

## JIAN GHOMESHI

**Key players:** Jian Ghomeshi, Canadian radio personality and former host of popular Canadian Broadcast Corporation radio show, Q.

Ghomeshi faces seven sexual assault charges; the charges stem from incidents ranging from 2002 to 2008. His public accusers include actress Lucy DeCoutere and lawyer Reva Seth, along with coworkers. The Ghomeshi case has been in the news because he and his accusers have spoken of being involved in BDSM practices. At one point, early on, Ghomeshi wrote a Facebook post claiming that his sexual practices were being targeted, and that he had not assaulted anyone. This led to protests from some in the BDSM community, who insisted that he did not represent them.

In addition, the case has been controversial because of claims that his employer CBS dragged its feet in acknowledging what is claimed as a pattern of abuse on Ghomeshi's part.

**2010:** Q Producer Kathryn Borel approaches her union, Canadian Media Guild, about Ghomeshi's sexual harassment; according to her, the charges went nowhere. In 2014, CBS describes her experience as "unacceptable."

**October 2014:** Ghomeshi takes an indefinite leave of absence from CBC, which fires him two days later. Ghomeshi publishes a Facebook post about his sexual practices and claims that CBC was afraid of a "smear campaign," and files \$55 million suit against his former employer. He withdraws the suit in November.

**November 2014:** Ghomeshi is arrested and charged with four counts of sexual assault and one count of resistance by choking.

**January 2015:** Ghomeshi charged with three additional counts, to do with three additional women, of sexual assault.

Margaret Corvid, [Dear Jian Ghomeshi: Keep Your Abuse Out of My Kink](http://jezebel.com/dear-jian-ghomeshi-keep-your-abuse-out-of-my-kink-1651373143)

*With his defense, Ghomeshi could wipe out the many years of patience and hard work by kinksters. Let's switch his microphone off.*

<http://jezebel.com/dear-jian-ghomeshi-keep-your-abuse-out-of-my-kink-1651373143>

Amanda Marcotte, "The Jian Ghomeshi Accusations Are Not About BDSM. They Are About Consent."

*If the interactions were consensual, then Ghomeshi shouldn't have lost his job. But if the women didn't want it—whether "it" is sexual intercourse or whether "it" is a punch to the face—then it's violent assault and needs to be treated that way.*

[http://www.slate.com/blogs/xx\\_factor/2014/10/27/jian\\_ghomeshi\\_accusations\\_against\\_the\\_q\\_host\\_are\\_not\\_about\\_bdsm\\_but\\_about.html](http://www.slate.com/blogs/xx_factor/2014/10/27/jian_ghomeshi_accusations_against_the_q_host_are_not_about_bdsm_but_about.html)

## SLUTWALK

Slutwalk is an annual event hosted in cities around the world. It reclaims the word “slut” and refuses the prevalent logic of blaming women for their own sexual assaults. While its basic messages have been praised, Slutwalk has also been for being a very white movement, and for lacking any critique of law enforcement/policing. Critics have said that it needs a more intersectional/longterm/critical approach.

**Key players:** Toronto police officer Michael Sanguinetti, York University student body, SlutWalk Toronto organizers, Slutwalk NYC organizer Kimberly Acevedo.

**Jan 24, 2011:** During a campus safety presentation at York University, Sanguinetti stated, “You know, I think we’re beating around the bush here...I’ve been told I’m not supposed to say this, however, women should avoid dressing like sluts in order not to be victimized.” In a subsequent article in the *Toronto Star*, it was noted that a 2007 investigation commissioned by the Toronto Police Services Board found that the police force’s sexual assault training curriculum was “riddled with sexist and racist myths and attitudes about rape”. ([http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2011/02/18/cop\\_apologizes\\_for\\_sluts\\_remark\\_at\\_law\\_school.html](http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2011/02/18/cop_apologizes_for_sluts_remark_at_law_school.html))

**Apr 3, 2011:** first SlutWalk march at Queen’s Park, Toronto. 3000 participants. Multiple marches occur throughout 2011 in cities globally. Responses range from enthusiastic support to condemnation, in mainstream media, the feminist blogosphere, et al.

