

European Network on Gender & Violence

Compilation of research updates

July 1, 2021

This is a working document for members of the European Network on Gender & Violence.

In response to a call in spring 2021, some 50 members sent in research updates reflecting recent and current work. This includes entries from research groups representing multiple researchers.

This document serves as a substitute for the usual annual conference of the network which was cancelled again this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Entries appear in the document as they were sent in, without any further editing. What is missing in uniformity of formatting is made up for in liveliness and freshness of the individual entries. The result is an informative overview of recent work. This includes but is not limited to studies that address impacts of the pandemic.

Entries are ordered alphabetically by last name of lead author, or what seemed to me to be the lead author in entries from groups. In a few cases, entries are identified by research group or organization.

The European Network on Gender & Violence supports exchange and collaboration among scholars and professionals who address violence, gender, violence prevention and related issues. The primary focus is on new European research in the field. Participation of young scholars and professionals is highly welcome! Current membership is over 480.

Compiled by: Renate Klein, University of Maine, 2021

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Beires, Ana et al. (Portugal). Preliminary findings of the mapping of violence prevention programs in Portuguese schools.

Bell, Patricia et al. (multi-country). GUFOVA – Growing up free of violence and abuse: working to build resilience and strengthen children who have lived with domestic violence.

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Bowstead, Janet (UK). Women on the move: the journeyscapes of domestic violence.

Brückner, Margrit (Germany). New departures after experiencing domestic violence.

Bull, Anna & Page, T. (UK). Students' accounts of grooming and boundary-blurring behaviours by academic staff in UK higher education.

Bull, Anna (UK). Catalysts and rationales for reporting staff sexual misconduct to UK higher education institutions.

Burman, Michele, Brooks-Hay, Oona & Bradley, Lisa (Scotland). Justice journeys: (1) Informing policy and practice through lived experience / (2) Survivor stories.

Busche, Mart (Germany). "The world won't end if I don't punch" – Non-violent practices of boys

Centre for Gender and Violence Research, School for Social Policy, University of Bristol (UK). Recent work on (1) justice, inequalities, and GBV, (2) approaches to high-risk domestic abuse perpetrators, (3) community and faith responses to GBV, (4) GBV and displacement through immigration, (5) research integrity in GBV research, (6) the nature of prostitution and sex work, (7) identifying and measuring coercive control, (8) attitudes to IPV in low and middle-income countries.

Cleven, Irma (Netherlands). Ruled by fear and how protection orders restore survivors' sense of agency and communion in (former) intimate partner violence.

Condon, Stephanie (France). A demographic approach to the understanding of gender based violence: the Virage surveys conducted in the French overseas territories.

Condon, Stephanie (France). ANR VidOM – Gender based violence and intersectionality in the French overseas territories.

Dackweiler, Regina-Maria; Schäfer Reinhild et al. (Germany). In jeopardy – new ways of prevention and support in case of intimate partner violence (IPV) in rural areas.

Dissens, Berlin (Germany). JupP* - Boys* education and prevention of sexualized violence – potentials and challenges of masculinity-related youth work.

Downes, Julia, Kelly, Liz & Westmarland, Nicole (UK). Project Mirabal.

Feder, Gene et al. (UK). REPROVIDE: A randomised controlled trial testing the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of a group programme for men who are concerned about their abusive behaviour in relationships with women.

Freysteinsdóttir, Freydís Jóna (Iceland). Bein og óbein fórnarlömb kvenmorða [Direct and indirect victims of femicide]. Tímarit félagsráðgjafa,

Freysteinsdóttir, F.J. (2018). Femicide in a small nordic welfare society: The case of Iceland. Journal of Comparative Social Work, 13(1), 35-56.

Gilchrist, E. et al. (UK). Programme ADVANCE.

Gloor, Daniela & Meier, Hanna (Switzerland). Analyses of specialised police reports concerning “domestic violence calls”.

Gloor, Daniela & Meier, Hanna (Switzerland). Evaluation of internet chat counselling for young people experiencing violence.

Hall, Matthew (UK). Digital gender and sexual violence and abuse.

Helfferich, Cornelia. Narrative identity of women who grew up with violence: Fighting for emotional independence and non-violent relations all their life.

Helfferich, Cornelia, Doll, Daniel & Kavemann, Barbara (Germany). Protection processes against sexual assault: Participatory prevention in the social environment of vulnerable adolescents.

Henze-Pedersen, Sofie (Denmark). After the violence? Everyday life and family relationships among children and their mothers at a women’s refuge.

Hester, Marianne et al. (UK). Evaluation of the Drive Project – A three-year pilot to address high-risk, high-harm perpetrators of domestic abuse.

Husso, Marita, Lidman, Satu & Päivinen, Helena (Finland). Education and raising awareness in schools to prevent and encounter gender-based violence: Developing and implementing a training programme for teachers and other professionals (EraseGBV).

Koç, Güneş (Turkey). Self-technologies of Syrian Women living in Turkey. / Syrian women empowerment project.

Lange, Katrin, Molter, Sarah & Wittenius, Marie (Germany). Violence against women: On the implementation of the Istanbul convention in Denmark, Finland and Austria.

Liversage, Anika (Denmark). Abducting children abroad – Gender, power and transnational mobility in immigrant family conflicts.

Liversage, Anika (Denmark). Having the lower hand – Investigating interaction in the life course narrative of immigrant women exposed to partner abuse.

Lombard, Nancy et al (UK). The lived experiences of victims of coercive control, stalking and related crimes, as they progress through the criminal justice system.

Lysova, Alexandra & Hanson, Kenzie (Canada). Children's exposure to violence and women's use of violence as perceived by men who experienced abuse in the intimate relationship.

Mazuy, Magali et al. (France). Evolution of intimate partner violence in France since the year 2000.

Nagel, Bianca & Kavemann, Barbara (Germany). The importance of organizational culture for the risk of sexual violence against children and adolescents in residential care and boarding schools.

Neale, Jo (UK). Abused women's perceptions of professionals' responses: valued support, or collusion with perpetrator?

Neale, Jo (UK). 'My head was like a washing machine on spin': (Improving) women's experiences of accessing support.

Provansal, Mathilde (France). Gender violence in art schools: between reproduction and denunciation.

Provansal, Mathilde (France). Artists but women: Education, career and reputation in contemporary art.

Respect (UK). RYPP: A programme for families where children or young people aged between 8 and 17 are abusive or violent towards the people close to them, particularly their parents or carers.

Respect & Women's Aid (UK). Make a change: Early response, community-wide approach to people using abusive behaviours in their intimate relationships.

Romito, Patrizia, Pellegrini, Martina & Saurel-Cubizolles, Marie-Josèphe (Italy). Violence against women at the time of COVID-19: A multi-method study involving women who attended an anti-violence centre in Italy.

Sharp-Jeffs, Nicola (UK). Work to address economic abuse.

Siller, Heidi (Austria). Violence against women: Midwives' perceptions.

Strid, Sofia, Hearn, Jeff et al. (Sweden). VRVR: Regimes of violence: Theorizing and explaining variations in the production of violence in welfare state regimes.

Strid, Sofia, Humbert AL et al. (Sweden). Gender-based violence and institutional responses: Building a knowledge base and operational tools to make universities and research organisations safe.

Strid, Sofia et al. (Sweden). Honour, violence and society: The expression and prevalence of honour-related violence and the challenges to society.

Venäläinen, Satu (Finland). Gendering and degendering the problem of men's victimization in intimate partner relations in social and crisis workers' talk.

Venäläinen, Satu (Finland). Nobody cares for men anymore: Affective-discursive practices around men's victimisation across online and offline contexts.

Vogt, Catharina (Germany). Improving frontline responses to high-impact domestic violence (IMPRODOVA)

Walker, Alex, Fenton, Rachel et al. (UK). A mixed methods study into bystander experiences of domestic violence and abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Weil, Shalva & Keshet, Noam (Israel). Female geronticide: the case of Israel.

Standish, Katerina & Weil, Shalva (Israel). Gendered pandemics: suicide, femicide, and covid-19.

Westmarland, Nicole, Burrell, Stephen et al. (UK). Men's experiences of domestic abuse during COVID-19.

Women's Aid Federation England (UK). Reports and publications in 2020-2021.

Work with Perpetrators European Network (multi-country). Projects and publications.

Zedan, Heba (Israel). The relationship between the exposure of Palestinian men in Israel to stress in socio-political contexts and spousal abuse.

Treatment of long-term effects in adults exposed to sexual assault in adulthood: Help-seeking and treatment needs

Line Eiby Andersen, cand. psych.

The Centre for Victims of Sexual Assault; Copenhagen University Hospital, Denmark

*Summary written for The Annual Conference of the European Network on Gender and Violence (ENGVI)
May 2021*

The Centre for Victims of Sexual Assault, Copenhagen

The Centre for Victims of Sexual Assault (CVSA) opened in 2000 and is situated at the Copenhagen University Hospital. It is one of nine rape crisis centers in Denmark. The center provides interdisciplinary treatment consisting of initial examination and treatment by doctors/forensic physician and nurses, counselling and short-term psychotherapy from social-workers, sexologist and psychologists. In 2020 the center saw 511 patients, who came to the center within one month after the rape (acute patients) and 130 patients who contacted the center later than one month after the assault. The latter has only been offered treatment at the CVSA since 2014.

The study

From 2017-2019 a three-year treatment study was conducted with primary focus on psychotherapeutic treatment of long-term effects of sexual assault in adult survivors who have been raped in adulthood. In Denmark, treatment options in the public sector are few for this group and due to limited resources at the CVSA, we were only able to offer short-term therapy (five sessions). It has been our experience that this group of patients have more severe symptoms and thus need more treatment; therefore, the main objective of the project was to be able to offer up to 20 sessions of trauma-focused therapy when needed.

Compared to research on survivors of childhood sexual assault and the immediate reactions to rape, limited research has been done on this particular group of adults who have been raped after the age of 18. It is already well-established that survivors of rape often suffer from depression, anxiety, somatic ailments and the risk of developing posttraumatic stress (PTSD) is considerable. With this study, we wanted to focus on what has deterred participants from seeking help in the past and what ultimately motivates them to seek help. We also wanted to examine the participants' relationship to their perpetrator, including rape done in relationships. Finally, treatment effect and a discussion of the treatment framework are presented. This summary will highlight some of the findings derived from the project.

Method

In order to get as detailed information about the group as possible, a mixed-methods design was used. A screening for PTSD (PDS) was used to assess post-traumatic stress symptoms together with the WHO Well-being Index (WHO Five), which assesses general well-being. In order to examine the possible difference in treatment effect for short-term treatment and long-term treatment, screenings were given at 1st, 5th and the last session. Furthermore, qualitative data was collected using visitation interviews and evaluation questionnaires which were analyzed thematically.

Results

65 people participated in the study and 49 participants completed therapeutic treatment of up to 20 sessions. On average, participants were five years older than the group of patients who contact the center immediately after a rape (acute patients). However, the age of impact of sexual assault was the same as for the acute group.

Relationship to perpetrator: Compared to the group of acute rape patients who is treated at the center, participants had a slightly closer relationship to their assailant. Only 15% of perpetrators was unknown to the victim and a higher number of rape in intimate relationships was reported in the study.

Reasons for not seeking help: When asked about reasons for not seeking help immediately after the rape (multiple answers possible), 81% of participants stated that they thought they could handle it themselves and 73% wanted to forget. Feelings of guilt and shame were also listed and 41% did not think anyone could help them.

Motivation for seeking help: In terms of what motivated participant to seek professional help, two over-all categories were identified: Participants had been encouraged by either friends/family or a healthcare professional (GP, psychologist, mentor etc.) to seek help. Another group had been feeling increasingly affected emotionally and experienced a decrease in their level of daily functioning. A smaller group had felt triggered by a new experience that reactivated reactions, feelings and thoughts about the rape, e.g. a change in life conditions, seeing their perpetrator on the street, or a gynaecological examination.

Treatment effect: The average number of sessions was 14.8 and most participants received more. However, more than one third of participants found that less than 15 session were enough. When looking at treatment effect in general, participants displayed lower symptoms of traumatic stress and higher levels of well-being following treatment and diagnostic levels of PTSD fell from 20% to 2% from the first to the final session. Furthermore, results indicate that participants scored lower in the fifth session but still at medium level; in the final session scores had decreased to a low level of traumatic stress.

THE STUDY IN NUMBERS

Participants, gender	62 women + 3 men
Average age at the time of contact	28,4 y/o (18-64)
Average age at time of assault	23,0 y/o (18-52)
Average time between assault and contact to rape center	4,6 years (1,25 month-46 years)

TREATMENT EFFECT

Session	PTSD	WHO	N
1st	28,4	40,5	49
5th	24,0	44,0	47
Final	16,4	59,7	48

Discussion

Adults suffering from long-term effects of sexual assault which occurred in adulthood make up a 'hidden' group in society when it comes to both research internationally and treatment options. In the wake of the #metoo movement where women all over the world have come forward with stories of sexual assault and violations, the fact that the assault happened a long time ago has been put into question. Results from this study indicate that help-seeking behavior is complex and that disclosure is a process which might come from both an internal process of accumulated suffering and external prompting from friends/family. Results also suggest that healthcare professionals can be in a helpful position to motivate someone to seek specialized treatment. Trying to deal with it yourself and wanting to forget about what happened are reasons often given for not seeking help, just like thinking it was your fault that it happened and feeling ashamed. Notably, a large percentage of participants did not think that anyone could help them, which might tell us something about the way a sexual assault can feel very lonely and that it is difficult to know what to do, when it happens to you. Having a close relationship to your rapist might also account for not seeking help immediately after the assault, for instance in heightening your sense of guilt.

Sexual assault-focused trauma treatment brought down PTSD symptoms and increased general well-being and long-term treatment increased the effect of treatment suggesting that it is important that treatment facilities have the resources to offer flexible psychological treatment developed to match the individual needs of patients, including long-term treatment.

Locked Down and Left Out: Impacts of Covid-19 Lockdown for Marginalised Groups in Scotland

The project conducted rapid research between June-December 2020 to understand the impacts of COVID-19 restriction measures ('lockdown') for four groups of people already exposed to high levels of isolation and exclusion prior to the pandemic. These groups were: refugees and people seeking asylum who are at risk of destitution; people in prison or under criminal justice supervision, and their loved ones; disabled people and those with long-term conditions; and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence. The research focused on three lines of inquiry: experiences and impacts of lockdown; access to and organisation of services; and quality, impact and use of information about COVID-19 by the four study groups and service providers.

Findings relating to domestic abuse and sexual violence draw upon in-depth qualitative interviews with female domestic abuse survivors (n=12), interviews with specialist support service providers (n=18), and a survey of specialist support organisations (n=22). Covid restrictions have impacted victim-survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence (DASV) in multi-faceted ways. The data highlights the ways lockdown shaped, but also intensified women's existing experiences of DASV and impacted upon their access to services and support and their feelings of safety and vulnerability. The research includes consideration of the multiple issues faced by the organisations supporting survivors.

This study was funded by the Chief Scientist Office and conducted by researchers at the University of Glasgow led by Sarah Armstrong and Lucy Pickering, supported by 20 partners from the third sector.

The executive summary and full report can be accessed here:

<https://scotlandinlockdown.co.uk/project-report/>

Armstrong, S., Pickering, L. et al. (2020) *Locked Down and Left Out: Impacts of Covid-19 Lockdown for Marginalised Groups in Scotland*. Final Report of the Scotland in Lockdown Study, December 2020.

Domestic abuse and sexual violence stream leads:

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Title of contribution: Preliminary findings of the mapping of violence prevention programs in Portuguese schools

The eradication of gender-based violence (GBV) and violence against women and girls (VAWG) has long been a concern for women's rights advocates and NGOs and an object of several international documents of reference, such as the Beijing Platform Declaration for Action (1995) or the Istanbul Convention (2011). In the Portuguese political agenda, these documents have been stepping stones for national plans aiming to promote gender equality and combat domestic violence and discrimination against LGBTQIA+ people, to name a few.

The large scope of damage, and potential long lasting, effects that these types of violence can have on children's and adolescents' well-being, development and their rights (Council of Europe, 2019) reinforces the need to prevent GBV and VAWG. Prevention work, particularly primary prevention, is not new (Rosewater, 2004) and there has been a variety of strategies taking place in schools, although only rarely has its evaluation and long-term impact been studied.

This gap in research is at the core of Project BO(U)NDS – Bonds, Boundaries and Violence, that aims to evaluate prevention programs in school contexts while, simultaneously, understanding what works in primary prevention and which are the best practices the programs employ that may lead to long-lasting effects in the lives of young people. The assumption is that an intervention program in school with children, adolescents, and young people is more effective and has long-term effects if the content addresses the structural and cultural basis of gender and domestic violence, if they are child-developmentally appropriate, and if they use holistic and creative pedagogical approaches. In Portugal, as in other countries, prevention strategies in schools can be as diverse as the social actors intervening in them, ranging from teachers to NGO activists, from police officers to health professionals.

Taking these aspects into consideration, Project BO(U)NDS uses a mixed methodology that includes questionnaires, in-depth interviews, focus groups, biographical narratives, and a hermeneutical comparability between Portugal, Brazil, Germany, Greece and the United Kingdom. The Project will approach young people who have attended school-based gender violence prevention programs, teachers, project facilitators and decision-makers to create foundations for educational policies and practices for GBV primary prevention programs in school contexts.

This presentation is about the preliminary findings of the mapping of violence prevention programs in Portuguese schools. Through a questionnaire sent to all 309 municipalities and 810 schools in the country, the programs were identified and classified according to: a) duration of intervention; b) inclusion of gender perspective; c) young people's agency, input and initiative; d) inclusion of GBV and VAWG in municipalities and school policies; e) partnerships between schools and NGOs; and f) how these programs approach the concept of violence.

References:

Council of Europe (2019). Gender Matters. A manual on addressing gender-based violence affecting young people. Retrieved from: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/gender-matters/gender-based-violence-and-human-rights>

Rosewater, Ann (2004). Promoting Prevention: Targeting Teens. An emerging agenda to reduce domestic violence, San Francisco: Family Violence Prevention Fund.

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Project webpage: https://www.fpce.up.pt/love_fear_power/bounds/projeto_en.html

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GUFOVA - Growing Up Free of Violence and Abuse - working to build resilience and strengthen children who have lived with domestic violence

The GUFOVA Project, financed by the European Union under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme brings together children's workers from women's shelters, front line workers from statutory child protection agencies and academics from Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Denmark, England and Germany to focus on promoting the welfare of children who live with intimate partner violence. Over the past 50 years children's workers within women's shelters have built up a wealth of experience in supporting children who are at increased risk of physical, emotional and sexual violence in tandem with their mothers. Despite their wealth of knowledge and skills, few shelters have resources to support children who have experienced sexual violence and fewer can provide longer term support. Many child victims of domestic violence may never enter a shelter and, if they do, this will be temporary. Following parental separation children may continue to negotiate complex relationships with both parents, often in the absence of any professional intervention to address the problem of violence with the perpetrator. The continued wellbeing of children and their mothers relies on other professionals, with whom children come into contact, recognising and understanding their needs and providing appropriate support. Therefore, the main aim of this project is to draw on the expertise of women's shelters to develop and implement training for a wide range of professionals on how to work effectively to build resilience and strengthen children who have lived with domestic violence.

The GUFOVA Training Manual will be available to download free of charge in English, Danish, German and Serbian from September 2021. The website address will be circulated later. In addition, a costing tool to convince funders that money spent on children is not only an ethically correct but also a significant economically efficient choice will also be published.

Dr. Karin Schönpflug, Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna (ihs.ac.at) manages the project and Dr. Patricia Bell along with Dr. Ravi Thiara and Dr. Chris Harrison from the University of Warwick are responsible for the development of the training materials and manual.

Participating Organisations

Angelou Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, England

Cheshire without Abuse, England

City Leipzig, Office for Children, Families and Education, Germany

City of Hannover, Department for Women and Equality, Germany

City of Lübeck, Department of Child and Family Support, Germany

City of Vienna, Child and Family Support, Austria

Danish Ministry for Children, Denmark

Hannover Women's Shelter, Germany

Holstebro Women's Shelter, Denmark

KIS, Co-ordination and Intervention against domestic violence and stalking, Leipzig, Germany

KJA, Children and Adolescent Advocacy Vienna, Austria

LOKK, National Organisation of Women's Shelters in Denmark

Lübeck Women's Shelter, Germany

Panahghar, Coventry, England

Udružene žene , Foundation United Women Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

ZÖF, Association of Austrian Women's Shelters, Austria

Patricia Bell

15.5.21

Research project: How and when employment benefits IPV-victims and survivors.

While economic dependency has been acknowledged as a risk factor of intimate partner violence (IPV), the causal relation between economic independency and IPV is very complex. In line with the 'exchange theory' one might posit that employment will decrease the experiences of IPV. However, the desire for male dominance among abusive men can also result in a "backlash" if women gain economic resources. This implicates that while the presence of equal or greater economic status of a woman may mediate IPV, the process of gaining greater economic independence may initiate more violence. Against a policy backdrop that reveals a shift 'from welfare to workfare' and a growing emphasis on labour participation, it is necessary to gain an in-depth understanding of how and when employment benefits women in relation to IPV. In addition, IPV survivors face unique obstacles to develop economic independence and interventions for IPV-survivors with the outcome of economic independency are scarce. The New Future is a Dutch intervention, launched in 2012, directed at helping women who have experienced IPV achieve economic independence. By evaluation The New Future on the questions of descriptive causation (if $X > Y$) and explanatory causation (why does $X \rightarrow Y$ and what made it do so), we try to provide insight into the support IPV-survivors need to fully utilize the value of work.

