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Mahri is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Anthropology at American University. She has served as an adjunct professor in the Department of Anthropology and the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program at American University from 2011 to the present. Mahri has been actively involved in the anti-sexual violence movement for over a decade, serving with Chicago Rape Victim Advocates, Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and the D.C. Rape Crisis Center. Her dissertation examines the dialectical relationships between patriarchy, rape culture, capitalism, and the legal system in the United States. Working with women in Washington, D.C. who have survived imprisonment by the state and pre-incarceration sexual violence, Mahri argues that patriarchy and rape culture play a direct role in shaping some women's pathways to crime and imprisonment, and ultimately, in contributing to the continuation of capitalism and economic inequality. Despite the overwhelming structural inequalities facing her research participants, Mahri illustrates women's agentive claims and personal victories in their decisions about how to respond to, and cope with, sexual violence. She hopes that her research will help policy makers and law enforcement authorities better understand the complex life histories of women and girls who have been labeled as "offenders" in the U.S. legal system. You can contact Mahri at mahri.irvine@american.edu and read more about her work at www.mahri-irvine.com.