**Oct 2011:** a photo of a Slutwalk NYC marcher goes viral  
<http://www.racialicious.com/2011/10/05/which-women-are-what-now-slutwalk-nyc-and-failures-in-solidarity/#more-18267>

### **Aura Bogado, “Slutwalk: A Stroll Through White Supremacy”**

*I understand the need to denounce [Sanguinetti’s comments], particularly when uttered by a law enforcement officer. But what struck me was the fact that a group of students gathered with law enforcement to begin with. As people of color, our communities are plagued with police brutality, and inviting them into our spaces in order to somehow feel safer rarely crosses our minds... SlutWalk “want[s] Toronto Police Services to take serious steps to regain [their] trust;” our communities, meanwhile, never trusted the police to begin with. For a group of privileged students to stage such a massive event and dismiss the work that our communities have done to make sense out of the disproportionate accumulation of violence that we face is wholly unacceptable.*

(<https://tothecurb.wordpress.com/2011/05/13/slutwalk-a-stroll-through-white-supremacy/#comments>)

### **Shira Tarrant, “Ending the Slutwars”, HuffPo 10/6/11**

*.. I am not suggesting that SlutWalk is one-size-fits-all. Many have raised astute and warranted critique. But it is time to keep our focus. The word “slut” is obviously contentious. That’s the whole point. It’s the reason media is paying attention to the demonstrations. Activists have been addressing sexual assault issues for centuries. If it takes a controversial word to encourage people to sit up and listen, that’s fine. We owe it to ourselves to take our activism -- and our critiques -- to the next level. We owe it to ourselves to maximize our collective goals not our individual differences of opinion.*

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/shira-tarrant/ending-the-slutwars\\_b\\_996473.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/shira-tarrant/ending-the-slutwars_b_996473.html)

## CARRY THAT WEIGHT

**Key players:** Emma Sulkowicz - mixed race, wealthy, New York native, student at Columbia University; Jean-Paul Nungasser - white, German national, scholarship student at Columbia University

**April 2013** - Emma Sulkowicz and another female Columbia student ("Natalie") file complaints against Nungasser with Columbia's Office of Gender-Based and Sexual Misconduct; after hearing about filings, a third student ("Josie") files a complaint against Nungasser

**July - October 2013** - Nungasser is found "not responsible" by Columbia (in the first instance for Sulkowicz's and Natalie's accusations, on appeal of Josie's accusation).

**October 2013** - All three women begin speaking to campus and local media about their dissatisfaction with how Columbia handled the situation

**April 2014** - Twenty-eight students (including Sulkowicz) file three complaints against Columbia with the Department of Education, claiming that mishandling of sexual assault accusations violates Title IX (ensuring gender equity), Title II (equity for disabilities), and the Clery act (disclosure of statistical information to receive federal funding).

**May 2014** - Sulkowicz files a report on the incident with the NYPD

**September 2014** - Beginning of Emma Sulkowicz's senior thesis project at Columbia University, a performance art piece in which she intends to carry a dorm room mattress with her everywhere until the man she accuses of raping her is expelled from Columbia or leaves in some other manner.

**Fall 2014** - a male Columbia student ("Adam") files a complaint with Columbia against Nungasser, alleging an assault in the fall of 2011

Mattress Performance (Carry That Weight)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mattress\\_Performance\\_\(Carry\\_That\\_Weight\)#cite\\_note-Ryan6February2015-10](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mattress_Performance_(Carry_That_Weight)#cite_note-Ryan6February2015-10)

Cathy Young, "Columbia Student: I Didn't Rape Her" *Daily Beast*, Feb 3, 2015.

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/02/03/columbia-student-i-didn-t-rape-her.html>

Erin Glory Ryan, "How to Make an Accused Rapist Look Good" *Jezebel*, Feb 6, 2015

<http://jezebel.com/how-to-make-an-accused-rapist-look-good-1682583526>

Judith Shulevitz, "The Best Way to Address Campus Rape" *NYTimes*, Feb 7, 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/08/opinion/sunday/the-best-way-to-address-campus-rape.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&module=c-column-top-span-region&region=c-column-top-span-region&WT.nav=c-column-top-span-region>