



EUROPEAN  
CONFERENCE ON  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Abstract book

# EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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## ABSTRACT BOOK

### Organising committee

Guðrún Kristinsdóttir, University of Iceland

Jón Ingvar Kjaran, University of Iceland

Katrín Ólafsdóttir, University of Iceland

Mohammad Naeimi, University of Iceland

Kristín E. Harðardóttir, University of Iceland

Íris Sigurðardóttir, University of Iceland

Ellen Dröfn Gunnarsdóttir, University of Iceland

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## PREFACE

It is with great pleasure we welcome you to Reykjavik and the 5th European Conference on Domestic Violence (ECDV). The conference this year is organised in co-operation with the School of Education and the Educational Research Centre at the University of Iceland. It takes place in Hilton Nordica. The aim of the conference is to bring together researchers, students, professionals, practitioners, and policy makers from Europe and further afield to share and build knowledge and experiences on a wide range of issues concerning domestic violence. We hope that the conference contributes to building bridges between different perspectives, disciplines, and areas of expertise in the field of domestic violence. The visibility of domestic violence has increased with the COVID-19 global pandemic as in any emergency. This motivated our focus on the theme of precarity. The COVID-19 raised new barriers to building inclusive societies. Pre-existing gender gaps have amplified the crisis asymmetrically between men and women, even as women have been at the frontlines of managing the crisis as essential workers. In addition, and importantly, recent political and ideological crisis arising from the war in Ukraine further motivated the emphasis on precarity as an overall theme for the conference.

The purpose of this abstract book is to provide ECDV participants and other academics around the world with a resource where colleagues can discover additional research relevant to their own work. This purpose follows the aim of ECDV, that strives to raise awareness of DV/abuse and share research findings from across Europe and beyond. This book includes the abstracts of all the papers presented at the conference. All abstracts have been peer-reviewed before they have been approved. One of the aims for the organising committee has been to arrange things in a sustainable way. That is why we have chosen only to make all the information about the conference available digitally and to print nothing else but the name badges for the participants. We hope that you are coming to the conference with an open mind and are ready to participate in discussions with people you already know and that you also are ready to learn to know new colleagues. Finally, we would like to thank all the participants for attending the conference, the members of the organizing and scientific committee and most importantly the administration staff at the School of Education. Have a fabulous conference and fun with your colleagues.

**Guðrún Kristinsdóttir and Stephanie Holt, Co-Chairs of the Scientific Committee.**



# Organized symposia

## Interventions aimed at ethnic minority LGBT+ in Denmark

Interventions aimed at ethnic minority LGBT+ in Denmark, Background, purpose and upcoming initiatives

Author: Bente Kirstine Tran

Institute: Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration

Background, purpose and upcoming initiatives A study from 2015, as well as input from organizations, shelters and safe houses, led the Danish Government to grant funding for a shelter and counseling service for ethnic minority LGBT+ from 2021-2025 (RED+). In the years after, organizations emphasized the need for more initiatives to provide the group with better support. Shelters and safe houses found that ethnic minority LGBT+ experienced homophobia and harassment from the other residents, just as they found that the staff lacked knowledge of their particular challenges as ethnic minority LGBT+ and the ability to provide the group with sufficient support and security. A study, conducted as part of the establishment of RED+, showed that ethnic minority LGBT+ people have severe challenges with mental and sexual health. This led the Danish government to provide additional funding for a new counseling service focusing on ethnic minority LGBT+' mental and sexual health from 2022-2025.

A study of ethnic minority LGBT+ people in Denmark

Author: Bjarke Følner

Institute: Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration

This presentation highlights key findings from the study, which is based on a survey answered by more than 1.200 LGBT+ people in Denmark, including 147 LGBT+ people with non-western ethnic minority background, and 30 in-depth interviews with ethnic minority LGBT+ persons, relatives, and experts. The study documents that ethnic minority LGBT+ people continue to constitute a particularly vulnerable group in Danish society, with many being subjected to different forms of social discrimination as well as honour-based abuse from family and community members. In addition, the group suffers from severe mental health issues and a high prevalence of suicidal ideation, potential childhood trauma and experiences of sexual abuse. The study also explores the help-seeking behavior of the group and possible ways to improve their living conditions based on input from the target group itself, as well as from relatives and experts. In relation to RED+, Als Research is also documenting the progression of the residents during and after their stay at the shelter, using validated psychometric scales for measuring well-being, loneliness, life satisfaction, perceived choice, and self-awareness. The presentation will also highlight some of the preliminary results of this research, including early indications of the possible effects of staying at RED+.

RED+ - A shelter and advisory service for ethnic minority LGBT+ people

Author: Dijana Dix Omerbasic

Institute: Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration

This presentation will introduce the new shelter and counselling service aimed at ethnic minority LGBT+, as well as present some of the challenges the operator has met. Based on the experiences so far, the presentation will also highlight recommendations for others who wish to establish a similar shelter and/or counseling service. The shelter, RED+, is operated by RED – Supporting victims of honor-based abuse, along with the two partners; Als Research, a cross-disciplinary consultancy company, and Sabaah, an association for ethnic minority LGBT+. To the best of our knowledge, RED+ is the world's first and only government funded shelter for ethnic minority LGBT+ youth who have experienced honour-based abuse. RED+ is available to ethnic minority LGBT+ youth between the ages 16 and 30.

## Abuse in Couple Relationships: Centering An Analysis of Power

Practice with Couples When Abuse Has Occurred: Centering Power in Assessment and Intervention

Author: Diane Hiebert-Murphy

Institute: University of Manitoba

Practice with Couples When Abuse Has Occurred: Centering Power in Assessment and Intervention – Diane Hiebert-Murphy Intervention with couples with a history of abuse/violence has remained controversial within the field of domestic violence. Bridging conceptualizations of intimate partner violence with a relational view of couple conflict presents ideological and theoretical challenges. The resulting divide fails to build on knowledge of domestic violence to advance frameworks for addressing abusive behaviours within couple relationships. This paper presents an approach to working with couples that situates couples within a social context and centers power in the assessment of relational issues and abuse. Grounded in a feminist, intersectionality analysis, an assessment of power dynamics serves as a foundation for intervention planning where safety is the primary goal.

The Role of Power in Relationship Satisfaction in Couples with Histories of Abusive Behaviors

Author: Sharon Chou

Institute: University of Manitoba

The Role of Power in Relationship Satisfaction in Couples with Histories of Abusive Behaviors – Sharon Chou This research used a qualitative-dominant mixed design to examine relationship satisfaction among couples seeking treatment subsequent to experiences of abusive behaviours. Members of five couples were individually interviewed with a focus on their unique experience of their relationship in the context of abusive behaviours. These interviews were analyzed using interpretive phenomenological analysis. The findings suggested that even in the face of bidirectional abusive behaviours, the role of fear, agency, and powerlessness was important for understanding women's experiences of relationship satisfaction, while themes relating to minimization and lack of responsibility-taking was important in understanding men's experiences. This research highlights the importance of the intersectionality of gender and power in understanding relationship satisfaction in the context of abusive behaviours in treatment-seeking couples.

## **The Impact of Social Support on Couples Who Have Experienced Relationship Abuse**

Author: Kennedy B. Link

Institute: University of Manitoba

The Impact of Social Support on Couples Who Have Experienced Relationship Abuse - Kennedy B. Link This research explored the role of social support in the experience of abuse among couples currently seeking counselling. Individual interviews with each member of five heterosexual couples were conducted that focused on perceptions of social support. Using a narrative method, interviews were analyzed to identify themes relevant to social support, including its role in relationship satisfaction and well-being. A feminist-intersectionality perspective was utilized to explore how participants' social location was related to the availability, utility, and quality of social support. Further, this research examined the impact of structural and interpersonal power dynamics on participants' perceptions. The findings highlight the unique experiences of social support within the context of abuse, including ways in which it can be helpful and/or harmful. Theoretical and practical implications are discussed.

## **Exploring the Impact of Dominant Discourses About Ideal Relationships and Domestic Violence on Women's Narratives**

Author: Alanna E. S. Johnson

Institute: University of Manitoba

Exploring the Impact of Dominant Discourses About Ideal Relationships and Domestic Violence on Women's Narratives – Alanna E. S. Johnson This research addressed how women who have experienced domestic violence construct and make meaning of their relationships in light of dominant cultural narratives about intimate relationships. Qualitative analysis of narrative interviews with eight women revealed how women experiencing violence in their relationships attempt to align with dominant narratives about “healthy” relationships including power dynamics. Their narratives revealed that the dominant discourse creates a limited framework for lived experience for those who experience abuse in their relationships. The women addressed inconsistencies between the cultural narrative and their experiences of power imbalances by compartmentalizing the violence through an addictions lens, constructing pre/post violence narratives, and shifting how they assessed their relationships to include their social contexts. Recommendations for service providers and policy makers, and directions for future research are discussed.

## **Addressing barriers to justice and identifying what works for women affected by domestic abuse**

The experiences of women affected by domestic abuse: Support needs and what works

Author: Dr Laura Hammond

Institute: Birmingham City University

Co-authors: Dr Silvia Fraga Dominguez, Bobbie-Jay White, Jordyn Laird

This paper will focus on a study examining the services provided by a UK charity called WAITS, working with women affected by domestic abuse, more specifically its unique service for women with multiple and complex needs (e.g., substance abuse, history or risk of offending). The study involved semi-structured interviews with 11 women supported by the charity, which were analysed using thematic analysis. Participants identified that the service was meeting specialised needs for women in circumstances like theirs, which were not being adequately met elsewhere. Several key themes relating to reasons for success were the service's non-judgmental approach, its focus on advocacy and empowerment, its consideration of trauma, and its holistic and individualised approach to support, which was not time limited. Implications for practice will be discussed, focusing on what can be learnt from the success of this service to effectively support other women affected by domestic abuse.

### **Supporting women affected by domestic abuse with specialised needs**

Author: Dr Silvia Fraga Dominguez

Institute: Birmingham City University

This paper will focus on the experiences of service providers working for a UK charity called WAITS, which services women affected by domestic abuse. The study involved semi-structured interviews with four service providers, which were analysed using thematic analysis. Service providers identified that they treated each client as an individual and benefitted from having a non-judgmental approach, along with lived experience and an understanding of the clients' background. They discussed the service's success in engaging women with specialised needs, who often need long-term support, and their clients' achievements, including lack of reoffending and regaining custody of their children. Most importantly, they identified that the service was helpful in breaking cycles of trauma and benefitting future generations. Implications for practice will be discussed, focusing on what can be learnt from the success of this service to inform other service provision, as well as the challenges that this type of services experiences.

### **Challenges of dealing with the Criminal Justice System as a domestic abuse victim-survivor**

Author: Dr Laura Hammond

Institute: Birmingham City University

Co-authors: Dr Silvia Fraga Dominguez, Dr Jenny Richards, Women Acting in Today's Society (WAITS)

Based on conversations with WAITS, and recognising the benefits of giving victim-survivors and service providers the opportunity to share their experiences with criminal justice professionals, a series of focus groups were held to identify barriers to accessing the criminal justice system (and obtaining justice) as a victim-survivor and how these might be overcome. These were co-organised by researchers and WAITS, and attended by women representing a variety of backgrounds, including from minority ethnic communities, whose views are not always considered in practice, and by criminal justice practitioners (e.g., domestic abuse

leads, social workers). Themes identified during these conversations will be discussed, including around police accountability and response monitoring, improved communication through the criminal justice process, and ensuring that victim-survivors are informed of all available choices so that they can make informed decisions. The challenges and benefits of facilitating these conversations will also be considered, alongside practice and research implications.

## Advances in Violence Research: New Data on Risk Factors, Assessment, and Prevention

### Factors Associated with Substance Use among Pregnant Women Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence

Author: Kathryn Howell

Institute: University of the South

Co-authors: Laura Miller-Graff

Minimal research has examined factors related to substance use among pregnant women experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV). This study assessed the associations of maternal age, education, gestational age, adverse childhood experiences, past year IPV, and adulthood adverse life events with pregnant women's cigarette, alcohol, and marijuana use. Participants were 137 pregnant women (Mage=27.3 years; 66.9% African American/Black) who reported past-year IPV. Multinomial logistic regression found older age, less education, and more adulthood adversities were associated with prenatal cigarette use ( $\chi^2(6)=18.91$ ,  $p=.004$ ). Older maternal age and gestational age were related to prenatal alcohol use ( $\chi^2(6)=15.97$ ,  $p=.014$ ). The marijuana use model was not significant. Assessment and tailored treatment plans should consider individual factors as well as adverse life experiences that may contribute to prenatal substance use.

### Risk And Protective Factors For Suicidal Ideation Among Latino Youth

Author: Chiara Sabina

Institute: University of the South

Co-authors: Elizabeth Terrazas-Carrillo, Carlos Cuevas

Latino youth, like youth of other racial/ethnic groups, experience victimizations which increases risk for suicidal ideation. The Dating Violence Among Latino Adolescents study queried 1,525 US Latino teens about victimization experiences, mental health, help-seeking responses, and cultural factors. Of the 1,525 youth, 63 had thoughts of ending their life in the week prior to data collection. Conventional crime (OR=2.04), child maltreatment (OR=3.00), peer and sibling victimization (OR=2.13), and polyvictimization (OR=3.03) were significantly linked to suicidal ideation. Protective factors included social support, Latino cultural orientation, and being an immigrant. Understanding these links for Latino youth can alleviate the mental health impacts of victimization.

## Using Social Media To Capture Hard-To-Reach Populations: Lessons Learnt From Recruiting Young People For Child Maltreatment Research

Author: Clarissa Sammut Scerri

Institute: University of the South

Co-authors: Ingrid Grech Lanfranco, Lara Pace, Maria Borg

Recruiting young people for child maltreatment research is challenging. The aim of our study was to obtain prevalence rates of child physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, neglect, and domestic violence exposure within the Maltese population, using a representative sample of 18- to 24-year-olds. An adapted Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire was used in a web-based survey. Cognisant of the ways young people communicate, we used social media as a main recruitment tool. In this paper, we share the lessons we learnt from the challenges we encountered whilst recruiting and retaining our young adult participants using Instagram, Facebook, and other digital media tools. The study design specifics, sampling methods, and recruitment strategies are discussed, including the use of incentives and obtaining ethical approval.

## Revising the Sexual Experiences Survey for 2023: Process and Evidence of Validity

Author: RaeAnn Anderson

Institute: University of the South

Co-authors: Zoe Peterson, Mary Koss

The Sexual Experiences Survey (SES) is the most widely used measure of sexual assault victimization. This paper describes the collaborative process of the 2022 revision and presents preliminary data of the latest version, the SES-V, from three higher education samples. Study 1 compared the SES-V to the 2007 SES-SFV. Data from 460 students (46.7% women, 66.7% heterosexual, 66.1% white), indicate the SES-V records higher sexual victimization prevalence rates than the SES-SFV; 57.1% (67.4% of women, 46.9% of men) compared to a 31.5% prevalence rate for the SES-SFV. Study 2 (N=245) investigated reports of made-to-penetrate (MTP) victimization indicating that minor wording changes improved the validity of MTP reports compared to Study 1. Study 3 replicates Study 1 and is in progress.

(MTP) victimization indicating that minor wording changes improved the validity of MTP reports compared to Study 1. Study 3 replicates Study 1 and is in progress. Promoting Healthy Relationships And Preventing Dating Violence: Evaluation Of The Parent Co

Author: Martine Hébert

Institute: University of the South

Co-authors: Mylène Fernet, Estelle Piché, the SPARX program team

Effective prevention is a priority to break the cycle of violence. Parents play a central role in sex education and are key players in conveying positive messages about respectful and healthy relationships. However, this target audience is often overlooked as DV prevention has mostly focused on adolescents. The SPARX program offers caregivers access to a series of 7 video clips that include advice from trained youth workers and testimonials from

teenagers and parents. The study assessed the effects of the videos on parental knowledge and sense of self-efficacy using a mixed-methods design. Viewing the videos was associated with significant gains in caregivers; they reported feeling better equipped to tackle the issues of healthy relationships and DV with their teenager.

## **Aiming for justice and recovery for child victims of violence and abuse. The promise, tensions and dilemmas of Barnahus work**

**Criminal law and the Barnahus target group - a legal tension between proactive and reactive law**

Author: Malou Andersson

Institute: School of Social Work, Lund University

Co-authors: Anna Kaldal

Malou Andersson and Anna Kaldal Criminal law and the Barnahus target group – a legal tension between proactive and reactive law A child’s entry into Barnahus is often a suspicion of crime or a criminal investigation, linked to a specific country's penal code. With Sweden as an example, we show how criminalizing violence against children affects which children have access to Barnahus' resources. Yet, the CRC article 19 stipulates that children have the right to protection from all forms of physical and psychological violence. The goal is an outcome in the best interest of the child, which in some cases can be education or treatment of the parent and not always criminal prosecution. Defining the Barnahus target group from criminalized acts may risk excluding a large group of children included in the scope of article 19.

**Challenging the monoliths – utilising Barnahus to enable child friendly justice and recovery**

Author: Camille Warrington

Institute: School of Social Work, Lund University

Co-authors: Mary Mitchell, John Devaney

Camille Warrington, Mary Mitchell and John Devaney Challenging the monoliths – utilising Barnahus to enable child friendly justice and recovery There is increasing recognition that children are victims of domestic abuse in their own right. This paper will present data from ongoing research on the introduction of the Barnahus model in the United Kingdom involving in-depth interviews and focus groups with sixty-five practitioners, managers and policy makers. We identify that professionals recognise that the current justice and child protection processes subjugate children’s needs to those of professional systems and discuss whether and how a Barnahus can challenges current systems and processes to become more child centred.

**Family member, rights holder or crime victim? Target group constructions for Barnahus**

Author: Susanna Johansson

Institute: School of Social Work, Lund University



Co-authors: Kari Stefansen

Susanna Johansson and Kari Stefansen Family member, rights holder or crime victim? Target group constructions for Barnahus In the ongoing European standardization of Barnahus we are witnessing an expansion of the target group, but also contextual variations in terms of inclusion, exclusion and positioning of different sub-groups of children, such as children experiencing domestic violence and children who abuse other children. Based on policy documents and reports from different contexts, our comparative analysis focuses on how target group constructions affect the positioning of children and the services offered for different groups of children.

**Accumulated silence when passing on the buck. Organisational tensions in child welfare investigations**

Author: Lina Ponnert

Institute: School of Social Work, Lund University

Lina Ponnert Accumulated silence when passing on the buck. Organisational tensions in child welfare investigations Although one aim of Barnahus is to provide a child centred model for investigating suspected child abuse by using a one door principle, the child welfare services are characterized by an intra organisational specialisation with division of case work into several different units. This presentation draws on interviews with social workers from seven municipalities in Sweden, and discusses (intra and inter-) organisational tensions within the child welfare services and in collaboration with Barnahus. The concept accumulated silence when children disclose violence is introduced as an apparent risk due to a multi-layered juridification process.

**Institutional inertia in the Norwegian Barnahus model: The continuing marginalization of the medical mandate**

Author: Kari Stefansen

Institute: School of Social Work, Lund University

Co-authors: Elisiv Bakketeig, Susanna Johansson

Kari Stefansen, Elisiv Bakketeig and Susanna Johansson Institutional inertia in the Norwegian Barnahus model: The continuing marginalization of the medical mandate In Norway the Barnhus model has become a standard service in cases of violence and abuse against children. While more children receive follow-up and psychological treatment, the medical mandate is marginalized: medical staff are seldom part of consultation meetings and a large majority of children are not medically assessed – although this has been a goal since the implementation. We analyze steering documents, a survey among medical doctors, and interviews with Barnahus staff and stakeholders to understand why the medical mandate continues to be marginalized.

## Calling Systems to Account: Challenging Domestic Violence Conceptualization and Approaches in Varied Contexts

Using longitudinal growth mixture models and latent class analysis to investigate how DV exposure impacts mental health outcomes and substance use in U.S. child-welfare involved adolescents

Author: Gabriel “Joey” Merrin

Institute: Yale University

Co-authors: Ishita Sunita Arora, Nickholas Grant, Ayana April-Sanders, Derrick Gordon

Exposure to domestic violence (DV) is associated with anxiety, depression, delinquency, substance use, and risky sexual behaviors. Few studies have examined these associations longitudinally with children involved with the child-welfare systems (CWS) in the U.S. We used mixture models (i.e., multidimensional growth, latent class) to examine four classes of witnessing DV (i.e., psychological, physical, sexual, injury) across three waves (ages 12, 14, 16) for CWS-involved adolescents (N = 911). We examined DV’s associations with mental health outcomes and transition into three classes of substance use at age 18 (polysubstance use with illicit drug use, without illicit drug use, low all). Findings show that adolescents in high-early-exposure DV class had the significantly highest mental health concerns and transitions to polysubstance use at age 18. This study implicates the CWS in mitigating the prevention, intervention, and policy practice to mitigate risks for adolescents through early identification, consequent complex trauma, and special needs.

### Multi-level Risk and Protective factors of Husband's Domestic Violence against Child Brides in Bihar, India

Author: Ishita Sunita Arora

Institute: Yale University

Co-authors: Christopher Murphy, Nkiru Nnawulezi, A. K. Shivakumar, Gabriel “Joey” Merrin, Derrick Gordon

Child marriage and subsequent domestic violence (DV) perpetrated by husbands on child brides are widely prevalent in India. Research on their prevalence, origins, prevention, and intervention is limited. We used intersectional feminist theory, empowerment theory, and social-ecological model of violence against women to explore risk and protective factors for DV against child brides. We examined cross-sectional sample of 3,182 child brides using hierarchical regression and moderation analyses. The findings demonstrate that many factors outside of child brides' control, such as younger age, lower caste, inequitable gender norms, exposure to parental violence, reproductive coercion, and dowry harassment increased husband’s perpetration of DV against child brides. Higher maternal education, lower perceived self-efficacy, and higher social connections were protective against DV. The study highlights the need to invest in developing gender-responsive DV prevention/intervention efforts, challenging patriarchal socio-cultural norms, increasing gender equity, and curbing forced child marriage in limited-resource settings in India.

## Re-conceptualizing Domestic Violence in LGBTQIA+ relationships using Non-heteronormative Post-structural Feminist lens

Author: Derrick Gordon

Institute: Yale University

Co-authors: Ishita Sunita Arora

The prevalence of domestic violence (DV) in same-sex relationships is similar to or greater than in heterosexual couples. Despite this, heteronormative conceptualization is used to define DV in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Queer (LGBTQIA+) relationships. This limits the scope of capturing the dynamics and abuse (outing, interference in medical decisions, social isolation) in LGBTQIA+ relationships. This limited theorization impacts services received by LGBTQIA+ individuals and families by creating institutional barriers, such as the gendered model of the justice system, mistrust in fair law enforcement to protect LGBTQIA+ populations, social service providers' lack of awareness, and limited skills and bias when working with LGBTQIA+ relationships. We present a re-conceptualized view of DV using poststructuralist feminist theory, queer theory, and the sociology of gender. This expansion of the DV framework may help broaden our understanding of DV in same-sex relationships and inform prevention and intervention strategies.

## Using the Science of Behavioral Change in Harm Reduction Framework to inform Batterer Intervention Programs for Reducing Domestic Violence

Author: Devon White

Institute: Yale University

Co-authors: Ishita Sunita Arora, Derrick Gordon

Batterer intervention programs (BIPs) address perpetrators' use of violence and teach conflict resolution skills. Despite their feminist foundations and widespread use, their effectiveness is limited. BIPs' binary outcome indicators (violence versus no violence) following a short-term behavioral intervention do not align with science on behavior change. Harm reduction models have been proven effective in substance use, medical, and other behavior change paradigms. This presentation asks if, when, and how harm reduction frameworks may be used to reframe BIPs' outcomes by creating achievable, increasingly progressive, and practical strategies. These strategies should encourage individual accountability for violence; violence abstinence; safety; and mitigating harm to others and self by reducing the future frequency, intensity, and occurrence of DV. We ask: Is there a place for this approach in the assessment of BIPs' effectiveness; would a nuanced violence reduction conceptualization more adequately achieve safety goals; and how might this approach keep victims safe?

# Canadian Trends of 2S/LGBTQIA+ Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence- Caused Brain Injury and Policing and Intimate Partner Violence

An Overview of Intimate Partner Violence and the Police Response in Canada

Author: Amanda McCormick

Institute: University of British Columbia (Okanagan)

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a common call for service for Canadian police. In British Columbia each year, approximately 8,500 founded IPV files are received by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Police operate under a preferred arrest policy, and approximately 80% of intimate partner violence files result in criminal charges being recommended. However, the preferred arrest policy poses a barrier to reporting victimization to the police. This, alongside numerous other barriers to reporting, means that less than one-fifth of IPV occurring in society is consequently reported to the police. This presentation will use police call-for-service data to identify common trends in police-reported IPV files, and data from survivors to discuss some of the common barriers to reporting, along with suggestions to enhance future reporting.

Characterizing Brain Injury in 2S/LGBTQIA+ Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

Author: Tori Stranges

Institute: University of British Columbia (Okanagan)

This presentation will explore the intersection of brain injury, intimate partner violence, and the 2S/LGBTQIA+ community. It will have a particular focus on how queer survivors access health and social services. Research in the field of IPV-caused BI has focused on heterosexual women, ignoring the unique needs of 2S/LGBTQIA+ community members. Previous research highlights people who identify as part of the 2S/LGBTQIA+ community are at heightened risk of experiencing IPV. However, no attention has been given to the rate and ways in which BI is characterized. Using a collaborative mixed-methods approach, the research will quantify how many 2S/LGBTQIA+ survivors are managing the effects of BI's in their lives. As well as identify barriers and facilitators, survivors face when accessing systems in Canada. These findings will provide the foundation for modifications in health care provision, and identification and management of IPV-caused BI in the 2S/LGBTQIA+ community.

Police Investigations of IPV Files involving non-Fatal Strangulation

Author: Amanda V. McCormick

Institute: University of British Columbia (Okanagan)

Co-authors: Irwin M. Cohen, Stephanie Ashton, Tara Haarhoff

Many survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) report experiencing strangulation by an intimate partner. Strangulation is one of the best predictors of domestic homicide, raising the risk for lethal violence more than 700%. Survivors of a non-fatal strangulation (NFS) are at risk of death following the strangulation due to undetected carotid dissection and

traumatic brain injuries from the deprivation of oxygen. As frontline responders, police play a vital role in identifying if NFS has occurred and connecting the survivor to health care providers. Yet police are typically not trained in detecting NFS. Prior research suggests many survivors of NFS show no immediate visible injuries, though, with adequate training, other signs and symptoms of NFS may be detected by police. This presentation will discuss challenges with police investigations of NFS in IPV, present the results of an NFS survey with frontline officers, and outline suggestions to enhance future training.

### **Knowledge Translation, Virtual Reality and shifting Culture in Police Response**

Author: Stephanie Ashton

Institute: University of British Columbia (Okanagan)

Co-authors: Amanda V. McCormick

Over 7000 police officers work in urban, rural, and remote communities throughout BC. They play a key role in response to Intimate Partner Violence. Stef Ashton's research involves the creation of a novel virtual reality (VR) scenario-based training tool to change police response in IPV cases where head injury and strangulation symptoms exist with the goal of improving long-term health outcomes amongst survivors. It is recognized that simulation is a gold standard for case-based learning. The educational content, developed for delivery through a VR experience, involved input from police, stakeholders from the gender-based violence sector, and those with lived experience, to ensure representation and inclusion in a simulated environment. The final scenario training tool will be tested within the learning environment and again six months after the training to determine the consistency with which front-line officers are applying the knowledge. This presentation will discuss the study's findings and implications.

### **Child welfare investigations in cases of intimate partner violence: challenges and ways forward**

Children subjected to violence and the orientation of child welfare services

Author: Anders Kassman

Institute: Marie Cederschiöld University

Co-authors: Filip Wollter, Maria Eriksson

Drawing on a register study of all children aged 7-12 (n=1 764) investigated due to exposure to violence in Stockholm 2019, this paper explores the orientation of the Swedish child welfare services and what this means for investigations regarding and services to children exposed to different forms of violence. Children were clustered into five groups and each group analyzed with binary logistic regressions, in relation to paths of referral, living conditions, family background and type, school grades and contacts with health care. The most common ground for investigation was violence in the family (including intimate partner violence), followed by physical abuse against the child. Children with a non-Swedish background were over-represented in the physically abused group, even when controlling for other variables. Other differences were also found, e.g. regarding paths of referral.

## Challenges in investigating children's experiences of violence: Results from SAVE -Support and protection Against Violence, on Equal terms for all children

Author: Birgitta Persdotter

Institute: Marie Cederschiöld University

Co-authors: Madeleine Andersson

The paper presents some of the results from a large research and development project on child welfare services in cases of violence in Sweden. The data set consists of child welfare investigations concerning 851 children referred to social services due to suspected violence in the family 2019-2020. The study points to differences regarding how forms of violence are investigated and assessed. In cases of violence against children directly, children were the main informants about violence and less serious forms as well as fewer occasions of violence were documented, compared to cases of children's exposure to IPV where parents tended to be the main informants. Also, risk assessments were carried out less frequently in cases of violence against the child directly, compared to cases of IPV. Implications for practice are discussed.

## Children's agency and narrations of fear in child welfare risk and safety interviews

Author: Maria Eriksson

Institute: Marie Cederschiöld University

Co-authors: Clara Iversen

The paper presents results from a study of structured investigative child interviews developed to be used in the context of child welfare investigations: the "iRISK" risk and safety interviews for children subjected to violence in the family. The data consists of 20 audio recorded interviews drawing on this interview protocol, carried out in Sweden 2017-2021, involving 21 children and 11 case workers from five different child welfare offices. The interviews were analyzed through Conversation Analysis (CA). The results presented concern the extent and context for children's agency in terms of tackling leading components of interviewer questions regarding violence, as well as how children in the context of these interviews express experiences of fear associated with being exposed to different forms of violence in a family context.

## Children's experiences of parental domestic homicide: Being seen, heard and supported

Listening to the stories of children and young people bereaved by domestic homicide in Australia

Author: Katitza Marinkovic Chavez

Institute: University of Edinburgh

Co-authors: Cathy Humphreys, Kathryn Joy, John Frederick, Eva Alisic

The stories of children and young people who have lost a parent to domestic homicide are rarely heard. We aimed to address this gap by collaborating with people with lived experience in doing research and advocacy. A narrative analysis of nine semi-structured interviews with people with lived experience found that they frequently experienced narratives that were imposed upon them about the homicide, leading to a deep sense of loneliness, as well as feeling misunderstood, powerless, and silenced. In response, participants took control over their stories as a way of subversion and to connect with others. Additionally, we developed resources based on participants' stories to advocate for better support for children, youth, and families. In conclusion, this project shows the benefits of opening spaces for people with lived experience to create and share their stories under their own terms, both for their wellbeing and for improving services and policies.

### Children's agency following parental intimate partner homicide

Author: Claire Houghton

Institute: University of Edinburgh

Co-authors: Zain Kurdi, John Devaney, Eva Alisic

When a child experiences the homicide of a parent there are many decisions that need to be made, such as who the child will live with, what contact they will have with the accused and other family members, whether siblings are placed together and whether children continue attending the same or a different school. Drawing upon data from ten in-depth interviews with individuals bereaved by domestic homicide before the age of 18, this paper reflects on how children's wishes and feelings about their future care are established, or not, whether they felt they had a role in decision-making and the implications of this for children's sense of identity, agency and recovery. Our findings highlight the importance of seeking children's views at the time and on an on-going basis to help redress the sense of powerlessness that children experience over the homicide of a parent.

### Children's needs for support in the UK in the aftermath of parental intimate partner homicide

Author: Zain Kurdi

Institute: University of Edinburgh

Co-authors: Claire Houghton, John Devaney, Eva Alisic

Children and young people with lived experience of domestic homicide process the event in various ways. Family and the system (police, social services and schools) have a significant impact in the immediate aftermath on how those with lived experience adjust to life. This study explores the experiences of ten young people and young adults in the UK bereaved by domestic homicide before the age of 18. In-depth semi-structured interviews were conducted with participants exploring relationships and identity development in the aftermath of the homicide. Reflexive thematic analysis was used to analyse the data. Analysis identified 3 main themes: (1) resilience and perseverance; (2) non-normalcy; (3) isolation and alienation; and 2 sub-themes (a) mistrust and identity based tensions; and (b) coping and escapism through substance misuse. Our findings highlight the importance of specialised immediate and longer-term support and services for children and young people bereaved by domestic homicide.

**What are the needs of carers and other family members when caring for a child bereaved by parental intimate partner homicide**

Author: John Devaney

Institute: University of Edinburgh

Co-authors: Zain Kurdi, Claire Houghton, Eva Alisic

When a parent is murdered by their current or former intimate partner, many children require to be cared for by other family members. Alongside dealing with their own shock and grief about the loss of a family member, carers are then meant to be able to hold the trauma of the child, and to provide a safe and nurturing environment for the child's recovery and future development. In-depth semi-structured interviews were conducted with fifteen participants in the UK and Ireland exploring carers experiences and needs. Reflexive thematic analysis identified three main themes: (1) children's need for physical and psychological safety; (2) carers needs for practical assistance; (3) managing the relationships with other family members. Our findings highlight that carers and other family members often receive high levels of sympathy, but little practical or emotional support. Professionals can be instrumental in making carers feel valued, understood and supported.

## **Coercive Control and Intimate Partner Violence: Applications in Differing Contexts**

**Overview of Coercive Control**

Author: Chitra Raghavan, PhD

Institute: John Jay College of Criminal Justice at the City University of New York (CUNY)

Co-authors: Kendra Doychak, PhD

Coercive control is an abusive dynamic that incorporates various psychological tactics to ultimately exert control over an intimate partner and rob them of self-determination and liberty. Clinically, coercion differs from "normative" controlling behavior both in that the former attempts to rob an individual of liberty in vulnerable domains but also because the perpetrator does not allow for negotiation or resistance, or alternatively, any type of resistance results in chronic and harmful retaliation and increased coercion. This lecture will cover key tactics of coercive control as well as a brief overview of traumatic consequences including posttraumatic stress symptoms and trauma bonds. At the conclusion, viewers will have a solid grasp of coercive control tactics and how abusers use such tactics to disempower their victims. Intersectional identities of gender, sexuality, religion, and culture will be incorporated throughout.

**Reframing Sexual Coercion as Coercive Control**

Author: Elise Juraschek

Institute: John Jay College of Criminal Justice at the City University of New York (CUNY)



Using mixed methods, we explored rates and correlates of sexual coercion (SC) in 136 men remanded to a batterer treatment program to better understand the interplay of intimate partner violence and sexual violence. Participants completed the 42-item Multidimensional Sexual Coercion (MSCQ) scale, a detailed assessment of sexually coercive tactics perpetrated during their current or most recent relationship. Forty percent of participants engaged in some form of SC, and of those 56 men, 60% did so frequently (> 5 times). While participants freely admitted to physical violence and were able to identify self-reports of SC, qualitative narratives were chaotic, fragmented, and reflected participants' overall discomfort and confusion when asked to discuss their use of SC. This presentation will reframe SC as a coercive control tactic which uses privileged history within the relationship, and discuss best methods to identify this abuse dynamic.

### Women who Love Cult Leaders

Author: Sarah Feliciano

Institute: John Jay College of Criminal Justice at the City University of New York (CUNY)

While cultic groups have widely been recognized as abusive, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) within these groups has been under-studied. To address this dearth, a semi-structured interview guide using the Coercive Control (CC) framework was adapted for cult contexts. Interviews were conducted with former cult members (N = 115) from a variety of groups, 13 of whom, described engaging in a romantic, intimate partner relationship with the cult leader. To provide a holistic understanding of IPV in cults, researchers will present the following: (1) differences in CC tactic prevalence and severity between participants romantically involved with leadership versus those who were not; (2) qualitative descriptions and psychological characterizations of individuals who become romantically involved with cultic group leaders and how they are entrapped; and lastly, (3) how IPV in cultic settings mirrors and contrasts domestic violence, the gender-based violence cults perpetrate, and how cult stigma influences the experience of IPV victimization.

### Coercive Control in the LGBTQ+ Community

Author: Alexander Legg

Institute: John Jay College of Criminal Justice at the City University of New York (CUNY)

To date, little research has examined the experience of Coercive Control (CC) victimization within the context of the LGBTQ+ community and has not considered intersectional identity-based variables that may impact the experience of CC victimization including race and ethnicity, religiosity, familial acceptance, and "outness." In the current talk, CC will be discussed and contextualized through a case study of a gay man who was victimized by severe levels of CC. Unique differences from research on CC in cisgender and heterosexual couples will be highlighted as areas that professionals should be aware of when working with CC victims who identify as LGBTQ+. Additionally, preliminary data from a study examining CC in a community-based sample of LGBTQ+ individuals will be discussed. At conclusion, viewers will have an increased understanding of the unique differences and considerations to make when assessing CC, and intimate partner violence more broadly, among individuals in the LGBTQ+ community.

## Continuums of violences in migration contexts

Understanding the structures of violence against asylum seeking women in France

Author: Jane Freedman

Institute: Norwegian Centre of Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies

This paper explores the ways in which the coloniality of the French asylum system works to deny exiled women access to legal, welfare and social services, thus creating and reinforcing systems of racialised and gendered violence against them. It will highlight the ways in which the State not only neglects these women, but actively contributes to violence through its racialised neo-liberal policies of deliberate neglect. Based on ethnographic research carried out in the Paris region including interviews with exiled women and representatives of various NGOs, the paper aims to emphasise that the structural production of gendered violence, against racialised exiled women illustrates the coloniality of the asylum system and more broadly of the migration regime, which manifests itself in policies of exclusion, neglect and endangerment.

Examining immigrant women's interactions with GBV-related services and structures in Canada: Barriers and vulnerabilities

Author: Busra Yalcinoz-Ucan

Institute: Norwegian Centre of Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies

Co-authors: Evangelia Tastsoglou, Myrna Dawson

By employing a feminist intersectionality approach the present paper investigates how structural factors may aggravate immigrant women's vulnerabilities to gender-based violence (GBV) and examines how these vulnerabilities shape their safety-related decisions and actions. Based on a thematic analysis of 17 in-depth interviews with immigrant women in Canada, our findings highlight the limited accessibility and effectiveness of GBV services in meeting the safety and well-being needs of immigrant women. Moreover, the structures and services further contributed to already existing experiences of stigmatization and discrimination based on women's migrant identities and diverse intersecting factors such as disability, geographical location, or racial and religious background. Our study illustrates how the lack of effective systemic responses to GBV, interacting with migration-related inequalities, becomes a crucial barrier to immigrant women's safety, agency, and well-being and, by doing so, contributes to the re-production of violence in immigrant women's lives.

Forced Marriages and Child Brides: Gendered Violence Among Syrian Migrants in Turkey

Author: Gabriela Volfova

Institute: Norwegian Centre of Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies

Syrians are one of the most vulnerable ethnic groups in Turkey, often living in overcrowded and unsanitary accommodation facilities. Intergenerational acceptance of violence against women coupled with economic, social and health insecurity provide enabling environments

for harmful gendered practices such as forced marriages of young girls. These “child brides” are often given to older Turkish men in exchange of rent or dowry. Many Syrian girls thus suffer from depressive and suicidal symptoms and ill-health of their own as well as children born to them. Research based on interviews with Syrian migrant women in Turkey highlighted increased levels of gender-based violence in the households because of forced marriages. The paper will try to address the fragile balancing act young Syrian women strike fighting the structural and interpersonal continuum of gendered violence within the forced marriage context.

**Domestic violence and system violence; migrant mothers abused by majority men in Norway**

Author: Margunn Bjørnholt

Institute: Norwegian Centre of Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies

Using the concept of a continuum of violence, this paper explores how violence from intimate partners shades into and is perpetuated as post separation abuse and system abuse and the interaction of systemic misogyny and racialised abuse both from partners and at system level. It draws on interviews with migrant women in Norway who have been abused by Norwegian majority men. The mothers described not being believed, and the welfare services and judiciary becoming a means of continued abuse for the perpetrator. This failure at the system level is analysed through the lens of Marianne Hesters three planet model, expanded with migration as the fourth “planet”, and Michael Salter’s theory of invalidation. By highlighting the ways in which various systems fail to support abused migrant mothers, the paper suggests directions for improving society’s response to abused migrant mothers and their children.

## **Critical Perspectives on Domestic Violence: Economic Precarity and Male Contact Sports**

**Economic Dimensions of Intimate Violence**

Author: James Ptacek

Institute: Suffolk University, Boston, Massachusetts USA

James Ptacek Economic Dimensions of Intimate Violence Amid the many important topics within the research on intimate violence, there has been a general lack of attention to social class. This presentation will discuss a new study of social class and intimate violence. This research is based on in-depth interviews with 60 women from all social classes who were abused by their husbands or boyfriends. This includes women from wealthy, professional, working-class, and poor communities. Both economic privilege and economic disadvantage are important to this investigation. This work outlines a map of social entrapment that depicts this issue in its full complexity. This new research has just been published in *Feeling Trapped: Social Class and Violence Against Women* (University of California Press, 2023).

## Mass Incarceration, Economic Precarity, and Domestic Violence

Author: Donna Coker

Institute: Suffolk University, Boston, Massachusetts USA

Donna Coker Mass Incarceration, Economic Precarity, and Domestic Violence The mechanisms of US mass incarceration are a significant and often unexamined contributor to economic precarity, weakening the economic power of families and entire neighborhoods. While the association between economic distress and domestic violence has long been recognized, the role that state carceral policies play in worsening economic conditions and thereby deepening the risks for domestic violence is underappreciated. The centrality of the carceral response was evident in advocacy regarding COVID-related prisoner releases, with most organizations explicitly excluding domestic violence cases, without regard to risk assessment. This presentation explores the growing collaboration between movement actors in racial justice, prison abolition, restorative justice, and anti-violence in efforts to expose and respond to the role of state violence in the experience of interpersonal violence.

## Sociological Knowledge of Male-to-Female Economic Abuse During and After Separation/ Divorce: What We Know and What We Don't Know

Author: Walter DeKeseredy

Institute: Suffolk University, Boston, Massachusetts USA

Walter S. DeKeseredy Sociological Knowledge of Male-to-Female Economic Abuse During and After Separation/ Divorce: What We Know and What We Don't Know Since the 1970s, social scientists have greatly enhanced empirical and theoretical understandings of various types of woman abuse in ongoing heterosexual relationships, such as dating, cohabitation, and marriage. While we know that breaking up with an abusive man is one of the most dangerous events in a woman's life, relatively little attention has thus far been paid to the economic victimization of women who want to leave, are in the process of leaving, or who have left their male marital or cohabiting partners. The main objective of this presentation is to answer three questions: What do sociologists know about male-to-female economic abuse during and after separation/divorce? How do they know it? What are the next steps?

## Male Contact Sports and Violence Against Women: The Current State of Sociological Knowledge

Author: Walter S. DeKeseredy

Institute: Suffolk University, Boston, Massachusetts USA

Co-authors: Andrea DeKeseredy, Ping Lam Ip

Walter S. DeKeseredy Andrea DeKeseredy Ping Lam Ip Male Contact Sports and Violence Against Women: The Current State of Sociological Knowledge Only a few fields have moved as far and fast as the violence against women movement. Advances in the social scientific study of this major social problem, in fact, have been even faster paced than the vaunted leaps in some of the physical sciences. Surprisingly, however, scant empirical and theoretical attention has thus far been paid to hypermasculine male athletes' violence against women. The main objective of this presentation, then, is to suggest new sociological

means of filling this major research gap. Male contact sports must be studied with attention to multiple social inequalities.

## DAHLIA-19 - Domestic Abuse: Harnessing Learning Internationally from Covid-19

Critical Junctures and the “Shadow Pandemic”: an International Comparison of Policy Responses to Domestic Abuse during Covid-19

Author: Leah McCabe

Institute: University of Central Lancashire

Co-authors: Stephanie Holt, Claire Houghton, Cathy Humphrey, Nicola Christofides, Nicky Stanley

Critical Junctures and the “Shadow Pandemic”: An International Comparison of Policy Responses to Domestic Abuse during Covid-19 Leah McCabe, Helen Richardson Foster, Claire Houghton, Sarah Shorrocks, Soma Gregory, Cathy Humphrey, Stephanie Holt, Nicola Christofides, Franziska Meinck and Nicky Stanley This study employs an international case study of Covid-19, comparing DA policy responses in the UK, Ireland, South Africa, and Australia. We ask whether Covid-19 presented a critical juncture for transformative policy change in each country, and if not, why? We argue that the pandemic offered a policy window for DA policy-making, establishing new and highly effective ways of working. However, these opportunities depended on institutional arrangements that preceded the crisis. We argue that established infrastructure provided a starting point for new processes to be ‘layered’ on top of old governance structures. While this suggests that Covid-19 did not trigger substantial paradigmatic change, layering of new processes can still lead to change, albeit at a slower pace.