The following research activities are carried out within this project:

1. Systematic literature review on the relationship between women's economic independence and IPV (results are published in February 2021 in a Dutch policy report: *'Financiële (on)afhankelijkheid van vrouwen en partnergeweld: wat is het verband?'* (Bouma, Berry & Römken, 2021) + submitted article under review)
2. Qualitative study on women's perception and experience on the value of work in relation to IPV (based on 24 in-depth interviews with IPV-survivors; results are expected in Summer 2021).
3. Mixed-method study on the effectiveness of 'The New Future' (based on a quasi-experimental design and case-study approach; results expected in 2022).

Ad 1) Summary of results systematic literature review

Method

Based on the delineation of the terms "financial (in) dependence" and "intimate partner violence" a search conducted on 7 May 2020 resulted in a total of 809 articles in the PsychInfo database and 528 articles in the SocINDEX database. After a two-step screening process, 50 articles met the selection criteria, after which one article was added from a reference section. The vast majority of the included studies report findings based on quantitative data collection. A small number of studies were based on experimental trials which made use of a test group and a control group. Longitudinal studies are also scarce. The few qualitative studies included were based on interviews and focus groups.

Results

One conclusion was clear: there *is* a relation between women's financial independence and IPV, but the relation is highly complex.

- First, it is a **layered** relation, whereby other (non-economic) factors are at play. For example, engaging in employment does not by definition lead to economic

independence but is related to the level of the income and the possibility to get access to these financial recourses. In addition, the relationship is layered because other (non-economic) factors influence the relationship. Poor health, alcohol consumption, but also having (young) children are factors that influence the economic position of a household and individual. Financial independence can therefore be described as a necessary condition for IPV, but not as a sufficient condition.

- Second, the relation has a **paradoxical** character. Employment functions both as a protective factor and as a risk factor when it comes to IPV. It offers protection because it gives women much faster access to the alternative financial resources, emotional security and physical security. However, employment can also increase the risk of IPV if the male partner identifies the woman's stronger economic position as a threat.
- Third, the relation is **bidirectional**. High levels of economic independency may cause some women to end the abusive relationship, but IPV also lead to increased economic dependency. First, IPV victims can experience forms of economic abuse that prevent them from accessing the alternative means necessary to end the abusive relationship. Second, IPV survivors face unique obstacles to develop economic independence, such as damage to the health due to subjection to IPV.

By application of a social-ecological analytic framework, the complexity of the relation can be further clarified. That engaging in employment does not by definition lead to economic independence due to income level, can be attributed to social inequalities. That a woman does not by definition have access to her own financial recourses reveals a dynamic within an intimate relationship that effects the scope for individual choice. Also, the paradoxical character reveals that women's employment status is still connected to traditional roles, whereby men gain a position of power and status by being breadwinners. These findings suggest that a gender-sensitive approach is needed in policies on IPV and policies on employment.

Ad 2) Preliminary results of the study on women's perception and experience on the value of work in relation to IPV

This study will be based on 24 interviews with IPV-survivors. The interviews are guided by symbolic interaction theory and are meant to provide detailed information about the perceptions and experiences of women regarding the value of work in relation to IPV. Interim data analyses emphatically show that the transition of 'victim' to 'survivor' affects the value of work. Also, the immaterial and symbolic value of work is just as important in helping victims recover from IPV — and are at times even more important — than the material value of work.

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New departures after experiencing domestic violence

When domestic violence was made a public issue by the international women's movement in the early 1970ies under the heading „violence against women“, all women were seen as potential or actual objects of male violence. Through professionalization differences amongst women became more prominent: those needing help and those giving help to survivors of violence. This transformation is an important victory insofar as it meant public support (shelters, better laws, Istanbul Convention) but it also includes the danger of concentrating only on the needs of women who experienced violence. This concentration is absolutely necessary, but it also is necessary to look into the strengths of women experiencing this violence and their potential of individual and collective self-help. The image of women concerned changed from co-activist in political fights to often traumatized clients, which shows historical change and the importance of contextualization of an issue.

In my essay my aim is to look into the strengths of women with experiences of domestic violence and the possibilities of support. Women might have lost some (or temporary nearly all) of their capabilities in leading a life according to their own intention through this burdening experience, but they also are and see themselves in varying degrees able to regain these capabilities and to become even stronger than before. This capability is as well an individual strength as it is dependent on a supportive social framework including support groups, services, rights, financial support, public opinion and the fight for equal gender relations. Therefore it is necessary to place empowerment and self-empowerment into an individual subjective as well as into a social objective context. Only then it is possible to understand the psychological strength needed by women and the necessity of building up a favorable social and political frame on which we all need to work on. So my main question is: what does it need to support women and their children in building up a new life for themselves without violence. Shelters, counselling centers and other institutions can be places of new experiences in equal rights in all walks of life, non-violent upbringing and in opening up steps to further education and job qualifications under the precondition that there are enough and suitable institutions.

Contact: Margrit Brückner e-mail: brueckn@fb4.fra-uas.de; pdf in German, published in: Schutz und Hilfe bei häuslicher Gewalt – ein interdisziplinärer Online-Kurs, gefördert vom Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend

Women on the move: the journeyscapes of domestic violence.

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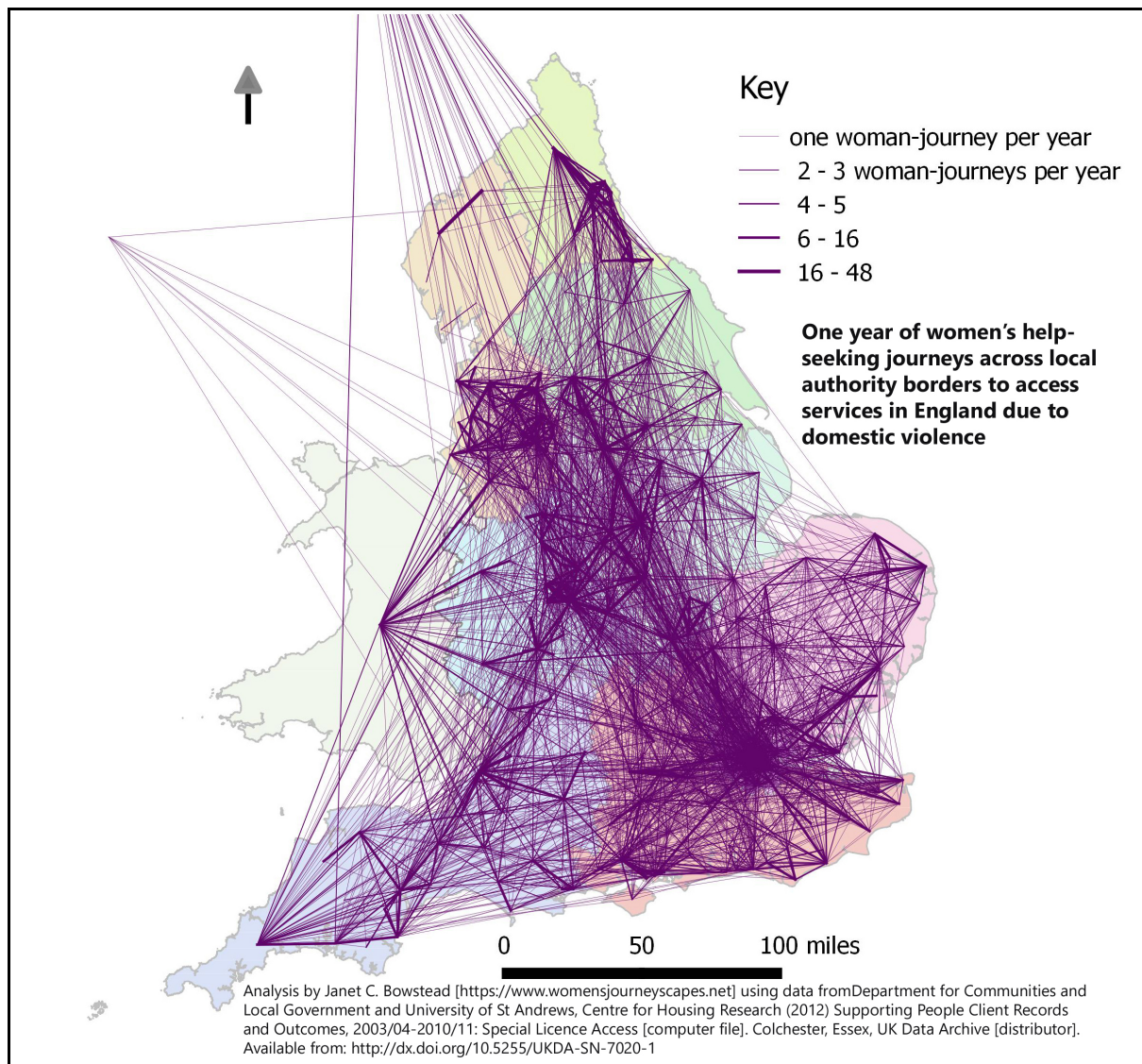
In June 2018 I presented on “Administrative data as a safe way to research hidden domestic violence journeys” at the European Network on Gender and Violence in Bristol. That was about the methodology of using administrative data as evidence of women’s help-seeking. As women on the move, and therefore not in settled accommodation, they would not be included in the sampling frame of all the social surveys (such as the Crime Survey) that are used to estimate prevalence of domestic abuse (and much else).

I have been continuing this research on women and children’s relocation due to domestic violence: mapping the scale and distances using administrative data from services, and exploring the implications and women’s experiences including through participatory photography. I’ve published on the complexity of women’s journeys, their means of transport at different stages, and the distinctive role of women’s refuges for women and children on the move. There are briefing papers on issues such as the regional scale of the forced internal displacement, and on the different strategies (as well as the far smaller numbers) of men experiencing domestic abuse. Further details, briefing papers and blog posts are available at <https://www.womensjourneyscapes.net/> and I would be really interested to hear from anyone else in the network using administrative data – or wanting to think about doing so – thanks very much.

I am currently concerned about the lack of recognition of women’s relocation strategies in new legislation in England and Wales, and what the implications will be for service provision and support. Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a duty on local government which could be a serious threat to the domestic abuse services that women and children actually need. Though the Government factsheets and guidance refer to Local Authorities assessing ‘cross-border support’ needs, Local Authorities do not have the data to be able to assess cross-border needs effectively and – of course – have a perverse incentive to under-count and under-provide.

My research shows some of the considerable extent of ‘cross-border’ help-seeking and how it needs to be recognised as an important strategy by women (alongside remaining local and staying put) – not a minor or after-thought in terms of needs and provision.

This map shows one year of women's domestic violence help-seeking to access services in England across local authority boundaries.



Recent publications:

Bowstead, Janet C. 2020. "Private Violence/Private Transport: The Role of Means of Transport in Women's Mobility to Escape from Domestic Violence in England and Wales." *Mobilities* 15 (4): 559–574. doi:10.1080/17450101.2020.1750289.

Bowstead, Janet C. 2021. "There Is Always a Way Out! Images of Place and Identity for Women Escaping Domestic Violence." In *Representing Place and Territorial Identities in Europe: Discourses, Images, and Practices*, edited by Tiziana Banini and Oana-Ramona Ilovan, 191–202. Cham, Switzerland: Springer.

Research update – Dr Anna Bull, University of Portsmouth/University of York, UK, and [The 1752 Group](#)

This summary covers a series of four articles on staff/faculty sexual harassment in higher education in the UK. The articles all report on data from the same study, originally summarised in the public report '[Silencing Students: Institutional Responses to Staff Sexual Misconduct in Higher Education](#)'. The data drawn on for the report and these articles is interviews with 15 students and 1 early career academic in UK higher education who had reported or attempted to report sexual harassment/violence from a member of academic staff to their university or the police. Interviews were carried out in early 2018.

1. Bull, A., Page, T., 2021. Students' accounts of grooming and boundary-blurring behaviours by academic staff in UK higher education. *Gender and Education* 1–16.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/09540253.2021.1884199>

This article outlined 'grooming' and 'boundary-blurring' behaviours that eight of the 16 students described. It theorises **boundary-blurring**: behaviours as behaviours that 'transgress (often tacit) professional boundaries' and **grooming** as 'a pattern of these behaviours over time between people in positions of unequal power that may lead to an abuse of power'. In UK law, 'grooming' as a criminal offence can only occur between an adult and a child. However, some interviewees used the term 'grooming' to describe their experiences and therefore the authors argue that this term is helpful to understand how power relations work in higher education.

One student who used the term 'grooming' to describe her experiences was 'Andrea' (all names have been changed). In her words:

"From an outsider[']s perspective], I was saying 'yes' to doing certain things with him, which, for all intents and purposes, would have counted as consent, but what you don't see is the internal conflict and the invisible power structure where he could make me say 'yes'. [...] He knew the right thing to ask and how to ask it in the right way in which it was pretty much impossible... I felt it was impossible for me to say 'no'." – Andrea, Master's student

The article analyses the power imbalances interviewees described that created the context for these behaviours. These were constituted by social inequalities including gender, class, and age, as well as stemming from students' position within their institutions. The article also explores how heterosexualised normativity allows such behaviours to be minimised and invisibilised.

2: Bull, A., Forthcoming. Catalysts and rationales for reporting staff sexual misconduct to UK higher education institutions. *Journal of Gender-Based Violence*

Against previous literature on sexual harassment that focuses on why women *don't* report their experiences, this article focuses on why women *did* report. It breaks down the descriptions interviewees gave of their reporting into two aspects: catalysts and rationales. Rationales were the fundamental, underlying reason interviewees gave for reporting, and usually involved a deeply considered decision. The main **rationales** that interviewees gave for reporting were:

- To prevent other women being targeted
- Protecting themselves physically or emotionally
- 'Doing the right thing'; fighting injustice
- Reporting or disclosing in order to be able to continue their careers

Distinct from these underlying rationales, **catalysts** for reporting describe specific triggers that affected the timing of reporting. These included:

- A change in situation, such as the interviewee leaving the institution or becoming pregnant
- Finding out that others had also been targeted by the same perpetrator and reporting as a group
- Being validated by someone within the institution that what they had experienced was not ok.

In some instances, catalysts overlapped with rationales, such as when an escalation in the misconduct meant that an interviewee needed to report to protect themselves or others, or where the misconduct led to an immediate barrier to continuing their career. Separating catalysts and rationales for reporting can allow different levels of decision-making over time to become clearer, against understanding reporting as a single, time-limited decision. This can help institutions to devise policies that support increased reporting.

3. Bull, A., Calvert-Lee, G., Page, T., 2020. Discrimination in the complaints process: introducing the sector guidance to address staff sexual misconduct in UK higher education. Perspectives: Policy and Practice in Higher Education 1–6. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13603108.2020.1823512>

This article introduces our *Sector Guidance to Address Staff Sexual Misconduct in UK Higher Education*, available [here](#). The problem that the guidance seeks to address is that existing UK student complaints and staff disciplinary procedures fail to offer similar protections and privileges to the student complainant and the responding staff member and, as a result, students are often excluded from the process purporting to resolve their complaint. We outline the changes that would need to be made to staff disciplinary processes to follow a process more akin to civil justice than criminal justice, thus ensuring that the process accords equal rights to complainants and respondents. The article highlights points of discussion that came up in the consultation process to devise the guidance, including sharing outcomes with complainants, recording data on disclosures as well as formal reports, and proactive investigations in the absence of formal reports. Overall, as we note:

“In a society where vastly more sexual misconduct complaints are made by women against men than vice versa, a process for investigating sexual misconduct complaints which gives those responding more rights than those complaining might well be thought to place women as a group at a particular disadvantage and so to amount to indirect discrimination, in breach of the Equality Act 2010” (p.3).

4. Bull, A., Page, T., 2021. The Governance of Complaints in UK Higher Education: Critically Examining ‘Remedies’ for Staff Sexual Misconduct. Social & Legal Studies 09646639211002243. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09646639211002243>

Complaints processes and their governance in UK higher education (HE) have received little critical scrutiny, despite their expanded role under the increasing marketisation of HE. This article draws on interviews with students who attempted to make complaints of staff sexual misconduct to their HE institution. It outlines four groups among the interviewees according to the ‘remedy’ that they obtained, describing how most interviewees could not access the services of the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education in England as they could not complete internal institutional complaints processes. The failure of most complainants to obtain remedy, and the difficult experiences of those who did, reveals the inadequacies of using an individualist, consumer-oriented model for addressing discrimination complaints in HE. The article also contributes to discussions of justice for sexual violence survivors, suggesting that community-oriented remedies are needed alongside formal administrative justice processes to address power-based sexual misconduct in institutions.

Justice Journeys

Michele Burman, Oona Brooks-Hay and Lisa Bradley, Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR), University of Glasgow.

Justice Journeys: Informing policy and practice through lived experience

The principal focus of this research is on rape and sexual assault victim-survivors' end-to-end experiences of the criminal justice system. It comprises in-depth interviews with 17 participants, whose cases reached varying stages of the criminal justice process in Scotland, including through to trial and conviction. In relation to victim-survivors of rape and sexual assault, the research aimed to gain fuller understanding of:

- 1) their expectations and 'end to end' experiences of the Scottish criminal justice process;
- 2) the range of factors affecting their decisions to engage/discontinue in the criminal justice process; and
- 3) the factors that support their engagement and giving of 'best' evidence.

The project report documents the 'justice journeys' of 17 victim-survivors of rape and serious sexual assault as they navigated the Scottish criminal justice system. It considers their experiences at each stage of the criminal justice process and highlights a range of issues, which were experienced as cumulative and individually manifesting across their respective justice journeys. While positive experiences were identified, victim-survivors continue to face challenges at each stage of the criminal justice process. Some difficulties occur at identifiable points, though others are far more generalised and occur throughout the process. In particular: disparities between victim-survivor expectations and experiences; inadequate communication from officials; the lengthy duration of the process; the uncomfortable physical environments of police stations and courts; concerns about personal safety; feeling marginal to the process; perceptions of the system being weighted in favour of the accused; and belief that the current system does not adequately represent their interests. These concerns raise significant questions about how victim-survivors can be best prepared, informed, supported and represented in the criminal justice process.

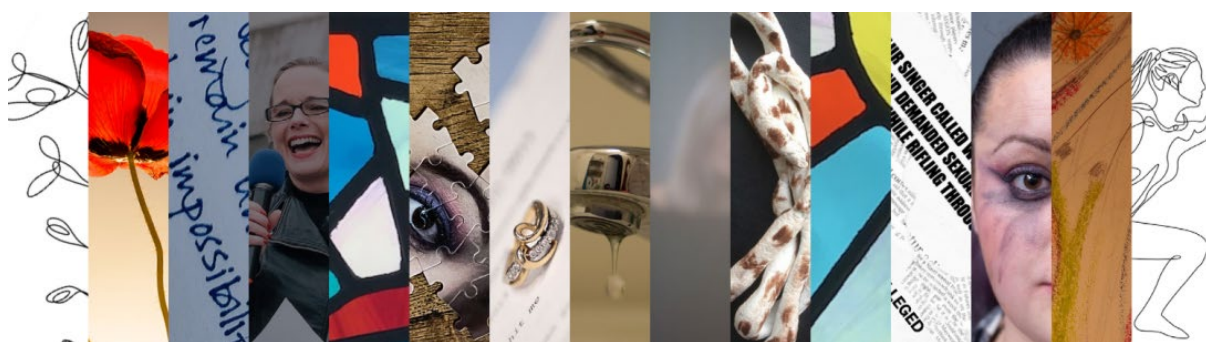
Addressing these questions is undoubtedly challenging since victim-survivor encounters with the criminal justice system are varied, filtered through prior experiences of abuse, expectations of the process, and their diverse personal circumstances. Nonetheless, a consistent finding is that the impacts of sexual violence and seeking justice interact, are cumulative and compounding. While many of the issues raised by those interviewed in this study will resonate with victims of other non-sexual crimes, it is apparent that sexual offences have profound and distinctive impacts and, therefore, merit distinctive responses. Recommendations for future policy and practice are provided in the spirit of supporting meaningful change to victim-survivor experiences of the criminal justice process.

This work was funded by the Scottish Government (Justice Analytical Services) and it was a precursor to a creative project titled, *Justice Journeys Survivor Stories*.

Brooks-Hay, O, Burman, M. and Bradley, L. (2019) *Justice Journeys: Informing policy and practice through lived experience of victim-survivors of rape and serious sexual assault*. SCCJR Research Report 04/2019. <https://www.sccjr.ac.uk/publications/justice-journeys-informing-policy-and-practice-through-lived-experience-of-victim%e2%80%90survivors-of-rape-and-serious-sexual-assault/>

Justice Journeys Survivor Stories (JJSS)

Justice Journeys Survivor Stories is a powerful online exhibition, launched in December 2020, featuring a collection of rape survivors' stories about their 'end-to-end' journeys through the criminal justice process in Scotland. The project was co-produced with its participants using innovative arts-based practices. This enabled the creation of accessible short stories and creative visual representations of participants' experiences, designed to facilitate broader public engagement with the research. Participation in JJSS has been described as transformative for those involved, representing a form of justice following encounters with the criminal justice system where their voices were not heard.



JJSS offered participants a space tell their stories, in their own words, and in their own way – something, we came to learn through our research, the criminal justice system denied them at many turns. The project used innovative creative practices to represent survivors' stories. We engaged a professional photographer to work with us and devised arts-based workshops to facilitate story-telling. Over a period of two years, we worked closely with individual participants to draw out their testimonies and produce their images and representations. Each narrative account is accompanied by images and other arts-based creative pieces, such as poetry, stained glass, and photographs that have been specially produced or selected by the survivors to represent their individual journey.

