

HOMICIDE ACROSS FRONTIERS: LESSONS FROM A COMPARATIVE APPROACH TO THINK ABOUT PREVENTION

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International Workshop: Homicide: Incidence, Risk Factors and Prevention
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CEINAV RESEARCH (1)

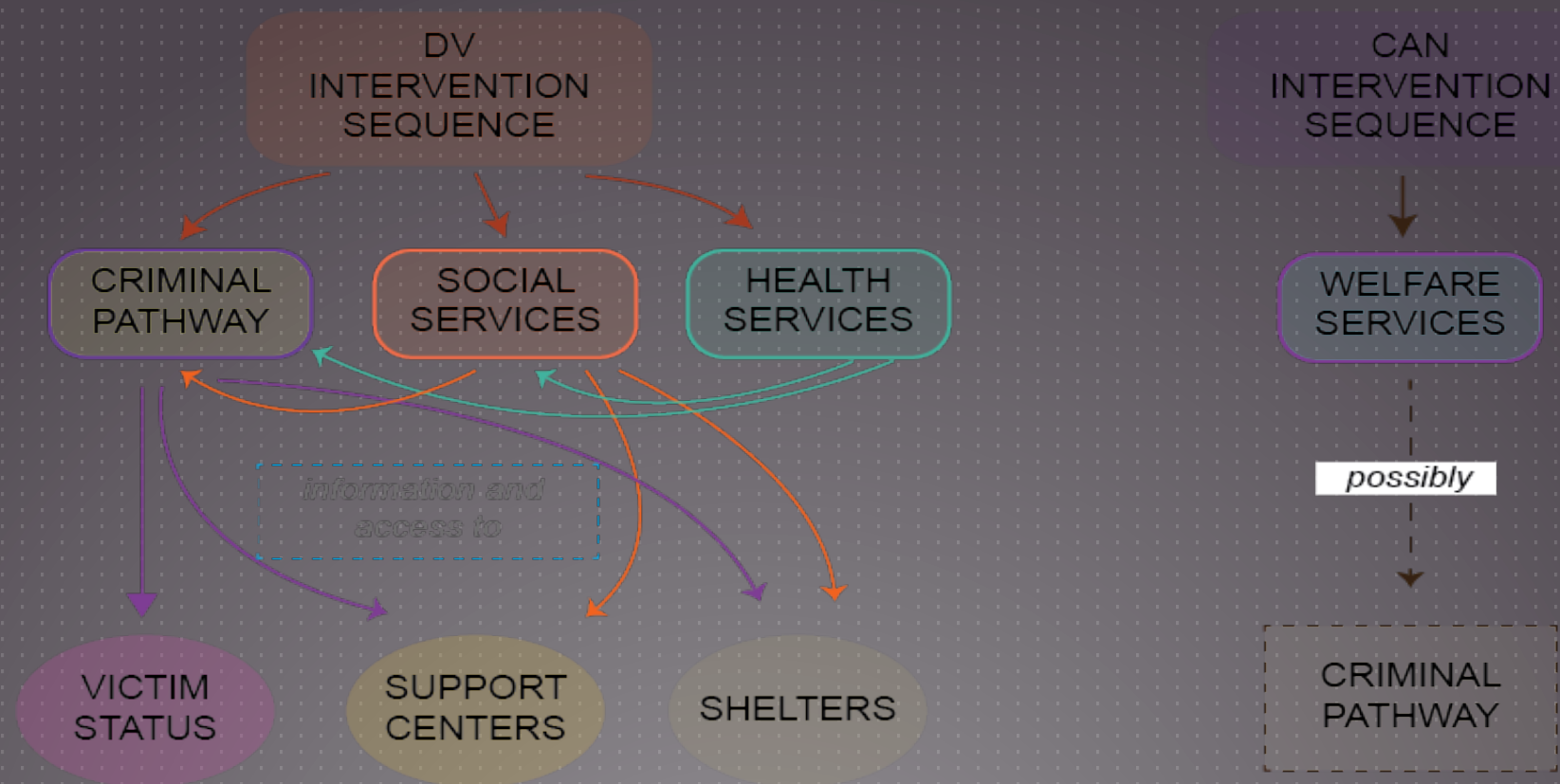
- ▶ Cross national and cross cultural research
- ▶ Focus group research;
- ▶ Frame analysis;
- ▶ Comparative hermeneutic interpretative analysis;
- ▶ Criative and dialogical process and visual analysis

CEINAV RESEARCH METHOD (2)

Focus groups with professionals / country:

- ▶ \pm 20 women and \pm 10 men
- ▶ Several cities across the country
- ▶ Police officers
- ▶ Magistrates (judges and prosecutors)
- ▶ Teachers
- ▶ Physicians
- ▶ Representatives of specialized NGO and IPSS
- ▶ Representative of the Gender Equality Commission
- ▶ Representative of a municipality
- ▶ Nurses

INTERVENTION SEQUENCE IN PORTUGAL



Frames	Dilemmas
Women's agency and space for action	Rights of the victims vs statutory responsibilities of the agencies
Portraits of victims and perpetrators	Intervention depends on the victims
For some men and women "violence is normal"	Enabling the woman to make "the right decision"
Reaching out the victims is the role of whole society	What to do with perpetrators
Separations take time	Risk of reporting /consequences of the intervention
Child endangerment	The legitimacy of police intervention
Multi-agency information sharing	How to decide when it is domestic violence (threshold)
The risk discourse	How to boost moral courage
The problem of the proof	Self-determination vs responsibility for the children
Austerity	Acting without the victims's consent
The gendering of leaving home (forced migration)	

LESSONS FROM COMPRATIVE ANALYSIS

- ▶ DV is viewed as an issue that is in the public interest to combat. The legal definitions of DV in all four countries have a gender-neutral language although the policy documents and other regulations identify women as the main victims. In the UK and Germany the law doesn't expressly criminalise DV as a separate offence. These countries do have however well developed policies and practices of DV intervention.

LESSONS FROM COMPRATIVE ANALYSIS

- ▶ Meanwhile in Slovenia and Portugal the legal codes specifically define DV crimes (PT) and “family violence” (SL) that preview that any family member may be a victim (not just women/girls), thus masking the underlying structures of social.

LESSONS FROM COMPRATIVE ANALYSIS

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LESSONS FROM COMPRATIVE ANALYSIS

- ▶ At the four countries we noticed a general lack of attention to the women's suffering, their subjectivities, agency, their voices and perspectives.
- ▶ Even though all the four countries have integrated the concept of empowerment in professionals' discourses, the voices of the victims were not mentioned.

LESSONS FROM COMPRATIVE ANALYSIS

- ▶ About the cultural frames we can conclude that the access and relationship with the legal system by women with culturally diverse and/or migrant backgrounds are limited and constrained by public policies that reproduce institutional racism and by some the professionals that used cultural frames to justify the limitations that these women experienced in seeking for help and support.

LESSONS FROM COMPRATIVE ANALYSIS

- ▶ Thus, the *othering* process goes hand in hand with the culturalization of DV based on preconceptions about gender, family and violence concerning women of different cultural and/or migrant backgrounds.
- ▶ There was also the accent on the responsibility of women (Hagemann-White, 2014).

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