‘It was powerful because it was named’: How the learning from domestic abuse public messaging during Covid-19 can inform future policy

Author: Stephanie Holt

Institute: University of Central Lancashire

Co-authors: Soma Gregory, Ruth Elliffe

‘It was powerful because it was named’: How the learning from domestic abuse public messaging during Covid-19 can inform future policy Stephanie Holt, Soma Gregory and Ruth Elliffe It was recognised early in the pandemic that ‘stay-at-home’ public health directives which attempted to contain transmission of the virus had paradoxically placed victims of DA at even greater risk. Globally, governments and leaders challenged this unintended consequence by developing public messaging campaigns to inform DA victims that restrictions did not apply to those escaping harm, and that services and supports were operational throughout the pandemic. In Ireland, the ‘Still Here’ campaign fulfilled this objective and was positively perceived. However, formal evaluations which were conducted on the campaign’s effectiveness did not capture more tangible metrics such as uptake of services. This presentation will explore findings from the Daliha-19 study to harness

strengths and learning which could potentially inform future national public messaging for times of crisis.

### **Developing New Portals to Safety for Domestic Abuse Survivors in the Context of the Pandemic**

Author: Helen Richardson Foster

Institute: University of Central Lancashire

Co-authors: Christine Barter, Sarah Shorrocks, Leah McCabe, Claire Houghton, Nicky Stanley

Developing New Portals to Safety for Domestic Abuse Survivors in the Context of the Pandemic Helen Richardson Foster, Christine Barter, Sarah Shorrocks, Nicky Stanley, Leah McCabe and Claire Houghton This study examined the implementation of four community touchpoint schemes established in the UK during the pandemic for victims/survivors of DA. Community touchpoints are designated places, online and in accessible settings such as pharmacies and banks, offering confidential advice and directing victims/survivors to expert DA services. Some stakeholders considered that schemes lacked responsiveness to local context and expressed concern regarding confidentiality in rural areas and staff training. Schemes were in non-stigmatised locations but were not accessible for some groups. Most touchpoint schemes targeted adults only. While robust evidence of outcomes was limited, there were indications that schemes had achieved good reach with some early evidence of take-up. These initiatives may act to raise public awareness of DA, reducing the silence that traditionally surrounds it.

### **Never Waste a Crisis: Opportunities created by COVID-19 for working with perpetrators**

Author: Nicky Stanley

Institute: University of Central Lancashire

Co-authors: Helen Richardson Foster, Cathy Humphreys

Never Waste a Crisis: Opportunities created by COVID-19 for working with perpetrators Nicky Stanley, Helen Richardson Foster and Cathy Humphreys While COVID-19 has had devastating impacts on health and well-being, particularly for women and children locked in with DA perpetrators, there were also opportunities that were created by the crisis in relation to the service system. In the UK and Australia, developments in the response to perpetrators had been 'in waiting' for the policy window to open. Based around documentary analysis and interviews, two developments are explored: the shift to remote/online working with perpetrators of DA, and the provision of temporary accommodation and support services for men who are ousted from their homes due to their DA. We argue that in a crisis, normal responses for both individuals and organisations are disrupted and new solutions may have the opportunity to emerge. It is unclear whether these solutions will be evaluated as constructive and sustained, or disappear once the crisis is past.

## Developing and adapting mental health interventions for women experiencing gender-based violence in low and middle-income countries

'SHAER': Storytelling for Health, Acknowledgement, Expression and Recovery in South Africa

Author: Lindsay Kelland

Institute: King's College London

Co-authors: Sharli Paphitis, Jenevieve Mannell

The 'SHAER' intervention uses a participatory story circle method to acknowledge and respond to the effects of GBV. SHAER provides women with a space in which to share stories of their experiences, challenge gendered norms, and work towards change in their communities. Dr Kelland will present two implementations of SHAER in peri-urban South African settings. Her team found that the intimate nature of SHAER created space in which women could develop new ideas about themselves and interpret experiences through a broader structural lens. Dr Kelland will discuss how SHAER enabled women to move from isolation to catharsis by identifying a supportive collective. Dr Kelland will discuss the power of storytelling to develop bonds of solidarity among women and mobilise them to act for change.

## Adapting problem-solving therapy for pregnant women experiencing depressive symptoms and IPV in rural Ethiopia

Author: Roxanne Keynejad

Institute: King's College London

Co-authors: Tesera Bitew, Katherine Sorsdahl, Bronwyn Myers, Simone Honikman, Louise M Howard, Charlotte Hanlon

Dr Keynejad will describe how contextual considerations, stakeholder engagement, programme theory articulation, and intervention adaptation can tailor interventions for specific needs in a low-income, rural setting. Her research followed the latest 'ADAPT' guidance (Moore et al., 2021) for adapting evidence-based complex interventions for a new context. First, she conducted a desk review of contextual factors in Sodo, Ethiopia, followed by in-depth qualitative interviews with pregnant women and antenatal care staff. Her team then engaged stakeholders through participatory theory of change workshops, to articulate a programme theory after agreeing the intervention model best-suited to the context. They tailored the selected intervention to the context before devising a 'dark logic model,' mapping potential unintended harms of the adapted intervention.

## A package of care for the mental health of survivors of violence against women (VAW) in Sri Lanka and Afghanistan

Author: Sharli Paphitis

Institute: King's College London

Co-authors: Alexis Palfreyman, The Violence and Mental Health in South Asia (VAMHSA) consortium

The Violence and Mental Health in South Asia (VAMHSA) consortium developed a package of care to improve the mental health of survivors of VAW with context-appropriate adaptations for use in India, Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan. Adaptations offer providers an evidence-informed structure and process through which to address psychological and social distress in survivors, suited to each country's circumstances. Multi-country and inter-disciplinary teams identified candidate interventions, mapped support services, generated new information on burden and sources of care, and engaged diverse survivors to identify needs, promising models, and theories of change. Drawing on experiences from Sri Lanka and Afghanistan, Dr Paphitis and Dr Palfreyman will highlight the core components common to each package's development, while delineating differing needs and tensions particular to both sites that informed their respective forms and functions.

## Domestic Abuse Innovations in Social Care: Learning from Safe and Together

### Interagency Working and Child Protection: A Scoping Review

Author: Jane Callaghan

Institute: University of Central Lancashire

Co-authors: Hannah Hale, Kelly Bracewell, Laura Bellussi, Jo Alexander, John Devaney

Jane Callaghan Interagency Working and Child Protection: A Scoping Review Previously MacVean and colleagues (2018) undertook a scoping review of models of interagency working between child protection and either DA services or family law services (or all three) to improve understanding of practices that may facilitate collaboration between child protection and other agencies in the context of DA. This paper provides an update this review. We outline existing processes/practices and extend the original review to consider: - the types of interventions and their impact on professionals' understanding and responses to DA disclosure; - the types of interventions and their impact on improving professionals' assessment of and responses to DA; - evidence of effectiveness in how organisations respond to DA in the context of child protection.

### Implementation of the S&T model: challenges and success

Author: Laura Bellussi

Institute: University of Central Lancashire

Co-authors: Jane Callaghan, Kelly Bracewell, Jo Alexander, Hannah Hale, Laura Reid

Laura Bellussi Implementation of the S&T model: challenges and success Sites are at different stages of implementation but common barriers and facilitators have emerged. This presentation explores implementation and process issues and to explore model fidelity, and barriers and enablers of adoption and development of the S&T model. It outlines the perceptions of the model, project development and implementation challenges in four delivery sites in England and Scotland. Stakeholders highlight practical challenges to successful implementation (resources, capacity, staffing, measuring outcomes) and organisational obstacles, including resistance to new ideas and target-driven thinking.



Having a shared conceptual clarity, collaborative working and “champions” are among the facilitators to implementation.

### **Focusing on the invisible father**

Author: Kelly Bracewell

Institute: University of Central Lancashire

Co-authors: Laura Bellussi, Jane Callaghan, Laura Reid, John Devaney, Hannah Hale

Laura Reid Focusing on the invisible father Responses to DVA have largely centred on either provision of services for women and CYP who have experienced DA or programmes for male perpetrators. From the 1990s work with perpetrators was largely seen as a specialist area of work with programmes often running in isolation. This fails to acknowledge the interconnectedness between victims, perpetrators and their families. Innovation lies in the perpetrator focus of the S&T model. This presentation reports on qualitative data about the shift towards increasing perpetrator accountability and making their abusive behaviour visible, including the difficulties in engaging perpetrator parents.

### **Enabling child friendly and child involving social care practice**

Author: Jane Callaghan

Institute: University of Central Lancashire

Co-authors: Laura Bellussi, Kelly Bracewell, Laura Reid, Claire Houghton, Camille Warrington

Jane Callaghan Enabling child friendly and child involving social care practice A key principle of CYP's rights is to involve CYP in decision making and processes that impact them. However, social care professionals rarely engage meaningfully with CYP in families where there is DA. S&T has the potential to support more appropriate social care engagement with CYP. We explored whether the S&T model enables child friendly and child involving practice. Social care professionals described limited direct involvement with CYP, with their main engagement being through safety planning. Pivoting to the perpetrator and partnering with the non-violent parent are important first steps. However additional resources, training, and support models are needed to ensure CYP's experiences and needs are not overlooked.

## **Domestic Abuse Related Deaths by Suicide: Prevalence, prevention and postvention**

What can we learn from the voices of victims of domestic abuse who have tried to take their own lives?

Author: Tim Woodhouse

Institute: Sarah Dangar Consultancy

What can we learn from the voices of victims of domestic abuse who have tried to take their own lives? Tim Woodhouse Why do some victims of domestic abuse (DA) take their own lives? This paper will present data from Kent and Medway (a local authority in the South East

of England) drawn from the Real Time Suicide Surveillance system which (for the first time nationally) quantified the number of people dying by suicide after being impacted by DA. During a three-year period, 30% of all suspected suicides in the area were related to domestic abuse. In addition, qualitative data, from domestic abuse victims who have explained to researchers why they tried to take their own lives or felt suicidal as a result of their abuse, will be presented. The paper will conclude with a discussion about the ways frontline practitioners can reduce the risk of suicide amongst DA victims.

**“Once you’ve opened that can of worms”:** Understanding why UK liaison psychiatry staff are not asking about domestic violence following self-harm.

Author: Sarah Dangar

Institute: Sarah Dangar Consultancy

Co-authors: Dr Duleeka Knipe, Jane Derges, Dr Paul Moran, Dr Gene Feder, Dr Nav Kapur and Tim Woodhouse

**“Once you’ve opened that can of worms”:** Understanding why UK liaison psychiatry staff are not asking about domestic violence following self-harm. Dr Duleeka Knipe, Jane Derges, Dr Paul Moran, Dr Gene Feder, Dr Nav Kapur, Tim Woodhouse and Sarah Dangar In England and Wales over 5000 people die by suicide every year. Recent data shows a strong link between being impacted by domestic abuse and suicide, and that 1 in 2 people who self-harm and present to services are/have recently experienced domestic abuse. Repeat self-harm is also common in victims of domestic abuse. However, while people who present to services following self-harm should be asked about domestic abuse they often aren’t. This paper will report on a qualitative study with 15 liaison psychiatry staff (UK) which identified some of the barriers to asking about domestic abuse following self-harm and will make suggestions for changes to future practice.

**Are those who harm at higher risk of self-harm/suicide?**

Author: Viv Bickham

Institute: Sarah Dangar Consultancy

Co-authors: Dr Duleeka Knipe, Luke Kendall, Nathan Eisenstadt, Chris Metcalfe, Rose Jarvis and Emma Vallis

**Are those who harm at higher risk of self-harm/suicide?** Dr Duleeka Knipe, Luke Kendall, Nathan Eisenstadt, Chris Metcalfe, Viv Bickham and Rosie Jarvis Attention is growing around the impact of domestic abuse on suicide risk amongst victims in the UK. Less is known about the risk of suicide in perpetrators. Using data from a service for high-risk high-harm perpetrators of domestic abuse this paper estimates the rate of suicide in the UK and the demographics of this group. Further, this paper will report that the rate of suicide in the perpetrator cohort is significantly higher than other high-risk groups and posit that a focus on improving mental health is imperative to reduce the suicide deaths in this group and reduce the impact such deaths would have on the victims of abuse.

**Review domestic abuse related deaths by suicide.**

Author: James Rowlands

Institute: Sarah Dangar Consultancy

Review domestic abuse related deaths by suicide. James Rowlands and Sarah Dangar Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) are a statutory review mechanism which examine domestic abuse (DA)-related deaths. In 2016, the scope of DHRs were extended to include deaths by suicide. However, there is both limited guidance around how to review such deaths and scant research into this process. The result is a lacuna in understanding. Reporting on semi-structured interviews with chairs, commissioners, families and panel members, this paper explores the challenges and opportunities of reviewing DA-related deaths by suicide. The findings are grouped into four themes relating to commissioning and delivery; the involvement of stakeholders; intersections with other statutory processes; and purpose. In concluding, this paper identifies the implications for the conduct of such reviews and makes policy and practice recommendations to address these challenges with respect to existing statutory guidance.

#### 1. Postvention support for families bereaved by domestic abuse suicide.

Author: Cherryl Leach

Institute: Sarah Dangar Consultancy

Postvention support for families bereaved by domestic abuse suicide. Cherryl Leach Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA) is the only charity in the U.K delivering specialist postvention support to families bereaved by domestic abuse related suicide. Now, supporting over 100 families bereaved in this way, AAFDA has developed a specialised offer of advocacy and peer support co-produced with families, enabling them to navigate complex statutory processes, built with homicide in mind, whilst also meeting their emotional needs following their traumatic bereavement. Informed by bereaved families and research, this paper seeks to share learning about the emotional and practical needs of families bereaved by domestic abuse suicide and what works to inform future practice and policy changes in respect of this specialist cohort.

## Domestic Abuse Safeguarding during Covid-19 (DASC)

Examining UK Police Domestic Abuse crime data prior to and during Covid-19

Author: Michelle McManus

Institute: Manchester Metropolitan University

Co-authors: Lis Bates, Khatidja Chantler

Examining UK Police Domestic Abuse crime data prior to and during Covid-19 Presenter: Michelle McManus This paper examines data from two UK Police Forces on domestic abuse crimes recorded during August-December 2019 (before Covid-19) and August-December 2020 (during Covid-19). Quantitative analysis focussed on two key questions: 1. Did reporting of DA change during Covid-19? 2. Did police protection and safeguarding responses change during Covid-19? Results indicated changes within police recorded DA crime prior to and during Covid-19: an overall increase in DA crimes and DA related offences,

including sexual offences. Analysis explored characteristics relating to suspects and victims (age, gender, ethnicity and relationship). Variations in risk assessments (DASH) was found, with increased engagement during the pandemic and differences in risk levels according to relationship. DA outcomes varied across DA typologies, however, a high proportion of DA crimes resulted in 'victim withdraws support'. Implications for DA investigations and support services are discussed.

### **The 'triple pandemic': Black and Minoritised women experiencing Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) during Covid-19**

Author: Gayatri Nambiar-Greenwood

Institute: Manchester Metropolitan University

Co-authors: Khatidja Chantler, Margaret Struthers, Michelle McManus, Lis Bates

The 'triple pandemic': Black and Minoritised women experiencing domestic violence and abuse during Covid-19 Presenter: Gayatri Nambiar-Greenwood 15 survivors of Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA), including Black and minoritised (BM) women were interviewed regarding their help-seeking experiences for DVA during Covid-19. Police data pre and during Covid-19 comparing White victims to BM victims were also analysed. The 'multiplier effect', for women with no recourse to public funds, perpetrators' abuse of insecure immigration status, and professionals' lack of understanding of migrant women's rights exacerbated mental distress and cultural bereavement. Police data showed that BM victims recorded: i) higher proportions of familial DVA; ii) more likely to withdraw, and less likely to receive a charge; iii) victim ethnicity impacted accuracy of risk assessments, with BM DVA victims having fewer risk factors and DVA-related offences recorded. Findings highlight urgency in understanding differences in risk ratings and improving professionals' responses to migrant women.

### **Domestic Abuse Safeguarding during Covid-19: Challenges and Opportunities for multi-agency working**

Author: Margaret Struthers

Institute: Manchester Metropolitan University

Co-authors: Khatidja Chantler, Michelle McManus, Lis Bates

Domestic Abuse Safeguarding during Covid-19 (DASC): Challenges and Opportunities for multi-agency working Presenter: Margaret Struthers This paper discusses findings from qualitative interviews with specialist DA agencies (practitioners n=17, Safeguarding Leads n=11) and the national survey of statutory sector safeguarding leads (n= 105) in England. Participants reported steep rises in cases, levels of risk and complexity with challenges for safeguarding and risk management as face-to-face contact was lost. Agencies worked hard to provide services with a swift change to digital support and later to hybrid working as restrictions lifted. There was a mixed picture related to on-line and hybrid working with both benefits (accessibility and efficiency), and drawbacks (e.g., practitioner well-being, digital poverty) identified. The increased complexity of cases calls for a wider range of agencies to be involved in multi-agency safeguarding processes. Future emergency situations should ensure that domestic abuse is part of local and national resilience planning frameworks.

## Domestic Violence and Parental Alienation: International Perspectives - Part 1

Survivors' Perspectives on Parental Alienation and Domestic Violence: Highlights from an International Survey

Author: Simon Lapierre

Institute: University of Ottawa

Co-authors: Patrick Ladouceur, Raheleh Sazgar, Camila Cardeal, Tanishka Sharma

This paper presents findings from an international survey conducted with women who have experienced domestic violence and who have been seen as 'alienating' mothers through either child custody or child protection proceedings. This online survey was conducted in the following 13 countries: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, New-Zealand, Spain, the United States, and the United Kingdom. The theoretical framework draws on feminist theories and the concept of coercive control. The research findings shed light on the context in which these women had been labeled as 'alienating' mothers, and on the impacts on women's and children's safety and well-being. Similarities and differences across countries will also be highlighted. This first paper will set the scene for the other papers presented this symposium.

The Diffusion of the Controversial Notion of "Parental Alienation" in France: A Qualitative and Textual Analysis of the Press

Author: Pierre-Guillaume Prigent

Institute: University of Ottawa

Co-authors: Gwénola Sueur

This paper identifies the lexical worlds associated with the different periods of emergence, institutionalisation and contestation of the notion of 'parental alienation' based on a qualitative and textual analysis of the French press between 1999 and 2023. During the period of the notion's emergence, press articles covered the actions of groups of fathers, some of whom were falsely accused of incestuous sexual violence, or announced meetings. In a second stage, the terms that emerge are related to family law and co-parenting, indicating its penetration into these fields, even though the notion is contested. In a third stage, the terms are associated with the theme of sexual violence against children, in connection with its more visible criticism by psychiatrists, sociologists and feminists. Our analysis shows that the social use of the concept is shaped by antagonistic communicative power relations.

The Australian Family Courts and Reunification 'Therapy' Orders

Author: Zoe Rathus

Institute: University of Ottawa

This paper presents preliminary research about how 'reunification' programs, which purport to reunite parents with their estranged children, are being considered by Australian family courts. This is important because serious concerns about some of these programs have been identified in the international literature. Although the term "parental alienation syndrome" first entered our courts in the mid-1990s, there is no identifiable discussion of such programs until 2014. Since then they have been mentioned in over 90 published judgments to the end of 2022. In 27 of the term 'alienation' also appears. An analysis of those 27 cases will provide insights into the characteristics of those cases and the attitudes to these programs held by professionals who work in the family law system, including judges, parents' legal representatives, independent children's lawyer and expert witnesses. It will identify who initiated the discussion and the extent to which judges include attendance in their orders.

### Disinformation Purveyors - Alienation Proponents or Abuse Experts?

Author: Joan Meier

Institute: University of Ottawa

Zealous proponents of the alienation label in custody cases have attacked abuse experts and scholars, describing their work as "disinformation," "unscientific," and flawed. In fact, this is the pot calling the kettle black. The problem can be seen in the exchange between Meier et al and Harman & Lorandos, regarding the Meier et al empirical study of family courts' lack of belief of women's and children's allegations of paternal abuse. Harman & Lorandos purported to "test" Meier et al's findings and claimed they were contradicted by Harman & Lorandos's own study. However, their study is shot through with blatant illogical errors, its statistical analyses are largely wrong, and it contains findings which support - not contradict - Meier et al's findings. Harman & Lorandos also list 30 supposed flaws in Meier et al's study, but the 30 items are fabricated, not based on the actual study, do not constitute flaws, and/or raise trivial complaints. While Harman, Bernet, and others are claiming that abuse experts' and scholars' knowledge and critique of the alienation label is "disinformation," and that alienation "science" is valid science, in fact they have reversed the truth. This presentation will demonstrate how the alienation industry is the real proponent of disinformation and denial of science.

### Living the Nordic Paradox - Challenging Systemic Violence and the Pro-Contact Cultural Discourse in Iceland

Author: Eija Jansdotter

Institute: University of Ottawa

Life Without Violence is a research-informed activist group formed in 2019 in protest of the systematic dismissal of domestic violence in visitation and custody cases in Iceland. Presented is an analytical discussion on how the idea of parental alienation has become embedded in the Icelandic society and legal systems, based on case evidence. We share steps taken to call for societal and political responsibility, including offering a platform for mothers who are victims of post-separation systemic abuse. Although an emerging shift from a pro-contact culture is evident - just as is stressed in the recent GREVIO report, actions

need to be taken against practices resting on the belief that lack of normalised contact with a father is more damaging to a child than any violence a father could commit towards the child or the mother.

#### **Parental Alienation: The Israeli Case**

Author: Ruth Halperin-Kaddari

This presentation critically assesses the process of unquestioning adoption of the PA discourse in Israel by major parts of the professional communities of social work and the judiciary. The usage of parental alienation discourse keeps growing, and anecdotal evidence from Israel indicates that such claims are raised in every second dispute over custody of children. While the issue is discussed in some academic forums, the academic legal world has so far paid little attention to what is quickly becoming the frontier of the gender war in divorce. Parental alienation theory has never gained scientific recognition and all attempts to include it within the DSM and the WHO's ICD have failed. Moreover, many international and professional associations have rejected its usage. Nonetheless, welfare authorities and courts in many jurisdictions have adopted it as an explanation for any situation in which a child resists a parent (mostly fathers), thus overlooking more plausible explanations and dismissing child and domestic abuse.

#### **Parental Alienation and Institutional Violence against Mothers in Italy: An Exploratory Study**

Author: Mariachiara Feresin

Institute: University of Ottawa

Co-authors: Michela Nacca, Patrizia Romito, Maria Grazia Apollonio

Background: In Italy the principle of bi-parenting must be guaranteed in separations, and mothers are held responsible for promoting father-child contacts. Method: The sample consists of 800 women accused of PA (including 500 victims of DV), recruited through women's associations and lawyers' practices from 2017 to 2022. Data were collected with qualitative interviews and coded according to a predefined grid. Preliminary results. When mothers refuse or are not able to guarantee the contacts they are labeled as alienators and risk losing custody of their children. Professionals reinterpret mothers' fears as symptoms of paranoia and they receive unfounded psychiatric diagnoses. Accepting institutional violence risks becoming the only option that mothers have for protecting their children. Women suffer negative economic, professional and health consequences (chronic anxiety, panic attacks, concentration disorders, depression...) that are used as a reason for removing the children from them. Children's health is also seriously compromised.

#### **'Parental Alienation' Allegations in the Context of Domestic Violence: Impacts on Mother-Child Relationships**

Author: Simon Lapierre

Institute: University of Ottawa

Co-authors: Raheleh Sazgar, Naomi Abrahams, Camila Cardeal, Tanishka Sharma, Patrick Ladouceur

Even though professionals should not talk about 'parental alienation' in domestic violence case, research evidence shows that abused women can be accused of 'engaging in parental alienation'. This paper investigates the impacts of such practices on mother-child relationships, drawing on findings from a study funded by the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Case studies were conducted with 24 women who had experienced domestic violence and who has been accused of 'engaging in parental alienation' through either child custody or child protection proceedings. The research findings revealed that these situations had been very stressful and frustrating, and that they had put a strain on women's relationships with their children. Mother-child communication had been particularly complex. In some cases, family courts and child protection services had imposed custody arrangements that had limited women's contact with their children. Nonetheless, some women had managed to maintain positive relationships with their children, and they had remained their children's main sources of protection and support.

## Domestic violence and trauma history among pregnant women during Covid-19: Prevalence, mental health and social support

The prevalence of lifetime emotional, physical and sexual abuse in a sample of pregnant Icelandic women

Author: Hafrún Rafnar Finnbogadóttir

Institute: Reykjavik Univeristy

Co-authors: Linda Bára Lýsdóttir, Ástpóra Kristinsdóttir, Rannveig Sigurvinsdóttir

The aim of this cross-sectional study was to analysis the prevalence of lifetime emotional, physical and sexual abuse in a sample of pregnant Icelandic women. All participants (n=660) answered The NorVold Abuse Questionnaire (NorAQ) and one question from the Abuse Assessment screen (ASS). Results indicated that 45.8% pregnant women have experienced any type of emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse in their lifetime. The type of abuse most likely to be experienced during a lifetime was sexual abuse. Around one third experienced abuse during adulthood and one third in childhood. 3.5% of women experienced abuse during the last 12 months, 1.8% experienced abuse during pregnancy. Women who are survivors of abuse during pregnancy are likely to be single, neither working nor studying and have a low educational level.

The status of mental well-being of Icelandic pregnant women and the influence of lifetime emotional, physical and sexual abuse

Author: Ástpóra Kristinsdóttir

Institute: Reykjavik Univeristy

Co-authors: Linda Bára Lýsdóttir, Hafrún Rafnar Finnbogadóttir, Rannveig Sigurvinsdóttir

The aim of this cross-sectional study was to analyze the influence of lifetime emotional, physical, and sexual abuse on the status of mental well-being in Icelandic pregnant women. In total, 660 pregnant women answered the following questionnaires: The NorVold Abuse Questionnaire (NorAQ), Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS), and the General



Anxiety Disorder scale (GAD-7). Results showed that during COVID-19, 18.4% of Icelandic women experienced depressive symptoms according to the EPDS (above cut-off score 11) and 10.9% experienced anxiety symptoms according to the GAD-7 (above cut-off score 10). Survivors of abuse during pregnancy and in the last 12 months were more likely to report symptoms of both depression and anxiety than non-survivors. The majority of those that had experienced abuse reported that they were still suffering from their experience, 83.1% for emotional abuse, 67.7% for physical abuse, and 81.3% for sexual abuse.

**Internet use of pregnant women to seek information, social support or help with their mental well-being**

Author: Rannveig Sigurvinsdóttir

Institute: Reykjavik Univeristy

Co-authors: Linda Bára Lýdsdóttir, Hafrún Rafnar Finnbogadóttir, Ástþóra Kristinsdóttir

International research shows that pregnant women use the internet extensively to seek information and social support, but many have reservations about how accurate that information is. Icelandic women are active internet users, but it is unknown how pregnant women in Iceland use this type of medium and how it relates to their mental health. The aim of this study was to analyze answers from 660 Icelandic pregnant women participating in an Icelandic cross-sectional study, on the following questionnaires; the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS), the Perceived Online Social Support (POSS), and three questions about the extent of internet use. Results will be analyzed, interpreted, and completed before the presentation at the time of the conference.

**The overall relationship between lifetime emotional, physical and sexual abuse, mental health and social support in a sample of Icelandic pregnant women.**

Author: Linda Bára Lýsdóttir

Institute: Reykjavik Univeristy

Co-authors: Hafrún Rafnar Finnbogadóttir, Ástþóra Kristinsdóttir, Rannveig sigurvinsdóttir

Studies show that risk factors for prenatal common mental health problems include a history of childhood and adulthood abuse. Further, studies indicate that a lack of social support does affect the severity of symptoms of common mental health problems. The aim of this paper is to analyze the structural relationship between lifetime emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, social support, and symptoms of mental health problems in a sample of Icelandic pregnant women. A total of 660 women participated in a cross-sectional study and answered the following questionnaires: The NorVold Abuse Questionnaire (NorAQ), the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS), The General Anxiety Disorder scale (GAD-7), the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS), and Perceived Online Social Support (POSS). Structural equation modeling (SEM) will be used to analyze the relationships between variables and the results interpreted and completed before the presentation at the time of the conference.

## Domestic violence, Covid-19 and the management of precarity

Balancing in the pandemic – how social workers respond to new risks when supporting clients who experience domestic violence

Author: Mikael Skillmark

Institute: Linneus University

Co-authors: Verner Denvall, Johanna Thulin, Cecilia Kjellgren, Lotta Agevall Gross

This paper investigates the challenges domestic violence social workers face when balancing between protecting themselves, their co-workers, and clients from sickness while at the same time providing support. Drawing on interviews with eleven professionals and theories of discretion we analyzed how and why responses to COVID-19 restrictions were formed. Three responses were revealed. First, professionals complied with pandemic restrictions. Second, professionals negotiated practices to counter the negative effects of restrictions. Third, professionals also resisted restrictions altogether – i.e., they claimed to break the rules for a higher moral purpose. Awareness of the three different positions social workers occupy and their need to balance different demands provides insight into the negotiations that the work entails. Managers directives seem to be transformed into negotiations to protect interests of the social workers or of their clients.

How did people engaged at woman's shelters respond to the new times of uncertainty when supporting clients during the pandemic?

Author: Johanna Thulin

Institute: Linneus University

Co-authors: Lotta Agevall Gross, Cecilia Kjellgren, Verner Denvall, Mikael Skillmark

When the COVID-19 pandemic broke out there was an expressed concern for women and children exposed to interpersonal violence. U.N. testified that violence against women, was highly intensified during this time, and described the situation as a shadow pandemic. A concern expressed was that abused women's possibilities to reach out for help and support now were being limited. We have interviewed volunteers and staff at women's shelter, to create a picture of how they navigated in the silence that arose in the wake of the pandemic. We are particularly interested in how they understood and acted in relation to this situation of uncertainty. We will present how uncertainty is transformed to risk and how risk is managed when giving support to women exposed to violence during the pandemic.

How did women exposed to domestic violence experience support provided by social work and woman's shelters during the pandemic?

Author: Cecilia Kjellgren

Institute: Linneus University

Co-authors: Lotta Agevall Gross, Johanna Thulin, Mikael Skillmark, Verner Denvall

In this study we explore to what extent COVID-19 affected victims of domestic violence regarding the quality of support received. Thirty help seeking women receiving support from a specialized department or a women's shelter were interviewed. The analysis revealed that

the experiences of receiving support was dependent on access to digital solutions, treatment phase and relationship with the therapist. Varied experiences among the respondents were identified. Some experienced that contact with helpers became more distant, that trust was affected as a consequence of the pandemic, and conversely, others expressed that the quality of contact was very good and was not affected by the pandemic. Quotes from respondents will be presented and implications of the findings discussed during the session.

## Drawing the line? - Emerging findings from a mixed-method study on young people's experiences of exposure and perpetration of sexual intimate partner violence

Identifying Same-Sex Sexual Experiences as Abuse: Turning Points and Meta-Narratives

Author: Carolina Overlien

Institute: Norwegian center for violence and traumatic stress studies

Carolina Overlien Identifying Same-Sex Sexual Experiences as Abuse: Turning Points and Meta-Narratives Purpose: Youth intimate partner violence (YIPV) is an under-researched topic within the field of domestic violence. This is particularly true of same-sex YIPV. In this presentation, the words of one young man, Philip, are analyzed to explore how he narrates his process of defining his sexual experiences as abuse and, consequently, himself as a possible victim of IPV. Methods: The qualitative in-depth interview with Philip was conducted as part of a larger study on YIPV in Norway, 'Drawing the Line', with a specific focus on sexual YIPV. Meta-narratives and turning points are used as tools for narrative analysis. Results: Important contextual issues in Philip's storyline include his prior exposure to severe homophobic bullying and being forced to return to the closet as his partner had not yet come out. Influential cultural meta-narratives regarding IPV and gender that complicate his process of identifying his experiences as abuse include the violence of adult men towards adult women, the ever-present male sex drive, and the importance of physical violence and bodily size and strength. The findings are discussed in light of minority stress theory and the theory of the ideal victim. Conclusion: Schools need to include sexual minority youth when teaching about sex and relationships, and professionals working with youth need to actively ask them about experiences of violence and abuse in their relationships, regardless of their sexuality.

Callous Lovers and Frightening Victims: How emotional contradictions affect young people's navigation of sexually abusive relationships

Author: Anja Emilie Kruse

Institute: Norwegian center for violence and traumatic stress studies

Co-authors: Hannah Helseth, Sibel Korkmaz

Anja Emilie Kruse, Hannah Helseth & Sibel Korkmaz Callous Lovers and Frightening Victims: How emotional contradictions affect young people's navigation of sexually abusive relationships From research on adult intimate partner violence (IPV) victimization, we know that IPV victims often have contradictory and ambivalent ways of relating to their abusive

partner, both during the relationship and after it has ended. The ambivalent and shifting quality of abusive relationships can be experienced as binding, thus making it more difficult for the victim to leave. However, young people's experiences of IPV is still an under-researched topic, and it is unclear if and how youth IPV differs from adult IPV. This paper explores how young victims of sexual IPV in Sweden and Norway describe and understand their abusive partners and their relationships to them. Drawing on an ideal-type analysis of interviews with 27 young people who had experienced IPV during their teenage years, we want to develop our understanding of the emotional dissonance and contradictions often experienced by victims in abusive relationships, especially among young people, and to explore the gendered dynamics of such dissonance. We find that the young people understand and interpret their abusive partners in two discrete ways. We have developed two figures or types, representing differing interpretations by the young people of their partners, their interactions with them, and the emotional contradictions arising from these dynamics. These types will be presented in the paper, alongside our analysis of both the differing consequences that such dynamics may have for young people's experienced opportunities to leave harmful or abusive relationships, and how these dynamics may be better understood in the light of a sociology of emotions.

**The interpretation of sexual assault – youth's understandings of rape, sex and that in-between.**

Author: Hannah Helseth

Institute: Norwegian center for violence and traumatic stress studies

Hannah Helseth The interpretation of sexual assault – youth's understandings of rape, sex and that in-between. There is an increasing political consensus that consensual sex is ethical and legal norm in Europe and US. Studies show youth support the idea of consensual sex as an ethical standard. However, when they discuss situations and experiences from their own life the lines between ethical or unethical and legal or illegal are more blurred. Through 12 focus group interviews with youths, 16- 20 years old, we analyze 34 girls and 21 boys understandings and difficulties of describing or conceptualizing an incident as rape. Drawing on Carol Bacchi's (2009, 2016) What is the problem represented to be?-method we analyse the problematization in the youth's discourse. The youth represent the problem to be miscommunication, and the reasons for miscommunication is summarized in eight reasons; following the sexual script, intoxication, gender norms of communication, sexual inexperience, her regret, understanding no, his inability to ask and his wishful thinking. We find that the youth's problematization relies on gendered stereotypes of men's role as active and pushing for sex and the women's role as a sexual gate-keeper, where the responsibility to stop is hers. A view of sex as something not only consensual, but enjoyable for everyone involved, is an eloquent silence in the youth's discourse. As a conclusion, we argue that naming miscommunication as the cause for sexual assault have a potential to camouflage the gender power dynamics and can produce an equal responsibility for the assault.

**Youth intimate partner violence: Social consequences and the aftermath of violence**

Author: Sibel Korkmaz

Institute: Norwegian center for violence and traumatic stress studies

Sibel Korkmaz Youth intimate partner violence: Social consequences and the aftermath of violence Youth Intimate Partner Violence (YIPV) is conceded as a societal problem that may lead to severe consequences for victims. However, most research has focused on highlighting health consequences, leaving out how victims' everyday life is affected socially. This presentation, therefore, focuses on social aspects of YIPV, showing of how different forms of violence are comprehended by young victims in terms of how they were affected by them, as well as social consequences. It will also bring focus to how youth-specific aspects affect the aftermath of violence. The presentation draws upon data from two studies on YIPV: One Norwegian study - Drawing the Line - with a specific focus on sexual YIPV; One Swedish study on YIPV. In total, 33 in-depth interviews with young victims (aged 17-23) of IPV were conducted and analyzed thematically. The results display how psychological violence and sexual violence respectively, affected the young victims in different ways, but also that the two types of violence are intertwined with each other. The young victims' social life and relationships were affected by the victimization, e.g. their school work, their relationship with friends and family, and also future relationships due to a distorted bodily image. Overall, context and other forms of violence are shown to be important to acknowledge when trying to comprehend YIPV, as well as social consequences of such violence. This contributes to the knowledgebase on YIPV, adding a social perspective on consequences.

## Elder abuse: perceptions and societal response

Staff's recognition of elder abuse in persons with cognitive disorder

Author: Linda Johansson

Institute: Linköping University

Co-authors: Jonas Sandberg, Marie Ernst Bravell, Lena Östlund

Staff's recognition of elder abuse in persons with cognitive disorder Linda Johansson Aim: To describe staff's perceptions and experiences of elder abuse towards persons with cognitive disorder by family members. Method: Eight qualitative group interviews with staff (n=39). Before each interview, staff's perceptions of elder abuse were measured by the Caregiver Scenario Questionnaire. Findings: There was no consistency about what was considered abusive scenarios. Yet, staff described several abusive situations they had witnessed, most often psychological abuse. No one mentioned sexual abuse. Conclusions: Elder abuse seems common in persons with cognitive disorders. However, lack of consensus among staff risks leading to elder abuse not being detected.

Pilot-test of screenings instruments to detect abuse in persons with cognitive disorders.

Author: Christina Casselgren

Institute: Linköping University

Co-authors: Elida Floberg, Mikael Ludvigsson, Björn Westerlind, Linda Johansson, Johanna Simmons

Pilot-test of screenings instruments to detect abuse in persons with cognitive disorders. Christina Casselgren Aim: To develop and pilot-test self-administered screening instruments to detect abuse: REAGERA-D (for persons with cognitive disorder) and REAGERA-N (for next of kin). Methods: Participants recruited at memory clinics (patients n=24, relatives n=24) answered the screening instruments. Semi-structured interviews were used as gold standard. Results: REAGERA-D: sensitivity 75%, specificity 83%. REAGERA-N: sensitivity 67%, specificity 78%. False negatives concerned emotional elder abuse and abuse earlier in life. Each interview correlated acceptably with a final overall classification of abuse (Patient:  $r=0.64$ ; Relative:  $r=0.83$ ). Conclusion: Sensitivity could be strengthened by improving items of emotional abuse and abuse earlier in life. Both persons with cognitive disorder and the next of kin should be used as source of information to detect elder abuse.

### Experiences of abuse among persons with cognitive disorder and their relatives

Author: Elida Floberg

Institute: Linköping University

Co-authors: Björn Westerlind, Linda Johansson, Johanna Simmons

Experiences of abuse among persons with cognitive disorder and their relatives Elida Floberg Aim: To explore experiences of elder abuse and abuse in a life course perspective among persons with cognitive disorder and their relatives. Methods: Semi-structured qualitative interviews. Persons with cognitive disorder who had experiences of abuse (n=18) and their close relatives (n=18) were first interviewed separately and then together (n=15). Findings: Preliminary thematic analysis indicates that the person with cognitive disorder described different types of abuse with various consequences and in some cases abuse earlier in life still affected the person with cognitive disorder. The perspectives from relatives resulted in additive or conflicting information. Conclusions: Persons with cognitive disorder are a potentially underestimated resource in detecting and understanding abuse. Relatives contributed to a deeper understanding, underlining the importance of both perspectives.

### Staff's lack of strategies to manage elder abuse in persons with cognitive disorders.

Author: Lena Östlund

Institute: Linköping University

Co-authors: Marie Ernsth Bravell, Jonas Sandberg, Linda Johansson

Staff's lack of strategies to manage elder abuse in persons with cognitive disorders. Lena Östlund Aim: To explore how staff act and reason when suspecting domestic abuse in persons with cognitive disorder. Method: Eight semi-structured group interviews with staff (n=39) working with persons with cognitive disorder. Results: Thematic analysis identified two themes; "Missing a map for guidance" and "Being left to one's own inner compass for direction", indicating that staff experienced a lack of guidelines and protocols to work according to when suspecting abuse. As a consequence, staff acted based on their own norms, values, and earlier experiences when suspecting abuse. Conclusions: The results highlight the necessity of providing staff with tools and evidence-based interventions to support them when dealing with ethical dilemmas that arise when they want to act, but do not know how.

Assessment of an educational intervention to improve health-care response to elder abuse.

Author: Atbin Motamedi

Institute: Linköping University

Co-authors: Mikael Ludvigsson, Katarina Swahnberg, Johanna Simmons

Assessment of an educational intervention to improve health-care response to elder abuse.

Atbin Motamedi Aim: To assesses an educational intervention aiming at improving health care providers' response to elder abuse. Methods: A cluster stepped wedge trial, in which participants (n=750, nine clusters) transit from control group to intervention group as they undergo a training about elder abuse. Data is collected using the REAGERA-P questionnaire at baseline, in conjunction with participation in the education and at 6- and 12-month follow-up. Results: Preliminary results reveal that the frequency of asking older patients questions about abuse increase in the intervention group ( $p=0,03$ ) 12 months post-intervention, but not in the control group ( $p=0,59$ ). Conclusion: The educational model may increase health care providers' propensity to ask older patients questions about abuse.

## Examining children and young people's experiences of domestic violence: Findings from two Australian studies

Experiences, impacts and support needs of children affected by domestic and family violence

Author: Professor Sike Meyer

Institute: Monash University

Drawing on national survey data from over 5,000 young people living in Australia, this presentation examines children's experiences of domestic and family violence (DFV) and the impact it has on their social and emotional wellbeing and development. Findings highlight the overlap of childhood experiences of DFV and other forms of childhood maltreatment, the intergenerational transmission of violence and immediate and long-term adverse outcomes. Recognising children as victims in their own right with their own, unique recovery needs is critical in generating better outcomes for children and families affected by DFV. Findings raise policy and practice implications for prevention and early intervention strategies that disrupting the intergenerational transmission of DFV through child-centred recovery support and whole-of-family interventions.

Adolescent family violence in Australia: findings from a national study of prevalence, use of and exposure to violence, and support needs.

Author: Professor Kate Fitz-Gibbon

Institute: Monash University

There is increasing recognition of the significant harms and impacts of adolescent family violence (AFV). AFV refers to the use of domestic and family violence (DFV) (including physical, emotional, psychological, verbal, financial and/or sexual abuse) by a young person

against their parent, carer, sibling or other family member within the home. While research in this area has developed in recent years, there remains significant gaps in current understandings of this form of family violence. This presentation presents the findings from an Australian study of over 5,000 young Australians aged 16 - 20 years old. The study examined the nature and extent of use of and exposure to DFV, and related support needs among young Australians. This presentation will examine the key findings from this study as well as the implications for policy and practice, including the critical need for greater trauma-informed practice when responding to families affected by AFV.

**I believe you: Children and young people's experiences of seeking help and navigating the domestic and family violence system in an Australian jurisdiction**

Author: Dr Jasmine McGowan

Institute: Monash University

In Australia there is increasing acknowledgement of the need to better respond to children and young people (CYP) as victim-survivors of domestic and family violence (DFV) in their own right. Despite this, there has been minimal research conducted directly with CYP who have experienced DFV. This presentation unpacks the findings from a recent study in Victoria (Australia), which directly engaged 17 CYP with lived experience of DFV via in-depth interviews. Interview participants were aged between 10 to 25 years. The presentation gives voice to the lived experience and expertise of young victim-survivors. CYP in this study were unanimous in their agreement that current responses to young victim-survivors of DFV are inadequate. Findings highlight opportunities to improve current policy and practice to ensure responses to CYP experiencing DFV are child-centred, age-appropriate and informed by lived experience.