An overriding concern of the survivors who shared their stories, is that their voices may help to improve the experiences of others. Indeed, that was a key reason for their participation. The stories highlight the need for reform of the criminal justice system. They speak to issues including the need for independent legal representation, the removal of corroboration, the challenges of court delays and child contact, and the necessity of enhanced advocacy support and communication throughout the process.

The material contained in JJSS may be used as a support, teaching, training or awareness-raising resource by educators, researchers, policy makers and practitioners.

The work underpinning JJSS was funded by an ESRC Impact Acceleration Account to further develop findings from the Scottish Government funded project, *Justice Journeys: Informing policy and practice through lived experience of victim-survivors of rape and serious sexual assault*.

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"THE WORLD WON'T END IF I DON'T PUNCH" - NON-VIOLENT PRACTICES OF BOYS

Mart Busche (completed PhD-Project 2020, Sociology)

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Tuider (University of Kassel, Germany), Prof. Dr. Carol Hagemann-White (University of Osnabrück, Germany)

The task of critical masculinities research, to which I include this study in the field of boys' research, is to critically illuminate processes of the production of masculinities in a hierarchized gender relationship and, beyond that, to identify anchor points for possibilities of change. In order to be able to do this, empirical insights into the concrete practices of action and the self-understandings of the actors are needed. Not much is known about the perspective of boys* on their non-violent actions. Practices without violence are widespread among men* and boys*, most actors* usually manage without violence and try to avoid it. From a sociological point of view, little is known about the relationship between masculinity and nonviolence and the existence of non-violent masculinities requires explanation.

This PhD thesis focussed on the question how adolescent boys create non-violence. In situations of conflict or violence, there is first of all a pressure to (re)act. Accordingly, I wanted to know how the young people realize for themselves the options of violence and, in particular, non-violence. Non-violence is understood as a practice of action in the face of a violent situation, which puts something else in the place where an act of violence could stand. It thus presents itself as an activity to which - sometimes more obvious - alternative actions exist. This points to internal and external contextual conditions and processes that affect potentially violent situations. The present study focuses on the differentiation of non-violent behavior and its contexts on the basis of interviews with eight boys. Of interest are the connections between non-violent behavior and masculinity, gender, age/generativity, and other affiliations or social classifications. The sample consists of eight 14- to 16-years cis-boys from different milieus, all with experience of different forms of violence. They are neither intensive offenders nor intensive victims, neither elite students nor special needs students.

The view of the structural challenges and negotiations in adolescence is complemented by a perspective on processes of subjectivation, which, following Michel Foucault and Judith Butler, are characterized by adjustment and enabling. Normative appeals are directed at adolescents, restricting how they have to be, e.g. with regard to gender, but also employability or physical self-optimization. How does society construct this space and what opportunities and resources do young people get to subjectify themselves in it, especially in normative relations of acknowledgement?

A praxeological-sociological approach makes it possible to reconstructively-interpretatively show which aspects of tacit knowledge are brought to bear by the young people (Documentary method, Bohnsack). It is combined with a subjectivation analysis which traces the use and adoption of social norms. As a result of the examination of the empirical material, I then concretely analyzed *positionings, offers of subjectivation, orientations of action*.

Selected Findings:

Besides reconstructions of biographical positioning, constructions of belonging and difference, four different patterns of coping with violent situations encountered were carved out: rational distancing, affirmative acceptance, ambivalent claims, active resistance. Further, I analysed non-violent ways of dealing with violent situations and dealing with the norm of non-violence. In doing so, I reconstructed five orientations of action and positioning between violence and non-violence that emerged while navigating through topographies of everyday violence, i.e. in the confrontation with situations with potential for violence.

1. *Normatively violence-distant orientations* understood violence as fundamentally illegitimate and the norm of nonviolence was seen as prohibiting violence. Only self-defense situations were considered legitimate exceptions.
2. *Orientation towards futurability* showed a strong time dimension: Personal changes, employability and participation were important.
3. In *orientations towards sovereignty*, one's own non-violence is produced as superiority; i.e. by protecting others or taking a position as ‚judge‘ or regulating authority in hierarchical group formations.
4. *Orientations towards self-regulation* ("techniques of the self") include channeling and controlling aggression, provocation-avoiding actions, impulse control, and techniques of ignoring and avoiding provocation.
5. *Orientations towards de-escalation* are framed by a reflexive mode and include assessing when talking can still be an effective tool as well as a habitualized sense for escalation factors.

Concerning critical masculinity studies, the study shows how patriarchal relations can be maintained and legitimized by allowing non-violent practices to be part of a hegemonic gender project. I have traced how non-violent practices are used within the framework of a morally constructed superiority for the demarcation of others, and are thereby experienced neither as 'feminine' nor as contradictory to a masculine gender construction. The struggle of the boys is to ignore provocations, to show oneself not vulnerable but controlled and to take up a ‚cool pose‘. It also became apparent that adultistic mechanisms such as infantilization of other peers are used to create a hegemonic adolescence-related boyishness that stands out from both adult men and children. The study shows that not all boys play the ‚serious games of masculinity‘ and recognize a value in risking their bodies, for example. If they support each other in ending violent situations, or if being hurt by each other is rejected, then orientations towards non-violence can be found, which do not necessarily serve sovereignty, but are rather oriented towards de-escalation, cooperation and equality.

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Centre Head: [Professor Marianne Hester](#)

Staff: [Dr Nadia Aghtaie](#), [Dr Emma Williamson](#), Dr Jade Levell, [Dr Natasha Mulvihill](#), [Dr Vicky Canning](#), [Dr William Turner](#), Sarah-Jane Walker, [Dr Andrea Matolcsi](#).

The CGVR continues to build on previous and current work of Centre staff, and the widely acknowledged reputation of the Centre as a key UK site for excellent research on gender-based violence. We focus on doing research that makes a positive difference.

The Centre has a reputation for feminist multi-method and often cross-national approaches to researching gender-based violence, looking at domestic and sexual violence, forced marriage, FGM, prostitution, sexual exploitation and rape, and including victim-survivor perspectives and work on perpetrators.

In the last three years we have worked on the following themes:

- 1) Justice, Inequalities, and GBV
- 2) Approaches to high harm and high risk domestic abuse perpetrators
- 3) Community and faith responses to GBV
- 4) GBV and displacement through immigration
- 5) Research Integrity in GBV research
- 6) The nature of prostitution and sex work
- 7) Identifying and measuring coercive control
- 8) Attitudes to IPV in low and middle-income countries

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In 2017 the CGVR launched the [Journal of Gender Based Violence with the publisher Policy Press](#). This is the first European based International Journal in the field, and we continue to support our international colleagues to publish through this journal.

At the heart of our approach to the study of gender-based violence are considerations about how gender inequalities are sustained, created and re-created through the gendered constructions of different forms of violence, abuse and harm, including uses, experiences and impacts, and influences of other intersectional factors. as .

Recently completed work:

[Justice, Inequalities, and Gender Based Violence](#)

[Evaluation of the DRIVE project](#)

[Coronavirus and Domestic Violence and Abuse \(with Women's Aid, England\)](#)

[Prostitution and sex work: nature and prevalence in England and Wales](#)

[Research Integrity Framework on DVA \(with all four UK Women's Aid Federations\).](#)

[GBV and Displacement](#)

[Domestic Abuse in Military Families](#)

Current Research:

Understanding and Responding to Coercive Control, Oak Foundation

[FOMEN Project](#)

Misogyny and Justice (Knowledge Exchange Fellowship with Women's Aid, England), ESRC

[Re-Provide, NIHR](#)

[Domestic Abuse Measurement, ONS](#)

Current PhD Students:

Mary Wakeham. Start date: Nov 2016. Thesis title: Animal Abuse in the Context of Domestic Violence and Abuse

Bintu Mansaray. Start date Sept 2020. Thesis title: Exploring the Impact of Multisectoral Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Sierra Leone

Shruthi Venkatachalam. Start date Sept 2018. Thesis title: Exploring the Horizons of Access to Justice: Disabled Women in India Who Are Subjected To Violence

Wei Deng. Start date Sept 2020. Thesis title: IPV in China.

Jeremy Hawksworth. Start date: Sept 2019. Thesis title: Responding to Risk in an Ageing Population in the U.K.: A Study of Male Perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence Over 55 Years of Age. <https://research-information.bris.ac.uk/en/persons/jeremy-p-hawksworth>

Greta Squire. Start date: Sept. 2017 [PT]. The Empire Strikes Back?: An examination of the feminist counter-strategies to the policy dismantling of the Istanbul Convention in back-sliding states across Europe. <https://research.brighton.ac.uk/en/persons/greta-squire>

Shruthi Venkatachalam. Start date: Sept. 2018. Thesis title: Exploring the Horizons of Access to Justice: An analysis of Disabled Women Who are Subjected to Violence.

Raquel Rosario Sanchez. Start date: January 2018. Online Communities for Sex Buyers: A Cross-National Critical Discourse Analysis. <https://www.raquelrosariosanchez.com/>

Gavin Hutchison. Start date: Sept. 2016. [PT]. An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) of experiences of fairness amongst adults with learning disabilities engaged in services responding to Domestic Violence and Abuse. <https://research-information.bris.ac.uk/en/persons/gavin-hutchison>

Evanthia Triantafyllidou. Start date: September 2020. Exploring effectiveness and acceptability of mind-body interventions for female survivors of complex trauma. @evanthiat

Jo Higson. Start date: September 2020. PhD Creative Writing. The Mirror Cracked: The representation of domestic abuse in contemporary narrative fiction.

Sarah Blake. Starts ESRC funded PhD: 2021. The impact of Electronic Patient Health Records on potentially vulnerable patients groups. Focussing on those who have experienced DVA, older and younger patients. www.sarahblake.co.uk

Rosalba Castiglione. Starts ESRC funded PhD: 2021. Reproductive coercion amongst young girls and its link with the provision of sex education in school. A comparative study between Italy and the UK.

Esther Morley. Starts ESRC funded PhD: 2021 [P/T]. Hidden knowledge, silent voices: the role and experiences of children in Domestic Homicide Reviews. <http://linkedin.com/in/esther-morley-1a604841>

Selected Recent Publications:

Aghtaie, N., Mulvihill, N., Abrahams, H. A., & Hester, M. (2020). Defining and Enabling 'Justice' for Victims/ Survivors of Domestic Violence and Abuse: The Views of Practitioners Working within Muslim, Jewish and Catholic Faiths. *Religion and Gender*. <https://doi.org/10.1163/18785417-20200001>

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Ruled by fear and how protection orders restore survivors' sense of agency and communion in (former) intimate partner violence.

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This article is part of a larger study on experiences of survivors of (former) intimate partner violence survivor with penal protection orders in the Netherlands. This PhD-study started in 2018 and is expected to be completed in 2023. It is based on the first in-depth [study on penal protection order compliance and enforcement](#) in the Netherlands. Currently I am preparing for data collection for a prospective longitudinal qualitative study on survivor experiences. The article described below is currently in the review stage.

Background and goal

Penal protection orders are measures aimed at prevention of repeat victimization. These are often issued in cases of intimate partner and former partner violence. Dutch research shows orders are frequently violated and enforcement is problematic. Little research has been done on how survivors experience order compliance and enforcement. This study focuses on how survivors experience (un)safety and when and how orders contribute to enhanced perceptions of safety, well-being and justice. It aims to gain insights into survivors' expectations and needs and identify the type of support they need to feel better protected in the future.

Method and analysis

To this end, ten in-depth retrospective interviews have been conducted with survivors of intimate partner and/or former partner violence. Survivors were asked questions about their experiences of victimization before and after issuance of the order and about the order's impact on their daily lives. Data has been coded thematically and open. The theoretical framework draws upon the big two framework of agency and communion, survivor safety-related empowerment and 'fear of crime' literature.

Results and conclusion

The interviews show that living in fear of unwanted contact with and violence by the suspect/offender is also experienced as a form of victimization, even in the absence of actual contact or violence. The function of protection orders can be viewed as an attempt to restructure the power dynamic in the relationship, backed by the power of the law. Depending on the type of intimate partner violence (coercive controlling violence, separation-based violence or psychotic reaction violence), the function of the order may vary. For survivors of coercive controlling violence, it may be more challenging to refrain from responding to attempts of contact by the suspect/offender (out of love and/or fear). In addition, protection orders may contribute to enhanced feelings of communion, i.e. feeling supported and part of the broader society. In enhancing perceptions of safety, not only actions aimed at deterrence of the suspect/offender are important, but also actions aimed at enhancing perceptions

of control over dealing with a threatening situation and perceptions of expected support (by the Criminal Justice System).

A demographic approach to the understanding of gender based violence: the Virage surveys conducted in the French overseas territories, Stephanie Condon, INED, France.

Following a period of antipathy within feminist research towards the use of quantitative methodologies, the dissemination of results of surveys investigating gender-based violence (GBV) has played a significant role in increasing the recognition of such methodologies as being relevant to the field of gender studies. Quantitative approaches nonetheless remain marginal in sections of the gender studies/feminist sociology literature and are often seen as producing over-generalizations of social mechanisms or relying on uncritical use of population categories (Spierings, 2012). Disciplinary divides and national academic contexts contribute to such standpoints (Cohen et al., 2011). Meanwhile, feminist perspectives within demographic scholarship have placed the analysis of GBV firmly within the discipline. Demographic studies of GBV offer the possibility of examining how different characteristics and life course events interact to place certain individuals more or less at risk of experiencing GBV (Jaspard et al, 2001; Jaspard et al, 2003 ; Ambrosetti et al, 2013).

Developing reliable indicators of current and lifetime prevalence of violence

Close attention to defining different forms of violence is a key aspect of accounting for the time dimension of violence. General statements about the prevalence of violence experienced, and how levels may vary from one category of individuals to another, tend to obscure our understanding of the content and context of the violence and how different experiences may be related to one another, including over time. Whilst some acts are isolated (for example, verbal abuse or physical violence in the street), other acts are repeated or can be identified as ongoing situations (for example, controlling behaviour by the intimate partner, psychological harassment in the workplace). Furthermore, the examination of different forms of violence experienced over the life course is crucial to analyzing the links between violence experienced during childhood and then in later life. Types of violent acts and their meaning to individuals vary and are linked to social relations in each particular context. Thus situating acts within their context (family, school, work, intimate partner relationship, public space...) is clearly a vital aspect of the definition process (Myhill, 2017), as identification of the perpetrator (relative, partner, colleague, neighbour...). This is the kind of information that has been collected by the French gender-based violence surveys over the last two decades (Jaspard et al, 2001; Lebugle et al., 2017), surveys that have strongly contributed to the international effort to produce reliable indicators of GBV (Walby, 2005). Biographical data then can tell us at what stage of their lives such acts took place, whether on one occasion or repeatedly and whether they occurred at the same period as other types of violence. This kind of data collection is of course a complex process, but allows us to consider a variety of experiences from different viewpoints over time. Information on life events (migration, childbirth, divorce, etc.) as well as other social characteristics then may be used to contextualize the violent experiences and distinguish particular victim profiles. Often missing from analyses of GBV is information on the perpetrator. Particularly when intimate partner violence or domestic violence is studied, there are frequently assumptions of social group, ethnic origin, religious affiliation, etc. of the partner or relative.

Risk factors, protective factors: social context and intersectionality in life course perspective

Many hypotheses on the causes of GBV or on the increased risk of becoming a victim of (or being less able to escape from) interpersonal violence focus on socioeconomic characteristics and background. Over the last three decades, much has been written on the links between culture and violence and

often in a culturalist perspective. Meanwhile an increasing body of research follows K Crenshaw (1991) and P Hill Collins (1998, 2017) in arguing that intersectionality is the key to understanding why minoritized women are particularly at risk of being victims of GBV. A current challenge to quantitative surveys thus is how to capture information allowing the role of intersectionality to be analyzed (Scott and Siltanen, 2017). The collection of ethnicity data by public statistics bodies, whether based on self-categorization or otherwise, is not authorized in France. Quantitative approaches to studying the particular vulnerability of racially or ethnically minoritized women therefore rely on the identification of migrants and their descendants using data on birthplace and nationality (at birth and current), and birthplace of parents. Questions on religion and language provide complementary information, as do questions on experience of racism or discrimination.

The recently conducted survey on GBV in the French overseas territories of Guadeloupe, Martinique and Reunion Island¹ will provide an opportunity to respond to culturalist explanations of violence, by focusing on intersectionality and on the dimension of time. Social background and family circumstances during childhood may be quite different from the social status of an individual at the time of the survey, migration histories will also contribute to possible changes in social positioning from one everyday life context to another. The specific regional and postcolonial context of these overseas territories² is of particular interest as the populations of these islands are ethnically diverse, composed of descendants of African slaves or of indentured workers from India or China and migrants from neighbouring islands or elsewhere, including from mainland France. Despite better average living standards than in the surrounding regions, levels of social inequalities are high, both within the territories and between the territories and mainland France, and class combines with ethnicity/race to produce local social hierarchies (Giraud, 1979). Stereotyped views of different sections of the population have tended to produce representations of a strong links between GBV, poverty, lower levels of education and single-parent families. Such representations have resulted in stigmatization of some categories of the population and in violence against (less racialized) women within the higher social strata remaining hidden and less the focus of policy attention.

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¹ In 2015, a new survey – *VIRAGE* (Violences et rapports de genre) was conducted in mainland France (total of 27000 respondents aged 20-69 years, 15000 women, 11000 men). Using an adapted protocol and questionnaire, the survey has been replicated in three overseas territories. The author of this paper is the project leader for the *VIRAGE-DOM* survey (Virage dans les départements d'outremer: www.viragedom.site.ined.fr) and for the new collaborative project ANR VidOM (2021-2024) *Gender-based violence and intersectionality in the French overseas territories*.

² These territories, the first two located in the Caribbean and the last, in the Indian Ocean, had colonial status until 1946, after which they became administrative regions of the French state.

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ANR VidOM¹ – Gender based violence and intersectionality in the French overseas territories

Project leader: Stephanie Condon, INED

This project aims to contribute, both theoretically and empirically, to the field of gender-based violence studies and engages an intersectional perspective. It posits that the postcolonial context and socioeconomic characteristics of the three overseas territories studied – Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Reunion Island – intensify the role of certain factors associated with the risk of violence and complicate pathways out of violent situations. The project constitutes the next stage of a research programme initiated by the setting up of a sociodemographic survey on gender-based violence in these territories (2018). As well as its theoretical and empirical contributions, the research will change perceptions of violence in these territories and will produce new knowledge, particularly with regard to Reunion Island.

Four topics structure the research project.

The first will update knowledge on the social and cultural conditions of the production of family violence in childhood, both for girls and boys. Analyses exploring hypotheses relating to the role of social context and family upbringing will take into account the legacies of slavery and colonization, and religion. The gender and intersectionality focus will bring new insights to long-term impacts on the life course including in terms of social inequalities.

The second topic addresses the interrelationship between violence in adulthood and social and economic deprivation. Such deprivation is a common experience in these territories. We aim to highlight processes shaping the continuum of violence, through two illustrative examples of deprivation among women: single parenthood and migration. We will examine the interrelationship also for men, under the hypothesis that other social processes shape men's experiences.

Topic 3 aims to deepen our understanding of escape routes from violence through a study of disclosure and reporting of violence, and of what facilitates or hinders help seeking for women and men. Analyses will focus on the victim's viewpoint, highlighting the role of local stakeholders, notably health and criminal justice professionals, as well as religious communities, in aiding or hampering access to help.

Topic 4 examines the role of institutional intervention and representations of intimate partner violence (IPV) and of victims of such violence. Analyses of the contours of IPV prevention policies will be set within local historical, political and social contexts.

The project's originality within gender-based violence studies lies in its mixed methods design, using both new statistical survey data and a variety of qualitative materials (in-depth interviews with victims and institutional representatives, press articles, visual and textual materials from violence prevention campaigns).

The impacts and benefits of the research will be significant in two fields. First, research results will be widely disseminated both nationally and internationally, through the organization of and participation in conferences and by numerous publications in academic journals and books. Second, given current

¹ Funded by the National Research Agency, 2021-2024.

levels of attention in France (mainland and overseas territories) on issues surrounding violence against women, the project aims to feed into social policy by way of presentations to local stakeholders, articles in professional journals, contributions to developing training tools, research briefs, all extensively disseminated to ensure a rapid transfer of knowledge to local and national institutions.

The project is coordinated at INED (S. Condon) with the participation of colleagues from the universities of Reunion Island, Antilles, Amiens, Strasbourg and Toulouse 2.

In jeopardy - new ways of prevention and support in case of intimate partner violence (IPV) in rural areas

The research project seeks to develop, test and evaluate innovative ways of primary prevention for a predominantly rural model region. The interdisciplinary team explores ways of how to raise awareness and encourage as many people of all ages to act and speak out against IPV. Especially in rural areas, IPV is a ‘taboo’ subject, that often is trivialized, misunderstood and rarely addressed in public. But even more than in urban areas, factors accumulate that contribute to the taboo, shame and fear, keeping those affected from seeking help and support. For instance, the lack of anonymity in smaller communities as well as the lack of knowledge and access to intervention and counseling centers.

The research project is guided by the provision of the “Istanbul Convention” that, in the fight against IPV, emphasises the need to take measures to promote change in the mentality and behavior in the population as a requirement for all further prevention strategies. Therefore, approaches and methods are being developed and tested, that reach the hearts and minds of people and are intended to motivate and enable them to recognize IPV, to speak out against it, and to support the victims - in the neighborhood, among friends, colleagues or relatives - to the best of their ability.

First, together with four practice partners, we roll out a multi-media, diversity sensitive *publicity campaign* (including film series, readings, exhibitions, theater) tailored to the model region to raise awareness and activate civil society. Relevant actors in the sphere of for example public health or women's associations, such as rural women's association, are directly involved.

