

BRYCE GARRETH WESTLAKE

Location: Bay Area, California | Email: Bryce.Westlake@adelaide.edu.au | Tel: +1 669-237-6592

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Dr. Westlake is a leading scholar on **BDSM and kink subcultures**, providing expert witness services for legal counsel. Drawing on extensive international empirical research published in top-tier sexuality, public health, education, and policing journals, he bridges the gap between specialized subculture dynamics and courtroom realities. His work encompasses **practitioner motivations, psychological well-being, and community norms**, providing attorneys with the authoritative, peer-reviewed foundation needed to accurately contextualize behavior, challenge misconceptions, and effectively advocate for clients.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZED EXPERTISE

- **BDSM & Kink Subculture Dynamics:** Empirical analysis of participant motivations, psychological well-being, interpersonal negotiation, and community norms, distinguishing consensual practices from non-consensual behavior.
- **Subculture Communication & Vernacular:** Interpretation of specialized digital communication, online community infrastructure, and subcultural shorthand within discovery materials and evidence reviews.
- **Consent Frameworks & Power Exchange:** Evaluation of consent mechanisms, risk mitigation strategies, and safety protocols unique to kink communities to inform legal frameworks and case strategy.
- **Litigation Support & Expert Testimony:** Evaluation of case evidence, preparation of objective expert reports, and delivery of authoritative courtroom testimony clarifying complex behavioral and subcultural contexts for juries and judges.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

01/2026 – Present	School of Society and Culture (Adelaide University), Adjunct Associate Professor
08/2020 – 08/2025	Department of Justice Studies (San Jose State University), Associate Professor
08/2015 – 08/2020	Department of Justice Studies (San Jose State University), Assistant Professor

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EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

- 08/2015 **Doctorate of Philosophy (Criminology)**
Simon Fraser University
Dissertation: The criminal career evolution of child exploitation websites: Identification, survival, and community patterns
- 04/2011 **Masters of Arts (Criminology)**
Simon Fraser University
Thesis: Analyzing online child exploitation networks: An examination of severity and connectivity
- 05/2007 **Bachelor of Arts (Psychology/Sociology)**
University of British Columbia

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Olson, I., & Westlake, B. (2026). Holes in kinky education: The role of pornography in learning about BDSM sexualities. *Sex Education*, 26(2), 263-278.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14681811.2025.2461301>
- Forer, R., & Westlake, B. (2025). Pain for pain: The benefits and challenges of BDSM participation for people with chronic pain – An exploratory study. *Psychology and Sexuality*, 16(4), 1210-1226. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19419899.2025.2507699>
- Westlake, B., & Mahan, I. (2025). An international survey of BDSM practitioner demographics: The evolution of purpose for, participation in, and engagement with, kink activities. *The Journal of Sex Research*, 62(3), 341-359. <http://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2023.2273266>
- Westlake, B., Kusz, J., & Afana, E. (2025). A double-edged sword: The role of pornography in learning about BDSM. *Sex Education*, 25(1), 23-37.
<http://doi.org/10.1080/14681811.2023.2266808>
- Ratcliff, S., Westlake, B., & O'Neill, A. (2025). Only as a last resort: Perceptions of police among gender, sexual, and relationally diverse (GSRD) BDSM / kink participants. *Policing and Society*, 35(6), 849-866. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10439463.2024.2435405>.
- Westlake, B. (2024). BDSM safety in pornography: Its perceived accuracy and impact on practitioners' safe word practices. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 53(9), 3475-3484.
<http://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-024-02967-6>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- O'Neill, A., & Westlake, B. (2024, November 14). *Perceptions of law enforcement's ability to respond to and protect sexually marginalized BDSM practitioners* [Oral]. 79th American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Westlake, B., & Mahan, I. (2022, November 26). *Surveying the motivations, benefits, and experiences of those who engage in BDSM/kink* [Lecture]. CARAS Conference: Leather-

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Kink Research and Clinical Knowledge (C2C) - West, Los Angeles, CA, United States.
<https://www.carasresearch.org/c2c-west>

Westlake, B. G. (2022, November 26). *What research on leather and kink is needed today?* [Panellist]. CARAS Conference: Leather-Kink Research and Clinical Knowledge (C2C) – West, Los Angeles, California. <https://www.carasresearch.org/c2c-west>

Westlake, B. G., & Alder, L. (2019, April 27). *Could sex in VR be exploitative? What is the potential for queering virtual bodies?* [Oral Presentation]. CFP: Gender, Bodies, & Technology 5th Transdisciplinary Conference, for Playing with Our Selves: Examining Life through Virtual Media Part II, Roanoke, VA.

Westlake, B. G. (2010, June). *Normalizing polyamory in a mono-centric society* [Oral]. Work in Progress Conference, Burnaby, BC.

MEDIA

International Sexual Health and Wellness Research Institute. (2024, September 18). *Why people practice BDSM worldwide*. <https://leshaw.com/why-people-practice-bdsm-worldwide/>

International Sexual Health and Wellness Research Institute. (2024, June 19). *BDSM partner preferences: From serious lovers to pick-up play*. <https://leshaw.com/bdsm-partner-preferences-from-serious-lovers-to-pick-up-play/>

International Sexual Health and Wellness Research Institute. (2024, May 1). *A closer look at BDSM practices*. <https://leshaw.com/a-closer-look-at-bdsm-practices/>

International Sexual Health and Wellness Research Institute. (2024, March 20). *How people discover and explore BDSM*. <https://leshaw.com/how-people-discover-and-explore-bdsm/>

Psypost. (2023, December 17). *Exploring BDSM: New study traces participants' evolving engagement and practices*. <https://www.psypost.org/exploring-bdsm-new-study-traces-participants-evolving-engagement-and-practices/>

Sex with Robin. (2021, March 8). *Misconceptions within BDSM communities and other findings from an international survey of BDSM practitioners*. <https://m.facebook.com/groups/1206138659779386/permalink/1293791824347402/>

MASTERS THESIS

Summer 2021 Erin Afana – Perception correction: Addressing social stigmatization around BDSM and mental health. <https://doi.org/10.31979/etd.dw37-z8hu>