## **Exploiting practical knowledge of medical staff to enhance the multi-professional contact with victims of domestic violence by training and multi-stakeholder engagement**

**Introducing EU Project VIPROM: Victim Protection in Medicine – Exploiting practical knowledge of medical staff to enhance the multi-professional contact with victims of domestic violence**

Author: Bettina Pfliederer

Institute: Medical Faculty Westfalian University Muenster

Co-authors: Paulina Juszczak

Responding to the need for sustainable medical sector training, the EU funded project VIPROM - Victim Protection in Medicine – Exploiting practical knowledge of medical staff to enhance the multi-professional contact with victims of domestic violence (No. 220425), will develop DV curricula tailored to the medical profession groups such as physicians, nurses, midwives, dentists, and medical students in close cooperation with medical faculties, hospitals, research organisations, medical educators and victim protection organisations in Austria, Germany, Greece, Italy and Sweden. The goal is to provide sustainable,



organisationally embedded, and institutionally recognised training for professionals from different medical fields. VIPROM will also conduct train-the-trainer programs so that the curricula developed in VIPROM can be implemented in pilot trainings in each of the stakeholder groups with high quality.

#### Education and knowledge of university teachers on domestic violence in Sweden - gaps and achievements

Author: Ulla Albért

Institute: Medical Faculty Westfalian University Muenster

In 2017, there was an addition to the Higher Education Ordinance, which regulates the structure of higher education, concerning men's violence against women and intimate partner violence. The subject became a mandatory qualitative target for eight study programs including medical and nursing education. NCK developed a support for implementation of the new degree, similar for all programs, but have noticed the demand for specific knowledge that are required, not at least concerning knowledge and/or skill goals, for doctors and nurses. The EU-project VIPROM can set a standard and be helpful for those teaching at universities.

#### Domestic Violence in Greece: Current issues and role of the medical sector

Author: Panagiota Bali

Institute: Medical Faculty Westfalian University Muenster

Co-authors: Domna Tsaklakidou, Athanassios Douzenis

Awareness about the levels of domestic violence (DV) in Greece has increased dramatically. In recent years in Greece, there has been an important rise in the number of incidents of murders of women by husbands and intimate partners. The help Hotline for DV also received a total of 10,324 calls from November 2021 to September 2022. Although domestic violence is a daily occurrence, the rate of complaints remains low despite the recent media increased coverage. Health practitioners play an important role because they often are the first to identifying and respond to victims of domestic violence and abuse. Thus, the training as done in VIPROM of health practitioners in the identification of domestic violence enhances the readiness to address this phenomenon.

#### Changing Perceptions to Transform Minds by Interculturally Sensitizing Health Professionals for Domestic Violence Contexts

Author: Birgit Breninger

Institute: Medical Faculty Westfalian University Muenster

For a long time, cultural competence has received limited attention in domestic violence service provision and training. It has, however, become pivotal, that health professionals are able to adapt established ways of thinking in order to respond more effectively to domestic violence with changing demographics reflecting larger numbers of diverse people, their different mindsets and distinctive needs. Here, the instrument of digital storytelling will be introduced and illustrated how it may be integrated into the repertoire of effective trainings,

as it has been shown that mindsets are transformed more profoundly when the trainings are designed in intersectional ways. Being aware how gender, culture and power intersect will prepare health professionals more efficiently when confronting domestic violence in real life contexts.

**Working together to improve healthcare of GBV victims/survivors: How to actively involve committed and less committed stakeholders to enhance multi-professional collaboration within DV victims & health(care) networks**

Author: Marion Steffens

Institute: Medical Faculty Westfalian University Muenster

DV contributes significantly to the development of all kind of health problems including mental disorders and psychosocial problems. Therefore, multi-professional collaboration is of enormous importance in comprehensive healthcare care for patients with a history of DV. Unfortunately, many stakeholders in the health sector are still reluctant to act on this. Since 2004 GESINE Intervention has implemented local, regional and national programs on health care for victims of violence – all with a strong focus on multi-professional medical and social care networks on gender-based violence. We pay particular attention to the core factors for sustainable implementation. GESINE's expertise as well as that of all project partners will enable VIPROM to get a satisfying number of professionals and multipliers in the field „on board“.

## **GBV and health (in)equalities within the cultural context of the Nordic countries**

**Multicultural Study of Trauma Recovery (MiStory): Illuminating gender and culture in help seeking and recovery**

Author: Denise Saint Arnault

Institute: Tampere University, Faculty of Social Sciences

The Fundamental Rights Agency documented that help seeking rates range from 2% to 24% organization and concluded that these differences cannot be fully accounted for based on SES, availability of resources or gender equality indicators. The Multicultural Study of Trauma Recovery (MiStory) is a group of 35 researchers in 13 countries using mixed methods to discover the interactions among gender, social context, cultural beliefs, and trauma recovery. Our initial work defined created and validated instruments for measurement of cultural and recovery concepts, including normalization of gender-based violence, help seeking barriers, healing, and trauma recovery. We have conducted narrative interviews with nearly 200 survivors regarding culture, relationships, meaning and recovery and will use comparative ethnographic analysis to explore these across the countries. This presentation explores the role of culture in recovery, described our instrument development findings, and our plans for comparative qualitative and quantitative analysis.

## Post-traumatic growth following intimate partner violence: What does it mean and is it possible?

Author: Hulda S. Bryngeirsdottir

Institute: Tampere University, Faculty of Social Sciences

Co-authors: Sigridur Halldorsdottir

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is the most common form of gender-based violence (GBV) worldwide. Survivors of IPV are likely to suffer various negative consequences of that experience, affecting their lives in a negative way. Post-traumatic growth (PTG) is a positive psychological change by a person who has suffered traumatic events. In our qualitative study conducted in Iceland on PTG following IPV, twenty-two (n=22) female survivors of IPV described their perception of PTG, as well as how their experience of IPV affected their PTG. Enjoying PTG increased the women's quality of life and gave them hope for a brighter future. It is important to be aware of the possibility of PTG after suffering IPV as well of the effects of such growth on the survivors' lives, their children, their families and their community.

## Resilience in IPV survivors in Finland during the pandemic

Author: Minna Sorsa

Institute: Tampere University, Faculty of Social Sciences

Co-authors: Hulda S. Bryngeirsdottir, Eija Paavilainen

Often Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) survivors are considered as helpless victims, whereas other theoretical basics center on survivorship and resilience. The societal and cultural environments cause burden especially on mothers, because they are often the main caretakers also in the Nordic societies. Women want to protect their children, and IPV may cause long-lasting sequences of hardship, where violence and stalking are part of everyday life. The aim of the was to study the resilience of the mothers (n=12), who were interviewed with a Clinical Ethnographic Narrative Interview (CENI). Data were subjected to a thematic analysis. The results show that motherhood is empowering, women use a wide amount of exercise and hobbies, and resort to solitude and nature to cope with the challenges caused by IPV. The study results can inform service development and lift up the importance of positive psychology.

## Paradox and complexity: intimate partner violence against women and gender (in)equality in Sweden

Author: Maria Wemrell

Institute: Tampere University, Faculty of Social Sciences

The perhaps puzzling co-existence of highly rated country-level gender equality and survey-reported experiences of intimate partner violence against women (IPVAW) in Sweden and neighboring Nordic countries has been referred to as a Nordic paradox. Hypothetical partial explanations for this apparent paradox have pointed to backlash effects, i.e., resistance from individuals in positions of relative privilege to changes resulting in their loss of power, and to the complex or multidimensional nature of gender in/equality. Based on qualitative in-depth interviews with 23 women exposed to IPVAW in Sweden, analyzed thematically, this

presentation will discuss the participant's narrated experiences of gender in/equality and of backlash dynamics in their violent intimate relationships.

## **Giving Voice to Knowledge: Innovations in Intervention Research for Developing Knowledge and Skills for Practice with IPV**

**All of our voices matter: An innovative approach to developing a knowledge and skills framework for intimate partner violence specialists.**

Author: Katreena Scott

Institute: University of Calgary

**Purpose:** Collaborating with service providers and survivors across Canada to articulate the often-unrecognized knowledge and skills of IPV specialists. **Methods:** Work included a scoping review, interviews with 62 expert service providers, eight Delphi-method surveys and collaborative discussions with expert working groups. **Results:** Areas of knowledge and skill were drafted based on process and consensus was reached on the Flourishing Practice Model identifying nine areas of expertise, as well as unique knowledge and skills for work with child and youth experiences of violence. **Conclusions:** These processes allowed for integration of research and practice knowledge to gain deeper insight into the knowledge and skills of IPV specialists.

## **Using Standardized Client Simulation to Identify Procedural Competencies for CEIPV Professionals**

Author: Angelique Jenney

Institute: University of Calgary

**Purpose:** Childhood experiences of intimate partner violence (CEIPV) often go unnoticed and unreported, resulting in children/youth not receiving appropriate supports for these experiences. **Methods:** Participants with 5+ years of specialist experience with CEIPV were recruited to demonstrate their practice in videorecorded sessions with standardized client scenarios (SCS). Participants completed a self-guided reflection and a semi-structured process interview. Additionally, we used SCS to study competency levels of social work students over three years resulting in a robust set of data. **Results:** 16 procedural competency skills were identified, and a holistic competency model and training tools developed. **Conclusions:** Results may improve intervention approaches to CEIPV by enhancing professional practice through training and skill development.

## **Integrating the voices of youth with lived experience as co-researchers to improve practice approaches to CEIPV**

Author: Olivia Cullen

Institute: University of Calgary

**Purpose:** Youth voices are underrepresented in IPV research, including their perspectives in receiving support for CEIPV. **Methods:** Using youth participatory action research (YPAR), 12 Canadian youth joined the research team to share their expertise and perspectives in identifying competencies for CEIPV professionals and enhancing CEIPV research. **Results:** Youth highlighted important strategies and principles for meaningful engagement in YPAR: 1) recognizing and valuing lived experience as expertise; 2) recognizing diversity; 3) creating safe spaces; and 4) having adult researchers committed to process, not just outcomes. **Conclusions:** This process is an example of how youth with lived expertise can successfully engage and find value in participatory research to counter the impact CEIPV had in their lives.

**Narrative shelter for young people with CEIPV: a concept for creating opportunities for storytelling, storylistening and resilience**

**Author:** Serge Nyirinkwaya

**Institute:** University of Calgary

**Purpose:** Research with young people (YP) highlights the need for their voices to be heard directly. This conceptual paper proposes a model of engagement for YP in practice research. **Methods:** Review of relevant literature on lessons from the women’s shelter movement; child rights; narrative practice; trauma and violence-informed approaches and selected case studies. **Results:** While sharing one’s survival story has proven beneficial in recovery, resilience, and social change, models that promote storytelling (using narration to give meaning and sense to reality) and storylistening (gathering narrative evidence to inform decision-making and social change) for YP with CEIPV are needed. Thus, the presented “Narrative Shelter Model” evolved. **Conclusion:** Providing opportunities for YP to share their stories as advocates or peer supporters may foster resilience and influence social change.

## How do we engage people early to seek support for DV?

**Transforming the health system to address domestic violence: Findings from synthesis of survivor and practitioner voices globally**

**Author:** Kelsey Hegarty

**Institute:** University of Melbourne

**Co-authors:** Laura Tarzia, Renee Fiolet, Jacqui Cameron, Minerva Kyei Onanjeri, Gemma McKibbon

**Background:** Health practitioners are the highest professional group told about domestic violence (DV). Early engagement is a first step to provide support as recommended by the World Health Organization. General practice, antenatal, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, maternal and child health services are key services for early engagement. **Methods:** This presentation combines voices of survivors and practitioners from meta-syntheses of qualitative work internationally exploring survivors expectations of identification and response, Indigenous peoples views of help seeking for family violence, practitioners views on personal and structural barriers and what makes them ready to do this work. **Findings:**

Models of health systems change are presented and critiqued drawing on the systematic reviews. Conclusions: By the end of the presentation participants will understand the range of factors impacting early engagement of people affected by DV and the health system changes necessary for early engagement.

**Early engagement through the use of technological tools.**

Author: Renee Fiolet

Institute: University of Melbourne

Co-authors: Laura Tarzia, Carolina Navarro Medel, Renee Owen, Kelsey Hegarty, Jane Koziol-McLain

**Background:** As a consortium of health providers, researcher and activists, we applied our knowledge and experience in addressing DV to develop information technology innovations. Our aim was to develop and evaluate tools to address survivors access to sensitive, non-judgemental information and support and to engage early with men who use DV to seek help. **Method:** We share our trials, tribulations and surprises in using, testing and scaling up technology tools to improve women's and families' safety and well-being. **Findings:** We focus on development of Burndawan a healthy relationship and healing tool for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In addition we describe testing of iDecide- a healthy relationship tool for survivors, Beyond Silence- website for survivors of sexual violence. Further, Better Man website an early intervention for men who use DV is currently being tested in a randomized controlled trial. **Conclusion:** Lesson learnt will inform future development of technological tools.

**Listening to the voices of survivors and people who use violence to develop early interventions**

Author: Renee Fiolet

Institute: University of Melbourne

Co-authors: Mandy McKenzie, Laura Tarzia, Kelsey Hegarty

**Background:** Understanding patterns of DV and help-seeking behaviours of survivors and people who use DV are needed to inform policy and practice. We explored experiences of DV and service needs from perspectives of women victim/survivors; and men and women who use DV against women. **Method:** A mixed methods study utilized data from online surveys of 1,122 women victim/survivors and 563 perpetrators. Participants were recruited through social media and a commercial panel of people who registered for research. Interviews were conducted with thirty women victim/survivors and eight men who used DV. **Findings:** Poly-victimisation was common with major health impacts; help seeking was mainly with family and friends and health services for both survivors and perpetrators, with many barriers encountered. Journeys of help-seeking were developed from the interviews illustrating points where early engagement could be undertaken. **Conclusions** Specific recommendations for early interventions for family and friends and health services are described.

## Implementing Scotland's 'gold-standard' Domestic Abuse Act in times of precarity: the perspectives of victim-survivors and the response from national policy and practice leaders

Realising ambitions: better reflecting victims' experiences of domestic abuse

Author: Patrick Down, Criminal Justice Division, Scottish Government

Institute: The University of Edinburgh, Scotland

Co-authors: Claire Houghton, University of Edinburgh.

A government lead in developing and implementing DASA outlines the ambitions for the new Act and key features such as: the definition encompassing physical, sexual and psychological abuse; relevant effects that feature coercive control and attacks on victims' human rights; the focus on the perpetrator's course of abusive behaviour over time; the aggravation in relation to a child and Non-Harassment Orders that include associated children. Victims and witnesses in the research felt the new law better reflects how adult victims experience domestic abuse but there was limited awareness of what constitutes criminal behaviour amongst the public (including victims/witnesses) and professionals they encountered. They felt DASA and its provisions were under-utilised and that the justice system struggled with prosecution of psychological and ongoing abuse. Parents and children felt the harm to children remained insufficiently recognised. Both contributors discuss the important role of adult and child victim-survivors in developing and implementing legislation.

### Policing the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018: safety, vulnerability and investigating the 'whole story'

Author: Camille Warrington, University of Edinburgh

Institute: The University of Edinburgh, Scotland

Co-authors: Detective Chief Superintendent Sam Faulds, Head of Public Protection, Police Scotland

Victims/witnesses felt the 'liminal space' from reporting to court was a time of heightened vulnerability, where needs were unmet and safety undermined. Feelings of fear and loss of control were common. Reporting and evidencing the 'whole story', including psychological abuse, and harm to children, proved particularly difficult. Police practices were inconsistent; positive and sensitive responses demonstrated the potential application of the Act to support victims to identify abuse over time and enhance evidence gathering. Police Scotland's public protection lead outlines particular challenges in policing DASA, including during Covid-19, in relation to responding to and investigating this new crime - a course of abusive behaviour. Significant action taken to improve the response and address victim/witness concerns includes training all officers, domestic abuse champions, investigative liberation and new protocols. Both contributors consider the challenges that remain in applying the Act and meeting the justice and welfare needs of victim, witnesses and families.

### **Prosecuting under DASA: victims' and witnesses' experiences of court processes**

Author: Fiona Morrison, University of Edinburgh

Institute: The University of Edinburgh, Scotland

Co-authors: Moira Price, National Procurator Fiscal, for Domestic Abuse, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, Scotland.

Victims and witnesses in the study felt marginalised, uninformed and on the periphery of decision-making in relation to their cases and court processes. Going to court was difficult and, for many, frightening and traumatic; special measures were felt to be inadequate and, for most, removal of adults and children from the court itself the safest and least re-traumatising way forward. Sentencing under DASA was not felt to reflect the seriousness of the crime nor the whole story, whilst NHO's offered some protection. Scotland's lead domestic abuse prosecutor discusses the opportunities DASA presents, outlines the provisions and the developments in application of the legislation since 2019. She highlights a robust prosecution response and discusses modernisation and training underway in relation to improving direct communication between prosecutors and domestic abuse victims and work with partners to strengthen reporting on the impact and views of children in connection with domestic abuse cases.

### **Hearing the voices of adult and child victim-survivors in the criminal justice system: perspectives on and from specialist advocacy services**

Author: Fiona McMullen, ASSIST

Institute: The University of Edinburgh, Scotland

Co-authors: Linda Rodgers, Edinburgh Women's Aid and EDDACS

Specialist court advocacy and support provided by ASSIST and EDDACS were reported as the most significant mechanisms for minimising trauma and enhancing feelings of safety for victims' and witnesses' journey through the criminal justice process. Participants identified gaps in the system: earlier in the process and post court; geographically; for specific groups of victim-survivors; in the range of support provided and in terms of longer term mental health support. ASSIST speak about the need for increased attention on the vulnerability and needs of younger victims-complainants, highlighting their new service for young adults, as well as the experiences and needs of child cited witnesses who took part. Edinburgh's court service is part of Edinburgh Women's Aid and they speak about the key contribution of court advocacy services, the need to link to more holistic services, mental health support gaps and the (lack of) connection between criminal and civil responses.

### **Improving the Police Response to Vulnerability in England and Wales: Violence Against Women and Girls Protection Orders and Domestic Abuse-Related Deaths**

What do we know about the implementation of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Protection Orders?

Author: Dr Charlotte Barlow



Institute: The Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme

What do we know about the implementation of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Protection Orders? - Dr Charlotte Barlow In England and Wales, there are a wide range of protection orders which focus on VAWG-related offences, including Domestic Abuse, Forced Marriage and Sexual Offences. However, these orders are widely under-utilised and the extent to which they are effective when implemented by the police and other agencies is largely unknown. This paper will provide an overview of the evidence on VAWG protection orders, including in-depth interviews and focus groups with frontline and senior police officers in four police forces. The paper will particularly focus on findings about barriers to implementation and issues with information sharing.

Suspected victim suicides following domestic abuse in England and Wales: Police identification, response and prevention

Author: Dr Katharine Hoeger

Institute: The Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme

Co-authors: Angela Whitaker, Dr Lis Bates, Dr Kelly Bracewell, Dr Leona Mydlowski, Dr Thien Trang Nguyen-Phan

Suspected victim suicides following domestic abuse in England and Wales: Police identification, response and prevention - Dr Katharine Hoeger The Domestic Homicide Project was the first research in England and Wales to systematically analyse suspected suicides of individuals with a police-known history as victims of domestic abuse. This research fills a gap in knowledge about the scale and nature of these deaths, providing learning for the police response to domestic abuse and suicide prevention efforts. This paper draws upon qualitative and quantitative analysis of 114 suspected victim suicides between 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2022, alongside a survey of police forces (13 responses), and five 'deep dives' with selected police forces. The findings demonstrate the prevalence of a history of coercive controlling behaviour and non-fatal strangulation, the importance of professional curiosity, and highlight promising practice such as real-time suicide surveillance systems and posthumous prosecution.

Learning from adult family homicides in England and Wales: dynamics of abuse and implications for practice

Author: Dr Leona Mydlowski

Institute: The Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme

Co-authors: Dr Lis Bates, Dr Kelly Bracewell, Dr Katharine Hoeger, Angela Whitaker, Dr Thien Trang Nguyen-Phan

Learning from adult family homicides in England and Wales: dynamics of abuse and implications for practice - Dr Leona Mydlowski Whilst most research on domestic homicide focuses on intimate partner homicide, there is developed and growing interest in understanding the dynamics of abuse associated with homicides that occur between family members. From 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2022, the Domestic Homicide Project identified 102 adult family homicides across all police forces in England and Wales. This

paper presents the findings of qualitative and quantitative analysis of these cases, including demographic characteristics, risk factors, and history of police contact. The findings show the prevalence of homicides of parents by their adult children and identify the co-occurrence of themes around mental ill health, substance misuse, and caregiving responsibilities. The results have implications for prevention through improved information sharing and risk assessment by the police and their partner agencies.

## Improving victim engagement and police action against perpetrators in DVA cases

Why and when do victims stop engaging with police in DVA investigations, and how can police improve victim engagement?

Author: Dr Lis Bates

Institute: Open University UK

Victims not supporting prosecution is the most common reason for 'no further action' taken by the police in DVA crimes in England and Wales. In a scoping exercise by the research team with ten forces, this was identified by police as the most significant reason for DVA cases not to progress, and the greatest cause of attrition in the criminal justice system. Yet there is little systemic understanding of why victims do not support prosecution. Police do not routinely capture reasons why cases are closed with this outcome. Drawing on analysis of 200,000 police DVA crime reports, 150 police DVA case files and 40 survivor interviews, this paper presents the main findings from a major new study into DVA victim disengagement with police and the criminal justice system. It profiles who does not support prosecution, when and why they withdraw, and makes recommendations for police actions to improve victim engagement.

Positively problematic: the inconsistency in policing domestic abuse from a positive action policy perspective.

Author: Dr Anna Hopkins

Institute: Open University UK

In England and Wales, the College of Policing suggest that police are required to take 'positive action' in DVA incidents. Often this means making an arrest, provided the grounds exist and it is a necessary and proportionate response. Positive action has been the main policy approach to policing DVA in England and Wales since the 1990s. Yet evidence suggests a growing gap between policy and practice, with falling arrest rates in DVA incidents (HMICFRS, 2019). This paper draws on analysis of police data, case-files, interviews with victim/survivors and focus groups with police officers to unpick the reality of positive action in the context of DVA. Findings suggest a disconnect between the premise of positive action, the wishes of victim/survivors, and the actions of police, raising questions regarding the appropriateness of a policy that denies victim/survivor agency.

**Examining decision-making on the use of Evidence Led Prosecutions and their effect on victims' satisfaction and subsequent re-engagement with the Criminal Justice System**

Author: Dr Anna Hopkins

Institute: Open University UK

Co-authors: Dr Holly Taylor-Dunn

Evidence-led prosecutions (ELP's) are those where the Crown Prosecution Service feels there is sufficient evidence to proceed to court without the support of a victim, where either the victim does not provide any evidence from the outset or they withdraw their support at a later stage. Despite the fact that ELPs have been advocated for many years in the UK, there is a dearth of published research exploring how they work in practice and importantly, what impact they have on victims. This project draws on research in one UK police force, involving detailed analysis of 100 police investigations files and interviews with CPS prosecutors and victim/survivors whose cases were taken forward as an ELP. This paper focuses on victim/survivor experiences of this policy approach, identifying both advantages and disadvantages and raises important questions for criminal justice policy makers.

**Researching domestic and sexual violence during a Pandemic: challenges, opportunities and methodological implications.**

Author: Dr Holly Taylor-Dunn

Institute: Open University UK

There is increased awareness of the unique challenges faced by those researching domestic abuse and sexual violence. We know that researching topics such as these can have both positive and negative impacts on researchers (Williamson et al, 2020) and it is recommended that researchers have access to clinical supervision when regularly exposed to traumatic material. This paper draws on reflections from research carried out during the Covid-19 Pandemic regarding the reasons why victims of DVA and sexual violence withdraw from the criminal justice process. Analysis of the researchers' reflections suggest that while the move to remote research during the Pandemic created opportunities in terms of flexibility (for researchers and participants) there were additional emotional challenges to those experienced pre-Pandemic. Importantly, this paper shares reflections on the value of clinical supervision for addressing these challenges and recommends that all DVA researchers have access to this vital resource.

**In search of promising approaches: Canadian child protection service (CPS) responses to cases of intimate partner violence (IPV)**

Study overview and national policy scan findings on CPS and IPV

Author: Dr. Kendra Nixon

Institute: University of Manitoba

Co-authors: Erin Gobert, Dr. Marlyn Bennett

Study overview and national policy scan findings on CPS and IPV. Kendra Nixon, Erin Gobert, Marlyn Bennett The study began with a scan of each province/territory's policy response regarding IPV and CPS, revealing gaps and emerging trends. Wide variation in demographics and other characteristics impact IPV prevalence and the availability and creation of culturally-appropriate services and policies. Amidst this project, groundbreaking legislation came into force, An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families (2020), enabling Indigenous communities to assume jurisdictional authority over CPS, with important implications for Indigenous families experiencing IPV.

**Insights from Ontario CPS senior administrators on responses to cases of IPV exposure**

Author: Carolyn O'Connor

Institute: University of Manitoba

Co-authors: Dr. Ramona Alaggia

Insights from Ontario CPS senior administrators on responses to cases of IPV exposure Carolyn O'Connor, Ramona Alaggia Ontario CPS have undergone significant changes in responding to cases of IPV exposure. However, how policies are being implemented and their impact on families has been understudied. Using interview data with senior administrators, this paper explores the internal, mandated, and informal practices that affect responses to families. Findings point to systemic barriers, the importance of collaborating with the violence against women sector around mutually agreed upon goals, and CPS workers' disparate expectations working with perpetrators versus survivors.

**The cross-sectoral complexities of helping families affected by IPV: Insights from collateral agencies (CAs) in Alberta**

Author: Dr. Angelique Jenney

Institute: University of Manitoba

Co-authors: Christina Tortorelli

The cross-sectoral complexities of helping families affected by IPV: Insights from collateral agencies (CAs) in Alberta Angelique Jenney, Christina Tortorelli CAs play an important role in ensuring safety and service provision with families experiencing IPV. Interviews with CAs in Alberta revealed system complexity in this intersectional work, including the importance of client-centred, collaborative approaches, communication, and relationships. Lack of clarity on mandatory reporting and the role of CPS indicate there is still much work needed to improve interactions among CPS, CAs, and families to promote better outcomes in cases of IPV.

**Unsafe and unheard: IPV survivors' experiences of Canadian CPS**

Author: Dr. Kendra Nixon

Institute: University of Manitoba

Co-authors: Jamie Pfau

Unsafe and unheard: IPV survivors' experiences of Canadian CPS Jamie Pfau, Kendra Nixon Interviews with 16 IPV survivors explored the impact of recent CPS policy/practice changes.

Major themes included: survivors felt their family's safety was not a CPS priority; workers lacked IPV knowledge and expertise, especially regarding perpetrators; workers held antiquated beliefs, often questioning why survivors remained in abusive relationships; survivors felt unheard or properly represented in CPS/family court; and survivors' positive experiences with CPS was dependent on their individual relationships with workers. Understanding the impact on those most affected (i.e., survivors, children) is critical for evaluating policy/practice changes.

### Perspectives of CPS front-line workers in Saskatchewan: Survey findings

Author: Dr. Lise Milne

Institute: University of Manitoba

Co-authors: Adrienne Ratushniak

Perspectives of CPS front-line workers in Saskatchewan: Survey findings Lise Milne, Adrienne Ratushniak An online survey completed by 122 CPS front-line workers in Saskatchewan revealed their knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding IPV, the most commonly reported maltreatment in Saskatchewan. Findings from the 100-item survey revealed over a third of participants had not received IPV-related training. Levels of preparedness, knowledge, and practices to intervene in IPV cases ranged widely, indicating varying (and in some cases concerning) levels of competency. Practice implications and recommendations for an evidence-based training and support model will be discussed.

## Innovative approaches to identifying and responding to domestic and sexual violence in healthcare settings.

Experiences of mental health and substance-use healthcare professionals in supporting racially and ethnically minoritised women who have experienced sexual violence

Author: Gilda Spaducci

Institute: King's College London

Co-authors: Kylee Trevillion, Deborah Robson, Sian Oram

Experiences of mental health and substance-use healthcare professionals in supporting racially and ethnically minoritised women who have experienced sexual violence. Gilda Spaducci Healthcare professionals (HCPs) from mental health and substance-use services often support survivors of abuse. Evidence suggests HCPs recognise that racially and ethnically minoritised survivors of sexual violence often experience additional forms of abuse (e.g. racial trauma) but are not always equipped to explore these experiences. This qualitative study seeks to understand HCPs perspectives on providing treatment to this client group, including barriers and facilitators encountered. Interviews were conducted with n=12 HCPs and transcripts analysed using reflexive thematic analysis. Findings indicate that HCPs need to work harder to gain trust from minoritised survivors, alongside fighting against racist structures to improve women's experiences of treatment. Mental health and substance-use services must adopt an inclusive definition of trauma, which includes racism, and train HCPs to explore women's intersecting identities and multiple traumas.

### Understanding maternity care needs among survivors of sexual violence: a thematic analysis

Author: Siofra Peeran

Institute: King's College London

Understanding maternity care needs among survivors of sexual violence: a thematic analysis  
Siofra Peeran Sexual violence survivors may find aspects of pregnancy, birth, and maternity care re-traumatising. However, few studies have been conducted with survivors of sexual violence in adulthood, and even fewer have examined healing experiences. This paper presents findings from a survivor-led qualitative study that explored experiences of maternity care among survivors of sexual violence. Thematic narrative analysis of in-depth interviews generated four themes: 'The most empowering moment of my life', 'Something weird and wrong', 'I was just a body' and 'It's about so much more than just saying it'. Pregnancy, birth, and maternity care presented opportunities for embodied and relational healing. However, silencing around motherhood and approaches to care that took power away from women could mirror abuse and re-traumatise women. Implications for practice and policy are discussed.

### Evaluating healthcare-based Independent Domestic Violence Advisor provision within maternity services

Author: Jill Domoney

Institute: King's College London

Co-authors: Kylee Trevillion, Camilla Forbes, Hayley Alderson

Evaluating healthcare-based Independent Domestic Violence Advisor provision within maternity services  
Jill Domoney Domestic violence and abuse (DVA) in pregnancy is associated with poor maternal and infant outcomes. Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) work to secure the safety of those at risk of harm from DVA. There is evidence for effectiveness of IDVAs across several health settings, but little is known about how IDVAs function in maternity settings. This study aims to evaluate the implementation and impact of IDVAs on staff practices and patient outcomes in three maternity services in England. Methods: A mixed-methods case study, including documentary analysis, interviews, and analysis of clinical records. Findings: Key factors in the successful implementation of IDVAs in maternity services are presented, alongside details of the impact on patient outcomes. Conclusions: Ensuring that IDVA provision is implemented in impactful and sustainable ways is essential to improve outcomes for women and their infants.

### Reproductive Coercion: Identification and Response within Early Pregnancy Units in a Maternity Setting.

Author: Caroline Bull

Institute: King's College London

Reproductive Coercion: Identification and Response within Early Pregnancy Units in a Maternity Setting. Caroline Bull Reproductive coercion (RC) is an insidious tactic used by perpetrators of domestic abuse to exert power and control over women's reproductive and

sexual choices. Though RC is highly prevalent there is little research or education for health professionals. Attendance at Early Pregnancy Units (EPU) provides an opportunity to identify and support women who are subject to RC. We suggest that professionals working in EPUs should receive training on recognising the signs of RC and responding appropriately to disclosure. Training should include response to the disclosure of sexual coercion with the offer of referral to an Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA). This intervention recognises the importance of identifying RC in an EPU with the aim of reducing risk and harm for women whether they choose to continue or end their pregnancy.

## **Integrating Trauma- and Violence-Informed Care in Intimate Partner Violence Interventions**

**A TVIC Approach to IPV Assessment and Response in Home Visitation Programs**

Author: Susan M. Jack

Institute: Western University

Globally, nurses or midwives provide early intervention services through home visitation programs to improve the health outcomes of pregnant individuals or new parents and their infants. In this context, home visitors are in an optimal position to identify and then support individuals experiencing IPV. Moving beyond IPV screening at the time of enrollment towards a TVIC approach to assessment, established on a foundation of trust and respect, creates a context of care where these often challenging and sensitive discussions can be navigated in a manner where the client's emotional and physical safety is prioritized. In this session, TVIC approaches for 1) introducing and framing IPV assessments; 2) facilitating discussions of sensitive topics; 3) responding to client disclosures of IPV or other forms of trauma and 4) recognizing and responding to traumatic stress responses will be discussed.

**Operationalizing TVIC in iHEAL - a Woman-Led Intervention for Women who have Experienced IPV**

Author: Marilyn Ford-Gilboe

Institute: Western University

IPV has longstanding effects on women's safety, health, relationships and living situations. Social and structural inequities magnify these impacts and shape how women navigate violence and its effects. As a foundation for IPV interventions, TVIC draws attention to complexity and differences in women's priorities and lives, and privileges safety, collaboration, choice and control. iHEAL is an effective, woman-led, health promotion intervention in which Registered Nurses work, over a 6-month period, to support the health, safety and well-being of women who have experienced IPV. Drawing on insights from testing and implementing iHEAL across diverse contexts, we illustrate how TVIC is operationalized in the context of iHEAL to support respectful, safe and inclusive engagement that benefits women, and strengthens nurses' practice and system responses. In particular, we discuss the centrality of being woman-led (a core principle of iHEAL) and identify common challenges of enacting TVIC and strategies to mitigate these challenges.

## TVIC Resources to Support IPV Survivors and Promote Equity-Oriented Care

Author: C. Nadine Wathen

Institute: Western University

Women's experiences of IPV often intersect, in terms of both causes and consequences, with other forms of structural violence and inequity, thus we position TVIC as a key dimension of equity-oriented care. Nadine Wathen will provide strategies to support equity-promoting practices when serving IPV survivors, including ways to address stigma, racism and other forms of discrimination. She will highlight freely available resources, including online e-learning curricula, available from the Gender, Trauma & Violence Knowledge Incubator (<https://gtvincubator.uwo.ca>) and EQUIP Health Care (<https://equiphealthcare.ca>). The EQUIP Equity Action Kit will be presented as an organizational implementation support, and the new text "Implementing Trauma- and Violence-Informed Care: A Handbook" (Wathen & Varcoe, 2023, University of Toronto Press) as a guide for individuals and organizations looking to implement TVIC.

## Intersectional inequalities and hidden dimensions of domestic homicide

### Matricide and intersectional invisibility

Author: Rachel Condry

Institute: University of Oxford

Co-authors: Caroline Miles

This paper draws upon research on the neglected form of domestic homicide, mothers killed by their sons. The study analyses government statistical Homicide Index data and case studies of matricide in the UK, including media reports and domestic homicide reviews. The study found that in many cases women are killed by their adult-aged mentally ill sons, within a broader context of maternal caregiving and intersectional invisibility, which ultimately renders them vulnerable to fatal violence. Women who are victims of violence from their sons are often invisible and not recognized as victims of violence or responded to appropriately. The phenomenon of matricide has been neglected in policy, academic research, and in public discourse. This paper explores the reasons for this 'silence' which is rooted in age, gender, and the marginalization of mothers.

### Domestic violence victimization at the intersection of state violence: Safety, security and self-determination

Author: Emma Buxton Namisnyk

Institute: University of Oxford

This paper presents findings from a recent study of First Nations women's service contact histories in 98 cases of domestic violence related homicide from several Australian states,



combined with observations from participant interviews with 23 First Nations Elders, survivors of violence and domestic and family violence specialist workers. This research found that First Nations women had high levels of contact with state agencies following domestic violence, typically state police, but these interactions were frequently harmful, compounding rather than ameliorating the violence women experienced from their partners. In this presentation, I consider key findings from a rights perspective, arguing for enhanced concepts of safety and security that account for not only the ongoing violence of settler colonialism, but First Nations sovereignty and self-determination.

**Change, intimacy, and relationships: Implications for measuring non-intimate femicide**

Author: Elizabeth Cook

Institute: University of Oxford

Non-intimate femicides, particularly 'stranger' femicides, spark exceptional public fear. However, there has been little study of what constitutes 'non-intimate' femicide, how it is measured, and how to distinguish it from 'intimate' femicide. We present a critical review of changes in how intimate relationships are expressed, lived, and practiced, and the challenges this presents for delineating 'intimate' and 'non-intimate' femicide. Contemporary concepts of intimacy can be defined physically, sexually, romantically, or situated within broader frameworks of friendship and social relations. This has consequences for how femicides by 'acquaintances', 'strangers', or 'friends' are captured within data. Women killed by men they have chatted to online or dated casually, for example, risk falling between dominant constructions of stranger versus intimate femicide, and may be rendered invisible in statistics and responses. How we account for the diversity of intimate and non-intimate relationships thus requires further attention, given the implications for identification, measurement, and responses.

**The missing pieces: Early identification of Honour-Based Violence and Forced Marriage cases, and the impact of 'slow violence'**

Author: Claire Fox

Institute: University of Oxford

Co-authors: Caroline Miles

Drawing on findings from qualitative interviews with professionals and honour-based violence (HBV) and forced marriage victim-survivors, and analysis of police case files, this paper argues that there remains a significant blind spot when it comes to recognising the subtle indicators of HBV and forced marriage and so preventing serious harm and homicide. When viewed as isolated occurrences, these subtle indicators may be viewed as harmless or normal behaviours. However, this perception can potentially obscure the serious harm - or risk of such harm – that is taking place. Viewing these indicators as a collective of controlling and/or problematic behaviours – and as a form of 'slow violence' (Nixon 2011) - alongside recognising and addressing other prominent barriers to identification, can aid the earlier identification of HBV and forced marriage. We conclude by stressing the importance of professionals' ability to challenge assumptions and maintain a critical perspective when

dealing with potential HBV and forced marriage cases and is essential to the prevention of honour-based domestic homicides.

## Intersectional representations of domestic violence in recent entertainment media

‘Bad Sisters’ and ‘Maid’: How family drama can tackle dominant media narratives on domestic violence

Author: Zoe Asser

Institute: Edinburgh Napier University

Co-authors: Amy Beddows, Melody House, Ankita Mishra

The Apple TV drama ‘Bad Sisters’ explores the varied impacts of men’s violence on survivors, families, and communities. The juxtaposition of character-driven drama and darkly comic moments is an effective way of presenting the harsh realities of violence in a way that may be more relatable to audiences. The Netflix drama ‘Maid’ - based on the real-life experiences of author Stephanie Land - also explores often overlooked impacts of emotional abuse and the role of cultural contexts - such as socioeconomic status - which enable men’s violence against women. This paper discusses how different genres of mainstream media can depict the complex realities of domestic violence in ways that are compelling and relatable. The use of creative storytelling - weaving real-life experiences through fiction, mixing dramatic and comic conventions - is an effective way of challenging traditional notions of violence, causality, and justice.

‘Imagining Otherwise’: The alternative possibilities of media representation

Author: Ankita Mishra

Institute: Edinburgh Napier University

Co-authors: Zoe Asser, Amy Beddows, Melody House

Media is a platform through which the fantastical and impossible visions of the world without gender oppression or violence can be explored, imagined, and lived. The transformative power of media provides an opportunity to build back a world that accepts women as equal rather than lesser to men, engendering hope and a determination for change. In this way, optimistic feminist concepts like Mary Daly’s (1973) vision of the ‘counterworld’ and Lola Olufemi’s (2021) ‘imagining otherwise’, can be applied to media representations. This presentation will discuss the alternative possibilities that media can offer and its ability to challenge mainstream discourses and misunderstanding around domestic violence.

‘Darlings’ and ‘Thappad’: The need for intersectional understandings of domestic violence

Author: Melody House

Institute: Edinburgh Napier University

Co-authors: Zoe Asser, Amy Beddows, Ankita Mishra

Film and TV shows rarely consider the intersections of different aspects of survivor identities, such as gender, race and ethnicity, class, and socioeconomic status, in relation to domestic violence. Simplistic depictions of criminal justice are also common in media portrayals, when in reality criminal justice systems rarely meet the needs of survivors. Such portrayals reinforce problematic misunderstandings which pervade all aspects of society and make it harder for survivors to speak out or access support. Films like 'Darlings' and 'Thappad' challenge mainstream narratives around domestic violence and complicate criminal justice responses, and are an important resource for survivors and the wider public. This paper discusses the media's role in challenging the oversimplification of the complexities of domestic violence and incorporating intersectional framings into our understandings.

### Domestic violence against women in recent horror films

Author: Amy Beddows

Institute: Edinburgh Napier University

Co-authors: Zoe Asser, Melody House, Ankita Mishra

The horror genre has long been recognised as a medium for exploring social issues and subverting societal norms. Recent films like 'Gerald's Game', 'The Invisible Man', and 'Midsommar' explore the real life horrors of domestic violence - gaslighting, social isolation, sexual coercion - and the intersections of gender, age, and violence. These films also complicate assumptions around justice by depicting statutory criminal justice institutions as unable to help survivors, stop perpetrators, or prevent future violence, and explore alternative avenues for justice, retribution, and restoration. This paper explores the value of feminist horror films as commentary and a resource for survivors of men's violence against women.

## Interspecies households and Domestic Violence and Abuse – the intersection feminism forgot

### The Animal Question in Domestic Violence and Abuse – the intersection feminism forgot?

Author: Erika Cudworth

Institute: De Montfort University

Erika Cudworth The Animal Question in Domestic Violence and Abuse – the intersection feminism forgot? The question of the animal in DVA research and campaigning has received very limited attention from feminism and has also been generally ignored in animal abuse studies. It is also marginal in policy debate and media coverage. There are notable exceptions to this trend in feminist animal studies research, particularly in social work. This paper draws on the insights of feminist animal studies to argue that the gendered and species-based abuse evidenced in DVA contexts are intrinsically linked through intersectional domination. The paper develops a conceptual and theoretical framework for thinking through intersectional abuse and maps the patterns of such abuse. It sets out the

implications for policy and practitioners and outlines the research gaps to be filled in order that DVA scholarship and intervention strategies develop more inclusive and less discriminatory understandings and practices.

#### Intersectional care practice with interspecies families - emerging insights from Australia

Author: Melissa Laing

Institute: De Montfort University

Melissa Laing Intersectional care practice with interspecies families: insights from Australia Interspecies families can often experience exclusion by DVA service providers, with assistance conditional on a woman's willingness to be separated from her beloved companion animal at a time of acute crisis. The diverse range of ethical standpoints in relation to the value of companion animals in the lives of their humans held by practitioners, and the women themselves means establishing an intersectional practice framework is difficult even for those providers with a desire to validate the human-animal bond by accommodating interspecies families. Intersectional practice with interspecies families attends to the unique marginalisation arising from the confluence of precarious housing and gender-and species-based violence. Based on findings from an exploratory study with interspecies families engaged with DVA services in Victoria, Australia, I present accounts of intersectional practices of care enacted by social workers (and other practitioners) to address interspecies DVA.

#### Insurance Discrimination, Companion Animal Harm and Domestic Violence and Abuse – Double Jeopardy in the UK.

Author: Di Turgoose

Institute: De Montfort University

Co-authors: Ruth E McKie, Paris Connolly

Di Turgoose, Ruth Elizabeth McKie, Paris Connolly Insurance Discrimination, Companion Animal Harm and DVA: Double Jeopardy in the UK. This paper adds to existing literature on the cumulative impact of DVA on companion animals and their human co-existing victims. While there has been recent progress in recognising financial and economic hardship as a significant barrier for human victims when escaping DVA, there has been no attention to date on the impacts and intersections of financial and economic barriers related to insurance policies with animal companions, save for one study by Signal et al (2018) in Australia. Prompted by this initial work, this study examines "Pet Insurance" policies to see whether experiencing DVA in interspecies households is excluded under insurance policies terms in the UK. Our findings lead to the identification of a series of recommendations to combat discrimination insurance for the future for interspecies households who are victims of DVA.

## Learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews

An Analysis of Domestic Homicide Reviews (2011-2018)

Author: Khatidja Chantler

Institute: Manchester Metropolitan University

Co-authors: Victoria Baker

An Analysis of Domestic Homicide Reviews in England and Wales (2011-2018) This paper provides an overview of the analysis of 302 DHRs and discusses key risk and vulnerability factors relating to domestic homicide, service contact with victims and perpetrators and DA risk assessments prior to the homicide. A mixed method document analysis was utilised. Findings include domestic homicide as occurring across the lifespan; that two-thirds of domestic homicides did not include children under 18 living in the household and that very few cases were risk assessed as high-risk. Risk assessments appeared to be mediated by the type of homicide, the age and ethnicity of victims and perpetrators. Key messages include: the important role of the statutory sector, enhanced risk assessments and developing engagement with 'hard to reach' families. Please note more detailed methods are described in the symposium abstract.