Second, we plan to develop prosocial digital games dealing with IPV, so-called *serious games*. They will be used, amongst others, during project days at schools with students aged 14 to 17. In the sense of "Edutainment", we consider them to be effective in “experiencing” that IPV is not a private matter but does have an impact on the entire social environment. The development of serious games is both a challenging process of interdisciplinary collaboration and epistemological opportunities: Since for the development of a digital graphical representation, the task is to systematize social science research findings on causes, forms, extent and consequences of IPV and the reasons of why IPV is considered taboo, especially in rural areas. So reinforcement effects can be identified that are fundamental to both the narrative of the game and the game mechanics.

All actions will be evaluated by means of qualitative methods. Thus, the answers to the research questions - which impressions and assessments the target groups get of the campaign and games - can be obtained respecting the project’s objective of primary prevention: removal of taboos, sensitisation, education and activation regarding the social problem of IPV.

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JupP* - Boys* education and prevention of sexualized violence - potentials and challenges of masculinity-related youth work

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Financed by German Ministry for Education and Research (2018-2021)

Content and Aims

The practical research project JupP aims to improve the prevention of sexualized violence against children and adolescents who see themselves as male and/or are addressed as such by their environment. For this purpose, prevention-related aspects in the pedagogical interventions of the four practice fields of boys* work, sexual pedagogy, prevention work on sexualized violence as well as queer education are elaborated and further developed in a joint reflection process. In the four fields of practice, different pedagogical aspects (approaches, methods and/or practices) are available that have the potential to enable male identified children and adolescents

- to classify violent experiences as such,
- to relieve of ideas of masculinity that make it difficult to deal with violent experiences,
- to empower in their engagement and self-determination with regard to their body or their sexual self-image and desires.

The different bodies of knowledge from these fields of practice are examined, related to each other and fed into the further development of pedagogical concepts within the framework of the project.

The central research question is: How can pedagogical practice contribute to the prevention of sexualized violence against male* children and adolescents? Which specific knowledge about sexualized violence against boys* exists in the different practice fields? Our aim was to obtain clues for a more profound professionalization with regard to the prevention of sexualized violence against boys*.

Research Design

Data collection: 85 items of pedagogical material the partners work with, 14 observations in workshops, 24 individual interviews with practitioners, 8 group discussions with teams.

Analysis with Qualitative Content Analysis (Mayring) and Documentary Method (Bohnsack).

Outcomes

The analysis of prevention materials has shown that by naming the vulnerability of boys*, a de-thematization of sexualized violence against male* identified children and adolescents can be counteracted. Nevertheless, ambivalences of the discursive figure of boys* as affected by sexualized violence become clear:

- When the affectedness of boys* is (quantitatively and/or qualitatively) addressed in comparison to girls* and runs the risk of being implicitly relativized,
- when male* victimization is repeatedly linked with potential perpetration,
- when gender binary patterns of perception are used, which make or keep invisible the potential victimization of other genders.

Thus, there is hardly any gender (self-)positioning beyond cis* gender in the analyzed prevention materials. Trans*, inter* and non-binary children and adolescents are not addressed as potential victims/survivors or made visible to their environment. An intensified exchange between approaches critical of heteronormativity and masculinity in pedagogical theory and practice seems necessary. This is also necessary in view of the need to further expand the existing approaches in all fields of practice that question stereotypical ideas of masculinity* with regard to intersectionality and gender diversity in a target group-oriented manner.

Furthermore, from the interviews with professionals, a differentiation between implicit and explicit prevention could be elaborated in the sense that pedagogy can have a preventive effect even if it does not explicitly deal with sexualized violence in depth. This can take place, for example, by conveying a differentiated language for sexuality, bodily sensations and body parts, as well as for diverse gender and sexual ways of life; by addressing the principle of consensus, conveying knowledge critical of norms, and relieving from constricting ideas of masculinity - such as sovereignty, activity, or defensiveness - that contribute to making victim/survivor experiences invisible.

With regard to pedagogical professionalization processes, it was also possible to identify crucial antinomies. For example, with regard to the tension that exists between the meaningfulness of a separation into boys' and girls' groups, which is associated with specific potentials for reflection and empowerment, on the one hand, and its disputability on the other hand, since this simultaneously does not address and excludes children/youth who position themselves beyond a binary gender norm. It could be shown how acting professionally in this tension means being aware that not all goals can be achieved at the same time - for example the deconstruction of binary gender norms and the empowerment of boys* and/or girls* affected by sexualized violence. The findings from JupP* point to how different goals can be targeted at different times, and situational decisions need to be made.

Overall, a potential for violence prevention is visible in all studied fields of practice. Challenges for the professionals are particularly evident in occasionally occurring disclosure situations, since these take place in passing, during breaks or at the very end of pedagogical interventions. In order to be able to adequately support victim/survivors, it seems particularly important to include these 'fleeting' situations in the pedagogical conceptualization.

Practical output: A short film on sexualized violence about boys* for kids and practitioners (with english, turkish and french subtitles as well as in german sign language) will be published here soon: <https://www.jungenpaedagogik-und-praevention.de/>

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Project Mirabal update

Project Mirabal has a new website www.projectmirabal.co.uk – this website brings together all of the publications that were developed under the banner of Project Mirabal – the UK multi-site study of domestic violence perpetrator programmes led by Professors Liz Kelly and Nicole Westmarland. Also available are some short videos that can be used with men considering attending such programmes, as part of induction, or as part of training or lectures about domestic violence perpetrator programmes.

The most recent paper published, led by Dr Julia Downes (with Kelly and Westmarland), looks at how and when men use coercive tactics, and how unpicking gender norms through perpetrator programmes enabled some men to recognise and reduce their use of coercive control.

More information about the project is available here:
<https://dro.dur.ac.uk/28902/2/28902.pdf>.

REPROVIDE: A randomised controlled trial testing the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of a group programme for men who are concerned about their abusive behaviour in relationships with women

Research programme update, May 2021

Professor Gene Feder¹ (Chief Investigator), Dr Helen Cramer² (Co-Principal Investigator), Dr Karen Morgan³ (Co-Principal Investigator), Melissa Cole⁴ (Programme Manager), Dr Nate Eisenstadt⁵ (Senior Research Associate), Dr Jo Roberts⁶ (Senior Research Associate), Rachael Bloomer⁷ (Research Associate)

¹⁻⁷ Study team is situated within the Centre for Academic Primary Care, University of Bristol, UK.

REPROVIDE is a randomised controlled trial testing the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of a Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme (DAPP) for men. Following stages of evidence synthesis, intervention development and measure development, a pilot study was conducted which demonstrated feasibility to recruit and retain participants as well as intervention acceptability. The main trial began in late 2019 and is expected to run until December 2023.

There is still uncertainty about the effectiveness of DAPPs and experimental studies are needed to explore effectiveness internationally and outside North America. A major research recommendation of the NICE DVA guidelines is determining the effectiveness of perpetrator interventions in terms of victims' safety, across levels of risk, and including diverse and marginalised groups.

The randomised controlled trial, funded by National Institute of Health Research Programme Grants for Applied Research, is aiming to recruit 366 men plus their current and/or ex-partners from the South West region of England and South Wales. All male participants will be randomised at a 2:1 ratio to participate in the DAPP (intervention arm) or to be in a comparison arm. There are 4 different trial sites for intervention delivery run by three domestic abuse organisations. As of April 2021 there were 134 men and 69 female partners/ex-partners enrolled on the REPROVIDE trial.

The REPROVIDE DAPP consists of 23 weekly sessions with additional individual sessions based on need, followed by a monthly Relapse Prevention Programme for six months. Partners and ex-partners of men taking part in the trial are all signposted to local domestic abuse support services, and those who's partner is allocated to the intervention arm are offered support from a Women's Support Worker.

Outcome measures include: men's self-reported abusive behaviours (ABI), mental health and use of health services; current and ex-partners' report of abusive behaviour, mental health and use of health services; and police reports.

Qualitative work within the trial involving semi-structured interviews of male and female participants, intervention delivery staff and referrers is progressing well. The aims of the qualitative work are to examine intervention and trial experiences, likely implementation challenges, the different contexts of each delivery site and reasons for intervention or trial withdrawal. Since COVID-19, interview topic guides have been adjusted and the qualitative

work will also be used to understand the impact of the pandemic on the trial and on DAPPs more generally.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the original timeframe of the trial in a number of ways. Recruitment procedures had to be reviewed at the start of the first lockdown and new processes were quickly put into place in response to safety and privacy considerations. Referrals from Social Services and other providers dropped below pre-covid estimated levels and there have been ongoing challenges promoting the study and recruiting participants by virtual means only during the pandemic. Although trial recruitment continued, the intervention was initially paused for 4 months during the first UK-wide lockdown in 2020 but continued during the subsequent English and Welsh lockdowns. The initial intervention pause has extended the duration of involvement for some participants, and retention of male recruits during this time has been lower than expected. Despite these challenges, the REPROVIDE study has retained many participants and it is hoped the trial will still be able to provide valuable insight not only to the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of DAPPs, but be able to reflect on domestic abuse within a pandemic. The REPROVIDE team has adjusted its recruitment timetable, embarked on a social media recruitment strategy, and NIHR has recently agreed an extension to the project until the end of December 2023. The REPROVIDE study was awarded Urgent Public Health Research priority status by the NIHR during the pandemic.

This trial forms part of an NIHR Programme grant called Reaching Everyone: Programme of Research on Violence in Diverse Domestic Environments (REPROVIDE) and builds on previous work undertaken as part of the PROVIDE Programme (see <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/population-health-sciences/projects/provide/>).

If you have any enquiries about REPROVIDE, please contact us at reproide-programme@bristol.ac.uk.

Freysteinsdóttir, Freydís Jóna (in press). Bein og óbein fórnarlömb kvenmorða [Direct and indirect victims of femicide]. *Tímarit félagsráðgjafa*,

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to examine femicide cases in Iceland, which included mothers who had suffered from violence leading to their death. The goal was to figure out what kind of context and factors exist in such cases in order to try to prevent them in the future. Cases were explored during a thirty-five year period. A content analysis was used and both quantitative and qualitative methods in order to analyse verdicts and written web media about the cases. The results showed that eight mothers who had a total of fourteen children 20 years of age or younger, were killed in Iceland during this time-period. The murder method seemed to be related to the social context of the murders. In about half of the cases, the children were present and witnessed the violence in some way. The children lost their mother and some of them their father as well to prison, psychiatric hospital ward or death. In half of the cases a child and/or children were present when their mothers were killed. These children witnessed the murder in some way. Since these events are extremely traumatic for the involved children and other relatives, it is important for social- and health professionals to screen for violence and to be aware of warning signs to such incidents in order to prevent them.

Keywords: mothers, femicide, children, violence, witnessing violence.

Freysteinsdóttir, F.J. (2018). Femicide in a small nordic welfare society: The case of Iceland. *Journal of Comparative Social Work*, 13(1), 35-56. doi: 10.31265/jcsw.v13i1.158:

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to examine femicide cases in Iceland, which is a small Nordic welfare society. Cases of femicide were explored during a 30-year time period from 1986-2015. Femicide was defined as the murder of a woman by a partner, former partner or related to passion. Verdicts and news of the incidents were analysed. Verdicts were found using the search machine Fons Juries, run by a private legal company, which collected all verdicts from the Supreme Court from 1920, and all verdicts from the district courts existing in electric form. News that included murders of women was collected from websites of the main newspapers in Iceland. Eleven women were killed during this time period according to the definition used in this study. Most of the incidents happened in the home of the perpetrator, victim or both. Nearly all of them took place during the night or in the evening during weekends, with more incidents occurring during cold and dark months than brighter and warmer months. All of them took place in the capital city or in that area. Strangulation was the most common murder method, followed by stabbing the woman with a knife. Only one woman was shot, and that perpetrator was the only one

who killed himself afterward. The mean age of the perpetrators was 29. Most of them had a low level of education or their education was unknown, and had a low paying job. Two-thirds of them were under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs when the incident happened and the majority had a psychiatric problem, mainly personality disorders or symptoms of such disorders, such as antisocial personality disorder. Even though it is rare, femicide incidents do exist in a small Nordic welfare society such as Iceland, despite an extensive welfare policy and gender equality.

Keywords:

femicide, intimate partner homicide, risk factors, ecological model, Nordic country, social work



Project Summary

ADVANCE is a behaviour change programme for adult men in substance use treatment who use or have used abusive and violent behaviour towards their female partners and want to improve their relationships.¹ Men attend on a voluntary basis.

The aims of the ADVANCE programme

The aims of the programme are to:

1. Promote respectful egalitarian behaviours;
2. Promote alternatives to violent, aggressive and abusive behaviour; and
3. Reduce substance use related intimate partner abuse.

What is the ADVANCE programme?

The ADVANCE intervention was developed based on primary and secondary evidence.²⁻⁴

The evidence-informed ADVANCE programme focuses on developing participants' strengths and developing healthy, non-abusive relationships. The programme employs two main models to enable behaviour change 1) personal goal setting, to work with individual SMART ((Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) goals to build genuine motivation to facilitate change and 2) self-regulation which refers to the ability to manage disruptive emotions and impulses. In the ADVANCE programme, participants learn to build and practice self-regulation skills to manage their thoughts, feelings and behaviours.

ADVANCE is an integrated intervention addressing both abusive behaviours and substance use and enhancing reflective motivation, by identifying the functions of aggression, violence, and control within relationships and challenges sexist and patriarchal beliefs and attitudes. Each session aims to increase participants' capabilities to recognise their behaviours and attitudes that need to change, whilst providing opportunity to learn skills for change. The ADVANCE programme addresses substance use related intimate partner abuse in a manner that includes intoxicated abuse, but also recognises the role of acquisition, craving, withdrawal, and lifestyle in each session.²⁻⁴ ADVANCE identifies the risks for intimate partner abuse, including poor emotion regulation, poor stress-coping, and substance use, through psychoeducation, self-regulation, and goal-setting, using evidence based approaches including motivational enhancement, cognitive behavioural therapy, emotional recognition and regulation and distress tolerance. Contingency management is employed to encourage attendance at the group intervention. As an incentive to achieve pro-social SMART goals (e.g. going to the cinema with their children, gym attendance etc), men received a £5 voucher (for a chosen shop/service) for each of the 12 sessions attended - up to a total of £60.

The ADVANCE programme is delivered by two trained substance use workers (preferably one man and one woman) who have completed a 3-day training, including risk assessment and effective delivery of ADVANCE. Integrated support services are offered to their current or ex-partners. Case management meetings between substance use treatment and women's support services manage risk and

safeguarding between services involved supported by integrated safety work for victim/survivors, and risk and safety support and integrity support for the professionals.

The ADVANCE group programme

The ADVANCE 16-week manualised programme was originally delivered (face-to-face) to groups of men in substance use treatment services and comprised of up to four (two compulsory) sessions with a substance use recovery worker to set goals, develop a personal safety plan and enhance motivation and readiness to take part. This was followed by 12 weekly x 2-hour group sessions. Group participants were given out-of-session practice exercises and weekly phone check-ins with recovery workers or programme facilitators to address any problems arising during the intervention.

Evidence of outcomes

We conducted a feasibility trial comparing the ADVANCE group programme (in-person delivery) + substance use treatment as usual (TAU) to TAU among 104 men in substance use treatment in the England.^{6,7} There was a reduction in intimate partner abuse (measured by the Revised Abusive Behaviour Inventory), controlling behaviours (measured by the Controlling Behaviours Scale), depressive symptoms (measured by the PHQ-9) and anxiety symptoms (measured by the GAD-7) for men in the ADVANCE intervention group compared to those who received TAU only.⁶

Therapeutic alliance and session satisfaction were rated highly by men who attended the group.

Interviews and focus groups were conducted with men and staff who delivered the groups.⁷

“I think it’s a great programme... With regard to our very last words, we did exactly what it said in the manual and we let everybody go around the table and say two last words. One of them, his words were ‘life changing’. For me, that says it all”

Men who attended the group said:

*“[The ADVANCE programme] was really helpful, it was really interesting. When I saw some of the movie, **I could see exactly what I was doing, I could see myself there.** I see men using and then most of us, we act the same way just to get what we need.”*

*“**I’ve been using the techniques and the information I’ve learnt here and put it into practice. I’m much calmer. It’s not just me: my kids have noticed, and my wife has noticed.**”*

The ADVANCE digital programme

An efficacy trial of the ADVANCE group programme compared to substance use treatment was planned but stopped due to Covid-19 restriction. The team iteratively adapted the ADVANCE group programme for technology enabled (remote digital) delivery with input from people with lived experience and service providers. The content and model of the ADVANCE programme has not changed, but instead of in-person group delivery, the ADVANCE digital programme is delivered remotely using video, telephone and website sessions. The ADVANCE digital 14-week programme comprises one individual phone or video session with a facilitator to set goals and enhance motivation, a video group to prepare for the groups, six fortnightly video group sessions delivered by two trained facilitators, 12 weekly self-completed digital practice website sessions followed by 12 individual telephone or video call coaching sessions. Men will be provided with a tablet and data, which are contingent on taking part.

Integrated support services are offered to current or ex-partners and targeted safety messages are provided for (ex)partners. Partners will be provided with a smartphone and data.

Next steps

We are evaluating the feasibility of delivering the ADVANCE digital programme to 60 men in substance use treatment in Scotland, England and Wales. This will allow delivery during coronavirus restrictions and ensure wider reach and sustainability post-pandemic.

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More information about the project can be found here: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/advance>

12th May 2021

Information from Social Insight, Switzerland: Daniela Gloor and Hanna Meier, sociologists

Dear colleagues

We inform you about two projects, one recently finalised about police data (a) and the other still ongoing until the end of 2021 on internet chat consultation (b).

a) Analyses of Specialised Police Reports Concerning «Domestic Violence Calls»

We analysed 1'000 reports, which is half of all police cases concerning domestic violence in the year 2019 in the Canton of Aargau in Switzerland (690'000 inhabitants). The police has implemented a special form for dv-cases in 2015. This form is not intended for legal or police proceedings, its task is to inform a specialised support service in the Canton regardless whether the incident has legal relevance or not. The specialised NGO-service then has to contact victims and perpetrators within three days to give support to both sides. So, intervention may take place in an early stage of dv-situations and not depend on legal interventions. Two glimpses into the results (not yet published):

- Analyses show three main types of dv-cases that become known to the police: situational couple violence (52,2 %; thereof 75,7 % male perpetrators), systematic partner violence and coercive control (18,0 %; thereof 97,3 % male perpetrators), violence between parents and children (20,9 %; thereof 72,4 % male perpetrators). Further four small groups could be identified: violence of/against older persons (0,8 %), dating violence among young persons (0,9 %), violence in the context of asylum (3,2 %) and violence within couples with multiple problems (4,0 %); the proportion of male perpetrators within these four small groups varies from two thirds to a hundred percent.
- A second result is the finding – which comes out of our coding process of the police forms – that the working basis (the police form) proves to be difficult/ambiguous to fill in. The amount of inconsistent and incorrect data is astonishingly high. The proceeding, that information goes in an early stage to a support service, is to be evaluated as positive, yet the chosen implementation clearly has to be revised to really prove helpful and supportive.

b) Evaluation on Internet Chat Counselling for Young People Experiencing Violence

In Zurich, Switzerland, a consultation center for victims of crimes, is implementing the new possibility of chat consultations in order to reach out better for young victims. Our evaluation comprises: monitoring, interviews with service providers, user survey, expert interviews, and analyses of project documents and PR-activity. Results are to be expected at the end of 2021.

Hope to seeing you soon, Daniela and Hanna

Digital Gender and Sexual Violence and Abuse

Building on our earlier separate research, on: violence against women, IPV, online abuse against feminists, violence in and around organisations, ICTs and sexuality, online communities, information society, and strategies of resistance to violence, in recent years we have been researching various forms of digital gender and sexual violence and abuse, including image-based sexual abuse. Some of this work has concerned non-consensual sharing of sexual images and their associated written texts, and more recently upskirting and similar invasive violence and abuses. The collaborative work brings together broad theoretical and conceptual analyses, detailed empirical work, and contributions to policy and practice development, for example, in formal submissions on law reform and summary papers for practitioners. We are currently working on a book examining the range of digital gender and sexual violations.

Collaborators: Matthew Hall (British University in Egypt; University of Derby, UK); Jeff Hearn (Hanken School of Economics, Finland; University of Huddersfield, UK; Örebro University, Sweden); Ruth Lewis (Northumbria University, UK)

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VRVR: Regimes of Violence: Theorising and Explaining Variations in the Production of Violence in Welfare State Regimes (2018-2021)

The purpose of this Swedish Research Council (VR) funded project is to contribute to the reduction of violence in society by developing theory and better explanations of the production of violence in contemporary EU. It investigates the extent to which there are different violence regimes, comparable to welfare regimes, and generates a complex post-disciplinary theory of violence. It draws on theory and data from political science, sociology, gender studies and criminology and utilises existing EU policy, administrative and survey data in new and innovative ways. Initially, it focuses on three ideal welfare state regimes: France, Sweden and the UK.

Drawing on theory and already existing data from political science, sociology, gender studies and criminology, the project develops a new framework of violence - understood as a system - to explain variations between states in the institutionalisation and production of violence. It utilises already existing policy data, administrative data and survey data from the EU member states in new and innovative ways, and initially focuses on three ideal welfare state regimes: France, Sweden and the UK. The hypothesis is that the welfare state regime typology, as developed by Esping-Andersen (1990), and taken further by feminist research (Lewis 1992), does not translate into a violence typology, that is: when violence is introduced as a variable in mainstream social science research, the results change and new conclusions have to be drawn.

