle Research from 2017-2019. She leverages feminist psychological science as a consultant for reproductive health related product brands, and as an expert witness in legal cases involving objectification and the abjected feminine body as forms of sexism and gender discrimination.