### Minoritisation in Domestic Homicide Reviews

Author: Khatidja Chantler

Institute: Manchester Metropolitan University

Co-authors: Kelly Bracewell, Victoria Baker, Kim Heyes, Peter Traynor

Paper 2: Minoritisation in Domestic Homicide Reviews Khatidja Chantler, Victoria Baker and team This paper considers how Minoritisation features in DHRs and identifies critical learning related to addressing Minoritisation. Five themes were identified: i) the invisibility of race, culture and ethnicity; ii) perceptions and experiences of services; iii) use of stereotypes and the culturalisation of domestic violence and abuse (DVA); iv) lack of interpreters; and v) DHR recommendations. Our analysis illustrates that statutory sector services should strengthen their responses to Black and Minoritised victims by ensuring proper recording of cultural background is used to inform practice; engage professionally trained interpreters with an awareness of DVA; resist framing DVA as endemic to Minoritised cultures; and enhance trust and confidence in public services within Minoritised communities. The best examples of DHRs challenged service narratives and usually sought expertise from a specialist Black/Minoritised DVA service or community organisation (frequently Minoritised women's rights organisations).

### Female Perpetrators of Domestic Homicide

Author: Kim Heyes

Institute: Manchester Metropolitan University

Co-authors: Kelly Bracewell, Victoria Baker

Paper 3: Female Perpetrators of Domestic Homicide Kim Heyes, Kelly Bracewell, Vicky Baker This presentation explores the role and impact of gender in DHRs, comparing characteristics,

and contexts of female perpetrators of domestic homicide (n=31) to male perpetrators (n=271). The aim of the analysis was to identify, compare, and explore similarities and differences between male and female perpetrators of DH and the implications of these for policy and practice. In intimate partner dyads, most female perpetrators had experienced DVA from the homicide victim, had mental health issues, problematic substance/alcohol use, and had experienced polyvictimisation or significant bereavement. There was a lack of understanding by services of antecedents to the homicides, mainly due to the absence of cross-agency connections. Practice recommendations include: services to intervene from a safeguarding perspective; trauma-informed support to promote recovery and prevent future harm; professional curiosity; improved risk assessment; and understanding of vulnerabilities and their impacts.

#### Intimate partner homicide-suicide (IPHS)

Author: Victoria Baker

Institute: Manchester Metropolitan University

Co-authors: Khatidja Chantler

Paper 4: Intimate partner homicide-suicide (IPHS) Victoria Baker, Khatidja Chantler IPHS typically involves men killing their female ex/partners before killing themselves. Based on 37 IPHS, our mixed method document analysis identified two distinct IPHS presentations. Cases involving the over-65s typically related to deteriorating health, loss of independence, and despair for the future with little/no evidence of prior DA. These were long-term relationships characterised by a caring/cared for context. Contrastingly, cases involving under-65s were characterised by potential/loss of the victim-perpetrator relationship, jealousy and prior DA towards the victim. Implications for policy and practice include improved carer assessments, collaboration between adult social care and health, and older age as having unique risks and vulnerabilities regarding domestic homicide. Please note fuller details of methods are in the symposium abstract overview.

## Lockdown lessons for responses to domestic and family violence

Locked out or let in? DFV victim-survivor help-seeking during the Australian COVID lockdowns and learnings for future crises

Author: Dr Jasmine McGowan

Institute: Monash University

This paper presents findings from a survey of victim-survivors who sought domestic and family violence (DFV) support during the COVID lockdowns in Australia. Lockdowns have been part of the Australian response to the health crisis and strict restrictions prohibited people from leaving home except under certain circumstances. These presented new barriers to DFV help-seeking for some and reinforced existing disadvantage for others. This paper is forward focused on lessons for services delivery in future crises and the 'new normal'. It makes two key recommendations. The first is that hybrid services delivery should become the norm reflecting that victim-survivors are a diverse cohort and multiple entry

points into the DFV system are needed. The second is that given their place at the frontline of the 'shadow pandemic' during COVID, DFV service providers should be recognised as first responders and as with similar emergency services, have provisions for surge workforces.

#### In the shadow of COVID-19: The invisibility of children's experiences of violence in homes during the pandemic

Author: Professor Silke Meyer

Institute: Monash University

The invisibility of children and their wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic became an issue of global concern. The United Nations and specialist children's services raised concerns at the outset of the pandemic that children may be the biggest victims of COVID-19 restrictions due to their exacerbated vulnerability and invisibility associated with added household stressors and wide-ranging closures of education and childcare settings. Despite this, globally the policy discourse around violence in the home and the role of pandemic related restrictions in increased risk and decreased detection, remained overwhelmingly adult-focused. This presentation brings together international research findings around children's experiences of domestic violence and other forms of maltreatment and their invisibility throughout the first two years of the pandemic. Implications for child-centred recovery to mitigate the emerging effects of COVID-19 restrictions on the wellbeing and development of vulnerable children are discussed.

#### Justice under lockdown: examining the promises of digital justice

Author: Professor Sandra Walklate

Institute: Monash University

Traditional policing and court response models were disrupted during the Pandemic. In many jurisdictions police forces and courts adapted their practices and built on existing digital and remotely enabled options to ensure ongoing access to justice. This paper examines the viability of these options for the delivery of justice in cases of domestic violence. It draws on empirical data from Australia and England and Wales in considering the efficacy of these options. It will pay especial attention to the efficacy of such responses for marginal and remote communities with a view to examining the extent to which such practices can deliver justice either for victim-survivors and/or ensure the preparedness of justice system responses in future crisis situations.

#### Domestic and family violence workers: The 'forgotten frontline' of the pandemic

Author: Dr Naomi Pfitzner

Institute: Monash University

Working face-to-face with individuals and families experiencing domestic and family violence (DFV) is challenging, let alone when practitioners have to do this work remotely from home. Burnout, secondary traumatic stress and vicarious trauma all normal responses to the challenging nature of DFV work which can affect professional and personal functioning. Drawing on Australian research this paper examines how DFV workers have been uniquely

impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic with limited attention paid to safeguarding their mental health and wellbeing during lockdowns beyond a general emphasis on self-care. This paper will explore the role that DFV organisations can play in managing and mitigating the potential harmful effects of DFV work and build a resilient workforce. It will also consider how organisations can develop workplace cultures and emergency management plans that prioritise the mental health and wellbeing of workers.

## Mandatory reporting of intimate partner violence

Mandatory reporting of IPV under Norwegian law, The Istanbul Convention, and the requirement of a shared residence.

Author: Ingrid Løining Ørum

Institute: Oslo University Hospital

In Norway, reporting to the authorities as a means of preventing IPV is regulated in section 196 of the penal code, applying to all citizens, including (but not restricted to) (health) professionals. Intimate partners are legally defined in our penal code as married couples or cohabitants. Norway has also ratified The Istanbul Convention. There, cohabitation is not a requirement in the IPV definition. Therefore, one might ask if Norwegian law fulfils all duties to prevent and criminalize IPV as stated in The Istanbul Convention. If the legal definition of IPV is narrower than the one given in The Istanbul Convention, the scope of the mandatory reporting will be equally smaller and thus not cover all that is imposed through the convention. Legal Method will be applied.

Professionals' and help-seekers' awareness and experiences with mandatory reporting of intimate partner violence

Author: Susanne Tilke Thon Kristiansen

Institute: Oslo University Hospital

Co-authors: Anita Dyb Linge, Silje Louise Dahl, Kjartan Leer-Salvesen, Solveig K B Vatnar

Background: Mandatory reporting (MR) is a means to prevent IPV and intimate partner homicide. Empirical research regarding performing and experiences of MR by professionals and help-seekers is scarce. A systematic review found that the awareness of MR was mixed and inconclusive. Very few professionals had reported IPV under MR, and evidence for supporting or opposing MR of IPV is inconclusive (Vatnar, Leer-Salvesen & Bjørkly, 2019). This study examines: What are professionals' and help-seekers' awareness and experiences with MR of IPV? Methods: The analysis is based on 75 qualitative semi-structured interviews with professionals with different roles and responsibilities in the help and service system, as well as persons who have experienced or used IPV. The in-depth data is analysed using thematic text condensation. An abductive approach with a four-step analytical process overviewed and gave tentative ideas of themes, coding, condensation and recontextualization. Results: Preliminary results will be presented at the conference.



## The association between experiences and attitudes of supporting or opposing mandatory reporting of intimate partner violence

Author: Christine Nordby

Institute: Oslo University Hospital

Co-authors: Kevin Douglas, Solveig K B Vatnar

Little is known about the association between experiences with, awareness of, and attitudes toward mandatory reporting (MR) amongst professionals who work with persons who have experienced or used intimate partner violence (IPV). This study aims to explore the extent to which professionals' support of or opposition to MR of IPV depends on their experience with and awareness of MR of IPV. Through 30-45-minute quantitative questionnaires we recruited 340 professionals. We gathered information about their sociodemographic and professional background, responses regarding their experience with IPV and MR; their workplace routine for reporting IPV; and knowledge and attitudes about MR of IPV. Questionnaires were obtained both digitally and physically over a period of 11 months. The research question will be explored through descriptive analyses and logistic regression. Preliminary results will be presented.

## Can an educational intervention influence service providers' awareness, attitudes, and experience of mandatory reporting of intimate partner violence?

Author: Thea Brevik

Institute: Oslo University Hospital

Co-authors: Kjartan Leer- Salvesen, Solveig K B Vatnar

Background: Many persons who experience or use IPV have experienced that professional services have underrated the gravity of their situation. Our objective was to explore if an educational intervention can influence service providers' awareness, attitudes, and experience of MR of IPV. Methods: We conducted a 4-hour educational intervention on MR of IPV to service providers. We used a pre-and post-test design to measure the providers' awareness, attitudes, and experience through a validated questionnaire. The outcome was measured at baseline (t0), immediately after the intervention was given (t1), and after six months (t2). Results: 94% of the invited providers agreed to participate (51 of 54 at t0; 49 of 52 at t1). Preliminary results from t0, t1, and t2 will be presented. Implications: It's important to identify actions that can facilitate MR.

## Mapping domestic abuse services in England and Wales: A Patchwork of Provision

Victims and survivors' experiences of accessing domestic abuse support services

Author: Nicola McConnell

Institute: Office of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales

Method Over 4000 survivors responded to a survey about their experiences of trying to access services during the previous three years. The DAC Office also worked in partnership

with specialist domestic abuse services to facilitate interviews and focus groups with victims and survivors. Findings Many survivors reported difficulties in accessing support services. Over 40% had not received help during the previous three years. Counselling, therapeutic support and helpline advice over the phone were the services that most survivors wanted. Services must be welcoming: some survivors described feeling uncomfortable because of their gender, ethnicity, Deaf status, disability, sexual orientation and age. Conclusions The response from mainstream services was often inappropriate or failed to address additional needs. In contrast, reported outcomes from specialist services once survivors reach them was positive.

### **Mapping service provision and funding of domestic abuse support services**

Author: Office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner

Institute: Office of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales

Method: Two sources of data were used to map service provision and funding during the financial year ending March 2021: 1. Over 500 service providers described their services, eligibility criteria and funding. 2. 150 commissioners reported the type of services they commissioned and sources of funding. Findings: There is variation in the provision of services, spending per capita and funding arrangements, which vary by organisation type. There are also differences in access to support and eligibility for services. Service providers cannot currently meet the demand for services. Several organisations had to cease some services due to funding reasons. Conclusions: Mapping of services demonstrated that who you are and where you live can result in differential access to domestic abuse support services, and that funding arrangements fail survivors with additional needs.

### **Inequitable funding of ‘by and for’ domestic abuse support services**

Author: Nicola McConnell

Institute: Office of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales

Analysis of the service and commissioning data plus a focus group held with service providers illustrated how services delivered ‘by and for’ minoritised populations struggle to get the funding that they need to deliver services. Interviews with providers of by and for services for black and minoritised women described how their services are undermined by: (1) Reliance on small amounts of short-term funding; (2) Biases and priorities of individual local commissioners; and (3) Unequal partnerships or unhelpful attempts at collaborative working. Over three quarters of the funding received by service providers was for amounts under £100k. When these were analysed according to the type of organisation, we found that ‘by and for’ services were more likely to be commissioned for amounts less than £25k than other domestic abuse support services.

### **Mending the ‘Patchwork of Provision’ of domestic abuse support**

Author: Hannah Gousy

Institute: Office of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales

Mending the 'Patchwork of Provision' of domestic abuse support On completion of the mapping of domestic abuse services across England and Wales, the DAC Office made thirty recommendations on how to meet the needs of victims and survivors of domestic abuse. Recommendations were made to central government departments, local commissioners of services, service providers and for further research. The recommendations include priorities for funding; the roles that central government should fulfil; how to provide greater support for victims and survivors facing multiple disadvantage; how to increase the accessibility of services for certain populations and how to strengthen the coordinated community response to domestic abuse. This policy session will reflect on the response to our recommendations to date and our progress in achieving change since the publication of the mapping report.

## Platforming the voices of lived experience: Living with Child-to-Parent violence and abuse

Child-to-parent violence and abuse in Belgium: platforming the voices of siblings

Author: Yana Demeyere

Institute: University of Oxford

Child-to-parent violence and abuse is a form of family violence that is still very much hidden and a taboo subject in Belgium. The problem was recently brought to public attention once again, but research, policy and targeted assistance remain limited. This doctoral research aims to learn more about how parents, children, and siblings who are confronted with CPVA conceptualize and deal with this phenomenon. Although the voices of these family members are mainly unheard in Belgium, we also see little attention to the perspectives of siblings themselves in international research. However, studies indicate that CPVA can also have detrimental effects on siblings. This can be both directly, when they experience violence and abuse themselves (sibling violence), or indirectly by witnessing abuse. In this contribution, we therefore zoom in on siblings' experiences of child-to-parent violence and abuse in Belgium, based on first insights from an online survey and semi-structured interviews.

Young people's accounts of violence and abuse towards parents: causes, contexts, and motivations

Author: Dr Victoria Baker

Institute: University of Oxford

Child and adolescent to parent violence and abuse (CAPVA) is a harmful social problem that has received increasing academic attention over the past decade. However, despite a number of high-quality European and international studies drawing on parent and practitioner accounts, the voices of young people are still absent. This paper explores the key themes identified within 21 in-depth interviews with young people aged 14 to 18 in England, carried out as part of a mixed methods PhD study into CAPVA. Within these interviews, young people gave rich insight into the impact of their abuse, as well as the pathways through which it developed, including experiences of past and ongoing child

abuse, domestic abuse and peer violence, and pre-existing behavioural difficulties. Through their insights, the study developed an ecological framework for explaining how factors relating to stress and coping, trauma, emotion regulation, gender, and communication can interact to shape the dynamic.

### **Platforming Black mothers' lived experiences of Child-Parent Violence and Abuse in England and Wales.**

Author: Anu Adebogun

Institute: University of Oxford

Sociological interpretations of motherhood as raced and classed have enabled critiques of the mythical bad Black mother and challenged the pathologized representation of Black mothering in media and social-political dialogue around juvenile delinquency. Although the criminalization of Black youth and the stigmatisation of Black parenting (read motherhood) are often examined as separate problems, this work explores how these experiences form an interconnected struggle on the site of Child-Parent Violence and Abuse (CPVA). There is a dearth of studies exploring whether any cultural and ethnic differences exist in how CPVA is conceptualised, experienced and navigated by mothers, who overwhelmingly present as victims. This work centres the narratives of Afro-Caribbean women with lived experience of this phenomenon. It considers the occurrence of this gendered abuse alongside the priorities, challenges and realities of navigating Black motherhood.

### **Victims and perpetrators: how filial harm reflects wider symbolic and structural harms towards mothers.**

Author: Dr Nikki Rutter

Institute: University of Oxford

Child instigated harms within the home have, until recently, been conceptualised as a parenting issue, and have remained mostly hidden due to the compounding issues of shame, stigma, and the emphasis of these conflicts being confined to the private sphere of family issues. In this work, I will present data from diaries with 34 parents of pre-adolescent children experiencing these harms, and workshops with 21 pre-adolescent children instigating such harms to emphasise the importance of concepts such as 'good parenting', 'good motherhood', 'good children' and 'good childhood' creates contexts which facilitate and are conducive to filial harms. This work highlights that experiences of children aggressing, and parents being aggressed do not fit the existing perpetrator-victim dichotomy, but rather represent them as two sets of victims being harmed by symbolic and structural expectations of 'good-ness'.

# Police Response to Domestic Violence Calls: Informative Perspectives and Characteristics of Police Call Data

## Characteristics of Domestic Violence Police Calls: Responding Officer Reports

Author: Angela Hovey

Institute: Lakehead University

This paper presents an overview of the general frequencies and descriptive statistics of characteristics of 3,414 domestic violence (DV) calls identified in the supplementary forms completed by police. Variables include call types (i.e., emergency or non-emergency; charges laid or not laid), frequency and severity of charges laid, gender and role of the involved persons, rate of children present, call frequency by days of week and months of year, number of unique individuals involved, risk factors, and supports provided. The study provides a unique depiction of DV circumstances in a small-sized community that is drawn from a comprehensive examination of the police data collected in the supplementary reports. Practical implications include recommendations to revise form completion and data tracking to improve access to and the utility of the data, thereby impacting police response to DV calls.

## Repeated Calls: A Closer Look at Three Case Situations

Author: Lori Chambers

Institute: Lakehead University

Police respond to high volumes of domestic violence (DV) calls. Many calls involve repeat involved persons, regardless of whether charges are laid and level of risk. Police have a primary role to ensure appropriate policing interventions and referrals to community supports. This study uses police data from 3,414 DV calls to extract chronological narratives of three distinct cases of individuals/couples who used police resources most frequently to illustrate the challenges police face with these calls. These cases were qualitatively analyzed using latent content analysis strategies to determine key constructs (i.e., issues/challenges), characters (i.e., involved persons), static concepts, and notations on supplementary forms. Key findings explore the complexities of substance abuse, the cycle of violence, mental health problems, parenting, and child custody and access issues. We conclude with recommendations, including greater collaboration with other service providers, for improved police responses in a small Canadian community with limited access to resources.

## Perspectives on Police Responses to Domestic Violence Calls

Author: Susan Scott

Institute: Lakehead University

Police responding to domestic violence (DV) calls complete supplementary forms. To gain an understanding of data utility and perspectives of police and service providers, we conducted semi-structured interviews with eight police personnel and four community service-providers from a small community in Ontario, Canada. Thematic analysis was completed. Key findings indicated that police face obstacles in responding to DV calls and in using their data.

While police want to help victims, few services are available and victims' willingness to engage with services is limited. The data is stored such that it cannot be readily used, although it could be helpful in providing better service to involved persons. Service providers could be more effective if referrals were consistently provided for non-criminal DV calls. Improved communication between police and providers could result in stronger working relationships and service provision changes such as in-the-moment engagement of victims with victim services to increase service effectiveness.

## Producing evidence syntheses on violence and abuse: reflections on the disciplinary variations and practicalities

Evidence syntheses in a global context: a systematic review of sex/gender disaggregated homicide

Author: Elizabeth Cook

Institute: University of Bristol

Background and aim. Homicide is a global burden and gendered in risk and distribution. However, evidence syntheses in this area are hampered by missing data. Drawing upon a global systematic review of sex/gender-disaggregated homicide data, this paper provides critical reflections on systematic reviews as a methodology for synthesizing evidence on violence. Methods. Applying a four-step search strategy, reports were included if they contained prevalence data on homicide by the victim/perpetrator relationship, sexual aspects, and/or motivation, by both women and men. Findings. From 194-WHO recognized countries, data were available for just under half. However, there were pronounced differences between regions and countries regarding the availability of data: for example, from 310 included reports worldwide, 77 were from the United States. Conclusions. Caution must be exercised in relation to public and policy discourses lauding 'global' homicide declines, considering not only gendered inequalities in homicide but inequalities in data production itself.

Challenges of conducting interdisciplinary systematic reviews: understanding the use of computational methods in intimate partner violence research

Author: Lilly Neubauer

Institute: University College London

Background and aim: This presentation will discuss the process of conducting a recent systematic review surveying the application of computational text mining methodologies to the study of Intimate Partner Violence. Methods: In conducting this review of a highly interdisciplinary topic, a new framework for assessing bias and quality of studies needed to be developed, since existing guidelines for systematic reviews in other disciplines were not suitable for research using computational methodologies. Findings: The framework helped to synthesise learnings from a diverse body of existing work, including research which used social media data, partnered with police forces, or enriched existing qualitative methods with quantitative text analysis. Conclusions: This presentation will discuss the development

of this new framework as well as challenges which arise when trying to communicate interdisciplinary research.

### **Challenges for evidence synthesis that includes analysis of legal records: a systematic review on the gendered dimensions of criminal law homicide defences**

Author: Jessica Lynn Corsi

Institute: University of Bristol

**Background:** This review encountered several significant obstacles regarding the structure and functioning of legal indexing databases, the length and structure of legal literature, a mismatch between existing quality assessment tools and legal records, and the need to hand search and analyse laws for quality assessment. **Methods:** An electronic database search using three legal bibliographic databases (Westlaw, LexisLibrary, Heinonline) two social sciences databases (SocIndex, Criminal Justice Abstracts), a three-step grey literature search, handsearching of laws based on included electronic database and grey literature records. **Results:** Several adaptations to standard systematic review methods including searching, screening, data extraction, and quality assessment are necessary when researching a legal question via legal records. **Conclusions:** Evidence synthesis using legal bibliographic databases, legal records, and legislation can be more labour and time intensive and requires legal literacy. Hand searching and analysis of law should be added for quality assessment of records.

### **Applying trauma-informed principles to evidence synthesis about trauma-informed healthcare: involving people with lived experience**

Author: Natalia Lewis

Institute: University of Bristol

Co-authors: Shoba Dawson

**Background:** We conducted a mixed methods systematic review about effectiveness of trauma-informed (TI) primary healthcare. To align with the TI principles, we involved people with lived experience of violence and trauma in the review. **Methods:** We recruited advisory group of eight people with lived experience of violence and trauma. The researcher provided training on the systematic review method and study protocol. We met every six months and communicated via email. **Findings:** The group brainstormed research questions and listed outcomes meaningful to patients, checked data extraction, contributed to data interpretation and knowledge exchange planning. Advisors valued their new research experience which improved their knowledge, skills, confidence. Researchers valued advisors' contribution to the study outputs for the public. **Conclusions:** Involvement of people with lived experience in the review ensured that our findings are relevant to patients. Involvement of people with lived experience requires additional researcher capacity and funding.

### **Evidence synthesis in the context of UK domestic and sexual violence services: involving professional stakeholders**

Author: Sophie Carlisle

Institute: University of Bristol

**Background:** Domestic and sexual violence and abuse (DSVA) services vary in their objectives, definitions of DSVA, funding, interventions and outcome monitoring. To produce a synthesis of such disparate services, involvement from those at the heart of the work is crucial. **Methods:** An advisory group was recruited representing six UK prominent DSVA services. Alongside ongoing email engagement, a stakeholder workshop was held covering brief systematic review training, an update on study progress, and a consultation on next steps. The group agreed on frequency and format of future meetings, methods of contact, and information sharing. **Results:** The group provided a list of key interventions and outcomes, and further context for research practices within the sector. They also advised on cross-sector language differences. **Conclusions:** The group provided valuable insight which will maximise the reviews' impact across sectors. Challenges included stakeholders' capacity and funding, and the political underpinnings of the sector.

## Reframing Pimp-Control as a Form of Domestic Abuse

**Relationship Grooming and Recruitment Tactics in Sex Trafficking Across Target**

**Demographics: Predatory Helpfulness**

**Author: Tatum Kenney**

**Relationship Grooming and Recruitment Tactics in Sex Trafficking Across Target**

**Demographics: Predatory Helpfulness** Tatum Kenney, Chitra Raghavan Research has rarely focused on the intimate nature of sex trafficking relationships, and how traffickers establish these relationships with exploitation as the end goal. The Predatory Helpfulness framework provides cohesive grooming and recruitment tactic definitions and posits that traffickers groom women by presenting themselves as romantic partners, friends and allies to women in various emotional and material ways (Basra et al., 2022). Interviews of sex trafficking survivors (n=60) from the larger study were thematically coded. The lived experience of participants reflected that of DV survivors; participants experienced a 'honeymoon period' where emotional or physical needs were met through grooming tactics. Then, the relationship became contingent on participation in commercial sex. Approaching prostitute-pimp relationships as domestic violence will aid criminal justice and mental health workers to better navigate survivor realities and needs.

**Predatory Helpfulness: Presence (or Absence) in New York State Court of General Sessions**

**Author: Molly Kalmus**

**Predatory Helpfulness: Presence (or Absence) in New York State Court of General Sessions**

Molly Kalmus, Chitra Raghavan The Predatory Helpfulness framework examined in preceding presentations addresses grooming and recruitment tactics within the trafficker-driven commercial sex trade using present day survivor narratives. While the Predatory Helpfulness framework is a new framework, tactics used (e.g., coercion, violence, use of drugs) are not new. This study looks at transcripts from the New York State Court of General



Sessions between the years 1883 to 1927 to determine the presence of Predatory Helpfulness within criminal cases. Criminal court transcripts provide a unique look into underlying facts of criminal cases that are available to the public and can provide key insights into how the criminal legal system can address issues in prosecution of the trafficker and issues in protection and mental health of the victim/survivor. Preliminary results will be discussed.

### “I’m not a dollar sign”: A Qualitative Analysis of the Sexual and Bodily Impact of Sex Trafficking

Author: Alexander Legg

“I’m not a dollar sign”: A Qualitative Analysis of the Sexual and Bodily Impact of Sex Trafficking Alexander Legg, Chitra Raghavan Sexual dysfunction is a documented occurrence in DV literature. The mental health consequences of sex-trafficking victimization are well-documented, but how survivors feel about the physical body, sex and sexuality, and non-sexual physical touch are less understood. This is especially important to understand considering the dual pathways of abuse that occur when trafficking is at the hands of an intimate partner. Data from the current on-going study (n=75) was thematically coded. Researchers hypothesized that survivors would report feelings of disconnection from the physical body, ability to engage in sex and experience pleasure, and negative responses to non-sexual physical touch post-trafficking, which was supported by participants responses and descriptions of their lived experiences. These findings have important implications for those working with survivors of sex trafficking, and domestic violence more broadly.

## Regulatory Responses to Technology-Facilitated Domestic Violence

### Regulating Technology-Facilitated Domestic Violence Through Protection Orders in Victoria, Australia

Author: Jessica Woolley

Institute: Deakin University

In Australian jurisdictions, protection orders are the primary mechanism for addressing technology-facilitated domestic violence (TFDV). Protection orders involve a criminal/civil hybrid approach, allowing police to apply for a civil order on behalf of the victim/survivor, without evidence that meets the higher criminal standard of proof. This minimises victim/survivors’ agency in matters where they may not wish to proceed, placing them at increased risk of escalating violence. Drawing from interviews with police and domestic violence stakeholders, this presentation will illustrate how the justice system in Victoria, Australia utilises and applies protection orders in TFDV responses. It highlights the challenges TFDV presents in policing, risk assessment and management. Preliminary findings will be shared around the need for ongoing education and training surrounding TFDV.

### Deletion and Destruction Orders in Intimate-Partner Image-Based Sexual Abuse Cases

Author: Zoë Asser

Institute: Deakin University

Image Based Sexual Abuse ('IBSA') is part of a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviours within intimate-partner abuse, resulting in continuous and embodied harms. Although victims are provided with limited remedies to address the removal of IBSA, the introduction of deletion and destruction orders within IBSA legislation may present alternative remedies within the law to help victims regain control of their images. Through the comparative analysis of IBSA destruction and deletion orders within S.91S Crimes Act 1900 in New South Wales and S.164 Criminal Code in Canada, this presentation evaluates how effective these remedies could be in intimate-partner IBSA cases in the UK. Overall, discussing how the law, beyond carceral punishment, can respond to emerging forms of technology-facilitated domestic violence.

**Technology-Facilitated Abuse and the UK Computer Misuse Act 1990**

Author: Francesca Stevens

Institute: Deakin University

Co-authors: Frances Ridout, Shane Johnson

Tech abuse in the context of domestic violence and stalking often involves unauthorised access to digital systems. In the UK these offences fall under computer misuse legislation, which offers an avenue to prosecute perpetrators. However, to date, there has been no systematic examination of the deployment of such laws in the context of TFDV. As such, we conducted a systematic legal evaluation of both computer misuse and domestic abuse court cases within England and Wales between 2019-2021. Our analysis demonstrates a surprising prevalence of tech abuse in UK court cases. Additionally, our results showcase how tech abuse evolved over time and how the UK's Computer Misuse Act 1990 is underused as an instrument for tech abuse offenses.

**Sexual extortion in intimate partner relationships**

Author: Suzie Dunn

Institute: Deakin University

Intimate image sharing can be a healthy aspect of an intimate partnership. However, those images can be used by abusive partners to control or harm the person in them, including extorting unwanted actions or money. This abusive behaviour is on the rise globally, with young people and women at particular risk. This paper will examine the application of Canada's Criminal Code extortion provision to this form of sexual extortion. It will also review the warnings police services in Canada have published in relation to sexual extortion to examine the narrative police are using to warn people about sexual extortion.

**Integrating Education on Technology-Facilitated Domestic Violence into Canadian Sex Education Policies**

Author: Alexa Dodge

Institute: Deakin University

Attempts to address TFDV will require educating young people on the nature of this issue. However, sex education policies in Canada currently fail to adequately integrate this topic and some current approaches are even counterproductive. For instance, there is a continued reliance on “cyber safety” approach which focuses on responsabilizing victims to avoid technology-facilitated harms at the hands of strangers, while ignoring the ways that technology is used within contexts of domestic violence. This presentation argues that sex education policies must be updated to recognize that “cyber safety” and “stranger danger” approaches to talking about technology-facilitated harms are inadequate for addressing harms such as TFDV that occur among intimate partners.

## Responding to people who use violence and abuse: domestic abuse perpetrator programmes

### The Development of Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Intervention Standards

Author: Professor Nicole Westmarland

Institute: Durham University (UK)

Co-authors: Professor Liz Kelly

This research was commissioned by the Home Office to develop evidence-based standards for interventions with perpetrators of domestic abuse. We conducted a rapid evidence assessment to capture academic literature. This was supplemented by practice-based evidence through a series of 16 roundtables attended by 297 practitioners and policy makers. A small number of victim-survivors (8) and perpetrators who had accessed interventions (7) were also consulted. Based on these methods, we developed seven standards with linked practice guidelines. In this paper we reflect on the current state of evidence in this field, the process and importance of such standards, and where research is needed in the future.

### (En)gendering change. Understanding the gendered dynamics of domestic abuse perpetrator programmes

Author: Dr William Hughes

Institute: Durham University (UK)

Drawing on extensive participant observation and interviews, this article considers the interactive dynamics of two group based, probation domestic abuse perpetrator programmes. Specifically, the criminal justice Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP) and the Building Better Relationships Programme (BBR) in England and Wales. Perpetrator groups are understood as involving collective emotions and understandings, which are continuously constructed and reconstructed through interactions. These interactions are highly gendered; reflecting men’s desires to present acceptable masculine identities and narratives, which they perceive as being threatened by their presence on a perpetrator programme. This article considers how gendered interactions take place within perpetrator groups, and calls for consideration of how they can support or undermine programme efficacy, and narratives of desistance.

## **The role of rapport in domestic abuse perpetrator interventions**

Author: Fliss Holmes (Interventions Facilitator and Probation Institute Sir Graham Smith Award Holder)

Institute: Durham University (UK)

This report draws upon qualitative data from a small sample of semi-structured interviews with participants of the Building Better Relationships (BBR) Programme in the community to platform their perspectives of factors which influence rapport between themselves and their programme facilitators. This focal point of rapport is informed by the plethora of data which links rapport, or the therapeutic alliance, to successful treatment outcomes in psychological interventions. The idea was to begin an exploration of this concept within BBR and how it does (or does not) manifest and if there are themes of factors identified by participants which impact this rapport. These findings have implications for how we engage men in domestic abuse perpetrator programmes and open a door for deeper research into the part that rapport plays in this engagement and beginning to glean some insight into how to optimise this.

## **Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programmes and Neurodiversity: International Practitioners' experiences and perspectives**

Author: Dr Nicole Renehan

Institute: Durham University (UK)

This paper reports on the experiences and perspectives of international practitioners who work with autistic men/men with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder who perpetrate domestic abuse in intimate relationships. It explores how practitioners can provide safe and effective interventions for neurodivergent men and victim-survivors. Qualitative findings from international interviews and a survey distributed to programme providers in the United Kingdom and Australia were thematically analysed. Practitioners shared concerns regarding the lack of screening and awareness amongst practitioners, workforce development, recruitment and retainment. Gaps in research and practice knowledge had consequences for neurodivergent men who perpetrate domestic abuse as they experience barriers to engagement within mainstream programmes developed and delivered by and for neurotypical people. Practitioners suggested victim-survivor related needs consist of providing psychoeducation regarding their partners' neurodivergence without medicalizing domestic abuse or adding to their emotional labour. Future research is needed to establish victim-survivor experiences and holistic needs.

## **Safety, Risk, and Homicide in the Context of Technology-Enabled Domestic Violence**

Technology-Enabled Firearm Abuse

Author: Dana Cuomo

Institute: Monash University

Drawing on data from a project located in Seattle, including the review of over 900 Domestic Violence Protection Orders and interviews with victim advocates and survivors, this paper examines the relationship between digital technologies, firearms, and intimate partner violence by introducing technology-enabled firearm abuse (TEFA). Firearm abuse entails the continuum of coercively controlling behavior involving firearms that abusers use in the context of intimate partner violence, to include: discharging a firearm, making threats with a firearm, and the brandishing, displaying, and/or cleaning of firearms. TEFA emphasizes how abusers use digital technologies to engage in similar forms of coercive control with firearms. This paper examines how the accessibility and usability of digital technologies extends abusers' ability to perpetuate firearm abuse across time and space, including post-separation.

### High-risk of homicide: Technology-facilitated intimate-partner abuse within Domestic Homicide Reviews in England

Author: Demelza Luna Reaver

Institute: Monash University

Fatal domestic violence is an epidemic within the United Kingdom that takes the lives of two women a week (Office for National Statistics, 2019). To prevent further fatalities Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were introduced in 2011 by The Home Office (Sharp-Jeffs & Kelly 2016). Yet despite over a decade of implementation, it is only recently that government has begun to consider technology as an indicator of harm within these high-risk environments (Potter, 2022). The presentation will explore technology-facilitated intimate-partner abuse as found throughout DHRs in England. Following acquisition and analysis of over 400 DHRs, key questions regarding; the forms in which technological-harm presented, and the relationship between technological-abuse and the fatal incident will be investigated.

### Visions of 'justice' in responses to digital coercive control

Author: Bridget Harris

Institute: Monash University

Perpetrators use a constellation of strategies and tactics (and increasingly, technology) in efforts to control, coerce and entrap victim-survivors. Police and courts are often engaged in efforts to regulate and address domestic violence, including harms enacted through technology. However, there has been relatively little review of their operations, capacity and effectiveness to date. Drawing on interviews and focus groups with advocates, victim-survivors, police and magistrates, this paper considers various actor's perspectives and experiences of justice agency handling of digital coercive control. Existing policy and practice are considered and a co-designed 'digital coercive control toolkit' for justice agents is outlined. Also explored are the challenges of and potentials both within justice systems and beyond, including in abolitionist visions.

“Every element of my life was being watched”: Lived experiences and the challenges of help-seeking for women subjected to technology-facilitated domestic abuse in the UK

Author: Kathryn Brookfield

Institute: Monash University

Over recent years growing concerns have been raised about the co-option and control of technology by perpetrators of domestic abuse, particularly in light of the coronavirus pandemic, which confined us to our homes and increased reliance on digital communications. Using both interview and survey data, this paper will share women’s first-hand accounts of living under sustained, technology-facilitated surveillance from an intimate partner in the context of domestic abuse. It will explore the challenges faced by women and support workers when attempting to access or provide specialist support, as well as women’s creative acts of resistance against tech-enabled control. References to the pandemic are also made, highlighting the unique pressures placed on women and support workers during this time.

## Sex, Strangulation and Domestic Violence

A reflection on the introduction of the 'rough sex defence' 'ban' into legislation in the UK - symbolic importance, but legal insignificance.

Author: Hannah Bows

Institute: The University of Melbourne

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduced into law in England and Wales a so-called 'rough sex defence' 'ban'. This provision reaffirmed the previous common law principle that consent could not be a defence to harm that exceeds a trivial threshold, unless it fell within a set of narrow exemptions. Campaigners and MPs considered the introduction of this principle into legislation important in addressing previous inconsistencies in how the 'defence' of consent was used in violence against the person cases and the 'consent creep' resulting in an increasing number of men who killed women claiming that the violence was accidental resulting from consensual sex 'gone wrong'. This paper will outline the previous legal position in the UK, arguments by lobbyist/campaign groups and MPs that this position was flawed, the introduction of the 'ban' and extent to which this is capable of addressing concerns about men's narratives of consensual sex 'gone wrong'.

Domestic violence and the use of non-fatal strangulation in association with sexual abuse.

Author: Heather Douglas

Institute: The University of Melbourne

Co-authors: Robin Fitzgerald

A stand-alone non-fatal strangulation offence was introduced in Queensland, Australia in 2016. Despite being limited to domestic violence cases, consent is a defence to a charge of non-fatal strangulation. We examine cases where the victim/survivor alleges both non-fatal strangulation and sexual offending to explore the role of narratives of consent in these

cases. In our examination we draw on three datasets. First, we draw on our analysis of 210 finalised prosecution case files and examine the five percent of charged non-fatal strangulation offences where the victim-survivor also alleged sexual violence. Second, we draw on interviews with 17 lawyers who have prosecuted or defended cases of non-fatal strangulation and third we analyse published judgments involving dual prosecutions of non-fatal strangulation and sexual offences. The paper provides a critical analysis of the role of consent narratives in cases involving both non-fatal strangulation and sexual offences and considers potential legislative reforms.

### **Sexual Behaviours and Choking/Breath Play: Attitudes and understandings.**

Author: Leah Sharman

Institute: The University of Melbourne

Co-authors: Robin Fitzgerald, Heather Douglas

Academic examination of non-fatal strangulation in Australia has rarely considered its practice in the context of sex. It is therefore not known whether the broader community, who may be using strangulation during sex, have knowledge about non-fatal strangulation as a criminal offence and information around its harms. Furthering our knowledge of partnered sexual asphyxiation is important to build understanding of its prevalence and consequences, how consent is understood and knowledge of the risks. Better understanding of community attitudes toward sex and risky behaviours and how these may relate to the use of strangulation during sex may help in the development of appropriate education strategies. To build understanding of these issues we conducted an online pilot survey with over 100 university undergraduate students. This paper reports on the results of our pilot survey and outlines the next steps planned for this research.

## **Smart Abuse: The Implication of smart, Internet-connected devices on Intimate Partner Violence**

**“I didn't expect the permissions to be a beast like they were”: The 'Black Box' of Intimate Data Flows in Internet of Things-Mediated Intimate Abuse**

Author: Megan Knittel

Institute: Queensland University of Technology

**“I didn't expect the permissions to be a beast like they were”: The 'Black Box' of Intimate Data Flows in Internet of Things-Mediated Intimate Abuse** Author(s): Megan Knittel  
Abstract: Internet of Things (IoT) technologies are increasingly popular tools for wellness and security in everyday life. However, there is growing recognition that these sensor-based devices can be misused by abusers in intimate partner abuse scenarios. To better understand emerging risks, I interviewed 22 self-described survivors of Internet of Things-mediated intimate abuse. Survivors faced challenges in navigating the 'black box' of how IoT devices function, including understanding what data the devices collected, how their abuser could use their data, and how to restrict abusers' access to their information and daily activities. Additionally, I found that survivors relied on "tech experts" in their social networks

for support rather than professional resources. Implications for policy and human-centered computing design are discussed.

### **The Psychology of Intimate Partner Violence Perpetrated via Smart Home Devices**

Author: Emily Johnstone

Institute: Queensland University of Technology

Co-authors: Dr. Laura G.E. Smith, Prof. Catherine Hamilton-Giachritsis

The Psychology of Intimate Partner Violence Perpetrated via Smart Home Devices Author(s): Emily Johnstone, Dr. Laura G.E. Smith & Prof. Catherine Hamilton-Giachritsis Although smart home devices (SHD) facilitate the ease of daily activities, what happens if they are repurposed as tools of abuse? Burgeoning evidence highlights cases of SHD being leveraged to abuse intimate partners. Most research considers harmful outcomes of SHD but not the context in which abuse arises. Based on these limitations, we propose a novel conceptual model that integrates insights from psychological theories of intimate partner violence and technological affordances to predict and explain perpetration. We suggest the value of considering psychological processes in the interaction between technological affordances and users is that they inform a more accurate anticipation of why (in terms of psychological mechanisms), how (in terms of behaviours), and when (in terms of moderators) abuse occurs.

### **Domestic Violence in the Age of Technology –Analysing the Role of Home Automation**

Author: Andi Brown

Institute: Queensland University of Technology

Domestic Violence in the Age of Technology –Analysing the Role of Home Automation Author(s): Andi Brown This work examines the neoteric threat of smart home technologies being (mis)used in the perpetration of domestic violence. For the past decade, domestic and family violence advocates, service providers, and victim survivors have been pushing for technology-facilitated abuse to be recognised as a significant form of harm. Distinctively, using technology as a tool for surveillance, intimidation, coercion, and humiliation is an increasingly cited tactic of abuse within intimate relationships. Additionally, there is little investigation to date of how this issue is considered within the technology industry. Drawing on 20 semi-structured interviews with technology professionals this work examines the perspective of technologists in relation to smart home technology-facilitated abuse, and addresses potential methods to reduce harm associated with this form of domestic violence.

### **Tech Abuse and the Internet of Things (IoT): A comparative analysis of the support sector in the UK and Australia**

Author: Freya McLachlan

Institute: Queensland University of Technology

Co-authors: Associate Professor Bridget Harris, Prof. Heather Douglas, Dr. Leonie Tanczer

Tech Abuse and the Internet of Things (IoT): A comparative analysis of the support sector in the UK and Australia Author(s): Freya McLachlan, Bridget Harris, Heather Douglas, Leonie



Tanczer With the ever-emerging industry of “smart” devices, technology-facilitated abuse is a growing concern to the domestic violence (DV) support sector. This presentation focuses on a project that explored the implications of the “Internet of Things” (IoT) on gender-based DV. The interconnection of IoT devices has many benefits, however, can allow perpetrators to access and abuse victim/survivors. Considering this, the research team surveyed 418 individuals from DV services in Australia and the UK, unpacking experiences of responding to IoT abuse. This presentation will examine responses using thematic analysis and descriptive statistics. Findings will be centred on the similarities and differences in how practitioners respond to technology-facilitated abuse, and the lack of resources available to these services. Implications will be discussed in terms of advocacy, policy, and justice responses.

## Survivor-centred responses to technology-abuse and the harnessing of technology to create trauma-informed interventions

Targeting tech-abuse and harnessing technology: centring lived experience and expertise in co-design

Author: Geraldine Bilston

Institute: Monash University

Co-authors: Bridget Harris

Victim-survivors of domestic and family violence (DFV) are familiar with the failings of systems that prevent and regulate harm and with barriers and challenges encountered when seeking assistance and support. This presentation explores co-design workshops with women subjected to abuse and the methodology adopted and outputs produced that seek to transform responses to DFV. Technology is the subject of some interventions which endeavour to combat or challenge technology-facilitated violence. It is harnessed in other applications, using digital challenges to co-design initiatives and create digital resources. We call for more research, policy and practice that centres and is guided by lived experience and expertise, notably including traditionally marginalised voices.

The use of virtual reality in a phenomenological exploration of domestic violence and women’s space for action

Author: Delanie Woodlock

Institute: Monash University

Co-authors: Jill Bennett, Volker Kuchelmeister

Over the past decade, digital technologies have emerged as a tool for domestic violence perpetrators to control victim-survivors. Conversely, technology is also harnessed by advocates to raise awareness and connect with victim-survivors. This project explores virtual reality as a method for victim-survivors to communicate the lived realities of domestic violence. The concept of ‘space for action’ describes how perpetrators entrap and restrict women’s freedom by constricting victim/survivors’ lives. Without an understanding of the lived experience of this unfreedom and how perpetrators of domestic violence shape victim-survivors actions, there can be a lack of empathy for victim-survivors. In this project, victim-

survivors guide users through what it feels like to be entrapped and how their space for action expands and contracts when they make steps towards freedom. Through harnessing immersive technologies, this project invites users into the constricted space for action that victim-survivors inhabit.