The purpose is to contribute to the reduction of violence in society by generating better explanations of the production of multiple forms of violence in contemporary EU. The aims are to:

- a) investigate the extent to which there are different and distinguishable regimes of violence;
- b) explain variations in the institutionalisation and production of violence in each distinguishable regime and;
- c) generate a complex yet comprehensive theory, a post-disciplinary theory of violence.

The project brings together research from multiple disciplines to empirically and theoretically examine if and how the institutionalisation and production of violence in a given territory co-vary as to constitute a regime of violence. It tests the interconnectedness of multiple forms of violence. It seeks conclusions to explain variations in violence and policy recommendations for how to reduce the levels of violence, its consequences and its costs.

Project team: PI: Sofia Strid (PI), Dag Balkmar, Jeff Hearn, Zara Saeidzadeh (all Örebro University, Sweden), Anne Laure Humbert (Oxford Brookes University, UK).

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Narrative identity of women who grew up with violence: Fighting for emotional independence and non-violent relations all their life

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The research project addresses the question of developments and dynamics in reproductive biographies of women (with a specific interest in unintended and unwanted pregnancies) with an history of violence exerted by their own parents in childhood. Main focus is the subjective perspective of women, looking back on the pathway of their life and on the relations with those near to them, starting with the relation to their parents and siblings, followed by relations to partners and last, but not least to children – looking back in anger or despair, proudly or deeply wounded and trying to find an explanation for what happened. Listening to these voices we learned: it is extremely difficult to leave these violent parents and the experiences of violence behind - both in a psychological sense as detachment and in a social sense - and to gain emotional independence. But gaining emotional independence as daughters seems to be the only way to desist from recurrent violent relations.

Standardized and qualitative data are provided by the survey “frauen leben 3” (SoFFI F., funded: Fed. Centre of Health Education). Unlike other studies the survey is representative and population based and participation did not require any identification as a victim of violence. The topics of the study “frauen leben 3” was on family planning in the life course, that is: on contraception, intimate relationship, desire to have a child, pregnancies, abortion and motherhood etc. The standardized questionnaire included two questions on violence in childhood for n=9.500 women as a risk factor of unintended pregnancy (9% reported such violence). Women who ever had an unintended pregnancy were asked to participate in an additional qualitative study. n=117 qualitative narrative interviews were conducted by asking the interviewee to tell the story of her life, focusing on family, intimate and generation relations. 24 interviewed women decided on their own that neglect, maltreatment and violence in childhood was as much a part of their lives that they started their story mentioning such experiences. Special procedures of qualitative analysis – focusing on linguistic constructions of agency and relations – were established to reconstruct loss and regain of agency in the life course and the specific quality of relational experiences of power and dominance.

The research can share some evidence on a higher risk of domestic violence and unintended pregnancy. But the statistical analyses shows no significant differences between women with and without a history of maltreatment in childhood concerning some aspects of reproductive behavior (i.e. desire to have children, starting intimate relationship in general, contraception etc.). And, more important: Only to focus on risks and imminent dangers of repeated violence is not compatible with the way these women perceive themselves. Our main interest was to understand more about living with these experiences by listening to the voices telling a story of a lifelong fight in the battlefield of close, intimate, romantic and/or familiar relations. The women taught us, to think about violence not as an act or an action with a specific inherent quality as for instance somebody is hurt by it. We learned about the importance to see violence as a relational experience. Violence is always experienced as a personal relation between offender(s) and victim and it might appear again as a pattern in new relations or other patterns might be established and lead to new experiences.

Up to now we could identify three main patterns of narrative identity: „the strong fighting rebell“, „women struggling with and suffering from ambivalence/pain all her life“ and „lost and found: building an own family by perpetuating early responsibility for siblings in a broken home“. Focal concerns which are related to childhood violence (i.e. powerlessness, gendered discrimination, desire to get what was deprived in childhood: respect, security, happiness, joy, self-esteem etc.) return as salient features in later romantic relationships. Hope to change things (i.e. relations) for better and illusions about the possibility to achieve this accompany the attempts to start new relations. New relations in general might be helpful to detached from former relations. Starting a relationship might be imagined as support and rescue to find a way out of the family of origin – a hope that might lead to violence and dependency as well as to respect, growth and a new allowance to be free. To raise children was seen as a chance to change these patterns and to establish better relations.

This reconstruction of the perspective of women who suffered childhood abuse should open a way for understanding the shapes of their family and romantic relations in adulthood as attempts to turn things for better and to overcome the childhood experiences. Aim of the study is, in some words of Bob Dylan, to find an answer not only “blowing in the wind” to the question: “How many years can some women exist before they're allowed to be free?” We hope to do justice to the emotional strength of these women who suffered violence in their childhood without neglecting their difficulties, recognizing them as fighters, sometimes successful, sometimes confronted with a backlash, and accepting their ambivalences. And, by the way, we want to draw conclusions how to support their fight and allow them to be free and emotionally independent as early as possible.

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"Protection Processes against Sexual Assault: Participatory Prevention in the Social Environment of Vulnerable Adolescents"

Helfferrich, Doll & Kavemann

The research project "Protection Processes against Sexual Assault: Participatory Prevention in the Social Environment of Vulnerable Adolescents" (SP:PAS) was carried out from 4.2018 to 2.2021 as part of a cooperation between the Social Science Research Institute on Gender Issues at FIVE e.V. Freiburg (SoFFI F.) and the German Youth Institute (DJI, founded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)). The project is already the second cooperation project between SoFFI F. and the DJI that was carried out under this funding (Kavemann, Helfferrich, Kindler & Nagel, 2018). Building on these findings, the follow-up project SP:PAS, reported here, developed a prevention approach to support protection processes in adolescent peer groups. The basis is scientifically generated findings from research with adolescents:

- 23 interviews with 13 girls and ten boys aged between 14 and 20. They were asked to describe situations of sexual assault they had experienced themselves, observed in others or reported by others. This resulted in a total of 76 stories of sexual assault in different contexts: parties, gatherings of friends, school, social media and peer dating.
- 10 group discussions with 50 young people (30 girls and 20 boys aged between 12 and 25). Discussions were held in groups of girls, boys, and mixed-gender groups. The focus was on dynamics and processes of sexual assault in party, anonymous public, and social media contexts and on the possibilities and difficulties of intervening when one notices assault. In all ten discussions, young people told you about their own experiences or incidents they had heard about. A total of 60 such episodes could be evaluated, in which hurdles and dilemmas of intervention were negotiated in the groups.
- A theater pedagogical workshop on the topic of sexual assault and its prevention with the young people of a residential group of an inpatient youth welfare facility (seven girls and one boy).

The results of the study refer on the one hand to the dynamics of sexual assault among adolescents in different contexts (e.g. party, couple relationship, school (Helfferrich, Doll & Kavemann, 2019) and on the other hand to the possibilities and obstacles for intervention by third parties, the so-called bystanders.

In the analysis, an analytical framework was developed that makes power relations among adolescents and the connection with sexual assault visible. Sexual assaults among adolescents were narrated in interviews and group discussions as a recurring process in which at least one performing position (perpetrator) and one affected position (victim) occur. These were "only in exceptions narratives of powerful perpetrators and powerless victims" (Helfferrich, Doll, Feldmann & Kavemann, 2021, S. 86). From the point of view of the narrators, the harassed person is always also a (verbally) acting person. The scene first follows the paradigm of the usual communicative negotiation: theoretically, the No should be enough to end the situation. But the no does not have the desired effect and the assaulted person wants to enforce the interpretation that lack of consent is irrelevant or can be ignored. The harassed person defends him/herself (verbally or physically), but the assaulted person does not allow him/herself to be repulsed and persistently continues the assault.

→ Significant power dimensions were identified:

- Power to act: Who has what power for action, when and why, even against the will of others?
- Power of interpretation: Which interpretation of an event prevails? Fun or violence or "nothing"?

- Organizational power: Who can organize support or protective intervention, and how?

The importance of bystanders in cases of sexual assault became clear in the research project. Especially when victims cannot defend themselves against assaulters on their own, they depend on the practical support of third parties.

The analysis of the group discussions shows that intervention is only possible under certain conditions. Whether or not intervention is significant depends centrally on one question:

- What is defined in the group as a clear problem, or clear problematic sexual assault?

Assaults in which the victims had made it clear that the perpetrator had acted against their will were described as unambiguous. This mainly involved physical assaults. In the case of sexual insults or sexual assaults involving digital media, discussions about ways to intervene were less frequent. Recognizing an assault as such can therefore already be a hurdle for bystanders.

When possible intervention is discussed, it is done in the context of considerations. Considerations refer to hurdles and dilemmas in intervening.

- By hurdles, we mean situational difficulties that make intervention more difficult/impossible. This can start with the fact that a situation is not interpreted as an assault and intervention is therefore not considered. But also the fear of being harmed by an intervention can be a hurdle. Other hurdles may relate to the location of the assault. For example, parties may be perceived as confusing, or loud music or alcohol and drug consumption may make intervention difficult.
- Dilemmas refer to the problem of having to weigh up between two expected disadvantages, e.g.: If I do not intervene, the situation will worsen for the person affected ↔ If I intervene, this could have bad consequences for me, possibly the violence will then be directed against me.

Boys and girls sometimes discuss different hurdles and dilemmas. Girls more often assume that they are physically unable to intervene and fear becoming victims of sexual assault themselves. Boys are more likely to discuss physical intervention, but fear that they may be outmatched and hurt themselves. The context and form of the assault, or the actors in an assault, also play a role when thinking about hurdles and dilemmas.

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Project: After the Violence? Everyday Life and Family Relationships among Children and their Mothers at a Women's Refuge

Sofie Henze-Pedersen, VIVE – The Danish Center for Social Science Research

This PhD project investigated how children and their mothers experience and practice everyday life and family relationships, while staying at a refuge for abused women in Denmark. For years, the research field on violence in the intimate sphere has been dominated by quantitative studies exploring the prevalence and impact of violence in families. This dissertation, however, contributed to the minor qualitative research tradition on violence in the intimate sphere that focuses on the experiences of women and children.

Data were generated from eight months of ethnographic fieldwork at a refuge as well as interviews with children. Ethnography is rare in research on violence in the intimate sphere. However, the ethnographic approach has made it possible to generate 'thick descriptions' of life at a refuge, situating the experiences and practices of the children and their mothers in the context of everyday life at the refuge and exploring changes in these over time. This has contributed with knowledge on how everyday activities and family practices were shaped by the contexts in which they unfolded.

Four articles form the core of this dissertation. They build upon each other, the first investigating how childhood is constructed, experienced and practised in everyday life at the refuge, before the following two articles zoom in on a specific aspect of everyday life, namely family life. Thus, the second article explores how family is 'done' by mothers and children in the semi-public setting of the refuge, while the third article investigates how the children experience and practise parental relationships after moving to the refuge. Finally, the fourth article takes up one of the findings from the third article, which identifies how the invisible presence of violence can influence the relationship between mother and child, and asks how violence can continue to be part of the mothers' everyday lives despite the absence of their violent partners.

The dissertation contributes with new empirical insights on families at a refuge. It shows that the experience of staying at a refuge cannot be limited to a focus on the refuge itself. The move entails a disruption of everyday life and family relationships that can influence experiences and practices. This happens because children and mothers have to navigate a new institutional and shared setting while going through a process of family change. This can lead to the creation of new family practices and family reconfigurations, while past acts of violence can continue to command a presence that can influence everyday life and family relationships at the refuge. Furthermore, the dissertation provides new empirical knowledge on children at refuges especially, contributing to the sparse body of research that focuses on children at refuges and their actions in the context of violence specifically. The analyses illuminate how children employed various strategies to navigate and take control of the highly adult-controlled setting of the refuge. Even though children have gained a stronger position at refuges as service users in their own right, a refuge is still in essence 'adult territory', which can influence the ways in which children appropriate and experience the setting. The dissertation also shows how children practised (contested) relationships and created their own ways of 'doing' family in challenging circumstances, but it also illustrates their dependence on adults in understanding and navigating their own and the family's situation during a time of disruption, uncertainty and family change.

The dissertation highlights that children are social actors who are active participants in the construction of their own life worlds, which happens through an interplay with others around them. During life at the refuge, the children and their mothers engaged in various ways of 'doing' family and negotiated (contested) family relationships – both in relation to each other and under the influence of the physical, relational and cultural contexts in which they unfolded. This provided different opportunities and limitations for 'doing' family, emphasising the importance of going beyond the family and situating family practices in wider contexts. Finally, the dissertation shows how these daily activities and family practices took place against the backdrop of violence. Despite moving to a setting where the violent partner and father had been removed from the

context of everyday life, past acts of violence could continue to weave themselves into life at the refuge. This illustrates how violence can become extended in time, calling for an approach that conceptualises violence as a temporal phenomenon that becomes part of the context of everyday life rather than a situational phenomenon that interrupts everyday life.

Three of the four articles have been published. I include their reference below. For the full dissertation or other questions, you are welcome to contact me: shp@vive.dk

- Henze-Pedersen, S. (2021). 'Because I love him': Children's relationships to their parents in the context of intimate partner violence. *Childhood* 28(2), 231-244. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0907568220984835>
- Henze-Pedersen, S. (2021). Children out of place? Negotiating children's places from the margins. *Current Sociology*, OnlineFirst. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011392121996427>
- Henze-Pedersen, S. (2021). The Ghost of Violence: The Lived Experience of Violence after the Act. *Violence Against Women*, OnlineFirst. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801221994910>

Evaluation of the Drive Project – A Three-year Pilot to Address High-risk, High-harm Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse (University of Bristol)

This research evaluated the Drive Project pilot between April 2016 and October 2019. The Drive Project responds to high harm, high risk perpetrators of domestic abuse through a model of intensive 1-2-1 case management and a co-ordinated multi-agency response using a combination of risk management and disruption; support with issues that otherwise creating barriers to the change process; and behaviour change interventions. The research evaluated the impact of ten to twelve months of intervention to 506 perpetrators who were randomly selected for allocation to the Drive intervention and whether change was sustained during the twelve months after they completed Drive, in comparison to a control group of high-risk, high-harm perpetrators.

Findings were generated from a randomised control trial and draw on qualitative and quantitative data from a range of sources including monitoring data; interviews with practitioners, Drive service users and associated victims-survivors; case note analysis; IDVA outcomes data; police and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) data. The range of data allowed for establishing findings and enabling input from a range of perspectives including victim-survivors, professionals including Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) and police and service users.

The study found the Drive perpetrator intervention is reducing the use of abusive behaviours; with the use of high-risk physical abuse reduced by 82%, high-risk sexual abuse reduced by 88%, harassment and stalking behaviours reduced by 75%, and jealous and controlling behaviours reduced by 73%. The data shows that the Drive intervention is increasing safety for victims and children, doing so to a greater degree than in cases where only support to the victim is being provided and that there is a more sustainable impact on safety when Drive is present.

MARAC data shows that Drive helped to reduce high-risk perpetration including by serial and repeat perpetrators, and this was sustained for a year after the case was closed. Drive service users appeared at MARAC less often than perpetrators in the control group, and serial perpetrators who were allocated to Drive appeared at MARAC less often than serial perpetrators in the control group. Both differences were statistically significant.

Police data for a matched sample in Year 2 of the pilot showed perpetration of DVA offending had reduced by 30% for Drive service users recorded in the 6 months after the intervention compared to 6 months before, where the control group were reported as perpetrating DVA at the same level. In Year 3, the Drive cohort from one site was compared to a randomly selected group of control perpetrators and it was found that Drive service users, including those identified to be repeat offenders showed a reduction in the number of perpetrators with DVA related police incidents recorded in the 6 months after the intervention compared to 6 months before than the control group.

Whilst the greatest impact occurred in case where direct face-to-face work took place with the perpetrator, case note analysis shows significant risk reductions were achieved even without making direct contact with the service user. In these cases where it was either unsafe to make direct contact, or where the perpetrator did not engage, risk reduction was achieved by working with the victim-survivor and through multi-agency disruption activity focusing on preventing abuse.

Read more key findings from the University of Bristol's Year 3 Executive Summary [here](#).

Education and Raising Awareness in Schools to Prevent and Encounter Gender-Based Violence. Developing and implementing a training programme for teachers and other professionals (EraseGBV)

Coordinator: **Tampere University**, Finland

Partners: **Conexus** Psychosocial Treatment, Training and Research NGO, Spain;

Blanquerna, Ramón Llull University, Spain; **University of Zagreb**, Croatia; **City of Jyväskylä**, Finland; Centre for Education, Counselling and Research, **CESI**, Croatia

Duration 1.9.2019-31.12.2021

A significant number of children and adolescents encounter violence and abuse, and are subjected to physical, emotional and sexual gender-based violence (GBV) as victim, witness or bystander. Yet different forms of violence among children and youth have been invisible in public policy, legislation and the education system. Although teachers and other professionals at school are in a key position in awareness raising and behavioural change as well as in the recognition of and early intervention in violence, abuse and harassment among their students, previous research suggests that they often lack the knowledge and skills to address the problems of gendered power and violence. This lack is largely due to limited training to address forms of violence and abuse.

Education and Raising Awareness in Schools to Prevent and Encounter Gender-Based Violence (EraseGBV) is a multidisciplinary research project with partners from three European countries; Finland, Spain and Croatia. The project investigates institutional and affective practices of encountering GBV in schools. It answers the needs for the training of teachers, teacher students and other school professionals by (1) developing a needs-adapted, web-based training programme, increasing awareness and building the capability to prevent and encounter forms of GBV at school; and (2) training teachers, teacher students and other professionals at school to recognize and encounter children and youth exposed to GBV, abuse and harassment by providing support and guidance to further services, and reporting abuse and violence to authorities.

The project applies a mixed methods data collection and analysis for assessing the training needs of school professionals. The measures used in the evaluation consisted of a focus group interviews and a survey, which targeted three groups: students, teachers and other professionals at school (including counsellors, psychologists, school nurses, pedagogues, special educators), and university teachers. Focus group interviews were conducted in each partner country, in each target group. The interviews were semi-structured and the outline was modified slightly to fit each target group. The interview outline covered participants' experiences of encountering GBV in the school context, challenges and possibilities of intervention, as well



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 REC Action Grant under grant agreement No 856816.

as needs for guidelines and education. These themes were further investigated in the survey which included questions on the themes participants would like to receive training on, their preparedness and interest in intervening GBV, as well as their experience of practices and procedures for intervention and directing victims and perpetrators of GBV incidents to services, among others. A tailored version of the survey was developed for each target group and it was carried out online.

The triangulated approach will enable a more comprehensive understanding of the outcomes of the project and of the processes that led to the outcomes. Given that the project includes three partner sites, one in Finland, one in Croatia and one in Spain, the data allows undertaking in-depth comparisons between the partner sites, learn from this comparison, and understand what is site-specific and what can be applied across the three sites. The training programme will be piloted and surveys conducted before and after the pilot will feed in to redesigning and finalizing the training programme for implementation.

The project is now at the piloting phase and implementation of the training programme as well as reporting on the research findings are expected in autumn 2021. The findings will be used in dissemination of the best practices both nationally and Europe-wide.

More information:

Project website: <https://projects.tuni.fi/erasegbv/>

Social media: <https://www.facebook.com/EraseGBV/>

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 REC Action Grant under grant agreement No 856816.

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Projects:

1.) Applied project at the Norwegian Embassy in Turkey ‘Self-technologies of Syrian Women living in Turkey’. Will be conducted within six months after being approved. The project was in the process of approval but has been canceled because of the pandemic and will be applied again. Amount of the project NOK 289.867.

2.) 10/2018 – 06/2019 ‘Syrian Women Empowerment Project’ (The creator, coordinator and applicant of the project financed by Norwegian Embassy in Turkey). Amount received and conducted for the project NOK 250.000.

The link to the project’s web page is www.swep.org.tr

Upcoming Publications:

- 1.) Koç, Güneş: A Study of Femicide in Turkey From 2010-2017 (publication on the pipeline 2nd Review at SageOpen <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/sageopen>)
- 2.) Koç, Güneş: Definition of Femicide in Turkey with Reference to Legal Discourses and Political Discourses of Feminist Movement, at Femicide-feminicide: genealogy, law, systemic violence Anthology (<https://cahiersdugendre.cnrs.fr/>) (2021-2022).
- 3.) Koç, Güneş: Female Murdering of the Male Intimate Partner as Legal and Political Discourses of Self defence in Turkey, In Chuang, S.; Moodley, R.; Gielen, U. P.; Akram-Pall, S. (2022): Asian Families in Canada and the United States. Implications for Mental Health and Well-Being, in Susan S. Chuang (edt.): Advances In Immigrant Family Research (accepted abstract).

Upcoming Conference Participations:

- 1.) Koç, Güneş: Citizenship contract of women as a political battle field in Turkey with focus on conservative backlash during the AKP governance and withdrawal of the Istanbul Convention, at the conference Women’s Suffrage and Democracy: Critique, Memory, Visions on 26/27 November 2021 at the University of Zurich.

- 2.) Koç, Güneş: The accusation movements of women in Turkey via social media: “I expose your violence not to injure one more woman” and “You shouldn’t be able to sleep while thinking when I’m going to be exposed” #MeToo <https://www.jyu.fi/> at the conference Interpersonal Violence Interventions - Social and Cultural Perspectives at the University of Jyväskylä (jyu.fi), 1st December 2020 and 31st January 2021.
- 3.) Koç, Güneş: Female Murdering of the male Intimate Partner as legal and political discourses of self defence in Turkey submitted and approved abstract at the conference ‘Men and Families: An International Interdisciplinary Approach’, at September 29 - 30, 2022, University of Guelph, Canada.



Violence against Women

On the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Denmark, Finland and Austria

The **Observatory for Sociopolitical Developments in Europe** has conducted a **major research project in 2019 and 2020 on the subject of violence against women**, specifically the implementation of the Istanbul Convention to protect and support women affected by violence.