### **The Technology Abuse Clinic Toolkit**

Author: Lana Ramjit

Institute: Monash University

Co-authors: Dana Cuomo, Nicki Dell, Tom Ristenpart

Intimate partner violence (IPV) agencies and the advocates who staff them often lack the capacity, training, and resources needed to respond to technology-facilitated abuse (TFA). Even staff trained in TFA benefit from access to technology experts who are trained specifically in the dynamics of coercive control. The Clinic to End Tech Abuse (CETA) and the Technology Enabled Coercive Control Initiative (TECCI) exemplify this relationship as novel services that partner with IPV agencies to identify points of compromise of their technology and develop technology-specific safety plans. Drawing on our collective experiences, we have developed the Technology Abuse Clinic Toolkit. Released in early 2023, the toolkit provides structured, experience-driven support for others who may be interested in creating and sustaining their own clinics. In this talk, we explain the benefit of localised TFA clinics and share a summary of what readers can expect from the toolkit.

### **Trauma-informed interventions to technology-facilitated abuse: insights from the Orbits research project**

Author: Eva Blum-Dumontet

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence remains poorly understood and inadequately legislated, despite record increases in recent years, and survivors are being failed by the very systems meant to protect them. In 2021, survivor-led nonprofit Chayn partnered with End Cyber Abuse to research best practices for interventions to technology-facilitated gender-based violence that are intersectional, survivor-centred, and trauma-informed. Co-created with experts, activists, practitioners, and survivors from around the world, the Orbits research report focuses on three vital areas for effectively tackling tech abuse: technology, research, and policy. Here, we will review a typology of tech abuse, share the learnings from Orbits, highlight case studies, and discuss how these insights can be applied better to protect people from this growing form of gender-based abuse with practical steps.

## **Technology-Facilitated Domestic Abuse: Advancements in Its Definition, Scholarship and Response**

What is technology-facilitated abuse? How to measure and conceptualise a growing research field

Author: Leonie Tanczer

Institute: University College London

Technology-facilitated abuse (“tech abuse”) in the context of intimate partner violence (IPV) describes an incident or a pattern of incidents in which digital systems are used with the intention to monitor, control, coerce, threaten, degrade, and harm a victim/survivor. Tech abuse, therefore, intersects closely with other forms of IPV and family and domestic abuse, as well as stalking. However, tech abuse is not an “official” concept or measurement category. To date, scholars have used different terminology to describe the perpetration of abuse and harassment via digital means. This paper examines the “boundary questions” that tech abuse creates and offers a framework to tackle the lack of agreed conceptualisation and terminological specificity. Based on a review of the tech abuse literature, the research helps to clarify the types of acts and harms that constitute tech abuse and the indicators and units to measure its prevalence and nature.

### Technology-facilitated abuse victimization: A gendered analysis in a representative survey of adults

Author: Asher Flynn

Institute: University College London

Co-authors: Anastasia Powell

There is currently a large knowledge gap regarding the gendered extent and nature of technology-facilitated abuse (TFA). Drawing on a representative sample of 4,562 Australian adults, this paper discusses that while the prevalence of any lifetime TFA victimization is not specifically gendered, there are clear gendered patterns in the extent and nature of particular types of TFA experienced. Findings include that women are more likely to report experiencing sexual coercion, as well as intimate partner abuse and co-occurring forms of abuse from the same perpetrator. The results support aspects of the gendered violence thesis and suggest avenues for future research into TFA victimization.

### Trust and Safety Work in Technology Companies and the Use of Automated Tools

Author: Toby Shulruff

Institute: University College London

Digital platforms and everyday technology are harnessed to facilitate a catalogue of harms including gender-based violence. Trust and Safety workers within technology companies respond to and attempt to prevent some of the most troubling of these harms. This paper will present research about the field, and more specifically discuss automation as one kind of tool used to receive user reports, and to detect, filter, and respond to bad content and behaviour. Automation may be needed to address the scale of the problems and may also help minimise workers’ exposure to traumatising information. However, standardised responses to users who have experienced harm may be impersonal or inadequate. Automation used “at scale” should be in balance with a recognition that the realities of humans and human problems are complex.

## top Following Me! Evaluating Anti-Stalking Features of Personal Item Tracking Devices

Author: Kieron Ivy Turk

Institute: University College London

Co-authors: Alice Hutchings

Personal item tracking devices such as Airtags and Tile trackers have become popular for locating lost items such as keys, wallets, and suitcases. Although created with good intentions, these devices are being misused by abusive partners and stalkers to track their victims by planting them on the victim or their belongings and tracking their location over time. Many device manufacturers then created "anti-stalking features" to help mitigate this issue. In our study, we analysed the effectiveness of the anti-stalking features of the most popular brands of tracking devices. We find that the anti-stalking features are insufficient due to a variety of failures in the protocols' designs. More importantly, people who know they are being tracked this way are not using the anti-stalking features. These failures combined imply a need to redesign the features from the ground up to prevent misuse for stalking and domestic abuse.

## Text analytics in the Violence, Health and Society (VISION) consortium: practical challenges and research opportunities

Development of an application to extract and categorize mentions of domestic violence from mental healthcare records

Author: Lifang Li

Institute: King's College London

Co-authors: Robert Stewart, Angus Roberts

Development of an application to extract and categorize mentions of domestic violence from mental healthcare records Authors: Lifang Li, Robert Stewart, Angus Roberts Experiences of domestic violence are reported more frequently by mental health service users, and victims of violence are at a greater risk of mental health disorders. Electronic health records (EHRs) are an important source of information about healthcare, and its social context. Occurrences of violence are, however, not routinely recorded as structured data in EHRs, but are recorded in the free text narrative. We describe the development of a natural language processing application to extract information on violence from this text, and its routine use over a large mental health service dataset.

Extracting information on domestic abuse from police crime reports: potential and limitations

Author: Leslie Humphreys

Institute: King's College London

Co-authors: Ruth Weir

Extracting information on domestic abuse from police crime reports: potential and limitations Authors: Leslie Humphreys, Ruth Weir Reliable and valid measures of domestic

abuse repetition are crucial to inform effective interventions. Police information systems offer promise here. They contain structured data on all crime related incidences. But this data lacks context and is often inaccurate. However, linked to each incident are free-text reports that summarise the event, previous related incidents, and actions taken by the police. We will apply Natural Language Processing to this data and will examine results in conjunction with the structured data to increase validity. Nevertheless, there are issues that we need to address in order to avoid producing bias. In particular, how to deal with different language used by different officers to describe the same contextual factors, and procedural differences emanating from differing perspectives on policing held by officers. All of these issues will be discussed.

### **Ascertaining reported experiences of domestic violence in routine mental healthcare records and resulting distributions of reports by diagnosis**

Author: Ava Mason

Institute: University College London

Co-authors: Jyoti Sanyal, David Chandran, Robert Stewart

Ascertaining reported experiences of domestic violence in routine mental healthcare records and resulting distributions of reports by diagnosis Authors: Ava Mason, Jyoti Sanyal, David Chandran, Robert Stewart Applying recently developed NLP algorithms, we sought to describe the distribution of experienced domestic violence by demographic and diagnostic groups. We ascertained recorded mentions and/or threats of domestic violence from 60021 patient records receiving care from a large UK mental healthcare provider (2007-2022). Descriptive and adjusted regression analyses were conducted to investigate variation by age, gender, ethnic group, and diagnostic category (ICD-10 F-chapter subheadings). The observed distributions highlight serious mental illness, personality disorder and mood disorder as risk groups, as well as higher risk in non-White ethnic groups and in women.

### **Automatic Identification of Reports of Psychologically Abusive Behaviours in Online Forums**

Author: Lilly Neubauer

Institute: University College London

Co-authors: Lifang Li, Demelza Luna-Reaver, Megan Knittel, Enrico Mariconti, Leonie Tanczer

Existing survey-based methodologies for researching psychological abuse could be complimented by computational social science methodologies using social media data. This paper discusses the use of computational text mining to examine and classify reports of psychologically abusive behaviours on three forums on the social networking site, Reddit. A subset of posts was manually labelled by 4 annotators according to 6 different categories of psychological abuse. A multi-class classification model was trained on this subset to automatically identify reports of different types of psychologically abusive behaviour. The application of the model to the wider dataset indicated the prevalence of how often Reddit users experience different types of psychological abuse.

## The Criminalization of Violence Against Women: Comparative Perspectives

The consequences of criminalising domestic violence: A case study of the non-fatal strangulation offence in Queensland, Australia

Author: Heather Douglas

Institute: University of Maryland Carey School of Law

Co-authors: Robin Fitzgerald

Heather Douglas and Robin Fitzgerald, The consequences of criminalising domestic violence: A case study of the non-fatal strangulation offence in Queensland, Australia Discrete offences of non-fatal strangulation have been introduced throughout America, England and Wales and Australia over the past 20 years. In this paper we focus on the offence of non-fatal strangulation introduced in the Australian state of Queensland in 2016 which carries a maximum penalty of seven years. Many have viewed the introduction of the Queensland offence as a success story in educating the public about the harms of non-fatal strangulation, in ensuring non-fatal strangulation is taken seriously by police and those in the justice system and in ensuring that domestic violence abusers are held accountable. In this chapter we draw on recent reviews of the operation of the Queensland offence since its introduction highlighting some of the troubling, but predictable, consequences of criminalizing non-fatal strangulation.

The criminalisation of coercive control: the benefits and risks of criminalization from the vantage of victim-survivors

Author: Kate Fitz-Gibbon

Institute: University of Maryland Carey School of Law

Co-authors: Sandra Walklate, Silke Meyer, Ellen Reeves

Kate Fitz-Gibbon, Sandra Walklate, Silke Meyer, and Ellen Reeves, The criminalisation of coercive control: the benefits and risks of criminalization from the vantage of victim-survivors The debate and law reform activity surrounding the need to criminalise coercive and controlling behaviours has spanned the globe. Those in favour of criminalisation argue that the law sets the standard for acceptable behaviour. Others urge caution, noting that law reforms introduced to improve responses to different forms of violence against women have historically brought about unintended consequences which undermine women's access to justice. This debate has occurred largely in the absence of any significant evidence as to the views of victim-survivors of domestic and family violence. Drawing on the findings of an Australian national survey of victim-survivors views on the criminalization of coercive control, and privileging the voices of victim-survivors of coercive control, this paper addresses this knowledge gap.

United States v. Maddesyn George: The Consequences of Criminalization for Native Women in the United States

Author: Leigh Goodmark

Institute: University of Maryland Carey School of Law

Leigh Goodmark, *United States v. Maddesyn George: The Consequences of Criminalization for Native Women in the United States* In 2021, Maddesyn George, an enrolled member of Colville Native tribe in the United States, killed Kristopher Graber, who had raped her the night before his death. Using George’s prosecution as a case study, this paper explores the questions that prosecution raises about the history of abuse of Native women by non-Native men in the United States, the law that prevents Native tribes from holding non-Native men accountable, and the United States’ reliance on criminalization as a response to intimate partner violence. The paper argues that Maddesyn George was an imperfect victim facing a criminal system that was not designed to protect her, and as a result, she was punished for acting to save her own life.

## The Promise of Strengths for Helping Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

**Resilience Factors Among Latinx College Student Survivors Of Intimate Partner Violence**

Author: Elizabeth Terrazas-Carrillo

Institute: University of the South

Co-authors: Ediza Garcia

The literature on Latinx intimate partner violence (IPV) among college students has tended to focus on risk factors for experiencing victimization, with less emphasis on potential factors fostering resilience. This study examines factors that promote resilience in a sample of 90 Latinx college students who experienced IPV victimization in the last year. An analysis of regression with resilience as the outcome measure showed the following were positive predictors of resilience in this sample of Latinx college students who experienced IPV: frequency of religious service attendance, intrinsic religiosity, social support, familismo, and ethnic identity. The study also found two negative predictors of resilience: caballerismo and violence severity. Results are discussed in the context of service provision and IPV prevention for Latinx college students.

**An Exploratory Study Of Strengths That Promote Resilience After Adversity: Findings From Adults In Kosovo**

Author: Kaltrina Kelmendi

Institute: University of the South

Co-authors: Sherry Hamby

This study uses the resilience portfolio model to explore psychological and social strengths that promote resilience among adults in Kosovo, a post-conflict society. A sample of 689 adults was recruited online. They completed a survey on trauma symptoms, victimization, other adversities, and psychological and social strengths. Findings from the study show that 92% experienced victimization, and 40% were exposed to parental violence. Hierarchical regressions indicated that endurance, compassion, a sense of purpose, and religious meaning-making contributed to more resilient mental health in a model with all strengths

and controlling for victimization, educational level, employment status, age, and gender (total  $R^2 = .37$ ). This highly victimized sample shows that several strengths seem promising in promoting resilience. Intervention and prevention programs should include endurance, compassion, purpose, and religious meaning-making activities.

### **Strengths That Support Psychological Functioning Following Intimate Partner Victimization In Four Southern States**

Author: Katie Schultz

Institute: University of the South

Co-authors: Elizabeth Taylor, Sherry Hamby

Certain psychosocial strengths may mitigate impacts of dating violence. This study examined protective factors associated with thriving after intimate partner victimization for youth with a dating history (ages 12-21). The sample includes 347 youth from the southeastern U.S. The survey measured intimate partner violence, 21 psychosocial strengths (in the domains of meaning making, regulatory, and interpersonal) and 2 measures of functioning, trauma symptoms and subjective wellbeing. Hierarchical logistic regression, controlling for age and sex, showed that emotion regulation and meaning from family contributed to lower trauma symptoms and sense of purpose, generativity, and forgiveness contributed to higher subjective wellbeing. Strengths-based approaches show promise for helping young people who experience IPV.

### **Nurturing Adolescent Dating Violence Survivors' Digital Resiliency: An Exploratory Study Of Potential Protective Factors To Buffer Digital Dating Abuse And Promote Teens' Healthy Engagement With Technology**

Author: Heather Storer

Institute: University of the South

25% of adolescents will experience some form of digital dating abuse (DDA), which is associated with adverse outcomes. However, more research is needed on promising protective factors to mitigate DDA and promote teens' positive digital engagement. This study explores gender-based violence (GBV) providers' perceptions of protective factors that can buffer youth's entry into abusive relationships and facilitators of digital resiliency. Interviews were conducted with organizational representatives from U.S. DV/SA (n=35) providers. Thematic content analysis was employed. Potential protective factors to buffer DDA include community-level education regarding digital literacy and individual-level caregiver and youth behaviors, particularly practices related to digital surveillance, data hygiene, and privacy. This study provides an important foundation for theorizing protective factors for nurturing adolescents' healthy digital engagement. Technology affords opportunities to reduce risk and support survivor well-being.

### **Intimate Partner Violence, Psychosocial Strengths, and Resilience in the Southern U.S.**

Author: Sherry Hamby

Institute: University of the South

Co-authors: Elizabeth Taylor, Katie Schultz, Victoria Banyard



Much research on adult intimate partner violence (IPV) has focused on risk factors, but psychosocial strengths are key resources for helping people overcome trauma. This study examined 21 potential protective factors to identify which are associated with better functioning after IPV victimization. 1322 adults (22-45 years) from the southeastern U.S. with a relationship history were surveyed about intimate partner violence, psychosocial strengths, and current functioning. Controlling for age, sex, and financial strain, hierarchical logistic regressions found that emotion regulation and optimism contributed to lower trauma symptoms and psychological endurance, sense of purpose, and other strengths contributed to better subjective wellbeing. Designing interventions that promote strengths have potential to produce better outcomes for IPV survivors.

## The Roadmap Programme - Improving the Accessibility and Responsiveness of Domestic Violence & Abuse Services

Survivors' Pathways to and Experience of Roadmap Services

Author: Nicky Stanley

Institute: University of Central Lancashire

Co-authors: The Roadmap Evaluation Team

Survivors' Pathways to and Experience of Roadmap Services Nicky Stanley and the Roadmap Evaluation Team The two Roadmap programmes received referrals from different sources: police were the main referral source for WAFE survivors while survivors to SL-commissioned services were referred by children's social work or other DVA organisations. Waiting lists were a feature of some interventions. Many women using Roadmap services had high levels of mental health need. We found improvements in safety, coping and confidence and mental wellbeing. Survivors valued services that were survivor-centred and enabled them to choose the pace and type of support they received, many needed help with parenting and managing post-separation contact as well as support in their own right. When direct support was provided for children, it could assist their mood, sleep, physical health and fear and anger. We found examples of children who received support successfully navigating key transitions in their lives.

Working with DVA survivors who have complex needs: what is the evidence base?

Author: Helen Richardson Foster

Institute: University of Central Lancashire

Co-authors: Sarah Shorrock, Christine Barter, Nicky Stanley

Working with DVA survivors who have complex needs: what is the evidence base? Helen Richardson Foster, Sarah Shorrock, Christine Barter and Nicky Stanley This paper will present findings from a systematic literature review that explored the international research literature on effective interventions and service responses for women who experience DVA and who have complex needs. Such interventions are increasing, however the evidence base is limited. The search was limited to international peer reviewed literature published in

English from 2000-2020. In total, 37 papers from 11 countries were included. Limited evidence of efficacy was found. The paper considers how 'complex needs' are defined and by whom. We identify the components of an effective service response for women who have experienced DVA who have complex needs and assess the evidence base.

#### Engaging Communities in Combatting DVA

Author: Kelly Bracewell

Institute: University of Central Lancashire

Co-authors: Khatidja Chantler, Katie Martin

Engaging Communities in Combatting DVA Kelly Bracewell, Khatidja Chantler, Katie Martin 'Ask Me' is a community mobilisation intervention which aims to make DVA visible and provide early support. Community members are trained to become Ask Me Ambassadors. Ambassadors are expected to share their learning and challenge victim-blaming attitudes within their communities. The evaluation explored whether Ask Me i) addressed barriers to responding to DVA in local communities; ii) increased awareness and responsiveness to DVA. Over 300 Ambassadors completed training in three sites in England. Data sources included: information on Ambassador characteristics; pre/post knowledge and attitudinal questionnaires; activity surveys; and 31 Ambassador interviews. Participants demonstrated increased knowledge of the gendered nature of DVA and coercive control, reduction in victim-blaming, and confidence to respond to disclosures. Experiences of 'sisterhood' embodied the importance of combatting DVA collectively. Recommendations include: strengthening recruitment, engagement and retention strategies; and providing ongoing Ambassador support.

#### Whole Family Work: Findings from in-depth family case studies

Author: Christine Barter

Institute: University of Central Lancashire

Co-authors: Emma Howarth, Helen Richardson Foster

This paper reports on the findings of six family case studies selected to represent the range of family work undertaken in two Roadmap sites. Each case study included interviews with children aged 7-11, mothers, staff and information drawn from the case records for each family. This enabled a rounded picture of 'whole family' work. Although the work undertaken across the six cases varied, analysis identified seven main themes: •

Accessing and receiving services • Direct and creative support for children • Support for mothers • Child-focused work with parents • Child-focused advocacy • Regular and responsive support. • Co-ordination and continuity of provision

The paper explores these themes and demonstrates how they relate to mechanisms of change and key outcomes for each of the families.

## The Shelter Movement - want it dead or alive?

Sleeping not even with the enemy, just someone who doesn't care

Author: Jenny Westerstrand

Institute: Riksorganisationen för kvinnojourer och tjejjourer i Sverige

Swedish politics was ruled by a government calling themselves feminist 2014-2022. Yet, under this period, the state decided to co-opt the free and women separatist shelters (those with housing) under social services law. How did the state talk about and understand the shelter movement during the years precluding this cooptation? What collaboration was the shelter movement invited to, and what impact did its voice have? Was it just a scheme to invite the movement or did it make any impact? Whatever answers will come out of these questions, it is a fact that Roks has been a strayed for many years with regards to reforms and ambitions coming from the government. How did the Swedish shelter movement and the feminist government and Swedish equality get so far apart? Theory and method as above.

## A shift in perspective - from feminism to gender equality

Author: Carin Holmberg

Institute: Riksorganisationen för kvinnojourer och tjejjourer i Sverige

After the election in 2006, Swedish politics on men's violence against women shifted 180 degrees. The up till then (by the Social democrats) used gender and power perspective was replaced by a gender neutral focus on "vulnerable groups" after the election (which they lost). What strands of thought was used in this fundamental shift, from a feminist perspective to a "gender equal" and gender neutral narrative? How does a Swedish discourse of gender equality come into play? And why has there not been a debate over this paradigmatic shift? Studies in political documents informs this study, feminist political theory combined with empirical work from the shelters are methodological tools. The expected findings are implied in the questions above.

## Licensing the Shelter Movement - What's at stake?

Author: Elin Hedén

Institute: Riksorganisationen för kvinnojourer och tjejjourer i Sverige

Co-authors: Maja Ahrman

The bed rock of the Women's shelter movement is autonomy and trust and support for the women and children the shelters meet. With the now proclaimed state control via licenses, a new regime regarding knowledge and method has been assigned for the shelters to adjust to. Instead of best practice won from support services, and knowledge produced by researchers in contact with the movement, state authorities are set to draw the guidelines. These guidelines are gender neutral, based on a psychologizing approach to men's violent behavior and they also serve to erase the fundamental differences between profit-ran and nonprofit, feminist, services. What are the new demands that shelters are asked to adjust to

and why do they pose a problem? What is at stake in the state cooptation of the shelters services to women and children in need of a refugee? Theory and method as above.

## Towards a Better Understanding of Dating and Sexual Violence Experienced by Minority Communities in Higher Education

A Bayesian Approach to Understanding how Heavy Episodic Drinking affects Dating Violence Experiences among LGBTQ+ College Students

Author: Kamilla Bonnesen

Institute: Georgia State University

Co-authors: Kevin M. Swartout

Heavy episodic drinking (HED), also known as binge drinking, is highly prevalent among college students and is one of the most robust risk factors for gender-based violence. Previous research suggests alcohol use predicts dating violence victimization (DV) in heterosexual couples, but little research has investigated the relationship between HED and victimization in LGBTQ+ persons. Taking a Bayesian approach, we estimated the probability of DV given participants' sexual orientation and alcohol use habits. Findings revealed that persons identifying as lesbian and bisexual, respectively, experienced DV more than their heterosexual peers. Additionally, persons who reported HED experienced more DV than their non-HED peers. However, interactive effects revealed that heterosexual students who engaged in HED were at higher risk of DV compared to lesbian students. These findings indicate HED affects the risk for DV differently as a function of a student's sexual orientation.

Who's to blame: Impacts of working memory, cognitive load, and victim race on people's likelihood of blaming victims for their experiences with violence against women

Author: Alesha Bond

Institute: Georgia State University

Co-authors: Kevin M. Swartout

The present research investigated how a person's judgment of a victim's level of responsibility for the violence they endured (i.e., victim blame) is impacted by the person's working memory capacity (WMC) and the race of the victim. Undergraduate student participants completed a computer-based working memory task. Then, they read a police case profile of an assault—perpetrated by a man against a woman—and were asked to rate both the victim and perpetrator's level of responsibility for the violence. Participants tended to blame White victims more than Black victims  $F(1,90)=5.473, p<.05$ . Further, participants with high WMC were more likely to blame victims compared with those with low WMC,  $F(1,90)=3.592, p<.05$ . These findings may aid in potential interventions and training to reduce bias and improve legal processes and judgments regarding violence against women.

## Improving campus climate by enhancing our understanding of risk for sexual violence among gender and sexual minorities

Author: Martie Thompson

Institute: Georgia State University

Co-authors: Heidi Zinzow, Heather Kettrey, Megan Fallon

Sexual violence (SV) among college students is a significant public health problem. Students who identify as gender and/or sexual minorities are at increased risk compared to their heterosexual and cis-gender counterparts. We will present data collected from two universities, Clemson University (n = 1999 undergraduates) and Appalachian State University (n = 500 first-year students) to determine the extent of the increased risk for SV among sexual/gender minorities. Regression analyses will explore potential explanatory mechanisms for this increased risk, such as knowledge of campus resources and peer norms. Qualitative research from interviews and focus groups with students, faculty, and staff will also be presented to complement the quantitative results and identify barriers to help-seeking in this population. Findings will be discussed in the context of how universities can improve their campus climate by focusing on at-risk groups who may need additional support and resources.

## Blacking Out, Hooking Up, and Sexual Assault Victimization

Author: William F. Flack, Jr.

Institute: Georgia State University

Co-authors: Lily C. Shorney

Relationships among excessive alcohol consumption, hooking up (sexual encounters without future relational commitment), and sexual assault victimization (SAV) among university students are well established (NIAAA, 2022). Incapacitation by means of excessive alcohol consumption is a frequent SAV perpetrator tactic, and high consumption levels often cause drinkers to pass out (lack of consciousness) or blackout (anterograde amnesia). Blackouts can range from fragmentary (partial, potentially recoverable memory loss) to “en bloc” (complete loss), and are perceived by many students as common and acceptable (Merrill et al., 2021). Relationships among blacking out, hooking up, and SAV were examined in a sample of 445 students (64% women, 34% men) from a private university in the northeastern U.S., using a modified ARC3 survey (Swartout et al., 2019). Regression analyses revealed that both blacking out and hooking up were significant predictors of attempted or completed SAV.

## Transforming the Response to Domestic Abuse in Later Life: The Dewis Choice Initiative

Transforming the Response to Domestic Abuse in Later Life: The Dewis Choice Initiative

Author: Sarah Wydall

Institute: Centre for Age Gender and Social Justice Aberystwyth University

Dewis uniquely combines longitudinal research, capturing the 'lived experiences' of older victim survivors and a co-produced service dedicated to providing long term, intensive support for victim-survivors aged 60 years and over. The paper will discuss the precarity involved when aiming to be 'transformative' using a case example: Dewis Choice, a hybrid Initiative in rural Mid Wales. We will illustrate how we have negotiated obstacles: political, ideological, and methodological, to maintain the programme integrity of our co-produced model designed by older people. Sustaining Dewis, as a model designed to promote 'change' is extremely challenging, especially resourcing the longitudinal research, the service model, and preserving an ethos of co-production as an integrated intervention. In our discussion, we aim to illustrate this issue and, using a qualitative longitudinal lens, we show how legislation, practice and policy discriminates against victim-survivors' ability to access justice and appropriate support at this stage in the life course.

**Dementia and Intimate Partner Abuse: A failure to protect or a cultural chasm in practice?**

Author: Elize Freeman

Institute: Centre for Age Gender and Social Justice Aberystwyth University

This paper examines intimate partner abuse where dementia is a feature. It critically explores domestic abuse protections, including coercive control legislation that exists in England and Wales. In doing this, it will use examples from the literature to highlight how different spheres of practice are rarely integrated, both in terms of dementia provision and domestic abuse provision, resulting in discrimination against vulnerable victim-survivors. The question is asked whether these groups of victims-survivors fall into chasm as a result of entrenched cultural practices, or an inability by providers to use legislative powers effectively or other factors. The paper draws on longitudinal case examples to show how, by providing long-term intensive support, and engaging in a coordinated community response it is possible to challenge the current 'a rule of confidence' about care dynamics involved for victim-survivors of domestic abuse in later life.

**Falling outside the 'public story' of domestic abuse: Older male victims-survivors of adult family abuse, barriers to support and recovery**

Author: Tom Chapman

Institute: Centre for Age Gender and Social Justice Aberystwyth University

Co-authors: David Cowsill

According to our current research at the Dewis Choice Initiative, since 2016, on a yearly average, just under a third of our clients who are supported by Dewis Choice are older male victim-survivors of domestic abuse. Of this sample, half experience adult family abuse, and a proportion experience both adult family abuse and intimate partner abuse. Drawing on victim-survivor and practitioner insights, the longitudinal study of older survivors, and wider research literature, this paper examines how extrinsic vulnerabilities may delay help-seeking and impact on safety, particularly with respect to a tendency to underestimate risk in older male victims. The paper also how explores generational perspectives on parenting styles and / or how different socio-cultural factors on masculinity negatively impact on older men when seeking certain types of support that would facilitate recovery.

**Making the Invisible, Visible: 'Do You See Me' using co-production to make a short LGB film**

Author: Rebecca Zerk

Institute: Centre for Age Gender and Social Justice Aberystwyth University

This paper examines how co-production was used to create a short film 'Do You See Me' about older lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) victim-survivors' 'lived experiences' of domestic abuse. It shares findings from a series of co-produced activities across England and Wales involving LGBTQ+ partners and older victim-survivors that created new knowledge about DA in later life through the medium of film. It shows how, over the 41-month period, there was a shared aim to ensure victim-survivors, and other groups involved in the co-production had a sense of ownership in this endeavour. Thus, the collaborative spaces became 'safe settings' to voice ideas, enable appropriate capacity building and subsequent knowledge exchange. This work produced a nuanced meta – narrative helping to make visible the often-invisible experiences of LGB victim-survivors' perceptions of perpetrator behaviours. The paper concludes by highlighting challenges when engaging in co-production with diverse stakeholders.

## Trauma-informed mental healthcare for survivors of violence

**A scoping review of trauma-informed approaches in acute, crisis, emergency, and residential mental health care'**

Author: Katherine Rose Kelly Saunders

Institute: King's College London

Dr Katherine Saunders will present 'A scoping review of trauma-informed approaches in acute, crisis, emergency, and residential mental health care'. Thirty-one studies explored trauma-informed approaches in our settings of interest; the most commonly reported trauma-informed models were the Six Core Strategies (n=7) and The Sanctuary Model (n=6). Most studies were based in the USA (n=23) and in acute mental health settings (n=16). Key outcomes included i) a reduction in restraint and seclusion practices, ii) service users reporting feeling safe, trusted, and cared for, iii) staff feeling empathy for service users and having a greater understanding of trauma and iv) staff reporting a need for adequate training and supervision to deliver trauma-informed care. Importantly, however, few studies employed control groups, limiting the strength of these findings. Implications for practice, policy and research will be discussed.

**Detection and response to gender-based violence (GBV) in South-East London secondary mental health services: A quality improvement project**

Author: Roxanne Keynejad

Institute: King's College London

Dr Roxanne Keynejad will present 'Detection and response to gender-based violence (GBV) in South-East London secondary mental health services: A quality improvement project'. Her

team of trainee psychiatrists audited 120 clinical records across four acute inpatient and community mental health services. The prevalence of GBV was higher than the general population, among female and non-binary service users of a drug and alcohol service, home treatment team, inpatient ward and mother and baby unit. Nevertheless, a notable proportion had not been asked about a history of GBV. The team therefore aimed to improve the extent to which each service was trauma-informed, through a series of collaboratively-agreed quality improvement interventions, informed by service user priorities. Dr Keynejad will present the audit findings, experience of implementing different interventions, and re-audit outcomes, reflecting on how front-line clinicians can make their services more trauma-informed.

### Creating trauma-informed talking therapy assessment processes

Author: Angela Sweeney

Institute: King's College London

Dr Angela Sweeney will present 'creating trauma-informed talking therapy assessment processes'. People who have experienced trauma, including domestic and interpersonal violence, sometimes seek talking therapies for sense-making and support. The process for seeking therapy varies, but typically involves undergoing a therapist-led assessment. Evidence suggests that assessment processes are harmful to trauma survivors, as assessments are often followed by a long wait for therapy. This presentation, based on a five-year survivor-led study, will describe survivor's experiences of assessment processes. Our qualitative study found that these experiences included bearing the emotional weight of the journey to assessment, the need to find respect for that journey, and the aftermath of the assessment including hope, exposure and deconstruction. Dr Sweeney will describe trauma-informed guidelines for improving talking therapy assessments, developed through a modified Delphi study and grounded in survivors' experiences.

### PATHWAY: a qualitative study to understand current care pathways for survivors with complex trauma/PTSD

Author: Siofra Peeren

Institute: King's College London

Dr Siofra Peeren will present 'PATHWAY: a qualitative study to understand current care pathways for survivors with complex trauma/PTSD'. Interviews aimed to explore i) survivors' journeys to and between mental health services in the NHS and community sector using a narrative approach and ii) people's experiences and views on the processes, impacts and outcomes of trauma-informed care. Interviews were undertaken by survivor researchers and data were interpreted together with a community partner organisation and a Lived Experience Advisory Group. Participants were invited to a reflection session where we used creative methods to present, discuss, adapt and validate emerging findings and invited participants to share their experience of taking part in the research. This presentation will include preliminary findings about survivor perspectives on what trauma-informed mental health care looks like and reflect on how meaningful survivor involvement increased trust, rapport and the ecological validity of findings.



## Understanding Police Identification of Risk and How Risk Level Impacts Police Decision-Making and Victim Experience

Risky Business: How the Police Identify Risk Factors in Responding to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Author: Lucy Trafford

Institute: The University of Oxford

Police act as gatekeepers of the courts and justice (Hartman and Belknap, 2003) with police decision-making, and specifically risk allocation, influencing criminal justice responses and the support victims receive. This paper investigates how police understand and identify risk levels in IPV cases, which is crucial to ensure that IPV is appropriately responded to. Thematic analysis is used to review 34 IPV case files from an English police force, to identify key factors affecting risk level allocation, how these are weighted and the influence of context. These findings are supplemented by interviews with 12 officers, across 5 different ranks, about the relevance of risk. Overall, the main factors affecting police risk identification include prior reporting of IPV to the police, abuse escalation, suspect predictability, if physical violence (and specifically injuries) have occurred, and if the couple cohabit.

Rendering them (in)visible: How police officers identify victims and perpetrators in cases of coercive control

Author: Charlotte Barlow

Institute: The University of Oxford

Police officer identification of primary perpetrators and victims can be difficult, particularly as perpetrators of coercive control can be highly manipulative in presenting the circumstances of their behaviour (Luther et al, 2018). Elsewhere these problems have been found to lead to dual arrests (Tolmie, 2018), the misidentification of primary perpetrators (Reeves, 2021), and the denial of victim status for women. This paper outlines the early findings of an N8 Policing Research Partnership funded project, exploring how victims and perpetrators are identified by police officers in coercive control cases in one police force area in England. The paper particularly focusses on how police officers' perceptions of risk and harm can be 'muddied' by the ways in which this behaviour is labelled, understood and informs the victim-perpetrator identification process.

Issues of vulnerability and risk – policing domestic abuse and rape in England

Author: Marianne Hester

Institute: The University of Oxford

Police forces in England and Wales have, since the early 2000s, applied risk levels to victims of domestic violence and abuse as a means of managing cases. Our research and government inspections over many years have found such risk approaches (e.g. DASH) are

not consistently applied and that risk management enables rationing of services, resulting in downgrading of the actual risk faced by victims-survivors. Drawing on analysis of 1,400 domestic abuse and rape police cases from research on 'Justice, inequality and GBV' the paper considers the lack of congruence between outcomes in domestic abuse or rape cases as compared to the actual risk and especially the impacts experienced by victims-survivors. A key finding was that mental health impacts of domestic abuse or rape victimisation undermined outcomes, with questions about vulnerability and risk.

### Using geographically weighted regression to explore neighbourhood-level predictors of domestic abuse (DA) in England and Wales

Author: Ruth Weir

Institute: The University of Oxford

An ecological approach to understanding DA recognises that it is multi-faceted in nature, operating at the individual, relationship, neighbourhood and societal level. Existing research identifies individual and relationship level risk factors, but very little focus has been placed on neighbourhood-level predictors of risk and their variation across space. This paper uses geographically weighted regression to model the predictors of police-reported DA in an English police force. Readily available structural and cultural variables predicted the DA rate at the lower super output area level and the model coefficients were all non-stationary, indicating varying relationships across space. This research enables policy makers to gain a better understanding of the geography of victimisation, allowing targeted policy interventions and efficiently allocated resources.

## Violence and Abuse in Sami Communities

### Conversations about violence and abuse in Sami communities

Author: Marit Myrvoll

Institute: Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies

Co-authors: Anne Silviken

Marit Myrvoll & Anne Silviken: Conversations about violence and abuse in Sami communities  
The main aim of the project was to explore how and in which ways cultural values and attitudes can lead to the legitimization of violence and abuse in Sámi societies. Legitimation is one of several underlying reasons why violence occurs without sanctions being implemented. Data from the focus group study revealed that several other conditions, e.g. historical trauma, ongoing structural and local discrimination were relevant in participants' understanding of violence and abuse. All interviewees have experience of violence, especially mental violence. A passive strategy as silence is often chosen to avoid situations of abuse, rather than confrontation and intervention. Violence and abuse are complex and relational phenomena, which requires a broad horizon of understanding, and a corresponding perspective in preventive work.

### The personal is collective

Author: Mona Kiil

Institute: Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies

Co-authors: Margunn Bjørnholt

Mona Kiil & Margunn Bjørnholt: The personal is collective This paper addresses aspects of collectivity in the stories of victims of domestic abuse – predominantly from women in Sámi communities in Northern Norway. By exploring the collective dimensions in stories about multiple perpetrators and local “cultures of abuse”, we discuss how this phenomenon might be understood in terms of the rural–urban dichotomy, the history of Norwegian colonization and assimilation policy towards the Sámi population, the Sámi culture of silence and gender values in Sámi communities. We will also address the influence of general social trends, such as sexual liberation, which may normalize abusive sexual practices and the increased impact of social media when dealing with these matters.

### Encountering and preventing violence against Sami women in Sweden: experiences, problematizations and challenges within the societal support system

Author: Jennie Brandén

Institute: Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies

Co-authors: Monica Burman

Encountering and preventing violence against Sámi women in Sweden: experiences, problematizations and challenges within the societal support system Jennie Brandén, Department of Global Health, & Monica Burman, Police Education Unit, Umeå University Although Sweden often praises itself as the most gender equal nation in the world, the issue of violence against Sámi women has largely remained a blind spot. Building on interviews and policy materials, this paper examines experiences, understandings and problematizations of the issue of violence against Sámi women within the societal support system for gender-based violence in Sweden. Drawing on indigenous and postcolonial feminist theory, the paper analyses how violence against Sámi women is represented and given meaning within public authorities and societal organizations, and identifies central challenges for meeting and supporting Sámi women exposed to violence. According to previous research, these challenges could e.g. include the lack of cultural and linguistic competence as well as limited knowledge about the Sámi context among professionals offering support, but also a mistrust in public authorities among Sámi women due to previous negative experiences.

### Barriers and facilitators affecting help-seeking for violence and abuse in Sami communities

Author: Solveig Bergman

Institute: Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies

Barriers and facilitators affecting help-seeking for violence in Sámi communities Solveig Bergman, Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies This paper focuses on the encounters between persons with a Sámi background exposed to or affected by violence and abuse and the help apparatus working with these issues. Additional

information about help-seeking is collected from NGOs, policy-makers and other experts through interviews, focus groups and document analysis. The paper explores how and to what extent cultural, linguistic, institutional and structural barriers affect help-seeking and the interaction between users and providers of services in Sámi communities. In addition, we argue that the Norwegian part of Sápmi is in discursive change, in which themes such as violence, mental health, gender and sexuality have entered onto the political agenda, thus 'breaking the silence' about these issues.

## Virtual reality to enhancing programs for IPV offenders (VR Per GENERE

New technology in the study of intimate partner violence

Author: Juha Holma

Institute: University of Jyväskylä,

New technology in the study of intimate partner violence Juha Holma VR per GENERE stands for "Virtual Reality Prevention of Gender-Violence in Europe based on Neuroscience of Embodiment, peRspective and Empathy". One of the research aims was to reduce recidivism of IPV offenders by using VR scenarios as a tool in rehabilitation programs. Participants were imprisoned IPV offenders in Spain or members of volunteer program for IPV offenders in Finland. Offenders were exposed to a virtual environment in which they embodied a virtual female victim of psychological abuse. Several pre- and post-measurements were made. In Finland, physiological reactions measured and a control group of non-violent male were collected.

Switching perspective to the victim of violence: Virtual Reality as preventive tool with Finnish perpetrators

Author: Salla Kaikkonen

Institute: University of Jyväskylä,

Co-authors: Simone Gorinelli, Veli-Pekka Kokkonen, Ana Gallego

Switching perspective to the victim of violence: Virtual Reality as preventive tool with Finnish perpetrators Salla Kaikkonen, Simone Gorinelli, Veli-Pekka Kokkonen, Ana Gallego IPV perpetrator programs aim to produce behavioral changes yet there have been few functional tools in the prevention of recidivism. In this study, Virtual Reality (VR) was used to foster perspective-taking. 22 male perpetrators and 18 non-violent male participants took part in a VR intervention, where they embodied a female victim while a male avatar used verbal violence at them and behaved in a threatening way. Pre- and post-measurements, e.g. self-measurements of mentalization and empathy, were taken, and an emotion recognition task was completed before and after the VR intervention. The participants evaluated their emotional reactions and immersion in VR, victim's agency in the situation, and the intervention as a preventive tool. Physiological reactions were taken (electrocardiogram, skin conductance). The results of the study will be discussed.

## Perpetrators embodying the victim through Virtual Reality

Author: Ana Gallego

Perpetrators embodying the victim through Virtual Reality Ana Gallego and Nicolás Barnes  
Theoretical approaches indicate that committing a violent act against others is connected to a deficiency of empathy or a lack in the capacity of perpetrators to put themselves in the victim's perspective (Blair, 1995). Some empirical studies have established a link between aggression and empathy (Follife & Farrington, 2004; Van Langen et al., 2014). The aim of the present project was to shape perspective-taking and empathy in convicted males through the use of Virtual Reality. To do this, imprisoned males (n = 34) accessed a virtual environment in which they embodied a virtual female victim of psychological abuse. Before and after the use of VR, we assessed emotional recognition, empathy, attitudes towards women and violence, and the recognition of violent acts. The results are discussed in terms of their implications in rehabilitation programs as well as future research.

## Virtual reality to enhancing programs for IPV offenders (VR Per GENERE)

### Perpetrators embodying the victim through Virtual Reality

Author: Nicolás Barnes

Institute: Department of Psychology, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Co-authors: Ana Gallego, Maria V. Sanchez-Vives

Perpetrators embodying the victim through Virtual Reality Nicolas Barnes, Ana Gallego & Maria V. Sanchez-Vives  
Committing a violent act against others is connected to a deficiency of empathy or a lack in the capacity of perpetrators to put themselves in the victim's perspective (Blair, 1995) Empirical studies have established a link between aggression and empathy (Follife & Farrington, 2004; Van Langen et al., 2014). The primary aim of the present project was to shape perspective-taking and empathy in convicted males through the use of Virtual Reality (VR). Imprisoned males (n = 34) accessed a virtual environment in which they embodied a virtual female victim of psychological abuse. Before and after the use of VR, we assessed emotional recognition, empathy, attitudes towards women and violence, and the recognition of violent acts. The results are discussed in terms of their implications in rehabilitation programs as well as future research.

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### Switching perspective to the victim of violence: Virtual Reality as preventive tool with Finnish perpetrators

Author: Salla Kaikkonen

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## Virtual Reality to promote healthy dating relationships (VR Per GENERE)

New technology in promoting healthy dating relationships

Author: Juha Holma

Institute: University of Jyväskylä, Department of Psychology

New technology in promoting healthy dating relationships Juha Holma VR per GENERE stands for "Virtual Reality Prevention of Gender-Violence in Europe based on Neuroscience of Embodiment, peRspective and Empathy. One of the research aims was to empower young women to respond assertively to psychological abuse. This was be done through direct experiential involvement of participants in 360° virtual scenarios that depict different possible responses by women to abuse and its outcomes. The participants exposed to different acted scenarios of dating violence as realistically as possible and show them different ways to respond in such situations. In the videos, we illustrated different outcomes when a young woman responds in an assertive rather than a non-assertive manner to psychological abuse from her partner. We tested whether the intervention allows a reduction in perceived acceptability of dating violence, and modification of reported behaviours related to dating violence.

## Prevention of dating violence among Finnish university students: What is possible with Virtual Reality?

Author: Salla Kaikkonen

Institute: University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Prevention of dating violence among Finnish university students: What is possible with Virtual Reality? Simone Gorinelli Dating violence is an ongoing issue between young couples. In Finland, a high number of people still experience physical violence among their previous relationships. Although young people usually reject physical or sexual violence, they often accept psychological violence. University students in Finland (n = 150) were exposed to 360-degree videos of dating violence delivered using a VR headset. Participants were randomized into three groups: two investigated the effects of women responding assertively or non-assertively to psychological violence while the third group was a control. Interactions seen in the videos were evaluated and a series of questionnaires answered before and after the intervention. Additionally, physiological reactions (electrocardiogram and skin conductance) were recorded during participation. Preliminary results will be presented in the symposium.

## Virtual reality intervention for the prevention of gender-based violence in a Spanish sample of university students

Author: Berta Vall

Institute: University of Jyväskylä, Department of Psychology

Virtual reality intervention for the prevention of gender-based violence in a Spanish sample of university students Berta Vall Data from an extensive survey in Spain indicates that psychological violence is more prevalent among young women (19,4%; 16-24 years old) (Macroencuesta, 2015). In this study, we propose an implicit intervention using 360 videos in a virtual reality headset with a Spanish sample of University students. The objective was to prevent gender-based violence by (a) increasing assertive response of university students to conflict situations, (b) changing attitudes towards dating violence, and (b) increasing bystander response in dating violence situations. In this randomized control study, 97 university students were recruited and randomly assigned into three groups: control, non-assertive and assertive condition. Results around the potential of this intervention to reduce psychological dating violence in university students with no prior history of domestic violence will be discussed.

## Insights into the Nordic Paradox

Author: Ana Gallego

Institute: University of Jyväskylä, Department of Psychology

Insights into the Nordic Paradox Ana Gallego Gender inequality has been identified as a key element in explaining the high incidence of intimate partner violence against women (IPVAW). However, although Nordic countries are the most gender-equal societies, they also have a disproportionately high incidence of IPVAW. This seemingly contradiction is termed as the 'Nordic paradox'. To better understand this phenomenon, a total of 362 students (204

Spanish and 158 Finnish) filled in questionnaires about the acceptability of dating violence and conflict resolution styles. The results indicate that the Spanish sample tolerated significantly less the non-assertive response of the woman victim of psychological violence and the abusive behavior of the male, across different parameters. Additionally, Spanish students tend to use more conflict engagement while Finnish students tend to use more withdrawal style. However, the Spanish sample seemed to have a higher positive style compared to the Finnish sample.

## Women's Safety - a prevalence study and its methods, in the face of Covid-10

Covid-19 – How to measure violence during a crises?

Author: Jenny Westerstrand

Institute: Riksorganisationen för kvinnojourer och tjejjourer i Sverige (Roks)

Co-authors: Sofia Strid

Covid-19 has sparked assumptions about the rates of violence. Our results shows that there might be some positive outcome of the pandemic, seen from a narrow point of view. This presentation will discuss how to measure the prevalence of violence during a major societal crises. Our theoretical framework is prevalence studies, our method is feminist sociology and methodology, using a double hermeneutic approach. Expected results are a deepened discussion about the obstacles, individual as well as societal, on measuring the scope of violence in the face of a crises.

Violence against young women in Sweden

Author: Adine Samadi

Institute: Riksorganisationen för kvinnojourer och tjejjourer i Sverige (Roks)

Co-authors: Emelie Huuva Skeppar

Young women have a significantly high report of violence from men in the study Kvinnors trygghet (Westerstrand et al 2022). This corresponds with other studies, although the rates of sexual violence is startling high in this particular study. The results from Kvinnors trygghet shows that violence is spread across arenas, relations and takes on many forms, and has consequences. When can this amount of reported violence be said to constitute a crises? How to interpret young women's living conditions in the light of our results?

Methodology in capturing the scope of violence against women.

Author: Eva Lundgren

Institute: Riksorganisationen för kvinnojourer och tjejjourer i Sverige (Roks)

Covid-19 has sparked many assumptions with regards to the prevalence of violence against women. What methodological tools can be used to try to capture the violence, its' forms, prevalence and arenas, during a crises? What obstacles rises and how can we try to identify



them to overcome them, in the search for living conditions under a crises - and what constitutes a crises?

## You should listen to us: lessons from domestic abuse research in communities of diverse gender and sexuality identities for the feminist mainstream (1)

'I wasn't aware at the time, I could actually say "no": Intimacy, expectations, and consent in the relationships of LGB and/or T+ people

Author: Catherine Donovan, Durham University

Institute: University of Brighton

Donovan and Hester (2014) have argued that abusive relationships are underpinned by two relationship rules: that the relationship is for the abusive partner and on their terms; and that the victim/survivor is responsible for everything, including their partner's abusive behaviour. Drawing on data collected in two projects exploring domestic abuse in LGB and/or T+ people's intimate relationships, our paper will explore how these relationship rules can delegitimise victim/survivors' attempts to exercise consent and, conversely, legitimate non-consensual sex. Our analysis explores two aspects of sexual abuse in intimate relationships. First, drawing on the work of Pateman (2014), we explore how consent to be in a relationship can be (mis)taken as consent to a sexual contract that assumes sex 'on demand' and sex 'on my terms' by intimate partners. Whilst Pateman's work focuses on sexual relationships in marriages between (cis) women and men, we argue that patriarchal public stories (Jamieson, 1999) about intimacy and love that rely on and/or assume binaries (e.g. initiator/follower, decision-making/deferrer) can apply, and be imposed, across sexuality and gender identity. Second, we unpack how more experienced LGB and/or T+ partners can exercise experiential power to lay down norms and expectations about sex and intimacy as an LGB and/or T+ person (Donovan and Barnes, 2020). This takes place against a backdrop of silence and stigma surrounding LGB and/or T+ people's sexual lives. We conclude by considering the implications for LGB and/or T+ and other victim/survivors of sexual abuse who do not conform to the dominant woman/victim, man/perpetrator binary being able to articulate and seek help for their experiences.

### Exploring LGB-specific Intimate Partner Violence: Lived Experiences of LGB individuals in Norway

Author: Esra Ummak

Institute: University of Brighton

Co-authors: Salman Türken, Oslo Metropolitan University, Ezgi Toplu-Demirtas, MEF University, Reidar Jessen, Oslo University

Neither public nor scholarly attention within mainstream feminist approaches has been adequate so far, even in an increasingly egalitarian society such as Norway, to generate a more nuanced theoretical understanding of IPV in LGB-relationships. To fill in the gap in the existing literature and contribute to theorizing a more nuanced understanding of LGB-

specific types of violence, with this study we aimed to explore LGB-specific experiences of IPV among LGB individuals in Norway. Drawing upon in-depth, semi-structured interviews from 26 participants (aged between 19 and 69) who identified as LGB, we conducted a thematic analysis and generated three themes based on the participants' interviews: 1) being dominated, 2) invalidation, and 3) jealousy. We discuss to what degree these three themes might or might not be specific to IPV in LGB relationships. Doing so, we open up for contesting the established mainstream feminist understanding of IPV.

#### Double invisibility – sexual violence in lesbian and queer relationships

Author: Nicole Ovesen, Uppsala University

Institute: University of Brighton

This presentation draws on interviews with 25 people who have experienced violence in intimate lesbian and/or queer relationships in Sweden. Our findings suggest that sexual violence in lesbian/queer relationships is characterized by double invisibility. Intimate partner sexual violence (IPSV) is challenging to identify as it is often entangled in other forms of abuse and for lesbian and queer victim-survivors, misrecognition of IPSV is furthermore exacerbated by heteronormative and gendered conceptions of sexuality and violence, rendering their experiences invisible and illegible. This struggle for recognition means that IPSV becomes associated with additional shame, stigma and self-blame. The findings from this study can help to inform help-providers on the additional challenges lesbian and queer victim-survivors face in identifying sexual violence in their relationships.

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#### 'I wasn't aware at the time, I could actually say "no"': Intimacy, expectations, and consent in the relationships of LGB and/or T+ people

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behaviour. Drawing on data collected in two projects exploring domestic abuse in LGB and/or T+ people's intimate relationships, our paper will explore how these relationship rules can delegitimise victim/survivors' attempts to exercise consent and, conversely, legitimate non-consensual sex. Our analysis explores two aspects of sexual abuse in intimate relationships. First, drawing on the work of Pateman (2014), we explore how consent to be in a relationship can be (mis)taken as consent to a sexual contract that assumes sex 'on demand' and sex 'on my terms' by intimate partners. Whilst Pateman's work focuses on sexual relationships in marriages between (cis) women and men, we argue that patriarchal public stories (Jamieson, 1999) about intimacy and love that rely on and/or assume binaries (e.g. initiator/follower, decision-making/deferrer) can apply, and be imposed, across sexuality and gender identity. Second, we unpack how more experienced LGB and/or T+ partners can exercise experiential power to lay down norms and expectations about sex and intimacy as an LGB and/or T+ person (Donovan and Barnes, 2020). This takes place against a backdrop of silence and stigma surrounding LGB and/or T+ people's sexual lives. We conclude by considering the implications for LGB and/or T+ and other victim/survivors of sexual abuse who do not conform to the dominant woman/victim, man/perpetrator binary being able to articulate and seek help for their experiences.

### **Exploring LGB-specific Intimate Partner Violence: Lived Experiences of LGB individuals in Norway**

Author: Esra Ummak, VID Specialized University

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### **You should listen to us: lessons from domestic abuse research in communities of diverse gender and sexuality identities for the feminist mainstream (2)**

Exerting labour and thresholds for action: identification and navigation of intimate partner violence services among LGBTQ communities in Australia

Author: Adam Bourne, La Trobe University

Institute: University of Brighton

This presentation will explore the notion of 'labour' as a prism through which to consider, and address, thresholds for action in the recognition and response to intimate partner violence. Drawing on data collected among LGBTIQ communities in Australia, it aims to examine how people from diverse backgrounds, often those considered 'niche', navigate a mainstream service sector that rarely gives primacy to their needs and experiences. Our study involved in-depth interviews with 29 LGBTQ IPV victim-survivors living in Australia as well as 19 interviews with those who provide IPV-related services. Labour was evident in many forms: the labour involved in personal recognition of IPV in the context of dominant IPV discourses; the labour involved in convincing service providers of their circumstances; the labour involved in identifying – and providing - a place of safety. If service design begins with ambitions to reduce labour for those most marginalised, all IPV victim-survivors stand to benefit.

**The role of community in LGBTQIA+ experiences of domestic violence abuse and help-seeking.**

Author: Kirsty McGregor, University of Brighton

Research has identified that LGBTQIA+ people most frequently seek support for domestic abuse from their communities and private therapy services (Donovan and Barnes, 2020). This paper explores the role of community in supporting LGBTQIA+ survivors of domestic abuse. Utilising data collected from LGBTQIA+ communities in the Southeast of England, this paper seeks to interrogate and problematise the idea that communities are inherently good sources of support. Our study involved in-depth interviews with six LGBTQIA+ survivors and three professional LGBTQIA+ domestic abuse support workers and creative workshops with fourteen members of LGBTQIA+ communities. An ongoing lack of awareness of domestic abuse and its effects within queer communities, the role of social capital, and the interconnected messiness of LGBTQIA+ communities and survivorship are examined. Conclusions speak to the dominance and effect of the public story of domestic abuse, and highlight obstacles to effective support for all who experience domestic abuse.

**Centring LGBT domestic abuse-related deaths**

Author: James Rowlands, Sussex University

Introduced in England and Wales in 2011, Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) are a statutory review mechanism which examines domestic abuse (DA)-related deaths, including killings by former/current partners and family members, as well as other household members, and deaths by suicide. However, no research has specifically examined DHRs' application to the deaths of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) victims. This means these deaths are often empirically and theoretically excluded. This paper explores the potential for an examination of LGBT DHRs to generate learning about pathways to DA-related deaths for these communities. Such an examination includes elucidating how the story of fatal DA is constructed with respect of sexual orientation and/or gender identity and the outcomes achieved. Additionally, using research into DHRs as a reference, this paper will also examine how centring LGBT victims can be to the benefit of all victims, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

# Paper presentations

## Children and Childhood I

Children's exposure to intimate partner violence: Experiences from within

Author: Anne Cattagni Kleiner

Background and purpose of the study - To help develop care for children exposed to intimate partner violence (IPV), research must capture their experiences from their own perspectives. This study constitutes the third part of a child exposure to IPV project, conducted by the Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV)'s Violence Medical Unit (VMU). It aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of these children's overall and multi-year experience, from their own viewpoints. It also examines their resources and their needs in this context. This paper's specific purpose is to present what it means to live with IPV and its consequences over the years. Methods - Data were collected in 2022 through semi-structured individual interviews with 20 youth aged 14-28 years whose parents had consulted the VMU between 2011-2018 regarding an IPV event, when they were aged 3-17 years. A thematic content analysis is underway. Findings - Results will first describe IPV exposure and its context. Second, preliminary results show that children exhibited a wide range of reactions and strategies before, during, and after acute IPV events, especially self-, sibling-, and parent protection. They also experienced many forms of poly-victimization and other adverse childhood events (ACEs). The links of this overall experience to their health and well-being will be examined. We will attempt to identify turning points in each of those aspects as the data span their lifetimes. Conclusions and implications - We expect our findings to highlight the diversity of situations and consequences that IPV exposure can encompass, as well as their commonalities. The co-occurrence of other types of victimization and ACEs and the evolution of the children's situations should alert policy makers and professionals. Consequently, recommendations would likely include the importance of listening to children, and for interventions to be need-based, collaborative, and to involve follow-up.

### The Voice of Childhood Domestic Violence and Abuse

Author: Aine Costello

Institute: Barnardos

Co-authors: Sarah Rush

We aim to present on the The Voice of Childhood Domestic Violence and Abuse. Empower Kids is a child and young person's participation project in partnership with 13 services from around Ireland. We began this journey of participation with children/young people to better understand their lived experience of childhood domestic violence and abuse and to increase their visibility as victims in their own right. Over the last two years, and using the Lundy Model of Participation (developed by Professor Laura Lundy from Queen's University, Belfast), our project has explored what matters for children/young people who live with domestic violence and abuse and what supports and responses they need from services. A 3-minute animation called 'Hear Me See Me Keep Me Safe' was developed from what the children and young people shared about their day-to-day lived experience. The children and young people were asked how practitioners and services can better respond to childhood domestic violence and abuse. Their 20 key messages were used to create a poster called

'Our Rights – Your Responsibilities' which is now used by professionals to guide a more domestic violence informed practice response. What naturally occurred through this participation process, was advice for other children also living with domestic violence and abuse. The children's expert advice has been launched as a publication called 'Me 2U – What You Should Know' produced in these formats: a poster for services, a leaflet for children/young people and a resource for support workers to use with children/young people. In 2022, during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the children and young people hosted an exhibition of pictures and photos entitled 'It Hurts – Listen to Us' which capture their lived experience of domestic violence and abuse and speak to their protective factors, resilience and their post-separation life now.

## RESOURCES AND UNMET NEEDS OF CHILDREN EXPOSED TO INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Author: Imane Semlali

Institute: Lausanne University Hospital

Co-authors: Anne Cattagni Kleiner, Nathalie Romain-Glassey

Background and purpose of the study - To help develop care for children exposed to intimate partner violence (IPV), research must capture their experiences from their own perspectives. This study constitutes the third part of a child exposure to IPV project, conducted by the Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV)'s Violence Medical Unit (VMU). It aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of these children's overall and multi-year experience, from their own viewpoints. It also examines their resources and their needs. To contribute to knowledge about the prevention of adverse consequences, this paper's specific purpose is to identify the resources on which these children have relied, and their unmet needs. Methods - Data were collected in 2022 through semi-structured individual interviews with 20 youth aged 14-28 years whose parents had consulted the VMU between 2011-2018 regarding an IPV event, when they were aged 3-17 years. A thematic content analysis is underway. Findings - Preliminary results show multiple resources such as specific character traits, hobbies, personal goals, and spirituality. Support but also absence of support from family members, friends, and romantic partners were mentioned. Contacts with professionals were diverse in terms of occurrence and experience. Participants reported barriers to talking about IPV (e.g., not considering IPV as abnormal; shame; fear; lack of opportunity). They expressed the need to be heard and protected, and for the violence to stop. We will attempt to identify turning points in each of those aspects as the data span their lifetimes. Conclusions and implications - We expect our findings to highlight the diversity of resources used and developed by those children and to identify gaps in services. Recommendations would likely focus on straightening specific resources, for all youth, and improving certain aspects of care, but also on the importance that IPV no longer be a taboo.

## Children's Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence: Situational Involvement and Consequences

Author: Carlijn van Baak

Institute: Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement & University of Amsterdam

Co-authors: Veroni Eichelsheim

Background and purpose: A growing body of literature reveals that exposure to IPV places a heavy burden on children. Children's exposure to IPV does not seem to be uniform, nor is the group of children exposed to IPV homogeneous. Although the available evidence is limited, research suggests that children may respond to violent situations in various ways, ranging from withdrawal and passivity to active intervention. According to the cognitive-contextual framework (Grych & Fincham, 1990), situational characteristics may partially drive how children perceive and appraise their experiences, which may also affect their later adjustment. It is, as such, possible that children who have been actively involved by engaging in acts of intervention attribute less blame and responsibility to themselves, and may be less prone to the negative consequences of IPV exposure. First, we aim to identify the broad range of actions that children engage in during incidents of IPV. Second, we identify the consequences of children's exposure to IPV, including their coping mechanisms and experienced coping efficacy. As such, this study sheds light on the complex experiences of children exposed to IPV and the diverse roles they make take on during these situations. Methods: We use case files from Safe at Home, the official domestic violence agency in the Netherlands, collected in 2021. Using extensive summaries of Safe at Home employees who conducted in-detail conversations with children, we qualitatively analyze children's situational involvement during incidents of IPV and the consequence thereof. Findings: Preliminary results suggest that children who are exposed to IPV engage in a range of responses during violent incidents and coping strategies. Conclusions and implications: Our preliminary results provide further evidence for the different experiences and consequences among children exposed to IPV. Future research should investigate how children's situational involvement may affect children's adjustment later in life.

## Prevalence and Correlates of Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Author: Rebecca Harris

Institute: University of Southampton

Co-authors: Sara Morgan, Amos Channon

Background: Childhood exposure to domestic violence and abuse (DVA) is associated with negative outcomes in both child and adulthood. However, little is known about the scale and factors associated with exposure, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). This study will answer the following research questions: -What is the prevalence of exposure to DVA in selected LMICs? -Which factors are associated with exposure to DVA within these countries? Methods: The CDC Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS) were used to gain prevalence estimates of children's exposure to DVA in 10 LMICs. Logistic regression was used to explore factors associated with exposure within the ecological domains of individual, family, community, and society level factors. Findings: Exposure to DVA ranged from 11.8% in Honduras to 30.7% in Malawi. Other countries with high prevalence included Zambia, Nigeria and Lesotho. Regression analysis found the domains of community and society to be most important, with individual and family factors less so. Individuals exposed to community violence had much higher levels of exposure to DVA, while a relationship with societal beliefs and norms about violence was also seen. Females were at significantly higher risk of exposure to DVA in four of the ten countries. At the family



level, wealth produced mixed results across countries. Finally, individuals from Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and Zambia, who lived in a household with multiple children were also more likely to be exposed to DVA. Conclusions: A high number and proportion of children are exposed to DVA within LMICs, and this study indicates that exposure is related more to the context of violence, rather than to individual characteristics. There was homogeneity in factors related to exposure across countries, with some exceptions which need to be explored further. Policies related to DVA in LMICs need to acknowledge childhood exposure to mitigate its effects.

### The effect of childhood exposure to domestic violence on child and adolescent internalizing symptoms and externalizing behaviours

Author: Bethan Carter

Institute: Cardiff University

Co-authors: Eva Sprecher, Jeongeun Park, Katherine Shelton, Lisa Holmes, Rachel Hiller

Background: Childhood exposure to domestic violence (CEDV) has been reported to have a negative impact on child emotional and behavioural development outcomes. However, most studies have not taken a causal approach and findings are inconclusive. This study explores the causal pathways between CEDV and child and adolescent internalising symptoms and externalising behaviours, using a UK cohort study. Based on previous research conducted by the lead author, we hypothesise that there will be no evidence of a significant effect of CEDV on child and adolescent internalising symptoms when multivariate regression is used, considering CEDV within the wider context of children's lives. Factors likely to co-occur with CEDV, such as child maltreatment and maternal mental health problems may explain the associations observed in univariate analyses. Method: We are using nationally representative Millenium Cohort Study (MCS) data to determine the impact of CEDV at 0-3 years on internalizing symptoms at age 8 and 13. CEDV was assessed by asking parents whether they had used force towards their partner and internalizing and externalizing difficulties were measured using the parent-reported Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). We will use multiple imputation and inverse probability weighting to address missing data and multivariate regression modelling to determine the effect of CEDV on child and adolescent internalizing symptoms and externalizing behaviours. If evidence of a total effect is observed, potential causal pathways through mediators and moderators will be explored. Findings: We will present the demographics of the CEDV and no-CEDV populations within the cohort, and results of both univariate and multivariate regression analyses. Conclusion: The findings from this study will help inform interventions for children and adolescents who have been exposed to CEDV, as well as victims themselves, and add to the evidence base reporting on the impact of CEDV on children and adolescents.

## Children and Childhood II

Introducing the 5-Stage Framework for Redefining the Past: Adults Who Experienced Domestic Violence and Abuse in Childhood

Author: Angie Boyle

Institute: University of Cumbria

This paper seeks to explore the experiences of adults, now over the age of 30, who grew up experiencing domestic violence and abuse within their homes growing up in the UK. There is a lack of research in this area, and much less which goes on to discover the longer-term impacts from an adult standpoint. This qualitative research was carried out retrospectively using Narrative Enquiry. The research design was interpretive, using a feminist post-structural perspective and included 26 participants aged 30 to 73. Data was collected using an open-ended survey and follow-up unstructured interviews with 19/26 who volunteered. Participants' stories were analysed inductively using reflexive thematic analysis. The results have shown how people are affected by and cope with domestic violence and abuse within the home. They give a clear picture of the abuse and violence which is directed at them from the adult perpetrator, in addition to the impacts of experiencing the abuse of their other parent/caretaker. Crucially the results demonstrate how as children and young people, they were able to forge agentic coping strategies amidst the abuse and how their relationship to their early experiences are negotiated over the life course of the adult participants. The findings have formed a 5-Stage Framework for Redefining the Past. This shows that adults who have experienced domestic violence and abuse as children and young people are able to overcome these challenges and transform their understanding over time, reaching a point whereby, they do not feel defined by their childhood. The Framework has an important story to tell which counteracts some of the negative discourse to date and has implications for other people who had experienced abuse in the past or currently. Recommendations are made for practice and further research in terms of disseminating the framework to help shape service provision.

### Addressing Post-Separation Parental Stalking: A Multimethod Qualitative Approach to Producing Knowledge of Stalking in Children's Lives

Author: Anna Nikupeteri

Institute: University of Lapland

Co-authors: Merja Laitinen

Our presentation is based on research project called "Children's Knowing Agency in Private, Multiprofessional and Societal Settings – the Case of Parental Stalking" (CAPS, 2017-2022) wherein we explored children's and young people's experiences and agency in parental stalking. Based on our research, our purpose is to examine the methods and methodological aspects of conducting the study on children who are exposed to parental stalking in their parents' post-separation period. We elaborate a qualitative approach to producing multidimensional knowledge on parental stalking. We focus following questions: (1) What dimensions of knowledge has the multimethod qualitative approach produced in our research? and (2) What methodological and ethical principles are conducive to conducting ethically sound research on parental stalking? The aim is to contribute to the methodological and ethical discussions in social science research on children exposed to stalking as a specific form of domestic violence and abuse. The multimethod qualitative approach produced five dimensions of knowledge: (1) practice wisdom, (2) experiential knowledge, (3) contextual and situational knowledge, (4) socio-structural knowledge, and (5) norm-related knowledge, which all were important in studying children's exposure to parental stalking. In conducting

an ethically sound study, the central methodological and ethical principles were as follows: employing child-centered practice, respecting intergenerational dialogue, forming trusting relationships with the experts on violence, and valuing different types of knowledge and realities by using a multivoice approach. Our research project shows that a multimethod qualitative approach enables rich dialogue through which knowledge of parental stalking can be constructed. We argue that the approach makes it possible to bring children's marginalized voices into the academic and professional discussions on parental stalking and thereby to advance the realization of the rights of children who are subjected to a parent's stalking behavior.

### Explosive and Harmful Impulses as a subsection of non-intentional harm to parents from children and young people

Author: Nikki Rutter

Institute: Durham University

There are multiple names for filial harms which are instigated or caused by children: battered parents syndrome; child-to-parent violence; adolescent-to-parent violence; child or adolescent-to-parent violence and abuse; challenging childhood violent and aggressive behaviour; and most recently, the co-produced terminology 'aggression toward family/caregivers in childhood and adolescence'. Attempting to find a name for this phenomenon has become increasingly complex as researchers, policy-makers and practitioners attempt to find one term which universally defines any and all forms of harm instigated by child which directly impact parents. This creates additional challenges when the causes, purpose, and impact of such harms differ depending upon the various contexts in which it occurs, and the language used by parents and children themselves. In this presentation, evidence from participatory research involving diary-based methods and interactive interviews with 34 parents living with filial harms from pre-adolescents, and arts-based workshops with 21 primary-aged children instigating these harms, will support the co-development of new terminology which acknowledges the usefulness of umbrella terminology in capturing all forms of filial harm, but warrants sub-divisions to identify different harms based upon various contexts. From this research, the introduction of 'explosive and harmful impulses' is recommended to capture filial harms which are not a deliberate effort to manipulate or control a parent, but are about harmful methods children and young people engage in to meet their needs. A needs-based approach to filial harm demonstrates that this specific form of filial harm may require a different responses to broader family violence interventions or child behavioural approaches.

### Differences and similarities in cases of child abuse depending on whether one has received support or not

Author: Anna Petersén

Institute: JPS, social work, Örebro University

Co-authors: Lisa Sandelin

In Sweden, a child who has experienced child abuse, can be interviewed by the police without the parents' knowledge or consent. Afterwards, the parents receive the information

from both the police and the social services. About thirty percentage of the children are taken care of immediately after the interview, while the rest are going home to their parents. Social work professionals acknowledged the importance of giving support to families after the police interview, as a crisis can occur in these kinds of situations. Therefore, a model has been developed, called After the child interview [Efter barnförhöret] (ACI). This study reports the interim findings from a program-theory evaluation of ACI: what interventions have been conducted after finishing ACI and what are the characteristics of these interventions? How many children have been taken care of by the social service after finishing ACI, and how many children have been reported to the social services again after the case has been closed? Data consists of social investigations, which we analyze quantitatively and qualitatively. In all, we will collect 200 investigations; 100 where ACI has been used, and 100 where ASI has not been used. Thus, we can compare these two groups. The work of collecting and analyzing social investigations is ongoing, and there are no results yet. What we can see from early processing of data, is that many cases are very complex and the families are often known by the social services for many reasons, not just child abuse. Very few children seem to be taken care of by the authorities, while many have been reported to the social services again.

**Growing up in an abusive household: Implications for the development of attitudes towards coercive control.**

Author: Dr Kevin Dyer

Institute: IMPACT Research Centre, Northern Health and Social Care Trust

Co-authors: Dr Julie-Ann Jordan, Dr Susan Lagdon, Daniel McFadden, Prof Ciaran Shannon, Dr Claire McCartan

**Background:** Childhood trauma is associated with an increased risk of experiencing Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in adult relationships. Risk factors for experiencing coercive control, a form of IPV, have received much less research focus, with very little known about how attitudes towards such behaviours are formed. The present study explored if growing up in an abusive household influences the perceived acceptability of coercive control in adult relationships. **Methods:** MTurk was used to recruit and survey 2000 US residents about their attitudes towards coercive control. Attitudes were assessed by asking participants to read two coercive scenarios (one obvious, one less obvious) and then asking them to rate the impact on the victim's wellbeing, if the victim should seek help and if the behaviour was domestic abuse. Risk factors at individual, relational, community, and societal level were measured including adverse childhood experiences; emotional, physical and sexual abuse; experiences of controlling behaviours; community violence, and US state rates of domestic violence. **Findings:** Multilevel modelling will be used to assess the relationship between childhood and adulthood adverse experiences and attitudes towards coercive control in relationships. **Conclusions & implications:** Getting out of abusive relationships is challenging, and success is often contingent on both the victim and those who they rely on for support (i.e., their friends, family members, and professionals) understanding that coercive control is unacceptable in relationships. The findings will be discussed in light of public health messaging and targeted educational interventions that are needed to address inappropriate attitudes towards coercive control.

## Child-to-parent violence and abuse (CPVA) and coercive control

Author: Dr Michaela Rogers

Institute: The University of Sheffield

Co-authors: Charlotte Ashworth

**Background** Child-to-parent violence and abuse (CPVA) is a pattern of behaviour where a parent or carer is abused by a child they are caring for. Parents and carers experiencing CPVA are often reluctant to report it or seek help due to feeling isolated, ashamed and believing that they have failed. Parents and carers report mental health impacts as well as physical injuries, and alcohol and drug abuse due to experiencing CPVA. Economic impacts include stolen money, damage to the home and person, and loss of earnings or employment. Previous UK studies have estimated that between 3%-27% of the general population is affected. The reason the estimates vary is due to different ways CPVA is counted and whether the research has taken place in community or clinical settings.

**Methods** A qualitative study, using focus group discussions, was undertaken to examine professional's perspectives and experiences of CPVA. Two focus groups were conducted with social care, youth justice and early help practitioners (n = 16). A thematic analysis was adopted using NVivo.

**Findings** Three themes emerged from qualitative analysis: 1) coercive and controlling CPVA; 2) intrinsic individual and familial factors; and 3) extra-familial factors.

**Conclusions** Findings suggest that CPVA is complex and needs to be understood in terms of extra-familial factors, such as child exploitation, not merely in relation to individual and family-based factors. It can also be understood in relation to coercive and controlling behaviours through a power and control lens. Whilst practitioners in the study were clearly knowledgeable about CPVA, literature suggests that, overall, advanced understanding in the social care field is lacking. This has implications for future research, policy and practice in order to better understand the complexity of CPVA.

## Combatting/Eradicating GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Young People and Intimate Partner Violence: Experiences of Institutional Support and Services in England

Author: Maria Barnes

Institute: University of Bristol

Co-authors: Christine Barter, Annie Herbert, Jon Heron, Gene Feder, Eszter Szilassy

**Background:** Young people (YP) are at greater risk of experiencing intimate partner violence and abuse (IPVA), with high prevalence rates between 18-25 years and potentially severe short and long-term health and social impacts. YP. Young people are more likely to seek help from their friends and view formal adult support services as not for them. More research is needed to understand effective responses to IPVA among different groups of YP.

**Methods:** Semi-structured interviews alongside Life History Calendars were undertaken to explore 19 young peoples' (18-25 years) experiences of community and service level responses to their IPVA between 2019-2020. Participants were recruited through frontline specialist organisations, University services and online support groups. Thematic analysis and case studies were carried out.

**Results:** Participant accounts commonly described what did or did

not help within: education; primary care physicians and maternity services; third sector or non-government support organisations; and counselling and support workers. YP wanted clearer information on identifying abuse from a younger age in schools and better access and signposting to specialist services. They benefited the most from equal power dynamics in relationships with professionals where they were supported to make their own decisions; usually support workers. However, opportunities to support and refer YP for IPVA, e.g. when in contact with maternity services, were missed - highlighting holistic, inter-agency knowledge and support is essential to inform and support victim/survivors of abuse. Conclusions: Professionals in all sectors (including schools) need IPVA trauma-informed training that encourages equal power dynamics. A clear understanding of - and access to - referral pathways are needed to be able to respond to the needs of YP experiencing IPVA. Care should be taken not to replicate wider societal inequalities in information and support provision.

### The implications of the CSEW offence classification system on the undercounting of gendered violence

Author: Merili Pullerits

Institute: City, University of London

Co-authors: Jessica Phoenix

The nature and extent of gendered violence is often hidden, not only due to societal factors, but in the way data on violence are interpreted and presented. Prior research using the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) has demonstrated the gendered implications of methodological decisions on the incidence and prevalence of violent crime, such as capping of series incidents (Walby et al., 2014; 2016) and excluding sexual offences and self-completion data from official statistics (Cooper and Obolenskaya, 2021), which lead to an underestimation of violence against women and domestic violence. This research builds on existing contributions by revealing the gendered implications of offence code classifications. It examines the impact of the CSEW offence code classification hierarchy, in which certain forms of property crime are prioritised above some forms of violence, on the undercounting of violence using CSEW data from 2010/11 to 2019/20. The results indicate that the offence classification hierarchy leads to an undercount of violence, and disproportionately undercounts violence against women and domestic violence. Furthermore, when focusing on victims of violence rather than violent incidents, not only is the offence classification system gendered, but the hierarchy also disproportionately undercounts victims of violence from more socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Accurate measurement of violence is vital to inform understanding of the scale and nature of violence in society, and to make the relationships between violence and inequalities visible. We recognise that the purpose of the CSEW offence classification system is to align with the Home Office Counting Rules, to provide a comparable measure of crime. However, CSEW users use the data to examine the nature (e.g. patterns, risk factors, typologies) of violence, as well as to count violent crimes. We therefore suggest that a new variable specifically designed to identify physical violence is added into the CSEW datasets accessible to users.

## How the 19th century changed the circumstances of domestic violence to what we know today

Author: Rita Paiva Costa

Institute: Centro de História da Sociedade e da Cultura, Universidade de Coimbra

Studying past judicial cases, we can understand how domestic violence was perceived. It tells us what the constructed narrative should be for victims and their spouses to persuade the court in their favour. This is where the 19th century new way of living, thinking, and behaving comes to clash with the old ways. Earlier centuries are very similar, almost immutable, concerning the assessment of “domestic” violence and how it should be settled. From this period on, women and specially men hide and deny situations of violence, worried about personal and family reputation, the fear of a jail sentence and financial ruin. The realms of private domestic life, so proclaimed and defended in the 19th century, will permeate inevitably in the resolution of conjugal violence. Individual freedom, *l’air du temps*, brings a sense of personal accountability in the frustration of romantic ideals. Obviously, this shift its felt firstly, and mostly, in the upper levels of society reaching others sectors very slowly. Belonging to different worlds, judges, lawyers, law makers and the common people are, during this period, still very far apart in the sensitivity towards domestic violence, at least in theory. The centuries of apprehended damaging behaviour, a living inheritance, are difficult to be obliterated to create a new man that is self-restrained, rational, reasonable. Violent, aggressive, cruel are not wanted, nor accepted, characteristics of this modern specimen so its propensity can only exist in what is becoming a very secretive domestic life. Realizing how in a court setting there is this adequacy of what is expected and accepted in terms of argumentation and line of reasoning intertwine with a still a very clear old way of behaving and reacting is the key to understanding how the circumstances of domestic violence changed in the 19th century to what we know today.

## Learning Lessons Before It’s Too Late? : Statutory Reviews in Domestic Abuse Related Suicide

Author: Sarah Dangar

Institute: Sarah Dangar Consultancy

Co-authors: Vanessa E. Munro, Lotte Young Andrade

Distinct from a criminal justice investigation, which focusses on the responsibility and punishment of perpetrators, Domestic Homicide Reviews (implemented in England and Wales in 2011), involve a contextual exploration of the circumstances surrounding a death, with a view to learning lessons that can improve future safeguarding and service provision. Growing concerns about the links between domestic abuse and suicidality led the Home Office to extend statutory guidance and create a duty for all Community Safety Partnerships to commission DHRs into any death that “has or appears to have” resulted from domestic abuse. While previous research indicates that the links between domestic abuse and suicidality are significant (Munro & Aitken, 2018), there remains a lack of evidence regarding the mediators and moderators that impact upon risk, and the most effective mechanisms for intervention and support. In this context, the expansion of the remit of DHRs to include cases of suicide has been welcomed. In this paper, we present findings from the first systematic analysis undertaken in England and Wales of completed suicide DHRs. Funded by the Home Office, the research combines detailed coding of DHRs with a series of semi-

structured interviews with key stakeholders to learn lessons both from the content of reviews [e.g. patterns in relation to demographics, types of abuse, vulnerabilities / needs, disclosures to and engagement with services, etc] as well as their process [e.g. best practice in relation to identification and commissioning, operation of panels, involvement of family members, integration of expert knowledge, etc.]. These learnings, we argue, must be prioritised in reforms currently underway to improve the DHR process in England and Wales, and should help to inform the upcoming design and implementation of a parallel process for domestic homicides in Scotland.

### **Combating Isolating Gender Violence as a key aspect in the eradication of Domestic Violence**

Author: Esther Oliver

Institute: University of Barcelona

Co-authors: Mar Joanpere Foraster

Isolating Gender Violence (IGV) is any violence suffered by people who position themselves in favour of victims of gender-based violence (GBV). The consequence of IGV is leaving victims alone and isolated. Previous scientific contributions highlighted the importance of testimonies' reactions in front of any form of GBV to eradicate it, as well as the relevance of adopting a community approach based on solidarity with victims and those who support them (Puigvert et al. 2021). Previous studies (Flecha, 2021) points to IGV as one of the main obstacles in any kind of context or relationship to overcome any form of GBV because it is very difficult for victims to report without support or for bystanders to act if they are afraid to reprisals. To contribute to the analysis of ways to overcome domestic violence (DV), this communication analyzes the importance of taking sides against IGV as a key to eradicating DV because its prevention is directly related to the creation of spaces of socialization free of coercion: against victims and against bystanders. In this sense, the Spanish RTD Project CONSENT is contributing to this, exploring which communicative acts in stable and sporadic affective-sexual relationships lead to coercive relationships or to consensual relationships. Advancing towards the prevention of DV requires guaranteeing contexts without coercion in which testimonies take sides with the victims without fear of reprisals. Through research techniques such as 50 life stories and 7 communicative discussion groups, with a sample of 78 participants aged between 18 and 25 years, the CONSENT project provides evidence of the need to understand that people that take sides for the victims are suffering reprisals and highlights the need to overcome IGV in any context or type of relationship as key to promote the overcoming of coercion to move towards consent in affective-sexual relationships. 1)

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<https://doi.org/10.3390/su13084135> 2) Flecha, R. (2021). Second-Order Sexual Harassment: Violence Against the Silence Breakers Who Support the Victims. *Violence Against Women*, 27(11), 1980–1999. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801220975495>

### **Intimate Partner Violence among Youth in Secure Units: Dynamics between Behavioural Problems and Being a Victim of Intimate Partner Violence**

Author: Sibel Korkmaz

Institute: Stockholm University



Co-authors: Peter Andersson

Youth Intimate Partner Violence (YIPV) is considered as a societal problem, affecting young people in Europe. YIPV can be identified as a general but gendered problem, nonetheless, conundrums still exist about how additional vulnerability (e.g. risk behaviours such as substance abuse) may interplay with and affect YIPV victimization. Related, previous research has emphasized that IPV among adolescent girls in detention facilities is troubling and warrants greater attention. Taking this as its starting point, this study focuses on IPV among youth in secure units in Sweden. The secure units are run by the Swedish state, and care for young people with psychosocial problems, substance abuse and criminal behaviour. Care is provided under the terms of the Care of Young Persons, and is applied for by the Child Welfare System. Drawing upon interviews with IPV victimized youth at secure units, this study aims to focus on the complexity that might occur in relation to addressing YIPV victimization and a young person's own destructive behaviours. It looks into how IPV victimization is understood and interpreted in relation to additional social problems that the young person has had while being subjected to IPV. The results display how youth at secure units is an extra vulnerable group in regards to YIPV victimization, and how their own destructive behaviours (such as substance abuse) play an important part in regards to how YIPV has been addressed by their social network (both informal and formal). This contributes to the knowledge base on YIPV, highlighting the need of a wider understanding of the young victim of IPV not excluding youth at secure units.

## COVID-19 & DVA I

The Experiences of Post-separation Survivors of Domestic Violence During the Covid-19 Pandemic: Findings from A Qualitative Study in the UK

Author: Dr Shazia Zafar

Institute: University of Birmingham

Co-authors: Caroline Bradbury-Jones, Siddhartha Bandyopadhyay, Ruchi Desai

**Background.** For domestic violence (DV) survivors, post separation is known to be a period of heightened risk of domestic homicide. Evidence points to increased rates of DV during the COVID-19 pandemic, with specific challenges in seeking help from DV services. Yet studies that capture this qualitatively are still emerging. This study aimed to capture the experiences of DV survivors during the COVID-19 pandemic. This qualitative study was part of a larger study investigating the support received by women through an intervention strategy called IRIS (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety) and referrals were made to this service through doctors' surgeries. **Methods.** The study took place in 2019-2021 in England during the COVID-19 national lockdown. We investigated the experiences of 21 separated DV survivors at this time. The 21 survivors were interviewed using non face-to-face contact, mostly the telephone. The audio recordings were transcribed followed by NVivo coding and thematically analysed. **Findings.** Inductive, thematic analysis highlighted participant's psychological distress, isolation, fear of COVID-19 transmission and detachment from their support networks. The findings reflect the interconnected nature of adversities experienced by DV survivors and the exacerbation of these due to the insidious, multifaceted and

synergistic impacts of DV and the pandemic. Conclusions. The study captured the unique experiences of DV survivors during the pandemic. We identified aggravation or development of mental health conditions, financial instability, complexities of post-separation parenting, impeded access to DV and medical services, and post-separation abuse. Participants reported increased levels of anxiety, depression and loneliness. Some participants experienced reduced accessibility, quality and effectiveness of care, whilst conflictingly, others reported that quarantine measure offered an additional layer of protection from their abusers. The presentation is likely to appeal to those wanting to learn about survivors' experiences of DV and DV services during the pandemic.

### **The ripple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the experiences of social support networks of Minoritised women experiencing domestic abuse in the UK**

Author: Ankita Mishra

Institute: University of Sheffield

Co-authors: Dr Jilly Gibson Miller, Dr Chantelle Wood

The COVID-19 pandemic with its associated social restrictions amplified women's experiences of domestic abuse. Domestic abuse continues to affect victims in comparable ways but evidence suggests that those from Minoritised backgrounds are disproportionately impacted by domestic abuse. Social support plays an important role in mitigating the consequences of domestic abuse and improved health outcomes in survivors. Access to both professional and informal support by survivors increased during the pandemic. The present study aimed to explore the experiences of support networks (both formal and informal) of Minoritised survivors of domestic abuse. A qualitative methodology using six focus groups (n=21) was employed to discuss the experiences of multiple stakeholders (formal and informal support networks). Using framework analysis, the following themes were generated: 'The ripple effects of the pandemic: additional demands with changing dynamics'; 'Change in support provision practices: Role of context'; 'Complexity of support needs: Rethinking the status quo'. Findings suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic had a domino effect on the support provision by creating additional challenges for support networks to offer support. The paper discusses how the context of the pandemic altered practices of providing support with the need to be more creative as well as self-care strategies to continue their support and amplified the intersectional and complex support needs and barriers of Minoritised survivors. These findings have important implications for response and policy frameworks in addressing violence experienced by Minoritised women in future public health crisis situations by providing a buffer to the burdens experienced by the social support networks from the altered context of the pandemic. This will facilitate strengthening their ability as first responders to mitigate harms caused to survivors during such crisis situations and be a more sustainable system.

### **Domestic Violence During COVID-19: How Various Demographic Groups May Be Differently Affected by COVID-19 Restrictions**

Author: Anne Coomans

Institute: Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement

Co-authors: Steve van de Weijer, Arjan Blokland, Veroni Eichelsheim

Not all groups in society seem to have been equally affected by the COVID-19 restrictions: the impact of the restrictions may have been disproportionately large for the more vulnerable groups, such as people with a low socio-economic status or migration background. Although vulnerable groups already have an increased risk of committing and/or becoming a victim of domestic violence, this may have been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., increased financial insecurities and limited access to support services due to language barriers). Therefore, this study aims to answer the following research question: Who is at risk of exposure to domestic violence, and, has this changed during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Netherlands? The data used for this study are national registrations of suspected domestic violence incidents from the Dutch police between 2019 and 2021. We matched the police registrations to micro data kept by Statistics Netherlands (e.g., demographic characteristics, socio-economic background, employment situation). The data of 2020/2021 are compared to the data of 2019. Time series analyses are used to systematically analyze the extent to which the COVID-19 restrictions are associated with changes in the background of individuals potentially involved in domestic violence, which demographic and vulnerable population groups may be at greater risk of involvement in domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, and which risk factors for domestic violence are exacerbated by the COVID-19 restrictions. We expect some families to have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic than others. Already vulnerable families may have experienced more negative consequences, such as financial setbacks and increased social isolation, that possibly resulted in elevated tensions at home. Targeted intervening in (vulnerable) families may break the vicious circle of violence in future times of crises.