Our resulting working paper provides **detailed insights in specialised support systems** in three European countries. In a comparative approach, we examine the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Denmark, Finland and Austria with regards to the implementation of Article 22 (specialist support services), 23 (shelters) and 25 (support for victims of sexual violence).

Due to the scope of the study, we split the contents into the following publications:

- Full version for Denmark, Finland and Austria:
Lange, Katrin / Molter, Sarah / Wittenius, Marie (2020): **Violence against Women. On the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Denmark, Finland and Austria.** Working Paper No. 21 of the Observatory for Sociopolitical Developments in Europe.
- **Executive summary**
- **Country-specific version for Denmark**
- **Country-specific version for Finland**
- **Country-specific version for Austria**

Main findings:

- In all three states, **fully differentiated, specialised and high-quality support systems** are in place for women affected by various forms of violence: In implementing their obligations in line with Articles 22, 23 and 25 of the Istanbul Convention, Denmark, Finland and Austria opt for **non-governmental, specialised support services**. These services are financed and in part regulated by public administration at national, regional and even municipal level.
- In comparison to the other forms of violence, **domestic violence** is covered best by the specialised support services (Article 22) in all three states. The strong focus of anti-violence policies in Denmark, Finland and Austria on domestic violence comes at the expense of **support services for other forms of violence** in terms of number, extent and regional distribution.

- These discrepancies can ultimately lead to unequal treatment of victims of different forms of violence. Moreover, these forms of violence often also affect **groups with special needs** that are at higher risk of discrimination, for example refugee or asylum-seeking women, migrant women or, by now, women and girls in the second migration generation.
- In Finland, the specialised support services are also available to **men as victims of violence**. In Denmark and Austria this is the case only to a limited extent. However, GREVIO (Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence) is strongly critical of this gender-neutral stance.
- In all three states, **shelters** (Article 23) are the central contact points for acute emergency situations, especially for domestic violence. In Finland, all shelters have been coordinated, financed and monitored by the state since 2015. Previously, responsibility for the provision of services was with local authorities, as is still the case in Denmark and Austria where shelters are mainly run by civil-society organisations. In all three states, most shelters are networked within umbrella organisations.
- With nine interlinked **sexual violence referral centres**, Denmark has the most comprehensive offer of contact points for medical-forensic acute aid to support victims of sexual violence (Article 25). In the other two states, there is no country-wide coverage of sexual violence referral centres. For both countries, however, plans for expanding the sexual violence referral centres have been announced.

Other publications on the subject by the Observatory:

- Lange, Katrin / Molter, Sarah: **New forms of violence and approaches to fight them in Europe**, Newsletter No. 2/2019.

We invite you to keep up with our latest research results on our [website](#).

Your team from the Observatory
Katrin Lange, Sarah Molter, Marie Wittenius

The **Observatory for Sociopolitical Developments in Europe** is a project of the Institute for Social Work and Social Education (ISS) based in Germany. It provides comparative analyses of sociopolitical developments across Europe. The project's aim is to promote Europe-wide exchange. The Observatory is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

Contact us at beobachtungsstelle@iss-ffm.de

Liversage, A. (2021). Abducting Children Abroad - Gender, Power and Transnational Mobility in Immigrant Family Conflicts. *Violence Against Women*, 1–19. DOI:10.1177/1077801221999431

Abstract

Utilizing life story interviews of immigrant women whose children were abducted by abusive (ex-) husbands, the article unpacks a three-part pattern of transnational mobility: first, husbands apply strategies of coercive control to dominate wives in Denmark; second, wives draw on Scandinavian “woman-friendly” state support to challenge men and seek divorce; and third, men try to regain control through abducting children to the Middle East, seeking to blackmail mothers into leaving Denmark and resubmitting themselves to male control. While some wives accede to their husband’s demands, others skillfully manage to “re-abduct” children back to Denmark, thereby belying the trope of the victimized immigrant woman.

Liversage, A. (2021). Having the Lower Hand — Investigating Interaction in the Life Course Narratives of Immigrant Women Exposed to Partner Abuse. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 1–23. DOI:10.1177/08862605211005137

Research has documented the considerable hardships immigrant women often face if they want to leave abusive relationships, but the cumulative impacts of such experiences have received insufficient scholarly attention. In response, this study investigates women’s difficulties leaving abusive relationships based on life story interviews with 35 immigrant women who experienced partner abuse. Almost all the women originated from “patriarchal belt” countries in, for example, the Middle East and all arrived in Denmark as adults. Using a model of gendered geographies of power, this study examines key interview passages in which the women use dramatized speech to tell about their younger selves’ interactions with significant others. These dramatized episodes of interactions emerge as crucial for the interviewees to communicate why they remained in abusive relationships for years and how most finally managed to leave their husbands. The narrated episodes reveal how the women’s frequent lack of success in various interactional situations can be attributed to women “having the lower hand”—holding disadvantaged positions in the familial, social, and national hierarchies of power. These hierarchies reinforce each other, for example, when insecure residency status limits immigrant women’s options to solicit help from Danish society. The analysis demonstrates that—in contrast to the stereotype of the abused immigrant woman as a passive victim—micro- and macro-level processes may work together to undermine immigrant women’s possibilities to act independently at important junctures in their lives. The results also stress the importance that frontline workers have sufficient understanding of immigrant women’s predicament and the ability to extend qualified and timely support. Such support can be crucial for abused immigrant women to become able to move away from their violent home environments.

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(Send me a mail, and I’ll return pdf-copies of the articles if anyone is interested ☺).

Nancy Lombard, Reader in Sociology and Social Policy, Glasgow Caledonian University
With **Dr Katy Proctor** and **Dr Nel Whiting** we are currently examining:

‘The Lived Experiences of Victims of Coercive Control, Stalking and Related Crimes, as they progress through the Criminal Justice System.

Aims and Objectives

The main aim of the research study is to explore the lived experiences of victims of stalking and/or coercive control as they navigate (or have previously navigated) their way through the criminal justice system. In doing so the objectives of the study are:

1. To utilise innovative, ethical, and safe ways to explore issues relating to the lived experiences of victims of stalking and coercive control as they interact with the criminal justice system.
2. Examine the experiences of the participants at each stage of the criminal justice system with particular focus on;
 - their experiences of empowerment and/or disempowerment.
 - whether they felt they had the ability to exercise control and agency or experienced a loss of control during proceedings.
 - their experience of empowerment/disempowerment and control/lack of control post criminal justice involvement including where possible, their experiences after conviction, sentencing and punishment of the perpetrator.
3. Analyse the role of the perpetrator and how their involvement in the process can further control or disempower the victim.
4. Design innovative methodologies that minimise any power imbalance between the researchers and the researched and maximise the control of the participants. We will enable these methods to be used in future research.
5. Use our findings to inform recommendations for best practice with regard to victim-centred policy and practice within and out with the criminal justice system.

The study began in March 2021 and we are currently piloting our survey which we hope to send out by the end of May.

As an extension to the study we have been asked to analyse the success of the new DASA (Domestic Abuse Scotland 2018) legislation through survey data.

We hope to share our findings with you in Copenhagen 2022.

If you would like to find out any more about the project, or our work please email me:

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Children's Exposure to Violence and Women's Use of Violence as Perceived by Men Who Experienced Abuse in the Intimate Relationship

A growing body of research has found a large number of men are victimized by their intimate partners (Costa et al., 2015; Lysova & Dim, 2020). Contrary to the notion of men as unlikely victims of severe violence, especially in the context of coercive control, men have been found to experience intimate terrorism at a greater scale than was previously argued (Lysova et al., 2019). Intimate partner violence (IPV) directed at men has been associated with considerable negative effects for men, including depression, serious injuries, physical health problems, suicidal thoughts, and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (Hines & Douglas, 2011). It is estimated that many abused men have children living with them in the abusive relationship (Douglas & Hines, 2016). However, most of these studies of children exposed to domestic violence were conducted on samples of battered women's children. Also, the research on women's use of violence as perceived by the abused men is very limited.

The data come from the international qualitative study of 41 male victims in four English-speaking countries (Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States). Twelve online focus groups were conducted across countries using a phenomenologically informed design. More about this study please see elsewhere (e.g., Lysova et al., 2020).

Objective 1: Given a limited research on children's exposure to domestic violence (CEDV) in the relationships where men are primary victims, we focused on fathers' perceptions of CEDV in the narratives of male victims of IPV in four English-speaking countries.

Childhood exposure to domestic violence (CEDV) (i.e., witnessing IPV and/or experiencing childhood physical abuse) is a widespread social problem with an estimated 16 - 25% of the youth in the USA affected by it (Finkelhor et al., 2015). Research has consistently found detrimental effects of exposure to IPV on children (Forke et al., 2018). We identified four main themes across the countries: *children as victims of abuse*; *effect of abuse on children*; *the men's attempts to help children*, and *men's own victimization* in the light of CEDV. The majority of the men reported that their children were subjected to different types of abuse, including neglect, witnessing the abuse of the father, physical and psychological abuse, and kidnapping. Effects of abuse on children varied from emotional suffering and estrangement to anger toward parents and turning against the father. Men's attempt to intervene in the abuse of children included directly protecting children from abuse and staying in abusive relationships to take care of children. Finally, the men's own victimization often took place in front of children. The men also reported the use of children to abuse them by their partners, parental alienation, and continuation of abuse against the men after separation. These findings call for developing more gender-inclusive and male-friendly policies and programs for abused men and their children. (These results were presented at the *Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma 18th Hawai'i International Virtual Summit* and are available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.32159.89766>)

Objective 2: We examined the perceptions of and explanations for women's use of violence as reported by men who experienced this abuse.

Four themes were identified across the countries: *extent of abuse* (e.g., minor to severe physical abuse, psychological control), *denying abuse* (e.g., "I didn't call it abuse", never tried to "label anything", "a whole total sense of confusion"), *normalizing and excusing abuse* (e.g., abuse as normal; abuse due to her mental illness, difficult childhood; self-blame ("I thought it was me"); and downplaying harm); and *identifying abuse* (i.e., a slow realization of ongoing abuse). We found that, despite severe abusive experiences, most of the men denied calling what happened to them abuse and normalized or excused the woman's violence. It is important to further examine unilateral women's abuse not perpetrated in self-defence. The abuse victims should learn to identify red flags and seek help earlier in order to prevent violence escalation that may potentially save lives of men, women, and children.

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Please contact Dr. Alexandra Lysova at alysova@sfu.ca if you have any questions.

Evolution of intimate partner violence in France since years 2000

Project leader: Magali Mazuy, INED

This project aims to contribute to the knowledge on Intimate Partner Violence and to the 'debate' on comparison of women and men declarations in quantitative surveys. The question of the emotional and marital pathways of women, post-marital violence, will also be addressed. One of the asymmetries between men and women will also be explored, that which relates to the intimate dimension of violence suffered by women: feeling of shame and guilt, fear, disturbed sexuality, recourse to abortion for women declaring IPV. Femicidal domestic violence (murders, attempted murders, suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts) will be analyzed in more detail. Other work will be carried out on related subjects that are not addressed in statistical surveys, such as research on male perpetrators of violence (life course, judicial support, reports of sentencing, representations held by on male perpetrators and on care).

The project is coordinated at INED with the participation of colleagues from the universities of Paris, Lyon2, Strasbourg and Toulouse 2.

The importance of organizational culture for the risk of sexual violence against children and adolescents in residential care and boarding schools

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The research project “Auf-Wirkung” is an interdisciplinary research association that includes five projects with different focuses. The research presented here was carried out by the Social Science Research Institute on Gender Issues (SoFFI F. / FIVE e.V.) and focused on organizational cultures of institutions where children and adolescents lived. The overall objective of the project is to learn from the past and from current results as well as to contribute to protections for children and youth in institutional care in the future. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, it started in March 2018 and goes on until June 2021.

The analysed data consists of 25 transcripts of private sessions with victims/survivors of sexual abuse in childhood and youth. They were conducted by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in Germany (<https://www.aufarbeitungskommission.de/english/>). This Inquiry was appointed in 2016 by the German Parliament to investigate all forms of child sexual abuse in Germany. For that, private sessions are conducted by the commissioners and hearing experts, where victims/survivors can tell their stories in a confidential setting.

25 transcripts of sessions with adults who grew up in institutional care and experienced sexual abuse there were analysed: ten reports from children’s homes, eight of which were explicitly denominational, as well as five from denominational boarding schools in the FRG, two from GDR children's homes and four from GDR youth work courts, three from psychiatric institutions and one from a boarding school for young people with physical disabilities). The victims/survivors - 12 women and 13 men - were mostly over 40 years old at the time of the session, the oldest over 70. The perpetrators were priests, caretakers, nuns, heads of the institutions and peers. The reports of sexualized violence that were analysed were predominantly from the 1950s and 1960s.

The data was analysed qualitatively by content analysis (Mayring 2015), both structuring and type-forming, based on the further methodological development of Kuckartz (2018, 2019). Categories were formed from the existing text passages, which were inductively developed from the material, adapted, and revised several times.

Physical and psychological violence against children and adolescents was reported in all transcripts. It was accepted within the framework of the educational norms that applied at the time. In addition, children and adolescents experienced sexual violence in all these institutions.

We took a closer look at the risks that were reported in the sessions and focused on the following research question: *What types of risk and what level of risk existed for the children and adolescents in these institutions? And how are they connected to the organizational culture of the institutions?*

Organizational culture is conceptualized here in terms of Schein’s model (1985) as the emergence of collective value patterns within an institution.

The study did not analyse organizations, but the testimonials of victims/survivors. They were analysed to determine the extent to which they contained descriptions of life in the institution that allowed conclusions to be drawn about the interaction between vulnerability/risks and organizational culture. We identified *four dimensions of vulnerability/risks*: 1. visibility of sexual

violence, 2. awareness of the sexual violence among responsible adults in the institution, 3. ignoring or denial of sexual violence by those in charge and 4. violence among peers in the institution.

The more pronounced the respective dimension was part of the organizational culture and the more risk came together from several dimensions, the stronger was the lack of rights and protection of children and adolescents in the institution. Using these four dimensions, *three types of institutions* were defined in which the children and adolescents were exposed to different levels of risk and in which sexual violence was part of the organizational culture to varying degrees.

Type A includes reports in which a very high level of risk was evident, and sexual violence was clearly part of the organizational culture. There was a complete lack of protection for children and adolescents. Violence was omnipresent and anchored in the organizational culture as well as the pedagogical concept of the institution. A large number of children and adolescents were affected by sexual violence. Strategies to conceal sexual violence were not necessary for perpetrators.

Type B consists of reports from institutions in which sexual violence was permitted by those in charge and formed a kind of subculture in the institutions. It was not anchored in the organizational culture in the same way as in type A, but it was permitted and not sanctioned. To avoid having to intervene, the violence was covered up and denied by adults who were responsible for the children and adolescents. Perpetrators abused a considerable number of boys and girls.

Type C depicts a lesser level of risk. Physical violence was part of the organizational culture, but sexual violence was considered forbidden. In comparison to type A and B, it was concealed by perpetrators. Nevertheless, the organizational culture did not sufficiently protect children and adolescents from sexual violence. They hardly experienced any support. In the transcripts only a small number of victims/survivors are mentioned. Children and adolescents suspected that others were also being abused but did not know this for sure.

This view of the past, of extreme situations and descriptions, shows that organizational culture must be considered for the development of protection for children and adolescents in institutions today. To create appropriate concepts, time and comprehensive processes of organizational development and management responsibility are necessary. This requires the inclusion of all four dimensions that were identified.

Publications

Nagel, Bianca; Kavemann, Barbara (forthcoming): Dimensionen der Gefährdung: Erfahrungsberichte Betroffener über sexualisierte Gewalt in Heimen und Internaten. In: Schäfer, Dorothee; Behnisch, Michael (Hrsg.): Professionelle Nähe in der Heimerziehung. Walhalla-Verlag: Regensburg.

Nagel, Bianca; Kavemann, Barbara; Pham, Stefanie; Helfferich, Cornelia (2021): Räume und Organisationskultur in stationären pädagogischen Einrichtungen: ihre Bedeutung für sexualisierte Gewalt gegen Kinder und Jugendliche. In: Trauma & Gewalt. 15(1), S. 64-77.

<https://doi.org/10.21706/tg-15-1-64>

Literature

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Research Summary of Recent Work

Jo Neale, University of Bedfordshire

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1. Neale, J. (2018). Abused women's perceptions of professionals' responses: valued support, or collusion with perpetrator? *Journal of Gender-Based Violence*, 2(3)
<https://uobrep.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10547/622925/Neale%20%282018%29.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y>

Domestic violence and abuse (DVA) is recognised as a serious public health issue that detrimentally affects the lives of victims during, and after exiting, the relationship. For staff in overstretched criminal justice, health and social care agencies, high prevalence rates of DVA place a significant strain on the financial and emotional resources available to them. Drawing on Angie Ash's (2013) concept of 'cognitive masks', and using data collected as part of a larger study, I examine the responses from agencies that frustrated women's attempts to leave an abusive male partner. Fourteen women, recruited via three specialist support agencies in two English counties and my own personal networks, participated in semi-structured narrative style interviews. Findings suggest that practitioners sometimes ignore significant aspects of the case, thus rendering the situation more manageable – for themselves. For women, however, this can frustrate their attempts to exit the relationship and remain abuse-free.

2. Neale, J. and Hodges, K. (2020). "My head was like a washing machine on spin": (Improving) women's experiences of accessing support. *Dignity: A Journal of Analysis of Exploitation and Violence*, 5(3), Article 3.
<https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1192&context=dignity>

This paper draws on data collected as part of two larger studies to set out the differences, according to women seeking support, between the feminist responses of the specialist women's sector and the issues-led responses of other agencies. The first study examined the processes by which women enter, endure, and exit relationships with abusive men. The second study explored the barriers to help-seeking for those accessing a service for women involved in prostitution. Taking a feminist poststructuralist approach, the authors point to the gendered nature, both of the experiences that propel women toward help-seeking and of the responses they receive from agencies. They note the current socio-economic context within which those experiences and responses are set and the importance, for women, of

the specialist women's sector. Data were collected via narrative-style interviews with twenty-five women with lived experience of the issues being explored.

Many women noted that, when initially seeking support from agencies, they had either been offered no service or inappropriate services. They spoke of being required to engage with multiple services, constantly retelling their stories, and the competing and conflicting demands made of them by professionals. These accounts were contrasted with the service they received from the specialist women's sector.

The findings are presented in terms of their meaning for and impact upon women accessing professional support. The implications for practice are discussed: the case for professionals' proactive sourcing/using information about women's services operating in their locality; the importance of effective communication, both within and between agencies; and the shared benefits of working alongside the specialist women's sector.

Mathilde Provansal, postdoc, EHESS, IRIS, CEET (France)

Postdoctoral Research Project, EHESS (oct. 2020 – sept. 2021): **“Gender violence in art schools: between reproduction and denunciation”**

This research project is an extension of my doctoral research. It addresses the role of gender violence in art schools in the reproduction of gender order and male domination in contemporary art. It aims to highlight the contexts, structures and power relations that favor the emergence of gender violence in art schools but also what allows their maintenance or on the contrary their denunciation. It analyzes the historical foundations and the social logics of gender violence in art schools in order to underline their structural character. It uses qualitative and quantitative methods.

Doctoral Research, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (November 2019): **“Artists but Women. Education, Career and Reputation in Contemporary Art”**

Summary: Women artists are underrepresented at the highest levels of artistic, symbolic and economic reputation, although they make up the majority of art school students as well as artists. Drawing on sociology of work, gender, art and education, this PhD dissertation explains this paradox. It analyses the making of gender inequalities within a very prestigious French art school and how these affect the entrance into an artistic career, survival in the profession and access to reputation of its graduate in contemporary art. The joint analysis of quantitative data from an artistic ranking (ArtFacts), biographical interviews and ethnographic observations sheds light on the gendered construction of artistic careers. Whether it is during the recruitment by the art school, the selection in a studio, student jobs, the invitation to exhibit one’s work or being represented by a gallery, women’s gradual disappearance plays out in co-optation processes. At different stages in the career, the stigma of motherhood restricts their employability and their heterosexualization limits opportunities for self-promotion. Access to the conventions of the contemporary art world and integration into professional networks, particularly in the art market, are sexually differentiated. Nevertheless, different social, economic, educational or institutional resources allow some women to bypass the constraints weighing on women’s artistic careers, and to gain reputation.

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Project summary

The RYPP is a programme for families where children or young people aged between 8 and 17 are abusive or violent towards the people close to them, particularly their parents or carers. This abuse may be physical, verbal, financial, coercive or emotional and may include behaviour like hitting, making threats or causing damage in the home.

The RYPP is targeted at reducing risk factors associated with later offending/aggressive behaviour such as early conduct disorder, poor attachment, poor school engagement, ineffective parenting, low empathy, entitlement, poor conflict resolution and risk-taking behaviour.

The programme is delivered by practitioners from a variety of professional backgrounds including youth work, social work, youth offending teams and children and family workers who have undertaken the 4- Day RYPP training facilitated by Respect. The programme avoids blame and works together with both the parents/ carers and young person, seeing them all as part of the solution. The programme is designed to enable families to identify negative behaviour patterns and work towards positive outcomes

The outcomes for the RYPP are to:

1. Reduce verbal aggression and violence in close relationships
2. Improve emotional well-being (coping with anxiety, anger, depression, emotional self-regulation)
3. Improve family communication and relationships
4. Build parenting confidence and skills
5. Increase the young person's insight to their own behaviour.

A range of theoretical models are used, primarily a cognitive behavioural approach along with social learning theory, attachment theory, narrative therapy and restorative approaches amongst others.

Evidence of outcomes

The RYPP was part of the Realising Ambition Programme and as such evaluated by the Social Research Unit in 2017, using Strength and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQ), pre-and-post receiving the intervention.

The post intervention SDQ's show a good, statistically significant, level of positive change.

Quote from the Social Research Unit evaluation:

“Over the course of the Respect Young People’s Programme, all scales within the parent-report SDQ and the majority of scales within the child-report SDQ demonstrated significant improvement between pre- and post-test. Encouragingly, the overall mental health of young people (as represented by the Total Difficulties scores) and also their behaviour (both conduct difficulties and prosocial) improved according to the reports of both parents and children – a positive result considering the focus of the intervention is on reducing adolescent-to-parent violence. Two-thirds of parents reported improvements in their child’s overall mental health and conduct, with scores in the abnormal range reducing by 23% and 27% respectively.”

A new research project is currently underway to gather data on effectiveness. Programme outcomes and delivery data is being captured using three online questionnaires:

- One for **parent/s** to complete during the first session, the penultimate session and at three-month follow-up
- One for the **young person** to complete during the first session, the penultimate session and at three-month follow-up
- One for the **practitioner** to complete just once, when either the family completes the programme or when they cease their involvement.

The online questionnaires for parents and young people are comprised mainly of three separate tools.

- the CPAQ to measure ‘Child to Parent Aggression’ (this is in the CYP online questionnaire)
- the SDQ to measure general child/adolescent wellbeing (this is in the parent online questionnaire)
- the RYPP outcomes and delivery tool – designed to reflect the programme’s theory of change (this is also in the parent online questionnaire).

There are also additional items relating to family structure and demographics, child/adolescent substance misuse and peer relationships, domestic abuse, child abuse, child/adolescent developmental difficulties, parent well-being, the impact of the abuse dynamic on the parent, and parent and child/adolescent perspectives on their RYPP programme experiences. These are all questions that will not only provide useful contextual information regarding families but will also improve the service’s ability to safeguard children and vulnerable parents effectively.

More information about the project can be found here: [RYPP | Respect](#)



Make a Change

Project summary

Developed by Respect and Women's Aid Federation England, Make a Change (MAC) is an early response, community-wide approach to people using abusive behaviours in their intimate relationships.

The service is designed to fill a gap in current service provision, for situations where there are concerns about abusive behaviour, but where the threshold has not yet been met for a statutory family court or criminal justice referral. The aim of the service is to address abusive behaviour at an earlier stage than is typical, before the behaviour becomes entrenched and statutory services are involved.

MAC not only works directly with people who are using abuse in their intimate relationships and victims/ survivors, but encourages local communities – including professionals, friends and family members – to empower them to identify these behaviours and help to address them.

MAC operates in four sites across the North of England – in Durham, Lincolnshire, Sunderland and Trafford. The project is managed by Respect and WAFE, but the behavioural change programme and integrated survivor support services are delivered in each site by local partners.

Although MAC is a well-defined model, the specific approach and its implementation varies in response to existing local services, to ensure that MAC contributes to building the full spectrum of DAPP support, instead of duplicating existing services.

Research and evaluation

We have carried out some local horizon scanning in the sites to collect data on each local area where MAC will operate, to understand the prevalence of domestic abuse, the profile of the different local communities, and any local risk factors relating to domestic abuse. We are also working to map existing service provision and gaps, to consider the best way to integrate MAC into the local service landscape.

Much of the work to date has focused on the development and implementation of a performance framework for monitoring and evaluating MAC. The outcome framework will have some consistent core elements, but will reflect local adaptations for each site, in terms of differences in programme length, content and delivery.

Make a Change has worked closely with internal and partners to monitor performance data and to:

- Provide a more detailed profile of people which Make a Change reaches – both in terms of people who join the behavioural change the programme, and survivors supported through the integrated support services. We also aim to collect data on practitioners who receive MAC training and what difference this makes.
- Clarify suitable activity/output measures and outcome data for people who have used abusive behaviour. We have done this by working through the Theory of

Change for MAC to clarify the key objectives and knowledge, attitudes, behaviours and skills that MAC aims to provide, challenge or influence, in order to stop people from behaving abusively.

- Develop suitable survivor activity and outcome measures which will focus on the success of engaging survivors, obtaining data on the profile of survivors and the areas in which they are supported. There is already a considerable body of research and validated outcome measures for survivors of domestic abuse, which we have drawn on to identify core outcome which are suitable for survivors ranging from those who receive one or two support sessions, to those who receive support over a sustained period.

There is no dedicated research team to evaluate MAC, and the data will be collected by practitioners who also deliver the service. We have worked closely with providers to ensure that the data collection reflects current pathways and practice (as people move through different phases of MAC), and that is closely aligned with various different electronic case management systems – the aim being to ensure that data collection is easy for practitioners and does not involve too much additional work.

We have spent time working with practitioners to help them understand the value of evidence, and why particular data is important and how it can be used to inform practice and understand the programme's impact. We are also working to ensure that practitioners have the necessary skills and knowledge to collect data in the way that is intended.

We have also completed some formative work with survivors to feed into developing the 'friends & family' strand of MAC's community work. Our aim is to ensure that this strand reflects current research/ evidence on the role of friends and family in addressing domestic abuse, while also meeting the expectations of survivors.

More information about the project can be found here: [Make a Change](#)

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AT THE TIME OF COVID-19

A multi-method study involving women who attended an anti-violence centre in Italy

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During the Covid-19 epidemics, many worried about an increase of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and a worsening of victims' situation due to lockdown restrictions added to increased stress linked to fear of virus and economic concerns. There is a wealth of data from various countries concerning women's help-seeking behaviour in this period; however, fewer information are available on the daily experience of women victims, and on the actual evolution of IPV.

The case of Italy is particularly interesting, as the country was (and still is) severely hit by the pandemic, and the first after China to impose severe restrictions during the first wave of the pandemic: strict lockdown lasted from March to May 2020. In this situation, for women exposed to partner or ex-partner violence, movements, actions, abilities to seek help or escape violence were likely to be reduced.

Study aims and method

To explore women's experiences and the evolution of IPV during and after the first confinement, we designed a multi-method study with the collaboration of 5 Anti-violence centers in the Nord-East of Italy.

The questionnaire study. Between June 3rd to September 30th 2020, 379 women addressed themselves to an AVC; 292 filled a questionnaire with a response rate of 77%. Among them, 238 women were exposed to violence by a male partner or ex-partner during confinement, and were included in the present report: 44% were cohabiting with the perpetrator and 56% were not cohabiting during the period of lockdown. The structured interviews were carried out by AVC advocates.

IPV was assessed with 12 items on types of partner violence (women and children) experienced before confinement; for each type, a question asked whether violence increased/stayed the same/decreased during confinement; from these questions, a synthetic indicator of IPV modifications during the lockdown was constructed. Three questions concerned women's help-seeking behaviour during the lockdown. Two questions asked about women's fear of the perpetrator during and after the lockdown. Specific questions assessed indicators of psychological distress (nightmares, panic symptoms, hearing hallucinations, sleep troubles) at the time of the interview. Questionnaires included detailed socio-demographic information on the women and the perpetrators.

The qualitative study. To better understand the subjective experience of women and to deepen our knowledge of some themes emerged from the first analyses of questionnaire's data, we interviewed a sample of women who were attending the same Anti-violence centres. Between January and February 2021, the Centre's advocates asked a sample of women if they were interested in participating in a study on their experiences during the pandemic; 21 women, all those asked, accepted to be interviewed. All these women reported partner or ex-partner violence. The method used was the semi-structured interview: there was a list of themes that we wanted to explore (mostly corresponding to the items of the questionnaire) but the women were encouraged to tell their own story. Most interviews (19 out of 21) were carried out online; they were recorded and fully transcribed. Content analysis is in progress.

Results

IPV Evolution Before confinement, cohabiting as non cohabiting women reported high frequencies of violence: cohabiting women reported significantly more often physical violence; non cohabiting were more likely to report stalking, phone/web abuse, and partners' threats to take the children away or to hurt them. During confinement, women' situation varied depending on their living situation: cohabiting women were forced to spend most of their time with the violent partner; non-cohabiting women experienced an effective distancing from him due to pandemic-linked restrictions. Therefore, two distinct patterns emerged: partner/ex-partner violence increased for 28% of cohabiting (compared to 8% of non-cohabiting) and decreased for 56% of non-cohabiting women (compared to 12% of cohabiting). These trends were confirmed after adjustments for the relevant socio-demographic factors. Such results suggest the efficacy of physical distancing - imposed and strictly controlled by the State- in the prevention of IPV.

An article presenting these results (Intimate partner violence against women during the COVID-19 lockdown in Italy: a multicenter survey involving anti-violence centers) is in press in Violence Against Women.

Women's fear of perpetrator. About 65% of the participants reported having been afraid of their partner during the lockdown. There was no associations between fear and socio-demographic variables, except for the cohabitation status: cohabiting women were significantly more likely to report fear. Fear of perpetrator was associated with specific types of violence, with the number of types of violence, and with its evolution during the lockdown. Fear of perpetrator influenced the help-seeking behavior of women during the lockdown.

Qualitative analysis of the interviews is still in progress; preliminary results indicate that women's experiences of the lockdown period were more varied and nuanced than what might appear at a first sight.

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Work to address economic abuse
Dr Nicola Sharp-Jeffs

I continue to research and publish on economic abuse (time permitting) via my role as Emeritus Fellow in the Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit (CWASU) at London Metropolitan University.

I am currently writing a book called *Understanding and responding to economic abuse* which will be published by Emerald later this year. It is part of the Feminist Developments in Violence and Abuse series which aims to provide a feminist forum for academic work that pushes forward existing knowledge around violence and abuse, informing policy and practice, with the overarching objective of contributing towards ending violence and abuse within our society.

This follows a recently published [journal article](#) reviewing the global and UK specific academic research literature to assess the suitability of the definition of economic abuse put forward within the Westminster government's Domestic Abuse Bill. It recommends that a) the term 'any behaviour' within the definition is understood to include controlling tactics which sit under the constructs of economic restriction, exploitation and/or sabotage, b) the definition recognises perpetrators will also prevent a partner from using/maintaining goods or services and, c) attention is given to the suggestion that single incidents of economic abuse would not fall under this definition. While the focus of this article is on Westminster policy in the UK, the case for 'naming' and defining economic abuse in statute has wider resonance, not least because it provides a framework within which to report on prevalence, hold perpetrators accountable and for services (statutory and voluntary) to respond.

And a jointly authored [journal article](#) that reviewed and analyzed the global literature focused on either economic or financial abuse to determine how it is defined and what measures are used to capture its prevalence and impact. This found that there is growing clarity and consistency of terminologies being used in these articles and found some consistency in the use of validated measures. Since this research is in its "infancy," the article recommends we need to have stronger collaborative efforts to use similar measures and terminology. Part of that collaborative effort is to consider how language and cultural differences may play a part in our understanding of economic abuse.

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Violence against women: midwives' perception

Violence against women (VAW) is of great concern and should be considered across the life course of women. For example, during pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium women may be particularly vulnerable to VAW, either because they have experienced violence in their past or currently experience violence. In this sense, violence may affect how women experience pregnancy, childbirth or puerperium. Midwives are one group of health professionals who care for women in these periods of women's lives.

In an interdisciplinary research collaboration, we focused on how midwives perceived and managed the subject of violence in their work. We used a qualitative approach to explore midwives' perception, and conducted 15 interviews with midwives, all of whom were women. In the participants' narrations the focus was set on for example intimate partner violence (IPV), domestic violence and childhood (sexual) abuse, as well as obstetric violence.

The data were analysed with a modified Grounded Theory approach. Findings showed that the core category illustrated a cautious circling of the subject of VAW. On the one hand, midwives were cautious to directly approach this topic, they were skeptical about pregnancy being the right time to ask about violence, unsure how to ask this question or if smooth referral to specialized services was possible. Analysis of the interview data also showed that particularly IPV was often discussed ambivalently, whereas other forms of VAW, such as obstetric violence, or distressing events, such as fetal death, were talked about as a matter of course. This might be connected to some forms of violence being less "visible" during pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium than others. However, by neglecting experiences of violence in women and thereby neglecting the impact of such experiences on pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium, invisibility of such neglected forms of violence (e.g., IPV) appeared to be strengthened.

On the other hand, midwives were actively protecting women by increasing women's self-determination regarding examinations and childbirth, and in decision-making processes. Approaching the subject of violence was depending on the setting midwives worked in, and on training on this matter. The professional role of midwives as active protectors of women in their care of women facilitated discussing VAW, and included IPV. Strengthening this role in midwives should help to uncover the connection between domestic violence, IPV and pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium.

A detailed presentation and discussion of these findings can be found here:

Siller, H., König-Bachmann, M., Perkhofer, S., & Hochleitner, M. (2020). Midwives Perceiving and Dealing With Violence Against Women: Is It Mostly About Midwives Actively Protecting Women? A Modified Grounded Theory Study. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260520927497>

The findings presented in this publication resulted in another project which focused on strengthening resilience in midwives by organizing face-to-face meetings with specialized services. In doing so, we expect to decrease barriers and skepticism when it comes to asking about violence. Additionally, midwives are strengthened in their role as active protectors. This is expected to result in uncovering neglected forms of violence which might affect women's

experience of pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium (for information on this follow-up project, see also my colleague's website (in German): <https://www.fhg-tirol.ac.at/page.cfm?vpath=personen-details&genericpageid=7>)

Gender-based violence and institutional responses: Building a knowledge base and operational tools to make universities and research organisations safe (2021-2023), funded under EU Horizon 2020, €3.2 million

UniSAFE, which started in February 2021, is an EU-funded project that aims to produce better knowledge on online and offline forms of gender-based violence, including sexual harassment, in research organisations, and to translate this knowledge into operational tools for higher education, research organisations and policymakers. Research and outreach activities, targeting researchers, stakeholders and policymakers, are being led across Europe for three years. The project will analyse the mechanisms of gender-based violence (GBV) – its social determinants, antecedents and consequences – at three different levels, using a holistic research model. This in-depth knowledge of existing problems, current and future priorities will result in an operational toolkit and recommendations to reduce GBV in the European academic and research area.

UniSAFE examines the mechanisms, determinants, antecedents and consequences of gender-based violence using a multi-level research design to collect, analyse, and synthesise qualitative and quantitative data:

1. Prevalence and impacts of GBV are analysed via a survey implemented in 45 RPOs in 15 member states, and via a Europe-wide survey of Marie Curie Fellows
2. Organisational responses and instruments are analysed via case studies, interviews, and a strategic mapping of the 45 RPOs
3. Legal and policy frameworks are analysed via extensive mapping by national experts in 31 EU Member States, Associated Countries and Third Countries.

It will use a holistic 7P model, covering prevalence, prevention, protection, prosecution, provision of services, partnerships and policy, is used to collect and analyse data on each level. The model builds on the conventional 3P model and 4P model of the Istanbul Convention.

UniSAFE consists of a multidisciplinary consortium of 9 European partners. Its strength is based on the partners' in-depth knowledge and extensive track record in researching GBV, translating academic insights into operational tools, including the GEAR-tool, disseminating knowledge, including a direct link to the Gender Equality Academy, developing policy recommendations at the EU level, and empowering stakeholders to exploit project results, with a carefully designed impact plan.

Project webpage: <https://unisafe-gbv.eu/the-project/>

Project partners: European Science Foundation (coordinator), Örebro University (Scientific coordinator), Oxford Brookes University, Yellow Window, GESIS Leibniz Institute for Social Science, Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic Research Institution, Complutense University Madrid, Lithuanian Social Science Institute, Jagellonian University.

Contact persons:

- Scientific coordinator: Sofia Strid, Örebro University: sofia.strid@oru.se
- Project coordinator: Ildikó Ipolyi, European Science Foundation: iipolyi@esf.org

Project output:

Strid S., Humbert AL., Hearn J., Bondestam F., Husu L. (2021). *Theoretical and conceptual framework for Gender-based violence and institutional responses: building a knowledge base and operational tools to make universities and research organisations safe*. UniSAFE Public Deliverable, delivered to the European Commission 30 April 2021. Available at: <https://unisafe-gbv.eu/project-public-deliverables/>

Honour, violence and society. The expressions and prevalence of honour-related violence and the challenges to society (2018-ongoing), funded by Stockholm City, Malmö City and Gothenburg City and Örebro University

This project examines the forms, expressions, consequences and mechanisms, of so-called honour-based violence and oppression (HBV), and its prevalence, in Sweden and the Nordic countries, from a feminist intersectional perspective. The objective is to develop new theories contributing to the reduction of the many forms of HBV, and to develop socially relevant and applicable knowledge. It explores HBV on individual, relational and societal levels – and the relationship between these levels – with an interest in its social, political, and economic contexts, and relation to power, migration, nation, social inclusion/exclusion and socioeconomic factors; age, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, sexual expression, and their intersections; and feminism, racism and stereotyping.

The project is one of the largest mixed-methods honour-based violence studies ever carried out in Sweden, comprising in-depth interviews and focus group interviews with people who have experienced honour-based violence either directly as victims/survivors, or indirectly as social workers, NGO workers, counsellors, school nurses and others (N=255), and a survey of fifteen-year-old boys and girls and non-binary people (N=6002). The quantitative study was conducted to gather data on expressions and prevalence of honour-based violence among fifteen-year-olds in Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö. The qualitative interview study was conducted to gather data on the expressions and patterns of honour-based violence among adults. The analysis draws on both sets of data and shows that honour-based violence is simultaneously a lived, material and embodied, reality *and* a racist stereotype. The results also show that living with honour norms significantly increases the exposure to multiple forms of violence: control, coercion, sextortion, material violence, economic violence, rape and sexual violence, physical violence, psychological violence and online control and image-based sexual coercion, to mention a few. It also shows that it is increasingly difficult for people who live with *honour norms* to get the help and support they need; social support functions tend to treat all forms of violence in an *honour context* as *honour based*. The results also show that the prevalence of honour-based violence increases in isolated, segregated groups, and decreases with social, economic, political and ideational mobility

The interdisciplinary research team consists of scholars at different career stages with backgrounds in Anthropology, Social Work, Sociology and Gender Studies.

Project researchers: Sofia Strid, Rúna í Baianstovu, Emmie Särnstedt Gramneas, Jan-Magnus Enelo (Örebro University); Hanna Cinthio (Malmö University).

Contact person: Sofia Strid, Örebro University: sofia.strid@oru.se

Project output:

Strid, S. & Baianstovu, R. Í. (2019). Honour as a border regime: enclosure and mobility as mechanisms of honour-based violence in Swedish metropolitan area. Paper presented at NORA 2019 Conference: Border Regimes, Territorial Discourses & Feminist Politics, University of Reykjavik, Iceland, May 22-24, 2019.

Baianstovu, R. Í., Strid, S., Särnstedt Gramnaes, E., Cinthio, H. & Enelo, J. (2019). *Heder och samhälle: Det hedersrelaterade våldets och förtryckets uttryck och samhällets utmaningar*. Örebro: Örebro University.

Baianstovu, R. Í., Cinthio, H., Särnstedt, E. & Strid, S. (2018). Det hedersrelaterade våldets och förtryckets uttryck och samhällets utmaningar: En kartläggning i Göteborg, Malmö och Stockholm 2017-2018: Del II: Redovisning av den kvalitativa delstudien i Göteborg, Malmö och Stockholm. Örebro.

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Recent research on gender and violence conducted by Satu Venäläinen, University of Helsinki

My recent research was conducted as a part of the project lead by adjunct professional Tuija Virkki (University of Jyväskylä) and entitled “Social Inequalities and Discourses of Violence. Current Controversies in Finnish Online Forums and Discussions among Welfare State Professionals” (2017-2020, funded by Kone Foundation). The project focused on ways in which discourses on violence work in reiterating and enforcing intersectional inequalities in different contexts such as online discussions and in social and crisis workers’ talk. The research material used in the project therefore included 1) public debates on violence committed different groups of people in online discussion forums and 2) focus group discussions among social and crisis workers. Further details about the project and its earlier publications can be found [here](#).

The analyses I have conducted as a part of this project have been focused on two specific areas. Firstly, in articles co-authored with Tuija Virkki (see Venäläinen & Virkki, 2019; Virkki & Venäläinen, 2020), we have analyzed specifically the portrayals of sexual violence committed by migrant men in online discussions, and have illuminated the processes whereby violence is attached to othered groups of people while simultaneously detached from those in privileged positions, such as white Finnish men. Secondly, I have conducted analyses that focus on ways in which men’s victimization in intimate heterosexual relations, and relatedly women’s intimate partner violence, are talked about both in online contexts and by social and crisis workers (see e.g. Venäläinen 2020a & 2020b). Below, I give further details of two of the most recent articles based on the latter analyses, both of which are currently in press and will be published soon.

Article 1

Author: Venäläinen, Satu

Title: Gendering and degendering the problem of men’s victimization in intimate partner relations in social and crisis workers’ talk”

In press in the journal *Social Problems*

Abstract: In recent years, the notion of intimate partner violence (IPV) as gender-based has been widely questioned, most vocally by advocates of antifeminist men’s rights movements, who have claimed that societal disregard for men’s victimization in intimate relations is a central component of wide-reaching discrimination against men in contemporary societies. Similar views have been expressed by researchers as part of a gender-neutral discourse that has been articulated in opposition to feminist, or gender-sensitive, understandings of IPV. To date, the views of helping professionals who work with IPV in terms of men’s victimization have been underexplored.