#### Covid-19 in the Norwegians crises centers

Author: Wanja Jeanette Sæther

Institute: The crises Centre in Salten

Co-authors: Wanja Jeanette Sæther

The municipalities have a duty to ensure an accessible crisis centre service for residents who are exposed to violence in close relationships, cf. the Crisis Centre Act § 1. Every year, more than 3,000 children and adults flee to a crisis center in Norway. In the first weeks of the covid 19-pandemic, it was unusually quiet at the shelters. There were few new intakes, and few inquiries. Many countries in the world reported about increased partner violence because of the corona crisis and the infection control measures that were introduced. There was no reason to believe that this would be any different in Norway. Among the inquiries we had during this period, there were several who stated that it had been difficult during the state of emergency, with isolation and restrictions. To safeguard against infection, as well as reach out to our client group, the Crisis Centers had to make adjustments and adaptations, both in our premises and also in the design of the services. New routines, guidelines and a pandemic plan were drawn up. Our focus was to be able to meet victims on their terms, in a way that did not put either the victims or employees at risk of infection. We were prepared for the influx of clients to the shelters to increase considerably because of the pandemic. This took effect from September 2020. In the period that has passed since the pandemic - we can see a change in the client group. Several of our clients struggle with mental health

challenges and it also seems that several of the perpetrators of violence are debutants to violence - they have never previously shown violent tendencies or aggressive behavior. What have we learned from the pandemic and what changes has this led to in the crisis center services?

**Experience and perpetration of intimate partner violence and abuse by gender of respondent and their current partner before and during COVID-19 restrictions in 2020: A cross-sectional study in 13 countries**

Author: Gail Gilchrist

Institute: King's College London

Co-authors: Laura Potts, Dean Connolly, Adam Winstock, Liz Gilchrist, Emma Davies

Globally, surveys and emergency services recorded an increase in Intimate partner violence (IPV) experienced by heterosexual women during COVID-19 restrictions. We analysed data from the Global Drug Survey Special Edition to explore the impact of COVID-19 on people's lives, including their intimate relationships. Five relationship groupings were created using respondents' lived gender identity: women partnered with men (46.9%), women partnered with women (2.1%), men partnered with men (2.9%), men partnered with women (47.2%), and partnerships where one or both partners were non-binary (1%). Self-reported experience and perpetration of IPV in the past 30 days before (February) and during COVID-19 restrictions (May or June) in 2020 (N=35,854) was described and compared for different relationship groupings. Changes in IPV during restrictions were assessed using multivariable logistic regression. During restrictions, 17.8% and 16.6% of respondents had experienced or perpetrated IPV respectively; 38.2% of survivors and 37.6% of perpetrators reported this had increased during restrictions. Greater proportions of non-binary respondents or respondents with a non-binary partner reported experiencing or perpetrating IPV ( $p < .001$ ) than other relationship groupings. 22.0% of respondents who were non-binary or had a non-binary partner, 19.5% of men partnered with men, 18.9% of men partnered with women, 17.1% of women partnered with women and 16.6% of women partnered with men reported experiencing IPV. Higher psychological distress, poor coping with pandemic-related changes, relationship tension and changes (increases or increases and decreases) in alcohol consumption were associated with increased experience of IPV. We confirmed that IPV can occur in all intimate relationships, regardless of the perpetrator's or survivor's gender. Non-binary respondents or respondents with non-binary partners reported the highest use and experience of IPV. Most IPV support services were designed for heterosexual, cisgender women. IPV support services and perpetrator programmes should support all perpetrators and survivors, regardless of their sexual or gender identity.

## **COVID-19 & DVA II**

**Intimate Partner Violence During Public Health Disasters: Strengthening Theoretical Foundations**

Author: Gwen Hunnicutt

Institute: University of North Carolina Greensboro

One of the immediate consequences of COVID-19 pandemic lock downs was a spike in Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) across the globe. Shelter-in-place orders, coupled with widespread unemployment, left many victims trapped with their abusers and unable to safely connect with services. Moreover, pandemic restrictions put in place to reduce the spread of the virus compromised response services, such as shelters and alternative housing, intended to offer safe haven. The effects of this public health disaster have been particularly pronounced for vulnerable populations. In this paper I argue that pandemic-related-IPV crises should be framed as “public health disasters” in the interest of sharpening our understanding of IPV during times of both order and disorder. As public health disasters are similar in characteristic to other disasters (such as earthquakes, hurricanes and floods), I draw on a “sociology of disaster” framework and ecofeminism to understand IPV circumstances of vulnerability and resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sociology of disaster is an interdisciplinary subfield that strives to interpret social relations during times of both human-made and natural disasters. Ecofeminism is concerned with the links between ecological disruptions and gendered injustice. Because of existing gender inequalities, women may face greater consequences from public health disasters than do men, but in different ways, according to their unique contexts and circumstances. Drawing on these two perspectives promises to help strengthen our theoretical foundations of IPV.

#### COVID-related financial issues experienced by survivors of intimate partner violence

Author: Laura Johnson

Institute: Temple University

Background: While the impact of the COVID-19 on financial security and intimate partner violence (IPV) are well-documented, fewer studies have looked specifically at the types of financial issues IPV survivors experienced as a result of the pandemic. The research questions guiding this study were: (1) What types of COVID-related financial issues (CRFI) did IPV survivors most frequently experience? (2) What is the association between CRFI and IPV? Methods: The data used for this analysis were collected in July 2022 using Qualtrics Research Services (n=571). Participants resided in the United States, were women-identifying, age 18 or older, and screened positive for IPV. A ten-item index was developed to ask about CRFI. Descriptive statistics were run on all variables of interest, including CRFI individually and summed. Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression was used to look at the association between CRFI and IPV experiences controlling for survivors’ socio-demographic characteristics. Findings: Overall, 85% of the sample reported experiencing at least one CRFI (M=2.84, SD=2.13). The most frequent were: took out money put into savings for other purposes to meet basic financial needs (64%); borrowed money from a friend or family (49%); applied for public assistance benefits (49%); and had their work productivity decline as a result of family or other responsibilities incurred due to the pandemic (41%). Just under 20% reported that their partner kept or spent their COVID stimulus payments without their consent. OLS regression found that economic abuse and experiencing economic abuse-related financial debt were positively and significantly associated with CRFI, along with relationship status, income, and employment. Conclusions and implications: The CVFI experienced by IPV survivors will likely have long-lasting financial impacts and recovery may be particularly difficult for survivors who were financially insecure pre-pandemic. There is a

continued need for economic empowerment interventions and policies that support survivors' financial well-being.

### Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) Support Services in Rural UK: An Exploration of Practices during the Shadow Pandemic

Author: Paige Bromley

Institute: University of Winchester

Most research on rural domestic abuse is conducted in countries including America, Canada and Australia and finds functional issues such as increased geographical or social isolation and lack of services, and sociocultural issues, such as everyone knowing everyone's business, or the fear of speaking out, add complexity and barriers to safety for victim-survivors living in rural areas. Similar findings appear in research conducted in England; however, the volume of research is far less. Similarly, whilst research shows that the Covid-19 pandemic impacted all areas of domestic abuse service delivery, such as changes to referral rates or case complexity, staff wellbeing and funding, little is known about how services that operate in rural areas were impacted. This PhD research seeks to address these gaps in knowledge of domestic abuse in rural settings, responses to it and the challenges faced in addressing the needs of survivors, including during the Covid-19 pandemic. Fourteen semi-structured interviews with domestic abuse professionals (including outreach workers, Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates and CEOs of specialist services) primarily from the Midlands and the South of England were conducted. Five themes were generated from the data; the rural community?, rural as risk, the paradox of isolation, 'adapt to what was good and keep that going' and the negative impacts of Covid-19. The research positions the regional/rural context as an important mediator of the experience of domestic abuse and responses to it. The paper will also consider potential policy applications and avenues of future.

### Women's right to housing in times of precarity: qualitative fieldwork on the shadow pandemic in Italy and the Netherlands.

Author: Ludovica Bargellini

Institute: University of Palermo

The present study argues that domestic violence (DV) should be seen as a violation of women's right to adequate housing (RtH). Since DV has intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic, the latter is chosen as a timeframe to analyze the RtH in DV contexts whereas Italy and the Netherlands are selected as two countries with very different approaches on handling both the pandemic and the legislation on DV. The study aims at answering the following questions: is DV a violation of women's RtH? Have lockdown restrictions addressed the precarious housing conditions of DV victims? Have the restrictions been gender-discriminative in ensuring adequate housing? Feminist Grounded Theory Methodology was employed carrying out qualitative fieldwork in both countries. The research was conducted from 2019, shortly before the pandemic outburst, until 2023 with interviewees selected by theoretical sampling based on Glaser and Strauss' method. The only selective criteria for the sample defined before the start of the study was the focus on professionals operating in the field of housing in a DV context. One of the most unexpected findings was the mistrust in the

field towards researchers and the difficulties to access the field, especially in the Dutch territory. Moreover, categorization based on race and status carried out by shelters during the admission procedure and obstacles in accessing safe housing to the detriment of undocumented women were unveiled. The main outcomes were that the Dutch gender-neutral legislation on DV and the low enforcement of housing rights in Italy are the main obstacles to guarantee women access to adequate housing. Besides the need for more focused studies on the link between RtH and DV, an effective way to ensure women's RtH is adopting comprehensive legislation with a focus on the gender component in DV dynamics and intervening preventively by entailing women's security of tenure.

### Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on CSOs working to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls: Lessons from Civil Society Organizations funded by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

Author: Abigail Erikson

Institute: UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

Co-authors: Shruti Majumdar, Gemma Wood

Over the last two years, multiple waves of COVID-19 and the resulting lockdowns and social isolation measures have affected every part of the world. The pandemic has resulted in unprecedented levels of violence against women, while underreporting of all forms of violence against women and girls has made gathering robust data and responding to it a challenge. The study draws on the experiences and practice-based knowledge of CSOs and WROs funded by the UN Trust Fund to document the impact on and adaptations to COVID-19 VAWG programmes, particularly prevention. It contributes to practice-based knowledge on violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic and other intersecting crises confronting grassroots CSOs, especially WROs, in the past two years. The methodology included conducting a rapid assessment of the global impact of the outbreak on the CSOs and WROs that the UN Trust Fund funds to end violence against women and girls across the globe, as well as holding consultations with the same organizations two years later to better understand the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. A qualitative data analysis tool was used to analyze responses from 112 grantees from 69 countries. The findings from the study include a) the impact on the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls for VAWG prevention, b) the impact on CSOs / WROs working on EVAWG, particularly on prevention of VAWG c) building organizational resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic and d) reflecting on the UN Trust Fund response to the pandemic. The study fills a gap identified by the Global Shared Research Agenda in the field on the impact of specific prevention interventions for at-risk women and girls during the pandemic and aims to be a dynamic document that is regularly updated with new evidence gathered through consultations with civil society organizations.

### DA Understandings: Forms and contexts I

Justice Work – Sisters (Having to do) it for themselves

Author: Nancy Lombard

Institute: Glasgow Caledonian University

Co-authors: Katy Proctor

Scotland's record of accomplishment in tackling issues such as stalking and coercive control has been identified as an exemplar. Most recently, the Domestic Abuse Scotland Act (2018) recognised, for the first time, a coercively controlling course of conduct as a crime indicating a more empathetic and understanding criminal justice system. However, it is important to recognise that the Scottish Criminal Justice System (SCJS) is not designed inherently, to meet the needs of those victimised. Consequently, victims can feel disempowered and controlled simultaneously by the bureaucracy in which they find themselves and by the continued abuse of the perpetrator. Therefore, this research explored whether the SCJS facilitates the empowerment of the victims who access its support or exacerbates their disempowerment. Mixed methods were employed (an online survey and interviews utilising the Free Association Narrative Interview Method) and informed by a transformative paradigm. 132 women responded to the survey and 21 were interviewed. The theme of 'Justice Work' was identified as a significant and common experience for the majority of participants. Women described the significant amount of practical, bureaucratic, and emotional work that they had to do to keep their cases 'live' e.g. conducting their own investigations and gathering evidence, keeping detailed records, and maintaining the visibility of their case within the system. Furthermore, women felt they must manage their communications and behaviour to maintain a sympathetic response from professionals in an effort to keep their case 'worthy' of continued investigation. Although in moderation, conducting practical elements of the 'justice work' was empowering for some, more often it was experienced as disempowering as women had no choice but to do the work if they wanted their case to progress. This paper will make recommendations for practice within the criminal justice system to minimise the need for justice work by victim/survivors.

**Serious violence in intimate partner relationships: Gender, types and manifestations**

Author: Freydís Jóna Freysteinsdóttir

Institute: University of Iceland

Co-authors: Helga Katrín Hjartardóttir

The main aim of this study was to examine types and manifestations of intimate partner violence, as well as the gender of the perpetrator and the victims of such violence. Court decisions were analyzed in which the perpetrator had been charged for serious violence in Iceland, a small Nordic welfare society, particularly types and manifestations of the violence, as well as the gender of the perpetrators and the victims. The results showed that of 42 perpetrators, only two were women and the rest were men. Physical violence could be found in over 90% of the cases, emotional abuse was found in 40% of them and sexual abuse was found in few of them. There were various manifestations of the violence, such as threats, hitting, pushing, hair pulling, strangling the victim and rape. The maximum penalty for violence in intimate relationships was not used in any of those cases, despite the fact that many of them included very rough violence towards the victims.



## Understanding Women's Attributions for Intimate Partner Violence

Author: Lynette M. Renner

Institute: University of Minnesota

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a public health problem that affects millions of individuals and families around the world. Attribution theory indicates that people explain the actions of others as a way to predict and/or control their environment. Individuals attribute the cause of another person's behavior to either an internal quality or to an external situation that is outside the person's control. Men who use IPV commonly utilize external attributions, such as stress, substances, or financial difficulties, to explain or justify their behavior. To more fully understand the dynamics of IPV, women's attributions for their partner's use of violence must be considered. Data were taken from a study with women in one U.S. state who experienced various forms of IPV and received civil legal assistance. On average, women in the sample (N=112) were 31.85 years old, had 2.6 children, and were in a relationship with the person who used IPV for 7.25 years. Women described why they thought the abuse by their partner first began and why they thought the abuse continued. Women's attributions for why the abuse first began were focused around three themes: control, emotional dysregulation, and learned behavior. Women's attributions for why the abuse continued were mixed. Some women stated the IPV continued for similar reasons that it began. Other women attributed the continuation of abuse to their own qualities, including their failure to leave the relationship or take other action to stop the abuse. Based on where attributions are placed, behaviors are viewed as controllable or uncontrollable and judgments are made about those actions. Understanding how people who experience IPV attribute the cause and continuation is related to accountability and stigma. Insight into why IPV occurs and continues from the viewpoint of victims is essential to expanding theories of violence perpetration and enhancing interventions.

## Every Voice Matters! Perceptions of Violence Against Women and Girls in Northern Ireland

Author: Susan Lagdon

Institute: Ulster University

Co-authors: Marcin Owczarek, Claire McCartan, Ngozi Anyadike-Danes, Mark Shevlin, Julie-Ann Jordan

**Background:** The issue of violence against women and girls (VAWG) has been noted as a significant global challenge. Empowerment begins with giving a voice to the issue and allowing those affected to share their experience. The aim of the current research was to explore the perceptions of VAWG in Northern Ireland among women living in this region. **Methods:** Data collection involved qualitative research in the form of semi-structured interviews with women aged 18 and over. Interviews took the form of individual interviews or focus groups depending on the preference of those willing to be involved with the research. A short questionnaire was also used to capture demographic information as well as participant experience of violence during their lifetime. Following the completion of each interview, recordings were transcribed and final transcriptions uploaded to NVivo for review and completion of thematic analysis. **Findings:** A total of 34 women from across Northern Ireland took part in an interview or focus group. Six themes (and subsequent sub-themes) were identified from the data. Themes include (1) The issue of violence, (2) Risk of Violence,

(3) Impacts of Violence, (4) Disclosing, Reporting and Response to Violence, (5) The Road To Justice and (6) Recommendations – Keeping Woman and Girls Safe. Conclusion: Findings demonstrate that the issue of violence is often the result of a variety of interconnected factors and failings. Social norms and structural inequalities have an important role to play in VAWG. Education and social awareness underpinned by government leadership and resource are required to tackle this issues.

Victim reversal: Discourses by Fathers' Groups in Norway and Slovakia

Author: Zuzana Ocenasova

Institute: Institute for Social Communication Research, Slovak Academy of Sciences

Co-authors: Margunn Bjørnholt

Intimate partner violence often continues post-separation, particularly through father's visitation rights and custody battles. It is performed either as exhausting custody procedures or in a practical contact with children via various intrusive and coercive tactics. It has been established that children are harmed by usage of coercive control either directly or against their mother. Nevertheless, the acknowledgement of IPV impact on children in custody systems and procedures that are often centered around co-parenting is not sufficiently visible. In the past decade, various fathers' rights groups gained significant influence in shaping custody debates promoting so called parental alienation syndrome or its terminological ancestors. It has direct impact on the perception of mothers surviving IPV and striving to protect themselves and their children from violence as they are perceived as non-cooperative and even abusive. Fathers' rights groups often employ abuse and IPV discourse in their argumentation that may lead to victim reversal status. We analyze discourses of fathers' rights groups in Norway and Slovakia by investigating their policy texts, media and social media content as a basis for a comparative qualitative analysis. While many discursive topics remain similar in both countries, particularly those centered around "alienation" and co-optation of abuse and IPV arguments, groups accommodate their discourses to a societal context. In Norway, the stress on equal parenting and co-optation of gender equality discourse is more dominant. Contrary, in Slovakia influenced by strong anti-gender mobilization the children's rights frame is predominant. We focus on how these discourses form custody debates and the implications it may have on custody procedures in IPV cases.

Stalked, and very much alone

Author: Gry Stordahl

Institute: Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies (NKVTS)

Co-authors: Geir Øivind Borgen

People of all ages are exposed to stalking, some over several years and across national borders. Stalking can have major social, health and financial consequences. Some isolate themselves and stop doing what they otherwise would have done. To strengthen protection for victims of stalking, in 2016, a new paragraph was added to the Norwegian Criminal Code to deal with stalking. It was designed to fulfill the Istanbul Convention Art. 34. Today, few have been prosecuted and/or convicted of stalking in Norway. Dinutvei.no is a national web service for domestic violence and rape, launched in 2016 and financed by the

Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security. The purpose of Dinutvei.no is to make information about help services and violence and abuse easily accessible. In addition, we have an anonymous Q&A service. «He calls about 20 times a day and sends messages from different numbers. The police say if he does not commit a criminal offence, they cannot do anything. Is that right? How can I solve this?» Dinutvei.no regularly receives questions about stalking. Frequently, victims feel they have tried everything in their power to escape the torment, but the stalker continues to harass. Victims seem to be left alone to cope with and find solutions to the stalking. In an oral presentation, we would like to highlight some of the challenges people describe when they are exposed to stalking. We will try to answer the questions: - are we aware of the extent of the psychological, social and practical implications of stalking? - are the authorities running away from their responsibility towards victims of stalking?

## DA Understandings: Forms and contexts II

### Digital Self-Help for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence – Intervention Design and Treatment Rationale

Author: Hannah M. Micklitz

Institute: Department of Medical Psychology and Medical Sociology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany

Co-authors: Zoe Nagel, Stella Jahn, Jürgen Bengel, Lasse B. Sander

Background: Digital interventions are a promising support measure for survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV). However, existing digital interventions show limited efficacy in improving the safety and mental health of IPV survivors. Most existing interventions use advocacy-based approaches, aiming at empowerment of survivors through safety planning, informal counseling, and referral to other services. The training of cognitive, emotional, behavioral and interpersonal strategies could be a useful addition, as research indicates the relevance of targeting psychological risk factors and mental health consequences of IPV experience. Therefore, we aim to develop an integrative digital intervention featuring advocacy-related and behavioral health content to target the safety and psychosocial well-being of IPV survivors. Methods: To create a survivor-centered intervention, we involved people with lived experiences and experts from the support system in intervention development. We conducted semi-structured interviews and used the think aloud method to test usability and acceptance of two sample modules. We analyzed the data following Kuckartz' rules of thematic analysis. We modified the modules in light of our findings, and developed an intervention manual. Findings: Participants confirmed the promise of integrative digital interventions to support people affected by IPV. They expressed the need for a sensitive, supportive and easy-to-use intervention, which acknowledges the complexity and diversity of IPV experiences. They pointed out essential aspects concerning content, language, and design. We developed a digital intervention with 12 self-help modules. IPV survivors can choose modules based on individual situation and needs and receive guidance from an e-coach. Conclusions and implications: We implemented a collaborative process to develop a digital self-help intervention for IPV survivors. It became apparent that digital interventions provide easy-accessible support for IPV survivors, but must address the needs

of a diverse and complex target group, implicating the relevance of tailorable interventions with sensitive and inclusive content, language and design.

### Conditional Cash Transfers and Gender-Based Violence – Does the Type of Violence Matter?

Author: Abhilasha Sahay

Institute: World Bank

Co-authors: Elizaveta Perova, Ervin Dervisevic

While there is scholarly consensus that cash transfer programs can reduce intimate partner violence (IPV), there is little evidence on the effect on other forms of gender-based violence (GBV). This study uses a regression discontinuity design to examine the effects of a conditional cash transfer (CCT) program in the Philippines on three types of GBV: (i) intimate partner violence, (ii) domestic violence by non-partners (such as husband's relatives), and (iii) violence outside home. Although the study finds no significant change in IPV or violence outside of home, it reports a measurable decline in non-partner domestic violence. Suggestive evidence on mechanisms indicate that the reduction in violence could be driven by an increase in household wellbeing, and women's empowerment, bargaining power, and social capital. This evidence confirms the potential of CCT programs to mitigate GBV beyond IPV, but indicate that depending on the context, additional interventions are needed to address specific types of violence.

### Does training for informal supporters improve their response to victim-survivors of domestic abuse? A systematic review of qualitative and quantitative evidence

Author: Karen Schucan Bird

Institute: UCL, UK

Co-authors: Nicola Stokes, Carol Rivas, Martha Tomlinson

Background Friends, colleagues, family, and community members play a crucial role in responding to victim-survivors of domestic violence and abuse. Recognised as 'informal supporters', such familial and social networks, however, report a sense of helplessness, fear, and difficulty in knowing how to respond. This mixed method systematic review examines the effectiveness, and perceived effectiveness, of training for informal supporters to improve their responses to victim-survivors. Methods A collaboration of academics and specialist, domestic abuse researchers completed the review, with input and guidance from an Advisory Group. A systematic search of four electronic databases, specialist repositories and websites were used to identify empirical research (in academic or grey literature). Criteria were applied to potentially relevant references to judge eligibility and quality appraisal was undertaken on included studies. Narrative methods were used to synthesis evidence from quantitative and qualitative studies. Findings Eleven included studies examined educational interventions that aimed to improve responses from informal supporters. Studies indicated that informal supporters recognised the value of training for building understanding and equipping them with the skills to respond to victim-survivors. The synthesis identified statistically significant improvements in the knowledge and attitudes of informal supporters in the immediate and short-term following training. Conclusions Interpreted through a behaviour change model, the review found that training/ educational

activities prompt informal supporters to respond to victim-survivors, as well as enhancing their capacity and motivation to do so. This increases the likelihood that informal supporters will take action to support victim-survivors of abuse. We don't know, however, what type of support friends, family, colleagues, or neighbours can or will offer to provide. Further, we don't know whether victim-survivors would judge such responses to be appropriate or helpful.

#### **A multi-level analyses of neighbourhood-level predictors of attitudes toward intimate partner violence in low- and middle-income countries**

Author: LynnMarie Sardinha

Institute: University of Bristol

Co-authors: Hector Najera-Catalan

Globally, over one in four (27%) ever-partnered women aged 15-49 have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner at least once in their lives. Attitudes justifying IPV at the individual-level and discriminatory gender norms at the country-level have been shown to be strong predictors of the men's perpetration of IPV and of women's acceptance of this violence, their help-seeking behaviour and ability to leave abusive relationships. Building and strengthening evidence on the upstream factors that perpetuate and facilitate IPV is key to effective prevention and elimination of this and other forms of violence against women. There remains an evidence gap on the neighbourhood-level socio-economic and demographic factors associated with the justification of IPV. This multi-country study within and across geographical regions presents the influence of neighbourhood-level drivers on these attitudes (for example, poverty, education, paid employment, and early/child marriage practices among others). This study draws on data from 66 low- and middle-income countries from the Demographic and Health Surveys. Additionally country-level metadata on economic empowerment, social development and political indicators drew on topic-specific databases. Using 3-level hierarchical Bayesian models, this study analyses the relative importance of individual, cluster, and country-level factors upon women's and men's justification of IPV. The main findings show that neighbourhood socio-economic and demographic factors including proportion of women with secondary or higher education, neighbourhood poverty levels, and early marriage practices are associated with women's and men's acceptance of IPV. This is the first study in LMICs across geographical regions to examine neighbourhood risk factors of IPV acceptance within and across national and cross-national environments. It highlights the urgent need for research and investment into the impact of local contexts, that is, neighbourhoods, on the acceptance of IPV.

#### **A Multi-country Study of the Spatial Association between Attitudes toward Intimate Partner Violence and Cluster-level Correlates**

Author: LynnMarie Sardinha

Institute: University of Bristol

Co-authors: Hector Najera-Catalan

Violence and Cluster-level Correlates Background: Intimate partner violence against women (IPV) is a human rights violation and a serious public health concern. Research has shown that the justification of IPV is one of the key predictors of violence against women. Understanding the different individual and contextual-level socio-demographic, political, and economic factors underlying attitudes toward IPV and their spatial patterning is central to designing evidence-based prevention policies and programmes at local and national levels. Spatial analytical techniques of the risk patterns of IPV acceptance and associated neighborhood-level factors are underutilized within high-income and almost non-existent in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Given that neighborhood risk factors are usually clustered in space, spatial epidemiologic methods are, best suited for examining their influence on geographical variations of IPV attitudes. This presentation discusses the findings of these spatial analyses within and across 66 LMICs. Methods: Using Demographic and Health Surveys and geo-referenced data from 66 countries across geographical regions, this study employs spatial statistics to examine whether attitudes to IPV are spatially auto-correlated and how the patterns of association between area-level justification of IPV and socio-demographic factors vary within and across geographic clusters. Results: There is a large variability in the prevalence of IPV justification within countries and the relationship with social, economic and political factors is not the same across neighbourhoods. The strength of the effect of secondary education, early marriage and poverty on IPV varies by location of the clusters. If a cluster is surrounded by clusters with better education, lower levels of early marriage and poverty, we are more likely to see low prevalence rates of IPV justification. This study will fill a considerable knowledge gap and contribute to the methodological discussions in identifying a patterning of attitudes justifying IPV and the area of IPV prevention and response more broadly.

### Mapping and Overview of Survey Instruments on Psychological Intimate Partner Violence Author: LynnMarie Sardinha

Intimate partner violence against women (IPV) includes physical, sexual and psychological violence. Robust, internationally comparable prevalence data serve as a powerful advocacy tool for putting this important issue high on political agendas, and for informing effective prevention and response policies and programmes. There has been a steady growth in availability of survey data on IPV. There has also been substantial progress in the comprehensiveness, standardization, and international comparability of the measurement of physical IPV and, to some extent sexual IPV. However there are still considerable variations and gaps in the measurement of psychological IPV across surveys, countries and regions. This presentation will provide an overview of data availability, characteristics of instruments and items used, the conceptualization of psychological IPV, and types of frequency measures and thresholds used. Recommendations to strengthen measurement and reporting will be proposed for discussion. Methods: These analyses draw on eligible survey data extracted to the WHO Global Database on Prevalence of Violence Against Women. A separate database was created to extract data on the characteristics of survey instruments for those studies in the Global Prevalence Database that measured psychological partner violence. Results: Drawing on over 300 studies from 150 countries and areas across all global regions the findings highlight the wide range of instruments and items used to measure psychological IPV. Important differences were found in the number

of items, frequency measures and thresholds used to across surveys. These differences were particularly pronounced between high-income and low- and middle-income countries. A larger proportion of studies in high-income countries included controlling behaviours and economic abuse as psychological IPV. Implications: Considering that variations in measures of psychological IPV impacts the reported (and estimated) prevalence, this study informs discussion for developing consensus on the measurement of psychological abuse, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## DA Understandings: Forms and contexts III

**Violence Against Women in Sport: The Current State of Social Scientific Knowledge**

Author: Walter S. DeKeseredy

Institute: West Virginia University

Co-authors: Leah Oldham

There was a vibrant wave of rigorous social scientific investigation into hypermasculine male athletes' abuse of women in the 1980s and 1990s, but scholarly attention to this social problem has ebbed over the past two decades. It is time to go back and closely examine this topic again, and the main objective of this paper is to do so by examining the connections between participation in elite male contact sports (e.g., ice hockey) and online and offline variants of violence against women. The extant literature on the topic is reviewed, critically evaluated, and suggestions for further empirical and theoretical work are provided. Special attention is devoted to emphasizing the importance of delving into the broader cultural, economic, and social forces that encourage male athletes' brutal patriarchal practices and discourses off the playing field.

**Male domestic violence victims' experience of health care services**

Author: Natalie Quinn - Walker

Institute: Birmingham City University

This research demonstrated what influences the boundaries of reporting within the healthcare setting and how gender influences the experience of violence. Thus, questions whether healthcare professionals are provided with adequate awareness training to identify and support a male victim of domestic abuse. The research draws attention to these victims, offering an analysis that examines their voices and experiences, as so many men do not report their abuse due to stigma, shame, and disbelief. The research highlights that those men can be victims and need the support provisions in place, as demand for services is increasing; however, this is not the whole picture as so many men do not report; therefore, statistics will never be/are failing to provide an accurate representation of the issue. To access the participants, an online questionnaire was formed with twenty-two questions and accessible via ManKind Initiative, a leading domestic abuse charity based in the UK at the forefront of supporting male victims of domestic abuse. 100 participant was involved in the research, providing an insightful view on whether a universal approach is adopted in the healthcare sector. Further lessons need to be learnt, with healthcare professionals

providing a gender-inclusive approach to ensure all victims of abuse, regardless of gender or sexuality, have the opportunity to seek and access supportive services. Within these settings, the lack of literature was highlighted, and the provision of gender-inclusive material could prompt discussions, allowing male victims to see themselves in the advertisement, potentially resulting in disclosures and supportive provisions. Opening up dialogue, presenting male victims in literature, and introducing screening systems could improve the acknowledgement of male victims. However, with the foundations of training, as if a male victim plucked up the courage to disclose, healthcare professionals need a clearer understanding of the pathway to support a male victim.

### **Men who experienced Intimate Partner Violence: Impressions about existing public campaigns and recommendations for new ones**

Author: Eduardo Reis

Institute: ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa

Co-authors: Patrícia Arriaga, Carla Moleiro

Over the last decades, the negative effects of intimate partner violence (IPV) directed at men in abusive different-sex and same-sex relationships have been increasingly investigated. Men who are the targets of IPV face many barriers to help-seeking, and to overcome them, public awareness campaigns have been developed. Women who experienced IPV have found campaigns targeting them to be harmful and misleading, and previous research suggests that following the principles of formative evaluation research may improve campaigns' effectiveness and reduce unwanted negative effects. This article documents the theory-based formative evaluation research conducted with 14 men targets of IPV in different-sex and same-sex relationships for the creation of targeted campaigns. Through semi-structured interviews, men were asked about their overall knowledge of campaigns, their thoughts about specific pictorial IPV campaigns, and their suggestions for the development of new campaigns. Thematic analysis and a theoretically grounded coding scheme based on the Extended Parallel Process Model and the Elaboration Likelihood Model were used to analyze the content of the interviews with high inter-rater reliability. Overall, our results indicate that most men were not aware of campaigns in Portugal, and their impressions about the ones they recalled were mixed. Most men praised clear messages informing about different types of violence, while some responded negatively to the inclusion of words such as "shame" and "victim", and the depiction of bruises. They also considered that future campaigns targeting men should portray "real people" like them and provide information on self-efficacy, the efficacy of recommended responses, and threat susceptibility. Our findings are consistent with previous evidence with women who experienced IPV but also provide theoretically grounded novel contributions and highlight the importance of considering the population of interest's insights when developing and testing new campaigns.

### **To Break the Vicious Circle of Repeated Domestic Violence**

Author: Margareta

Institute: Department of Criminology, Stockholm University, Sweden

Co-authors: David Gadd



The stated goal of most of the support offered to an abused woman is that she should be empowered enough to leave. This practice reflects a problematic individualistic view, placing the responsibility for preventing repeated violence on the woman. It further contains the message that there is a clear line that separates her life as subordinate to a violent man and the life in security and freedom that awaits her after the separation. However, a growing field of research shows the contrary, namely, that post-separation violence marks the lives of many abused women and their children for many years. Based on a longitudinal case study, including narrative analysis of interviews with a woman and her two sons who lived with their father's repeated violence, this paper shows the importance of the surrounding social network's responses for a man's opportunities to maintain the violence post-separation. The woman's mother was the all-present support person. The police could not give the woman and children the protection they needed. The social services opened an investigation against the mother for failing to protect the children. It was not until the woman systematically replaced the people in the network who indirectly supported the violence with others who expressed totally different expectations of how interpersonal relationships should be carried out, that the man stopped his violence. These findings suggest that it is unrealistic to expect the law and social services to be the main instruments of social transformation. However, it should not be beyond the limit of possibilities for the law enforcement to deliver greater protection, and for the social services to deliver interventions helping to strengthen the supporting part of the woman's social network. Such practices imply changes in the prevailing individualistic view of how social transformation can come about for abused women. Further research in this area is urgent.

**The nature and characteristics of call data from an Irish domestic abuse helpline for male victims in 2016 compared with call data in 2022: findings and reflections**

Author: Melissa Corbally

Institute: Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin

Co-authors: Andrea Mc Dermott, Men's Aid Ireland, Kathrina Bentley, Men's Aid Ireland

Background: Support services and helplines play an invaluable role in responding to men experiencing domestic violence and abuse nationally and internationally (DVA) (Bates & Douglas 2020, Hine et al 2022). The Covid-19 pandemic, declared on March 11th 2020, irrevocably changed individuals' access to health and social care services whilst also restricting freedom of movement. In Ireland, an 83% increase in contacts to a domestic abuse helpline service for men since 2019 was identified. Methods: The nature and characteristics of call data in a retrospective paper-based call data analysis undertaken in a ten-month period in 2016 (pre-Covid-19) is compared with retrospective electronic call data collected in the equivalent time period in 2022 (post Covid-19). Findings: This collaborative paper presents an analysis of descriptive statistics comparing findings of the frequency of calls, characteristics of callers, the nature of reported DVA, relationship of caller to victim and call outcomes between the time periods in 2016 and 2022. A reflective comparative account from a call handler who worked during both time points, identifying key differences, the personal experience of increased call volumes and challenges to service provision will also be presented. An ecological analysis of the Covid-19 period in Ireland and the effects on DVA service provision for men will also be presented. Conclusion: Whilst the Covid-19

pandemic cannot be solely associated with the increase in contacts over this time, there is no doubt that the ecological nature of its impact played a part. Whilst it is unclear whether the increase in calls is due to an increase in violence or an increase in reporting – the fact that more men are seeking support suggests perhaps there is a change in men’s traditional help seeking patterns.

### **Surviving Violence Everyday resilience and gender justice in rural-urban India**

Author: Professor Shazia Choudhry

Co-authors: Dr Philippa Williams

This paper is an overview of research findings from a British Academy funded multi disciplinary research project titled *Surviving Violence: everyday resilience and gender justice in rural-urban India*. It brings together insights from 3 states in India, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. 17 years after the of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA) came into force in India, this report offers an insight into how women survivors of domestic violence experience violence, where they turn to for help, what their experiences are of informal and formal support, and how they build resilience, cope and survive in the context of everyday practices of violence. Based on qualitative research carried out in 3 states in India; Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal between July 2021 and April 2022 we focused on 3 contrasting sites rural, semi urban and urban. **Methodology** 181 semi-structured interviews with survivors of domestic violence which explored contextual experiences of domestic violence, informal-formal practices of help seeking and awareness of legal rights and provisions. 180 semi-structured interviews with stakeholders: lawyers, NGO workers, police and protection officers. These interviews explored socio-cultural norms and understanding concerning domestic violence, legal rights and service provisions for survivors of domestic violence, processes and practices concerning the implementation of PWDVA and related legal procedures. 90 semi-structured interviews with community members which provided an important insight into socio-cultural norms and understandings concerning domestic violence, as well as awareness of legal and service provisions available to victims of domestic violence. **Findings** Given the time limit the paper will focus on two themes arising from the findings. 1. The experience of survivors of informal and formal support services particularly, the blurring of boundaries between the two. 2. The emotional labour and resilience required to navigate multiple forms of routes towards justice.

### **DVA in Higher Educational Settings**

**Safety and academic outcomes of college campus-based advocacy services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault**

Author: Rachel Voth Schrag, PhD

Institute: The University of Texas - Arlington

Co-authors: Leila Wood, PhD, Elizabeth Baumler, PhD, Bethany Backes, PhD

**Background and purpose** Campus-based advocacy (CBA) services provide support to survivors of domestic violence (DV) and sexual assault (SA) on college campuses. Services are based in trauma, social justice, and empowerment theories, and use a student-survivor centered model. However, little is known about their impact on survivor safety and academics. This study sought to understand 1). How CBA programs address safety and academic concerns and 2). the initial outcomes of CBA programs on safety and academics.

**Methods** The study employed a longitudinal mixed-methods approach with students engaged in CBA services at five universities in the Southwestern United States. 115 students completed standardized baseline and follow up assessments at 3 and 6 months. Twenty-nine students participated in semi-structured interviews. Regression models were used to estimate the associations of safety indicators with violence and academic impacts, while qualitative data were analyzed using thematic analysis.

**Findings** CBA programming focuses on education, supportive connection, and access to resources, leading to increase safety related empowerment and enhanced academic and safety outcomes. Statistically significant reductions were observed in frequency and severity of violence from baseline to follow up, with 5.5% of participants reporting SA and 15.1% reporting DV at follow up. Significant reductions in academic disengagement behaviors (including missing class due to abuse, safety concerns, or mental health), and improved GPA over time were observed.

**Conclusions and Implications** CBA programs positively impact student safety and academic outcomes, and thus the overall climate of hosting institutions. Campuses should emphasize providing resources to fund staff and provide needed materials and service for survivors, including access to campus-based housing, food, and financial assistance, mental health professionals, and competitive pay and benefits for staff. CBA programs help violence survivors stabilize their academics at a critical moment, playing a unique role in survivors' long term economic security and safety.

### “If you’ve been drinking, you can’t consent”: Exploring rape myths and students’ understanding of non-consensual sexual activity

Author: Ngozi Anyadike-Danes

Institute: Ulster University

Co-authors: Dr Susan Lagdon

**Background:** Sexual consent is a defining characteristic of sexual violence (or, non-consensual sexual activity) and, thus, key in differentiating between a consensual (or, non-consensual) sexual activity. Yet, how sexual consent is understood, and the application of this understanding has been identified as an area requiring further research. University students are globally recognized as a population at risk of sexual victimization, therefore, it would seem appropriate to specifically explore sexual consent understanding within this population. This study aimed to explore the relationship between students’ consent understanding and their endorsement of rape myths.

**Methods:** The present analysis utilizes data collected from a focus group study involving students attending either of Northern Ireland's universities. In the current study, participants read four scenarios that focused on nuanced areas of sexual consent understanding (e.g., alcohol and sexual activity); participants responded to statements that assessed their ability to identify indicators of (non)consent, consent understanding and rape myth acceptance.

**Results:** A total of 25 university students (17 women, 8 men) took part in this study. In line with current research,

participants' mean scores for the rape myth questionnaires were low suggesting that the students did not accept the rape myths presented. However, whilst the students generally rejected rape myths, there was some acceptance of problematic consent behaviour. Moreover, a review of participants' open-text commentary and evaluation of the scenarios indicated that consent understanding might be hindered by gendered and heteronormative beliefs. Conclusions and implications: The results of this study would suggest that there is some merit in mixed-methodological research when exploring consent understanding, particularly if interested in how rape myths may contribute to consent understanding. As bystander intervention programs are an increasingly popular prevention measure, future research should further explore students' consent understanding.

#### University students' attitudes regarding intimate partner violence towards women (IPVAW)

Author: Klara Svalin

Institute: Department of Criminology, Malmö University

Co-authors: Maria Wemrell, Anna-Karin Ivert

Intimate partner violence towards women (IPVAW) is a global problem, also prevalent in the Nordic countries including Sweden. Attitudes regarding IPVAW are important for the addressing and prevention of the issue. At the individual level, a tolerate attitude towards violence against women has shown to be related to IPV perpetration, while a permissive public view of the issue can have a negative impact on the help-seeking behavior of exposed women. More knowledge regarding IPV attitudes can therefore contribute to the development of preventive measures. The current study investigates University students' attitudes regarding intimate partner violence towards women (IPVAW). Students responded to a survey covering four different aspects of attitudes to IPVAW: perceived severity and acceptability of IPVAW, victim-blaming and willingness to intervene in cases of IPVAW, using a validated questionnaire. The respondents (n=656, ≥18 years old) represented different scientific fields (e.g. behavioral, technical, and social sciences) at three different universities in Sweden. 81% of them were women and most were undergraduate students. While the results point to low victim-blaming and acceptability of IPVAW overall, differences between female and male students and other student groups were identified, with implications for future research, policy and practice.

#### Sexual violence in higher education institutions: Findings from the Oxford Understanding Relationships, Sex, Power, Abuse, and Consent Experiences study

Author: Bridget Steele

Institute: University of Oxford

Background: Sexual violence among higher education students is a public health issue. Sexual violence (SV) in higher education institutions (HEIs) threatens student safety, health, well-being, and educational outcomes. While there is an abundance of evidence from the United States on SV in these settings there is a dearth of evidence from the United Kingdom (UK) context. Methods: The OUR SPACE cross-sectional survey was designed by a team of researchers at the University of Oxford in collaboration with student groups and university administration. It was sent directly to all students at the university in May, 2021 to measure

past-year experiences of sexual violence, sexual harassment, and bystander behaviour. Findings: The total sample (n=1600) comprised 6% of the total student population. Within the sample, 20% experienced at least one act of SV and 53% experienced at least one act of sexual harassment in the past year. Women and transgender and gender-diverse people experienced the largest burden of all types of SV, with attempted forced-sexual touching being the most common act of SV and sexist remarks being the most common act of sexual harassment. Gendered differences persisted across willingness to engage in bystander behaviour to prevent or respond to SV, with men being less likely to engage in bystander behaviour to prevent SV and more likely to endorse attitudes that place the blame of SV on victims or survivors. Conclusion: The findings show that sexual harassment and sexual violence are experienced by a significant proportion of students at the University of Oxford. These findings are limited by a low response rate and the potential of response bias. This research indicates the importance of prioritising and funding preventive initiatives among student populations and provides a survey tool that can be adapted and replicated at UK HEIs across the sector.

### Addressing Domestic Violence in Higher Education

Author: Clarissa J. DiSantis Humphreys

Institute: Durham University

Domestic violence is a pervasive issue impacting students and employees in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). In England and Wales, for example, conservative data demonstrates that women who are full-time students are subjected to domestic abuse more than any other occupation (Office of National Statistics, 2020). Despite growing evidence and increased awareness that domestic violence is occurring within HEI communities, many HEIs, particularly in the United Kingdom, do not have a policy to address this and do not engage in any prevention or response initiatives in this area missing the opportunity to safeguard students and employees. A comprehensive institution-wide approach for the prevention and response of domestic violence applied at the individual, relationship, community and institutional levels of an HEI would help HEIs protect and support students and employees. This ethical, evidence-informed approach is trauma-informed, survivor-centred, human rights-based, social justice-based, intersectional and requires perpetrator accountability (Humphreys & Towl, 2020; Humphreys & Towl, 2023). These six crucial elements guide every aspect of prevention, support and response, from the creation of a domestic abuse policy to prevention education and response training, and even trauma-informed investigations. In implementing this approach, HEIs benefit from building partnerships with domestic violence charities that serve the local community, working with academics focussed on this area to conduct research who are often within the institution itself, and even recruiting specialist practitioners to engage in the prevention and response work. In this brief presentation, as a gender-based violence specialist practitioner working within a university on prevention and response initiatives, I will outline how the comprehensive institution-wide approach works in practice and why it is vital for HEIs to begin working on domestic violence prevention and response.