This study addresses this gap in knowledge by tracing the discursive process of problem construction concerning gender and IPV in social and crisis workers’ (N=21) talk about men’s victimization through focus group interviews conducted in Finland. The analysis shows that social and crisis workers’ sense-making closely aligns with talk about men’s victimization by men’s rights advocates; they predominantly construct and justify men’s victimization in intimate relations as a pressing societal concern in ways that, firstly, posit gender-specific normative conceptions as a significant and oppressive context for men victims, and secondly, obscure gendered structural inequalities by advocating gender-neutral understandings and solutions for IPV.

By shedding light on these paradoxical dynamics in social and crisis workers’ meaning-making around gender, power, and IPV, the analysis highlights central challenges in attending to IPV with a gender-sensitive approach in the context of widespread politicization of men’s victimization.

Keywords: Intimate partner violence, men's victimization, gender, construction of social problems, helping professionals

Article 2

Author: Venäläinen, Satu

Title: Nobody cares for men anymore: Affective-discursive practices around men's victimisation across online and offline contexts

In press in the journal *European Journal of Cultural Studies*

Abstract: Men's victimization is a central topic in current online discussions, particularly in the manosphere, where its emphasis is often combined with a strong anti-feminist stance. This study examines the interplay of affects and discourse in meaning-making around men's victimization both in online discussions and among social and crisis workers asked to comment upon meanings circulating online. By using the concept of affective-discursive practice, the analysis shows how this meaning-making reiterates socially shared interpretative repertoires and positionings that mobilize affects such as sympathy, anger and hate. Furthermore, the paper demonstrates how the practitioners respond to these affective meanings by adopting positions of responsibility, while also redirecting and neutralising online affect.

The study contributes to knowledge on the interaction between online and offline meaning-making around men's victimization, and to building an understanding of affects and discourse in seemingly moderate meaning-making around this topic that however resonates and links with the more extreme anti-feminism of the manosphere. It therefore provides up-to-date knowledge on how anti-feminist or gender-neutral discourse on intimate partner violence infiltrates various spaces, and how it gains in its affectiveness through the employment of particular kinds of rhetoric. This rhetoric 1) highlights the illegitimacy of feminists' purported neglect of men victims, 2) links this purported neglect to claims about widespread societal discrimination against men and 3) legitimizes attending to men's victimization from a gender-neutral instead of a feminist perspective.

Keywords: Affective-discursive practice, anti-feminism, gender, manosphere, intimate partner violence

For further information, see [Researcher profile](#), or contact satu.venalainen@helsinki.fi

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Improving frontline responses to high-impact domestic violence ([IMPRODOVA](#))

The Horizon2020-funded EU project "Improving frontline responses to high-impact domestic violence (IMPRODOVA)" aims to improve professional and institutional responses to cases of serious and high-consequence domestic/partner violence. The project sheds light on the factors that serve to increase cooperation and networking among police, medical professionals, victim services, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and other institutional partners. Human influences ("human factors") are at the center of the project.

The project is divided into four work packages:

First, the target situation was examined, i.e. the extent to which the fight against domestic violence can be demonstrated internationally, nationally and institutionally through conventions, laws, trainings, statistics, etc.. Here it was shown, for example, that the publication of the Istanbul Convention is only taken into account to a small extent in the regulations of the first responder institutions, since they either had already drawn up action plans for combating domestic violence beforehand or were not familiar with the contents of the convention.

In the second step, field research was conducted to investigate, among other things, how cross-sectoral cooperation between first responders is structured and what best practices exist for dealing with cases of severe domestic violence in the individual project countries. One of the most important findings here is that the management level in particular plays a central role in prioritizing cases of domestic violence as well as in networking with other aid agencies. Networking is important because the three major first responder sectors in particular - police, medical, and social sector - have very different premises in their institutional response to domestic violence and can therefore complement each other well: While medical personnel often see victims of domestic violence first (e.g., due to depression or injury) but often do not perceive them as such and do not provide appropriate assistance (e.g., referral to victim services), the police are good at implementing victim protection but cannot help the victim with day-to-day challenges. This, in turn, is a strength of the social sector, but its testimony is ultimately not accepted as evidence in court.

Building on the findings of the first two work packages, in the third work package the IMPRODOVA team has developed **four tools**, which are currently being evaluated and finalized (fourth work package):

- (1.) a [training website around professional management of domestic violence](#) to train first responders on domestic violence and improve collaboration across professions
- (2.) a [risk assessment and case documentation module](#) to improve identification of severe domestic violence,
- (3.) a policy development module (soon to be posted on our homepage) to describe how to bring the perspective of first responders into the policy-making cycle,
- and (4.) a communication platform for first responders to support their collaboration with a secure digital solution (pilot).

The size of the work packages can only be managed in a larger group. Accordingly, the IMPRODOVA consortium is composed of 16 partners from eight European countries (Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Portugal, Scotland, Slovenia). The partner institutions include five police universities, six police organizations, a medical faculty, research institutions and NGOs. The project is coordinated by the German Police University (DHPOL), Münster.

Further information on IMPRODOVA can be found at www.improdova.eu as well as on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [ResearchGate](#) and [YouTube](#). The final conference will take place at June 9th, 2021 ([IMPRODOVA@IPVI](#)).

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A Mixed Methods Study into Bystander Experiences of Domestic Violence and Abuse during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Short Research Summary

Background

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues, countries worldwide are implementing various measures to limit its impact. For those living in Wales, the Welsh Government's measures included social distancing, isolation and lockdown. Residents were encouraged to work from home whenever possible and were only to leave for essential shopping. For those experiencing domestic violence and abuse (DVA), this created the "perfect storm" where conditions for DVA were exacerbatedⁱ. Victims of DVA were having to stay at home, for extended periods of time, with their abuser.

Concerns logged with Welsh Women's Aid's helpline "Live Fear Free" have increased significantly since the pandemic beganⁱⁱ. The Live Fear Free data also indicates an increase in third parties (neighbours, friends, family, colleagues) contacting the helpline for advice and support. This suggests that other groups of people are becoming aware of DVA since the pandemic began. People in physical (and online) proximity to DVA victims may have become inadvertent and un-expecting witnesses, or bystanders, to DVA and/or the warning signs, with potentially new opportunities to take action.

Study Rationale and Aims

Bystanders are an important source of support for victims of DVA, perhaps more so now than ever. As such, this study aims to understand the experiences and behaviours of bystanders during the COVID-19 pandemic. The findings from this study can provide insight into the groups of people who witness DVA, identify the types of DVA they are witnessing and understand the actions taken in response to what they have seen. All of which can be used to inform policy and prevention strategies.

Methodology

This was a mixed methods study that utilised an online quantitative survey and qualitative interviews. Recruitment ran for 3 weeks, from 15th February 2021 to 8th March 2021 and the study aimed to recruit anyone over the age of 18, who had seen or become concerned about DVA. Due to funding, all participants had to live or work in Wales.

The study received ethical permissions from HRA and HCRW. The survey was analysed using SPSS and the interviews were analysed using Thematic Analysisⁱⁱⁱ in the Atlas ti software.

Key Findings

Survey:

- A total of 186 respondents completed the online survey. The majority were women (n=158).
- Coercive control and warning signs were the most commonly witnessed DVA behaviours.
- A large portion of participants indicated that they felt the circumstances of the pandemic (being at home) had influenced their being able to witness the behaviour.
- Almost all survey respondents had taken action in response to the behaviours they witnessed. This was not dependent on the type of behaviour they had seen.

- For the most part, bystanders had witnessed the behaviour physically in person, and had felt responsible for taking action.
- The majority of participants indicated that their experience of witnessing DVA had a negative impact upon them.

Interviews:

- Seven interviews were conducted in total.
- Comparisons were made between the Government's COVID-19 measures and the behaviour of DVA perpetrators; namely the control and isolation. People were "*prisoners in their own homes*".
- The interviewees explained that the switch in daily routines, caused by the pandemic measures, had allowed them to notice the problematic behaviours.
- The participants felt that the pandemic had prevented them being able to fully support the DVA victim. They offered reassurance through text messages and phone calls, but were careful not to say the wrong thing.
- They felt that the messages being shared by the media about DVA were not empowering bystanders to take action. Instead, they blame the victim for their abuse.

Concluding Comments

This study sheds light on the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had over the experiences of bystanders to DVA in Wales. As hypothesised, the circumstances of the pandemic (working from home) have allowed people to become aware of DVA. The measures implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have resulted in bystanders being unsure how to best support the victims.

Research Team: Dr Alex Walker¹, Dr Rachel Fenton², Lara Snowdon¹, Bryony Parry¹, Emma Barton¹, Professor Catherine Donovan³ and Professor Mark Bellis^{1,4}.

Affiliations: Public Health Wales¹, University of Exeter², Durham University³, and Bangor University⁴.

Correspondence: For more information related to this study, please contact Lara.Snowdon@wales.nhs.uk

ⁱ Welsh Women's Aid. (2020) *A Perfect Storm*. Available at A-Perfect-Storm-August-2020-1.pdf (womensaid.org.uk) [Accessed March 2021].

ⁱⁱ Office for National Statistics. (2020c) *Domestic Abuse during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, England and Wales: November 2020*. Available at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabuseduringthecoronaviruscovid19pandemicenglandandwales/november2020> [Accessed March 2021]

ⁱⁱⁱ Braun, V. & Clarke, V. (2006) Using Thematic Analysis in Psychology. *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 3(2), pp. 77-101.

Short research summary of two recent works
by Shalva Weil*

1. (Katerina Standish and) Shalva Weil, 2021, "Gendered Pandemics: suicide, femicide and covid-19", *Journal of Gender Studies*.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09589236.2021.1880883>

The purpose of this article is to offer a collocation of COVID-19 alongside two adjacent calamities that will likely increase during and after public health responses to the pandemic: suicide and femicide. Both of these forms of violence are patterned and predictable, both of them will manifest in divergent and distinct ways during the chaos of COVID-19, and both are highly gendered. In this article we characterize the virus, theoretically align suicide and femicide as preventable forms of violence due to the circumstances of the pandemic, and suggest a way forward. It is our assertion that suicide rates will increase for women and girls to unprecedented levels as a direct result of pandemic public health measures and it is also our contention that the gendered impact of COVID-19 will lead to an upsurge in another harm induced by the global health order to stay at home: femicide. In a landscape of competitive catastrophe, we call attention to two social facts that kill: suicide and femicide, and we urge global leaders to attend to prevention now, because for many women and girls, even though we have found a vaccine, it may come too late.

2. Shalva Weil (and Noam Keshet), "Female Geronticide: the case of Israel", *Journal of Gender Studies*, Volume 30, issue 1, 2021.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09589236.2020.1809361>

This study of femicide involving elderly women, or female geronticide aims to fill a gap in the research literature. The article is divided into three parts: a review of the literature on femicide, geronticide, and specifically female geronticide; a review of the literature utilizing Israel as a case-study, showing the limited research in this subject area; and an empirical report on the findings of the first longitudinal study on female geronticide in Israel, which demonstrate that

over a period of ten years (2006-2015) female geronticide was perpetrated solely by intimate male partners.

Findings of the study also show that while femicide is perpetrated in disproportionate numbers by, and towards, members of particular ethnic categories, such as Ethiopian immigrants and foreign migrants, there were no cases of female geronticide in these two groups. The likelihood of an elderly woman being murdered by her intimate partner or family member was higher among the following groups in the following order: immigrants from the former Soviet Union; Israeli-born Jews and; Israeli Arabs. The findings are important for policy-makers in Israel but have application globally.

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www.israelfemicide.org

Men's experiences of domestic abuse during Covid-19

Respect saw a huge increase in callers to both of its phone lines during the Covid-19 pandemic. This research, by Professor Nicole Westmarland, Dr Stephen Burrell and their colleagues at Durham looked at the experiences of callers to the Respect men's advice line for men experiencing domestic abuse. As well as the calls and emails becoming more frequent, they also got longer and were increasingly highly complex in nature. In some cases, Covid-19 was used by perpetrators to develop new tools and tactics to facilitate abuse, such as using lockdown restrictions to keep victims trapped at home, or deliberately breaking the rules to put the health of their partners and/or children at risk. For many of the callers, Covid-19 prevention measures meant they felt more isolated than ever. For other callers, lockdown had provided a time to pause and reflect, either on current or previous relationships and experiences, and this had prompted them to finally take the step to contact the men's advice line.

Masculine norms and expectations often played a central part in the abuse. For example, some victims described being mocked and bullied in very gendered ways, such as being called 'gay' or not a 'real man', especially if they were perceived to not live up to patriarchal family dynamics. For instance, some victims reported that they were expected to provide the income for the whole household, and would receive abuse if they were seen as not being able to do this. Many callers also described the difficulties they had in sharing their experiences, because being a victim of abuse, and asking for help, were not seen as 'manly' things to do.

The report, 'Living a life by permission', is available here [https://hubble-live-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/respect/attachment/file/166/Living a Life by Permission report Feb 2021.pdf](https://hubble-live-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/respect/attachment/file/166/Living_a_Life_by_Permission_report_Feb_2021.pdf).

Women's Aid Federation of England

Reports and publications in 2020-21

For more information about the research conducted by Women's Federation of England, please see the [Evidence Hub](#) on our website or contact research@womensaid.org.uk

Nowhere to Turn 2020

[Nowhere to Turn 2020](#) was published in June 2020. The report uses data from the No Woman Turned Away project to provide an insight into what happens to those women who are unable to access refuge services.

The Domestic Abuse Report 2020: The Hidden Housing Crisis

[The Domestic Abuse Report 2020: The Hidden Housing Crisis](#) was published in June 2020. The report examines the housing experiences of survivors of domestic abuse. It draws on evidence from the Women's Aid Survivor Voice Survey 2019 (136 respondents) and case study interviews.

A Perfect Storm: the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on survivors and the services supporting them

We published [A Perfect Storm: the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on survivors and the services supporting them](#) in August 2020. The report examines the impact of the pandemic on survivors of domestic abuse and their children, how abusers use the pandemic as a tool of abuse and how the services supporting survivors are affected. The report builds on three earlier briefings focusing on the experiences of survivors, services and community ambassadors, also available on our [website](#).

Nowhere to Turn for Children and Young People

[Nowhere to Turn for Children and Young People](#) was published in September 2020. The report is a unique, visual exploration of how experiencing and fleeing domestic abuse affects the lives of children and young people.

Change that Lasts Impact Briefing 4

In November 2020, we published [Change that Lasts Impact Briefing 4](#). The briefing pulls together findings from the delivery of Women's Aid's [Change that Lasts](#) programme from December 2018 to December 2019. A summary of the report is also available [here](#).

Research Integrity Framework

In November 2020, the four Women's Aid federations from Scotland, England, Wales, and Northern Ireland published a [Research Integrity Framework](#) (RIF) to show the quality of research on domestic abuse. Developed with and endorsed by academic researchers, this framework provides decision-makers with clarity on the merits of different types of evidence and research, and the principles of integrity relating to research on domestic abuse.

The Domestic Abuse Report 2021: The Annual Audit

We published [The Domestic Abuse Report 2021: The Annual Audit](#) in January 2021. This report presents information on the provision and usage of domestic abuse services in England, mainly focusing on the financial year 2019-20. This year we included an additional section on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our main data sources for this report are On Track (the Women's Aid case management and outcomes monitoring database), the Women's Aid Annual Survey of domestic abuse services in England, and Routes to Support (the UK violence against women and girls directory of services and refuge vacancies, run in partnership by Scottish Women's Aid, Welsh Women's Aid, Women's Aid Federation of England and Women's Aid Federation of Northern Ireland).

Fragile Funding Landscapes: the extent of local authority commissioning in the domestic abuse refuge sector

Women's Aid published [Fragile Funding Landscapes: the extent of local authority commissioning in the domestic abuse refuge sector](#) in February 2021. The report examines the number of refuge services in England running without any statutory funding in 2019-20, and the extent to which funding for commissioned services covered the costs of providing the service. The report reveals the huge number of refuge services running without any statutory funding, including a significant proportion of specialist services 'by and for' Black and minoritised women.

WWP EN is constantly updating and revising our guidelines and standards based on developments in the field. This has been especially true over the past year as global health restrictions have affected the way our members and our own team work. At the beginning of the pandemic, WWP EN provided guidelines on working in a new setting. Most recently, we published a [COVID-19 Revision of Practice Toolkit](#) to help practitioners in the field to reflect on work they have conducted during the pandemic. We continue to ensure our work remains current by conducting surveys, for example in relation to our DeStalk project and our new work on child protection, the findings of which we will use, together with our project partners, in our project research.

We have developed and are continuing to develop a set of capacity building services mainly aimed at perpetrator programmes, but also for victim support services and other stakeholders in the field of domestic violence. We provide training, either tailored to individuals on the request of organisations, or training that we have already developed. Our training topics include how to set up a perpetrator programme, how to provide a victim-safety oriented perpetrator programme, risk assessment and management. We use motivational interviewing, games and interactive techniques in working with perpetrators. WWP EN has a roster of highly qualified trainers, including experts across Europe, who are engaged in training design and delivery. All training and capacity building activities uphold quality standards, best practices and the provisions of the Istanbul Convention. WWP EN puts a special focus on child-safety oriented perpetrator work and provides guidance and capacity building for organizations through our new "Support 4 Safety" programme, which combines practice assessment, individual mentoring and capacity building activities.

This month, WWP EN is beginning a collaboration with UN Women as part of a regional programme "Ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds", which is funded by the European Commission and developed by UN Women (Europe & Central Asia Regional Office). The project aims at "Supporting the implementation of perpetrator programmes to stop violence against women and domestic violence as per Articles 16 and 12 of the Istanbul Convention". WWP EN will develop training and capacity building activities, starting from May 2021 through 2022. We will work together with OPNA in Serbia, Woman to Woman and Counseling Line for men and boys in Albania, and SIT - Center for Counseling, Social Services and Research in Kosovo.

Our projects continue to develop innovative research and findings in the field. For example, in February, the final conference for '[A Systematic Approach to Perpetrators](#) (ASAP)' project was held online. Within the project work, partners researched a model to combine the integration of protection and intervention methods for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence with the aim of fostering an efficient network of gender-based violence prevention. During the conference, speakers discussed European best-practice models and guidelines for good cooperation between victim support services and perpetrator programmes, tackling gender-based violence on a European level and much more. ASAP Project work took place over the course of more than 2 years and came to an end this spring.

At the beginning of March, the '[Focus on Men](#) (FOMEN)' project team held the second national awareness-raising workshop. The workshop was facilitated by Daliah Vakili, Marc

Gärtner and Elli Scambor and explored the work of the FOMEN project; the topics of masculinities, anti-racism and intercultural sensitivities. The workshop provided a space for interactions with professionals working in the fields of gender equality and working with refugees. Most recently, the FOMEN project delivered a 4-day capacity building event, aimed at equipping practitioners in the field with the knowledge they need when working with male migrants and refugees.

The ‘[Men in Care](#) (MiC)’ project has developed [National benchmarking reports](#), which include context analyses of the seven participant countries as well as organisational analyses for five of them, have been published on the project’s website. The reports focus on best practices to foster caring masculinities and have been written based on over 150 interviews with 18 different organisations across 5 countries.

The first system-wide stakeholder meeting of the ‘[Multi-Agency Response to Violence Against Older Women](#) (MARVOW)’ project took place in Austria, in March 2021 and identified the importance of comprehensive training to protect elderly victims of domestic violence as well as problems which can arise within this specific work. Additionally, project partners are still meeting regularly online to discuss progress and best practices for the project work moving forward. Furthermore, the MARVOW project has developed training materials on multi-agency models.

The [DeStalk](#) project was launched this year and is aimed at developing a multi-level capacity-building strategy to train and support professionals of victim support services and perpetrator programmes, officers of institutions and local governments, and other key stakeholders on recognising and taking action against cyberviolence. On March 10th, we held a focus group in which we met with practitioners and listened to their insights in order to develop a training based on their everyday practice. Currently, the DeStalk project partners are finalising the training content for the e-learning package, which will be available by fall of this year.

As ever, WWP EN continues to place importance on measuring the efficacy of perpetrator work through our [IMPACT Toolkit](#). The Toolkit is a recognised European tool for programme evaluation and research on domestic violence perpetrators. It is now being used more and more routinely as part of evaluations of perpetrator programmes, and it has started to be included as the main evaluation system in various national funding applications carried out by our members. The Toolkit ensures victim safety, which is paramount to our work.

Our research, guidelines and project work continue to set high standards for perpetrator work across Europe and ensure that perpetrator programmes uphold the safety of victims, adapt to working in the pandemic and explore the diversity of issues in the field.

The Relationship Between the Exposure of Palestinian men in Israel to Stress in Socio-political Contexts and Spousal Abuse

Key words: Intimate Partner Violence, Spousal abuse, Violence against women, Family violence, Psychological violence, Physical violence, National racism, National micro-aggression, National minority stress.

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The purpose of this study is to examine the exposure of Palestinian men in Israel to various stressors in socio-political context, such as: National micro-aggression, national racism, and national minority stress, and their relation to physical and psychological spousal abuse. This relationship is examined by controlling socio-demographic factors, a history of trauma, and daily Hassles. The study also examined whether psychological health and cognitive appraisal of stress mediate the above relationship. The study also examines whether social support moderates the effects of these sociopolitical stress factors on spousal abuse.

The study was conducted among a systematic semi-random sample of 270 Palestinian men living in Israel (As part of a large study). Participants filled out a self-administered questionnaire which included items from several instruments which were adapted to the Arabic language and to the socio-cultural and socio-political contexts of the Palestinian society in Israel.

I am working nowadays on analyzing the data through Path analysis to test the mediating role of mental health and cognitive appraisal. As well as, PROCESS moderation analysis using SPSS to test the moderating role of social support.

The results will be discussed into two separate papers.

The limitations of the study as well as the implications of the results for future research will be discussed.