## FOCUSING ON PERPETRATORS I

Participants as co-facilitators: revealing the social and peer elements of a UK domestic abuse perpetrator programme

Author: helen cramer

Institute: University of Bristol

Co-authors: Karen Morgan, Nate Eisenstadt

**Background and purpose of the study** There are fears about domestic abuse group programmes (DAPPs), usually from people less familiar with them, that participants may learn additional techniques of abuse from others. What seems to be reported more frequently, however, is that the social aspects of DAPPs and participants feeling that they are on a shared journey of change is a key element for sustained engagement and attendance. Taking data (videos of groups, interviews with participants, attendance records) from a UK study evaluating a 23-week DAPP (REPROVIDE) we examine the social elements in DAPPs and the peer roles played by male group participants. **Description of the problem and research questions** While the group facilitators have a legitimate and sanctioned role to interrupt speakers, comment on what participants say, move participants on and make suggestions, participants are often heard chipping in or offering suggestions and commenting on things other men say. With some of these comments and suggestions we feel that men are moving towards the facilitators' role, either deliberately or unintentionally. Sometimes the comments or suggestions from participants, combined with their own closer lived experiences, seem incredibly useful and powerful. Additionally, in interviews, some men selected such peer interventions as key moments of change, epiphany and realisation. At other times, the comments and suggestions of men revealed attitudes that could be seen as sustaining and encouraging of abusive behaviours. The focus of this presentation asks the questions: do group participants act as useful role models for other men in DAPPs and what is the likely place of peer support / interaction within overall theories of change. Such questions and reflections may be useful for training new facilitators in the likely pitfalls and rewards of peer interactions in DAPPs.

Investigating domestic abuse perpetrator profiles by frequency of offending and the perpetrator-victim relationship

Author: Jessica Phoenix

Institute: Thames Valley Police

Co-authors: Michelle McManus (Northumbria University)

**Background.** In England and Wales, the onus of domestic abuse (DA) risk assessment is placed largely on the victim. The risk assessment tool used by most police forces to predict and prevent repeat DA, including both intimate partner and family violence, is completed on and by the victim. However, as responsibility of DA lies with the perpetrator, risk assessment should also consider who perpetrators are and how they perpetrate. **Method.** Based on a quantitative analysis of 60,000 DA investigations recorded by an English police force between 2019 and 2021, this paper examines whether DA perpetrators can be profiled by (i) their repetition of offending and (ii) their relationship to the victim. Descriptive analyses and regression models were conducted to investigate whether perpetrator

characteristics can predict the type and frequency of DA. Results. Analyses found significant differences in perpetrator profiles by the repetition of offending and the perpetrator-victim relationship. On repetition, there were significant differences by perpetrator gender. Men accounted for the majority of investigations. As the frequency of offending increased, the proportion of male perpetrators increased: over 90% of high frequency perpetrators were male. On relationship, intimate partner violence was significantly more gendered than family violence, with over three quarters committed by men against women, whilst almost half of family violence involved same-sex pairings. Further differences were found in age, ethnicity, and in the types of offences committed. Conclusion. Overall, DA perpetrators can be differentiated by perpetrator-victim relationships and frequency of offending. Characteristics including gender and age can significantly predict the frequency and types of DA offending. Recommendations are given for practitioners, researchers and policy makers to improve the evidence base on DA perpetrators and to shift the onus of risk assessment and prevention away from victims.

**The Harms of Violence are Unevenly Distributed: How does the harm caused to victims of violence vary by relationship to the perpetrator?**

Author: Elouise Davies

Institute: Lancaster University

In Criminology, traditionally, violence is understood as being perpetrated by male strangers against male victims, with the main theorisations of violence discussing the role society and in particular inequality have on the perpetration of violence. This puts the perpetrator in the socially and economically disadvantaged position in the victim-perpetrator dyad (Merton, 1938; Young 1999; Ray, 2018). However, violence against women is often perpetrated by men who are known to the victim (Dobash and Dobash, 1992; Walby and Towers, 2018) and where the victim is socially and economically disadvantaged compared to the perpetrator (Towers, 2015; Walby and Allen, 2004; Renzetti, 2011). This observation has led to a separate field of study emerging that considers violence against women specifically (Walklate, 2004). Theorising domestic violence as a violent crime by domestic perpetrators (Walby and Towers 2017) and including both victims and perpetrators in the analytical framework enables interrogation of the questions: is violence by domestic perpetrators more harmful than violence by acquaintance or strangers? Is violence by male perpetrators more harmful than violence by female perpetrators? This paper uses 11 sweeps of data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: a representative, annual crime victimisation survey, to compare violent crime events across the three victim-perpetrator relationship groups (stranger, acquaintance, domestic), demonstrating the importance of including violence by all perpetrators into a unified theory of violent crime. By investigating the outcomes of violent crime, this paper suggests: the odds of experiencing harm increases as the distance to the perpetrator decreases; the gendered aspects of violence are important for understanding the harms inflicted by perpetrators; and including emotional harms shows how violence without injury is still harmful.

**Do perpetrator programmes fulfill quality standards in Europe? Challenges and opportunities**

Author: Ola Kurowicka

Institute: European Network For The Work With Perpetrators  
Co-authors: Berta Vall, Sandra Jovanovic, Alessandra Pauncz

Perpetrator programmes have been challenged and their results have been discussed in research. Several reviews have shown that perpetrator programmes follow different approaches and practices making it very difficult to derive conclusions on what works in perpetrator programmes. There are few recommendations and quality standards of perpetrator programmes available in some European countries. It is important to assess if perpetrator programmes in Europe follow these standards, identify the main obstacles to fulfilling them, and determine the best existing practices. In this presentation, results from a study that focused on mapping the quality of perpetrator programmes around Europe will be presented. Participants in this research were 123 perpetrator programmes and 58 survivor support services, from 32 European countries. The research followed a mix-method approach with quantitative and qualitative methodologies. The instruments used were surveys and focus groups. Results showed some areas that require further improvement in order for perpetrator programmes to comply with the Istanbul Convention, and the European Quality Standards by WWP EN. These results, as well as recommendations for policy and practice, will be discussed.

Talking about sexual violence: exploring practitioners' views on discussing intimate partner sexual violence with domestic violence perpetrators

Author: Nicola Helps

Institute: Monash University

Most sexual violence women experience is perpetrated by an intimate partner. Intimate partner sexual violence (IPSV) is also a significant indicator of escalating frequency and severity of domestic violence (DV). Practice responses to DV and sexual violence are often siloed, with IPSV not wholly captured within either of these domains. This presentation will examine the findings from a study that examined how DV behaviour change programs in Australia engage with IPSV. Drawing on survey responses from 97 practitioners who work with DV perpetrators, the findings reveal missed opportunities to identify and address IPSV. Project findings illustrate limited screening to identify IPSV at program intake and within our sample, two in five practitioners reported that they risk assess for IPSV perpetration less often when compared to other forms of DV. Findings also highlight variation in behaviour change program practice related to IPSV, with one in four practitioners reporting that they rarely or never discuss IPSV in their work with DV perpetrators. Where IPSV was explored with DV perpetrators, the nature and extent of this varied with some practitioners describing IPSV as only superficially explored. These research findings demonstrate a clear need for focused attention on IPSV as part of the DV sector's work to hold perpetrators accountable for all forms of domestic violence.

Perpetrators and Best Practice: The weaving of webs.

Author: Fionnuala Spazzi

Institute: University of Galway



This paper draws from both the authors recent front-line practice experience with male perpetrators of gender based violence, and from research by feminist scholars, philosophers and thinkers, to provide an ecological way of thinking about what is "working" with men who abuse power in intimate relationships; and how best to support those impacted by abuse. Without interventions, men who abuse will continue to abuse, and with intervention, research shows us (Westmarland and Kelly 2013) that some of these men will stop. However, without a clear conceptualisation of what we are talking about, there is confusion. Language matters. Loose definitions lose meaning. Our first task will be to dismantle the notion of a singly motivated or psychological type of "perpetrator." Laying out a path of critical social ecology, the paper will introduce the idea of Nora Batesons' "warm data" as a way for practitioners to perceive at different levels of abstraction and across relational contexts. Perceptions move us beyond binaries like the "good-enough" father or villified monster or between trauma informed and being politically gender aware. Ecological thinking allows for a view of how enmeshed and intertwined we are with the lived realities of those who do harm. The paper will move towards a position on best practice approaches. Sideways work means adjusting our area of concern, no matter who is our primary "client". What works should be a question about what works for those impacted by violence and empowering means connecting. Institutions tasked with human care must be filled with people who see how to connect dots. For practitioners there must be congruence in internal epistemological frameworks- Have we considered our own scripts and their distance from or proximity to violence? The paper will end by challenging practitioners to reflect critically on our own multiple stories about violence and harm.

## FOCUSING ON PERPETRATORS II

Viewpoints of practitioners working with intimate partner violence perpetrators on accountability

Author: Valerie Roy

Institute: Universite Laval

Co-authors: Normand Brodeur, Rebecca Angele

Background and purpose of the study Holding perpetrators of intimate partner violence accountable for their behavior is a keystone in countering intimate partner violence. On a systemic level, it implies criminal sanctions, coordinated community responses, and efforts to promote gender equality. On a personal level, perpetrators must be guided to recognize the harm they have caused, and to prevent future violence. Perpetrator programs are expected to play a role on these two levels, but few studies have been devoted to understanding how practitioners working in these programs view their participation in this endeavor and the challenges they encounter. Methods An action-research with the 31 intimate violence perpetrator programs of the province of Quebec (Canada) has then been undertaken to fill this gap. Focus groups (n=27) and interviews (n=10) were carried out with practitioners, and naturalistic observations were conducted in three organizations. Findings When asked about their role in holding perpetrators accountable, practitioners insisted on their clinical work with men in groups. The data allowed us to understand how they support men in taking responsibility for their behaviors and pointed out different types of

perpetrators with whom they encounter some challenges. On the systemic level, practitioners described their involvement with other agencies, especially in IPV high-risk cases. They also explained the challenges in working with court-mandated men and different ways they promote gender equality. Conclusion/Recommendation In conclusion, we will critically discuss the clinical focus that prevails in the practitioners' viewpoints even when they describe their involvement in systemic IPV risk management and prevention strategies. The limits of their participation, at all levels of action, needed to hold perpetrators accountable will also be addressed, in relation to the expectations placed on them.

How do we want to punish the perpetrators of domestic violence in the Czech Republic?

Public opinion vs. judicial decision

Author: Michaela Roubalova

Institute: Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention

Co-authors: Viktorie Palousova

In the Czech Republic, domestic violence has been punishable as a specific crime of "mistreatment of a person living in a common household" since 2004. However, many argue that domestic violence is not being adequately prosecuted. A typical feature of this type of crime is still a very high latency rate, and when a case goes to court, the sanctions imposed are often considered disproportionately lenient. According to judicial statistics, in more than half of the cases of crimes involving intimate partner violence, the courts impose suspended sentences. In the autumn of 2022, a further round of victimisation survey was carried out in the Czech Republic. The questionnaire was administered face-to-face on a representative sample of the Czech population aged 15 and over (N= 3,073). Besides common crimes, the survey also focused on the issue of domestic violence. In addition to the prevalence questions, respondents were also asked about their opinion on the appropriate punishment for perpetrator of domestic violence. The model situation they were asked to consider was based on the real case decided by the court. Information about the case and its result was obtained from the ViolenceOFF project, under which analysis of court records of domestic violence cases were made. This presentation will focus on comparing the attitudes of judicial authorities and public towards handling of domestic violence. Differences between specific groups (domestic violence victims, people who know someone who has experienced domestic violence, etc.) and specific factors affecting the decision-making will also be addressed. These findings may, among other things, provide important indicators of the level of tolerance and punitiveness of different actors and settings towards domestic violence and contribute to more effective approaches to tackling this problem.

Unpacking 'The Incident': How moving from incident based to pattern-based responses to domestic violence can offer fundamental change to perpetrator interventions.

Author: Patrick O'Leary

Institute: Griffith University

Co-authors: Amy Young

Most justice responses to domestic violence require a specific incident where a violent act has occurred. This is the condition for criminal charges and civil orders to be made, along

with a prompt for referral to victim and perpetrator services. Perpetrator intervention systems are predominantly prefaced on these conditions. To better understand the impact of these dynamics research was conducted across multiple men's behavioural change programs in Australia. Qualitative data from perpetrators and victims was collected through semi-structured interviews. The research also included observations of group sessions and interviews with program facilitators and women advocates. Findings showed a consistent frequency where perpetrators attributed an incident as the primary reason for the attendance at the program. 'The incident' was constructed as particular exception to their behaviour or an incorrectly interpreted event for which they are unjustly held responsible. Results from victims often illuminate the surrounding context of 'the incident' with a previous pattern of controlling behaviours and threats, underpinned by fear and powerlessness. In this context, system responses obscured nonphysical violence, that had been the antecedent to 'the incident'. Data contrasts these different explanations for referral and the way system responses support perpetrator beliefs and entrenched behavioural patterns. This highlights how intervention and justice systems have inherent bias towards incident based responding that limits perpetrator responsibility and insight, while undermining victim safety and experience. Findings offer direction for how both justice and intervention systems can better exposed pattern-based occurrences of domestic violence by better illuminating the lived experience of victims, rather than predominance with a particular incident. This requires changes in referral processes for perpetrators and a greater range of intervention options. Justice and policy implications for making these changes are identified. It is recommended that trialling of new intervention programs prefaced on a pattern-based approach to domestic violence are needed.

**Unpacking 'The Incident': How moving from incident based to pattern-based responses to domestic violence can offer fundamental change to perpetrator interventions.**

Author: Patrick O'Leary

Institute: Griffith University

Co-authors: Amy Young

Most justice responses to domestic violence require a specific incident where a violent act has occurred. This is the condition for criminal charges and civil orders to be made, along with a prompt for referral to victim and perpetrator services. Perpetrator intervention systems are predominantly prefaced on these conditions. To better understand the impact of these dynamics research was conducted across multiple men's behavioural change programs in Australia. Qualitative data from perpetrators and victims was collected through semi-structured interviews. The research also included observations of group sessions and interviews with program facilitators and women advocates. Findings showed a consistent frequency where perpetrators attributed an incident as the primary reason for the attendance at the program. 'The incident' was constructed as particular exception to their behaviour or an incorrectly interpreted event for which they are unjustly held responsible. Results from victims often illuminate the surrounding context of 'the incident' with a previous pattern of controlling behaviours and threats, underpinned by fear and powerlessness. In this context, system responses obscured nonphysical violence, that had been the antecedent to 'the incident'. Data contrasts these different explanations for referral and the way system responses support perpetrator beliefs and entrenched

behavioural patterns. This highlights how intervention and justice systems have inherent bias towards incident based responding that limits perpetrator responsibility and insight, while undermining victim safety and experience. Findings offer direction for how both justice and intervention systems can better exposed pattern-based occurrences of domestic violence by better illuminating the lived experience of victims, rather than predominance with a particular incident. This requires changes in referral processes for perpetrators and a greater range of intervention options. Justice and policy implications for making these changes are identified. It is recommended that trialling of new intervention programs prefaced on a pattern-based approach to domestic violence are needed.

### **Risky decision making: multi-agency working with victims experiencing high risk domestic abuse**

Author: Ariana Zane

This study explores risk assessment by professionals in a multi-agency setting for victims of domestic abuse, specifically looking at the role of MARACs (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences). MARACs were developed to deal with the top 10% of cases of risk of serious harm or domestic homicide in the UK. Individuals are identified by the use of the Risk Indicator Checklist. Information is shared at the meeting between representatives of the police, health, child protection, specialist domestic abuse services, probation and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors (Safelives, 2020). This study specifically focuses on how risk is conceptualised within the MARAC process in Scotland, and the implications of this for the practice of assessing and managing risk. Research Questions: How is risk understood and enacted in a multi-agency setting responding to domestic abuse?

- How is risk discussed during a MARAC?
- In what ways do constructions of risk preference or exclude some victims from the MARAC
- What is the relationship between how risk is assessed by professionals, and the outcomes that are agreed during a MARAC meeting

Study Design This study used a mixed method design, drawing on discourse analysis to examine how risk in relation to domestic abuse is understood and operationalised in professional contexts. The study employed statistical analysis, interviews and observation of MARAC meetings to establish how risk is conceived and talked about, and how this relates to the plans made by the multi-professional group. Initial findings indicate challenges in conceptualising a shared understanding of risk across agencies. The findings will contribute to theoretical understandings of risk and inform professional practice and help to improve multi-agency working, thereby strengthening safeguards in addressing domestic homicide in Scotland.

## **Focusing on Sexual Abuse and Violence**

Harmful sexual behaviours in intimate relationships

Author: Amy Newman

Institute: Northumbria University

Co-authors: Connor Leslie, Brontë Rapps, Daniel Rogerson

Prevalence rates for sexual assault, rape and other harmful sexual behaviours are difficult to estimate, and often solely focus on straight, cis women. Rape myths perpetuate the belief that most rapes are perpetrated by strangers, despite evidence to the contrary. The current study qualitatively examines what participants define rape to be, as well as quantitatively self-reporting the prevalence of experiencing harmful sexual behaviours from a partner. We recruited 551 individuals (205 cis men, 216 cis women, 36 trans men, 32 trans women, 59 non-binary individuals) across a spectrum of sexual orientations (28% straight, 72% LGBTQ+). Results for gender show a significant difference in the prevalence of experiencing HSBs, with post-hoc suggesting this difference is between cis men and cis women:  $U = 16904.00$ ,  $p < .001$ , with cis women being significantly more at risk. When looking at orientation, again we find a significant difference in the number of HSB experienced, with post-hocs suggesting that bisexual and queer individuals experienced the most HSB in relationships. Twenty-three percent of the sample said they had been raped by a partner, however, reporting of other forms of sexual violence was also high (e.g., 40% of the sample had engaged in sexual behaviour due to fear of their partner's response if they refused). We conclude that there is clearly a disconnect between participant's internal representations of what rape is and how it is defined more broadly in the literature/legal systems, and that LGBTQ+ individuals appear to be most at risk of experiencing partner sexual violence.

### Changing the Tracks: Investigating Sexual Harassment on Public Transport in the North-East of England

Author: Julia Guy

Institute: Durham University

Sexual harassment is a daily occurrence for many women (Vera-Gray, 2018; Gill et al, 2016). However, sexual harassment in public spaces was largely neglected in feminist research until relatively recently (Logan, 2015; Westmarland, 2015). There is still limited research taking place about sexual harassment on public transport in many parts of the world, including Europe, and specifically the UK (Lewis et al, 2020), despite the fact that public transport has been described as a 'breeding-ground' for gender-based harassment (Bastomski and Smith, 2016). The recent high-profile case in the UK of ex-footballer Paul Gascoigne raised local and national debates about the safety of women on public transport (Westmarland, 2019). But to date there has been little empirical research focused on addressing sexual harassment on public transport, with no specific studies based in the North-East of England (a region often neglected in research). This research will address this gap in knowledge and understanding, using an innovative sequential mixed methodology consisting of an online survey and 'Educational Empowerment Workshops' (McGlynn and Westmarland, 2019) to uncover not only the range and extent of public sexual harassment on transport in the North-East. Preliminary findings (TBC) from the survey will be analysed to identify trends in data regarding transport usage, feelings of safety, experiences of unwanted sexual behaviour, bystander intervention, reporting practices and impact on victim-survivors. This study will not only contribute to the limited empirical research that addresses sexual harassment on public transport, but will seek to identify context-specific actions to reduce its perpetration and impact. All with the hope of sharing knowledge and interventions across borders to inform policy and practice.

## Sub-groups of young people with harmful sexual behaviours

Author: Lotte C. Andersen

Institute: Norwegian social research (NOVA) - Oslo Metropolitan University

Adolescents with harmful sexual behavior (HSB) represents a diverse group with differing levels of needs. The diversity applies to the nature of behavior displayed, the age of the young people perpetrating the abuse, their intellectual capacities, motivations, family and educational background and own victimization. Scholars have argued that it is likely to exist several sub-groups within the total population of young people presenting with HSB. So far, attempts that have been made to describe sub-groups of young sexual abusers have typically focused on the age of victims (peers versus younger children). Here, I will attempt to unpack different sub-groups in an alternative manner by focusing mainly on the “driving forces” and contexts behind abuse situations. The empirical background for the study is qualitative interviews conducted with 11 Barnahus staff members from 7 different Barnahus (children’s house) in Norway. In Barnahus in Norway adolescents in police-reported cases of suspected abuse are interrogated by the police and followed up by Barnahus staff members who also observe the investigative interviews. One main finding is that for one (possibly large) sub-group of adolescents (suspected of) having sexually abused other youths, the use of the term HSB do not seem particularly applicable. Rather, they may be seen as adolescents who have displayed poor sexual judgement in (a) concrete situation(s), sometimes driven by (negative) local youth culture. This represent a quite different phenomenon to youths demonstrating sexual behavior problems to resolve feelings of shame or anger about sex, which seem to be the case for other subgroups. Accordingly, contexts and driving forces should play an important role when professionals decide on how to intervene in cases involving peer sexual abuse. One implication of the study is that sexual education and community work may represent some of the most important means to prevent abuse among peers.

## Focusing on the Lived Experience I

Quality in Shelters – Experiences from Female Victims of Domestic Violence

Author: Felicia Forthmeier

Institute: Department of Social Science

Co-authors: Veronica Ekström

Shelters in Sweden have been the subject of marketization and professionalization during the last decade. In most cases, it is the municipal social services who grants a woman placement in shelter and buys shelter services from either the women’s shelter movement or a private for-profit shelter. The social service are ought to ensure the shelters have a good quality standard. However, what good quality in shelter consists of is both relative and contextual. Different actors in a given context tend to represent different interests. Hence, it is difficult to define what quality is and therefore also ensuring and following up on measure of quality. This study investigates what quality in shelters is, according to female victims of domestic violence. The study has a qualitative design using semistructured interviews with 19 women who have experienced staying at a shelter. Several women describe quality in

terms of the shelter's staff members having multifaceted traits. Simplified, quality of the staff is a combination of two different character types; the "professional staff member" who is educated, specialised on violence and can offer support and guidance and the "charitable staff member" who offers warmth, empathy and a more personal version of herself in order to meet the battered woman not only as a battered woman, but as a whole person with her own strengths, capacities and will. Another aspect of quality is the complexity of shelters' rules; locked doors and security systems create a sense of unfairness when, as a victim, having to adjust to and living with daily-life restrictions as such. Diminishing the feeling of imprisonment seems to be an important aspect of improving quality in shelters. The study will provide knowledge about how quality in shelters can improve, knowledge that is important for further development of shelter practices for female victims of domestic violence.

### **Voices from Behind Closed Doors: Participatory Filmmaking Inside a Refuge for Survivors of Domestic Abuse**

Author: Dr Sue Sudbury

Institute: Bournemouth University

Co-authors: Jess Ruddock

This doctoral research was match-funded by Dorset Police in response to successive UK government reports that highlight the need for UK police forces to have a better understanding of coercive control. Using established co-creative practice methodology, this research has explored how the method of participatory filmmaking may help to bridge the gap between police expectations and victim-survivor experiences. The aim was to provide a space for victim-survivors to identify opportunities for positive police action within the complex trajectories of help-seeking in situations of domestic abuse. Through centralising the varied experiences of a cross-section of survivors in their interactions with the police, the project addresses a need for greater situational understanding in police handling of domestic abuse cases. The co-created films are intended to be used in police training and function as a mediating interface between the two communities (victim-survivors and police); an intervention not usually introduced within this relationship, which aims to facilitate a deepened understanding of the nature of coercive control, why victims-survivors make certain decisions, how they experience police interventions and how they construct their identities post-abuse.

### **"Experiences of surviving strangulation in situations of intimate partner violence"**

Author: Emma de Lautour BA (Hons)

Institute: Massey University, New Zealand

Co-authors: Associate Professor Richard Fletcher PhD, Professor Darrin Hodgetts PhD, Robyn Vertongen PGDipCBT, PGDipClinPsych, MA, BA

Non-fatal strangulation is an extreme form of intimate partner violence that often causes serious injury and, sometimes, death. The aim of this research presentation is to outline the wider impacts, psychological complexities and lived experiences of victim survivors of non-fatal strangulation in the context of intimate partner violence. A contextualised, nuanced

understanding of the victim survivors' experiences will be presented, considering how non-fatal strangulation may have impacted or changed their experiences of intimate partner violence, their relationships, and their everyday lives. These research findings aim to give insight into the complex interplay of factors which may impact victim survivors and in turn inform integrated service responses, training and development for services. Victim survivors of non-fatal strangulation in the context of intimate partner violence were recruited through specialist family violence services. A series of targeted interviews were conducted with each participant to gain in depth insights into their experiences. A narrative based approach provided the conceptual framework for the research and analysis framework for systematically exploring participants' experiences and how they story or make sense of violent episodes in the context of their broader relational narratives and situations.

### Perceptions of rape from LGBTQ+ individuals

Author: Connor Leslie

Institute: Northumbria Univeristy

Co-authors: Amy V Newman, Bronte Rapps

**Background:** The vast majority of research investigating rape focuses on straight, cis women. This can make it difficult to understand prevalence and understanding of sexual assault from the LGBTQ+ community. Furthermore, rape myths suggest that these crimes happen by a stranger in a public place, when statistics show otherwise. The current study aims to gain a better grasp of what is perceived to be rape by both straight and LGBTQ+ individuals, and to understand if this aligns with legal definitions of England and Wales. **Methods:** The study recruited 551 individuals (205 cis men, 216 cis women, 36 trans men, 32 trans women, 59 non-binary individuals) across a spectrum of sexual orientations (28% straight, 72% LGBTQ+) and asked to qualitatively define rape in an online study, alongside information regarding if they had personally experienced intimate partner violence. **Findings:** A thematic analysis was conducted on the data where three themes were found; consent (that consent must be given, but given under the right circumstances), penetration (some participants felt penetration must be involved for it to be considered rape, while others did not), and coercion (where consent with coercion is rape). A large proportion of the participants also gave different definitions of rape compared to that defined within the Sexual Offences Act 2003. **Conclusions and implications:** The findings suggest that there may be a disconnect between legal definitions of rape and what participants feel is rape. Further analysis into the differences in definitions between straight and LGBTQ+ individuals will be investigated, as well as the differences between those who have experienced intimate partner violence, and those who have not.

### Centring Victim-Survivors as Active Informers: Using Educational Empowerment Workshops in Violence and Abuse Research

Author: Julia Guy

Institute: Durham University

The use of workshops or group activities in feminist research stems from a grounded theory that is cemented in a participant-centric approach to knowledge (Smithson, 2008). Many



quantitative methodologies have been criticised for not adequately capturing the intricacy of the lived reality of many victim-survivors (Page, 2008; Tripathi et al, 2017). Although 'Education Empowerment Workshops' hold commonalities with focus groups, they are a method in their own distinct right. Education empowerment workshops are underpinned by a reciprocal knowledge exchange, with an egalitarian group dynamic, that seeks to create a space for learning, discussion and development. The ultimate goal being to empower participants to see themselves as active informers, evaluators, and contributors to knowledge (McGlynn and Westmarland, 2019). Thus making them an innovative method in the field of violence and abuse. This paper will provide a practical overview of the recruitment and procedures for conducting and facilitating 5 educational empowerment workshops with victim-survivors, with subsequent intersectional intracategorical thematic analysis (McCall, 2005). This paper will also explore the advantages of adopting this innovative method in social research with 'hard to reach' groups, whilst addressing the complexities and nuances that should be considered when undertaking such a method. All with the hope of distributing knowledge of this new method, as well as sharing best practice for implementation in the discipline and/or sector.

**Authentic Voice : Embedding lived experience in Scotland; power, systems and survivor voice.**

Author: Jen Douglas

Institute: SafeLives

Co-authors: Shumela Ahmed, Samantha Keogh

In Scotland there is huge demand across sectors to engage with people with lived experience in a way that is safe, trauma informed and not tokenistic, with an understanding that lived experience must be at the 'heart and start' of all systems and services. However, policy makers and practitioners within local authorities, and other community planning organisations, recognise that they require support to embed this approach, particularly when working with those who have experienced trauma due to gender-based violence. Authentic Voice: Embedding Lived Experience in Scotland is a partnership project from SafeLives, the Improvement Service, and Resilience Learning Partnership, working together with survivors of gender based violence (GBV) and other forms of complex trauma. The project aims to help local authorities and partners develop safe, meaningful and trauma-informed processes that ensure survivors' voices influence and shape services, systems and pathways of support in local communities across Scotland. This presentation will include our learning and reflection on what is required in order to carry out trauma informed and safe participation work with survivors, and the findings and outputs from engagement processes with people who have experienced domestic abuse, practitioners and strategic leaders. Particular attention will be given to the barriers that exist when embedding lived experience work and the importance of a whole systems approach. We will also reflect on the projects experience of power and hierarchy within participative spaces, drawing on our work with local authorities and senior leaders across Scotland.

## Focusing on the Lived Experience II

"Leaving is just the start of ending the relationship": Understanding women's decision making post-separation from an abusive spouse

Author: Ingrid Wilson

Institute: Singapore Institute of Technology

Co-authors: Valencia Ng (Project StART, Care Corner Singapore), Charissa Quek (Project StART, Care Corner Singapore)

Background: For many women, leaving an abusive relationship is a key transition fraught with complexity. Post-separation abuse and coercive control can continue or escalate. Women are navigating justice and legal systems, while facing parenting issues with an abusive former spouse. Women are also processing healing and recovery, and managing trauma responses of children. In this context, women may make decisions which appear against their best interests or at odds with expectations of support services (e.g., discontinuing action, returning to the abuser, foregoing entitlements). A significant literature exists on women's decision to leave abusive relationships, but little is known about their decision-making processes during the post-separation stage. Research questions: This Constructivist Grounded Theory study conducted in Singapore explores: (a) How do women make decisions post-separation? (b) What are the motivations, influences and contexts/conditions that result in certain decisions? (c) How do women perceive the role of formal supports in their decision-making? Methods: In-depth interviews and focus groups were conducted with 11 diverse women recruited from a specialist family violence service in Singapore. Participants were at various stages post-separation. Findings: This study mapped key factors influencing women's decision-making across various processes including: enforcing protection orders, seeking a divorce and custody, parenting post-separation, employment, housing and financial stability. Additionally, we identified core concepts important to women in the post-separation phase: feeling safe, finding closure, mothering, redefining marriage, reshaping identity and seeing a future. Conclusions and implications: Leaving an abusive relationship is the start of a complex decision-making pathway, often requiring women to make trade-offs to regain control of their lives. The conceptual findings generated by this study offer a detailed psycho-educational tool for family violence practitioners to engage with survivors post-separation. The model will also help the wider eco-system better understand how and why women make certain decisions, and adapt their practice accordingly.

Engaging with ambiguities and tensions in young women's narrations of living with domestic abuse in childhood

Author: Tanya Frances

At present, little research focuses on the experience of transitioning to young adulthood after domestic abuse in childhood. Existing literature mostly focuses on outcomes, clinical characteristics, and factors that contribute to resiliency and/or pathology. There is a need to attend to nuance and lived experience when generating knowledge about how young adults experience this transition. This study asked: How do young adults tell their stories after living with domestic abuse in childhood? Qualitative interviews were conducted with ten young

adult women in England who experienced domestic abuse in childhood. A feminist voice-centred dialogical narrative analysis was used, making use of poetic inquiry in an aim to attend to multi-vocality. Participants' accounts were shaped by gendered and neoliberal discourses that can be both useful and constraining. This paper explores the conflicts, tensions, and ambiguities in young women's accounts of survival and struggle. These conflicts are viewed as important sites of knowledge. Findings demonstrate how these tensions, ambiguities or contradictions in storytelling can risk destabilising the self, compromising the readability and legitimacy of young women's stories of domestic abuse. This paper explores the narrative work that women do in their efforts to reject individualising hegemonic discourses which do not serve them well and it explores the strategies that women used in efforts to avoid being misunderstood. This paper concludes that dominant narrative frameworks surrounding survival and recovery after domestic abuse can be both useful and limiting for young women. Having a story to tell that is readable by others is valuable, but there are also sometimes-irreconcilable challenges of having a coherent and 'rational' story to tell. Further research should attend to the contexts within which people tell their stories, and how power operates in storytelling practices. Practice, including in therapeutic and legal contexts, should account for these contexts too.

**"I thought that the leaving was the hardest bit...but it's the continued financial abuse" : Experiences of post-separation economic abuse in Scotland**

Author: Jenn Glinski

Institute: University of Glasgow

**Background and purpose:** Experiencing economic abuse depletes a survivor's economic resources and can result in financial dependency on the abusive partner. The lack of financial resources has long been identified as one of the main barriers to safely facilitating separation from an abusive partner, however, little is known about if/how survivors increase their financial viability. This study assessed (a) if and how financial viability impacts the decision to leave an abusive partner; (b) the financial advice sought and received as part of safety planning. **Methods:** Semi-structured narrative interviews were held with the survivors of economic abuse (n=30) and focus groups with support workers (n=51) across Scotland. Interviews and focus groups were audio recorded and transcribed verbatim. Audio transcripts were coded deductively to a set of themes relating to the conceptual framework and inductively as new themes emerged throughout the analysis. **Findings:** While the study set out to examine economic abuse's impact on separation, all participants provided detailed accounts of economic abuse experienced post-separation from their ex-partners and institutions, including family courts and child maintenance services. The resulting adaptation (with permission) of the Duluth Power and Control Wheel was coproduced with participants (n=16) to reflect different forms of post-separation economic abuse. **Conclusion:** The adapted Power and Control Wheel is a resource that illustrates the different ways an abusive partner and institutions can use economic abuse post-separation. It can be used by survivors and professionals to help prepare for the financial implications of separating and identify tactics of post-separation economic abuse. This talk will present the wheel and highlight key features that enable abusive ex-partners to exert power and control over a survivor's life after separation.

## Survivors of intimate partner abuse in the Family Court: A qualitative analysis of opinions on the use of special measures

Author: Lois Donnelly

Institute: University of Worcester

After separation from partners, survivors of intimate partner abuse (IPA) often navigate the Family Law system in order to resolve disputes related to divorce and child contact arrangements. IPA survivors can suffer continued post-separation abuse by their former partner during these proceedings, called litigation abuse. Compounding this, the Family Court system has been found to re-traumatise IPA survivors by minimising their experiences, called secondary victimisation. Both litigation abuse and secondary victimisation might be mitigated by the use of special measures (provisions to enable vulnerable and intimidated witnesses to feel safer), but their application in practice varies. The author's wider PhD project focusses on the question of how far the experiences of Family Court and procedures around special measures affect the wellbeing of IPA victims/survivors. The aim is to examine how special measures are applied in practice and what impacts they have. This paper is one part of the project, focussing on victim/survivor perspectives. Eight victim/survivors were interviewed about their experiences at Family Court and a thematic analysis was conducted, combining therapeutic jurisprudence and feminist theories. Themes identified include: fear as multilayered and chronic (abuser, court, children); special measures are nuanced, in that they address some aspects of fear but not others, and may cause a negative impression for judiciary; special measures provide recognition of IPA risk and validation of victim/survivor concerns. The presentation ends with tentative suggestions for policy changes to take better account of victim/survivor fear by improving court procedures and practices.

## Women's Experiences of Online Abuse in Response to Social Media Activism that Challenges Violence Against Women and Girls

Author: Erin Rennie

Institute: Glasgow Caledonian University

My PhD explores women's experiences of online abuse during their involvement in social media activism that raises awareness of, and challenges violence against women and girls. It is already known what characterises online abuse against women (e.g., sexist comments, doxing, revenge pornography and threats), however, there is limited research of women's lived reality of online abuse. Like previous feminist researchers, I conceptualise online abuse as an extension of offline misogyny and a form of violence against women and girls. Online abuse is part of the continuum of violence women experience and it has been posited that online abuse aims to silence women and thus exclude them from online spaces. Within the context of activism, I argue that despite social media being heralded as an unprecedented opportunity for freedom of speech and engagement with activism, online abuse punishes women for speaking out, aims to disrupt activism and attempts to limit women's disclosure of violence. While there has been an increasing body of research on online abuse directed at women and feminist activists specifically, there is a lack of research into how women are impacted and subsequently navigate the online space. My research addressed this gap by exploring women's lived experiences of online abuse in response to their activism. I used a feminist methodology with mixed methods (online survey and semi-structured interviews)

to explore how women understand online abuse, it's online/offline impacts, and their responses. My findings suggest that online abuse has a significant impact on those who experience it, however, women display resilience and resistance. Social media platforms provide ineffective responses to online abuse; therefore, women have to protect themselves and engage in various forms of safety work to navigate the online space and continue their activism.

#### Alcohol and other drug-facilitated sexual violence: A mixed methods study

Author: Dr Jessica Ison

**Background:** Alcohol and other drug-facilitated sexual violence (AODFSV) refers to the perpetration of any act of non-consensual sexual behaviour against an intoxicated victim. It is often referred to as “drink spiking”. Drink spiking regularly garners media attention with harrowing accounts of young women's experiences. These stories regularly use victim-blaming narratives and reinforce rape myths. The sporadic media attention has not translated to significant action on AODFSV beyond gimmicky responses such as putting a cover over your drink in a public venue. Beyond such initiatives, there are limited responses to, nor knowledge of, AODFSV. **Methods:** This is a mixed-methods study that includes an evidence review of the global literature; interviews with victim-survivors and the service sector; concept mapping to assess the top priorities for addressing AODFSV; a World Café forum; an analysis of the Australian news media. **Findings:** Our research highlights that AODFSV is a widespread issue that is predominately misunderstood. We will highlight the key trends in the research and discuss how to shift narratives away from victim blaming. The project involves the creation of resources for a regional Australian community. The presentation will include the preliminary findings on the effectiveness of these resources. **Conclusions and implications:** Locally targeted interventions could reduce and prevent AODFSV.

#### The harms of sexual assault in victims' narratives

Author: Kari Stefansen

Institute: Oslo Metropolitan University

Co-authors: Gerd Marie Solstad

To help victims in the aftermath of sexual assault, the harms of the violation need to be more fully understood. This paper investigates how victims narrate the harms of sexual assault – beyond what Gavey and Schmidt (2011) has called the “increasingly medicalized and psychologized ways of understanding the impact of sexual violence”. From a sociological perspective, we ask: What type of harms to themselves and others do victims articulate? What relationships, arenas and projects are affected by the experience? We draw on data from a qualitative study set in Norway. As part of the project 40 women who had experienced rape or other forms of sexual assault in their youth or early adulthood were interviewed by a team of researchers. Most of the assaults took place in the context of partying or social drinking. For this paper we have analyzed narratives in which the assailant was a man or boy the victim knew and who was part of their social circle – a friend or an acquaintance. Such assaults are more common than the stereotypical violent stranger attack

and have the potential for other types of harms, for instance broken relationships to friends and family who side with the assailant and not the victim. In the interviews, the victims recounted what had happened to them and how it had affected them in the short and long run. We propose that new insight is gained by looking at these narratives of harm using disruption vs. continuation and individual vs. collective as analytical lenses. A key finding is how the harms of rape extend in time and space and across social relationships.

## FOCUSING ON PERPETRATORS II

Who are the perpetrators and how to reach them? – Lessons learned by the Swedish phonenumber for perpetrators of domestic violence, Choose to stop

Author: Christina Ericson

The presentation will summarize what lessons have been learned after four years of working with the phonenumber Choose to stop, a national phonenumber for perpetrators of domestic violence in Sweden. The focus in this presentation will be on the perpetrators that have called the phonenumber, and the knowledge these calls have generated (including on how to use communication to get perpetrators to call). Choose to stop is the first of its kind in Scandinavia and has received over 2 300 calls and approximately half of those calls have come from perpetrators of domestic violence. From 2018 to 2022, the phonenumber has been operated by the County Administrative Board of Stockholm (a regional authority) in collaboration with an NGO called Manscentrum (Men's centre) Stockholm. Manscentrum has been operationally responsible for the phonenumber, while the County Administrative Board has been strategically accountable. The phonenumber was initiated in 2017 by The County Administrative Board of Stockholm (via a preliminary study about the need for this kind of phonenumber in Sweden) and was launched in February 2019 in two counties of Sweden. In 2021 the phonenumber became national and in the end of 2022 the Swedish government decided that the phonenumber should be transferred to a national authority called The National Board of Health and Welfare. This presentation summarizes the first four years of the phonenumber and in 2023 a different organization will be in place to continue the work. Read more: <https://valjattsluta.se/> (In Swedish) or click *Choose to stop* in the menu to read in English.

## HEALTH RESPONSES I

Transforming child and family health systems to improve the identification and care of women and children experiencing domestic violence.

Author: Catina Adams

Institute: La Trobe University

Co-authors: Catina Adams, Felicity Young, Kelsey Hegarty

Background Domestic violence screening of postnatal women has been a policy in Victorian Child and Family Health Services since 2009, yet healthcare providers continue to face barriers to identifying and caring for these clients. Tailored responses and health system

reforms are needed to improve care and enhance women's and children's pathways to safety. The purpose of the TRANSFORM study was to co-design, implement and evaluate a 'trauma and violence informed' model of care in Australian community-based Child and Family Health Services. Methods Using a deliberative dialogue approach, two focus groups, one with rural and one with metropolitan child health nurses were conducted in late 2021. Five community nurse teams agreed to explore how health systems could be transformed to better identify and respond to victim-survivors. Findings Over six months, nurse teams identified many areas of potential health system improvement and prioritised one per location. The two rural teams focused on continuity of service between local maternity services, whereas the three metropolitan teams wished to implement an additional maternal health and wellbeing visit at 3 or 6 months postpartum. Implementation of these co-designed models commenced in July 2022 for six months, with a mixed-method evaluation to occur in early 2023. Conclusions and implications Key transformation elements need to operate at all levels of a healthcare setting in order to work, including management and leadership, staff support, referral pathways, policies, and community linkages. Desired elements and implementation findings from the TRANSFORM project will be shared.

**Intimate partner violence and mental health of parents and children: Learning from the UK service response.**

Author: Claire Powell

Institute: University College London

Co-authors: Sigrún Clark, Lauren Herlitz, Emma Howarth, Ruth Gilbert, Gene Feder

**Background and purpose of study:** This study aimed to examine how the intersection of intimate partner violence (IPV) exposure, parent/carer mental health and child mental health informs practice with children and families in UK primary care, child mental health, and specialist domestic abuse services. We aimed to: 1) understand how services recognise and address co-occurring child and parental mental health, and IPV in families; 2) explore how services co-ordinate support in their local area for families experiencing mental health difficulties and IPV. **Methods:** We used a qualitative multi-site case study design to explore service structure and professional perceptions of barriers to co-ordinated working in three local authority sites in England. Using a key informant approach we interviewed professionals from primary care, child mental health and specialist domestic abuse services to understand how services address IPV and mental health difficulties in the families in their area. **Findings:** Barriers to multi-agency and cross-sector working include: 1) the communication gap between child mental health and domestic abuse services; 2) the lack of support for families who do not meet child mental health or children's social care service thresholds; 3) exclusion from support for children still living with or in contact with the perpetrator where they are deemed to be 'unsafe'. **Conclusions and implications:** Families with mental health needs with co-occurring intimate partner violence face gaps in provision for their mental health. Within child mental health services we need improved responses to current or past IPV, including identification and tailoring of support. Accessible support from child and adolescent mental health services is needed for children who are identified in primary care or specialist domestic abuse services but who fall below specialist mental health or social care support thresholds.

## Exploring the causal role of intimate partner violence and abuse on depression in young adults: a population-based cohort study

Author: Christine Barter

Institute: University of Central Lancashire

Co-authors: Annie Herbert, Maria Barnes, Gene Feder, Eszter Szilassy, Laura D. Howe<sup>1</sup>

Exploring the causal role of intimate partner violence and abuse on depression in young adults: a population-based cohort study  
Background: Previous studies have shown an association between experience of intimate partner violence and abuse (IPVA) and depression. Whether this is a causal relationship or explained by prior vulnerability that influences the risk of both IPVA and depression was unknown. Methods: We analysed data from the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children prospective cohort (N= 1764 women, 1028 men). We assessed the causal association between IPVA at 18–21 years old and depressive symptom scores at age 23, using three different methods: (i) multivariable linear regression, (ii) inverse probability of treatment weighting (IPTW), and (iii) difference-in-difference (DiD) analysis. We also interviewed 20 young people, aged 19 to 25 years, who had experienced domestic abuse in their family of origin and/or intimate partner violence and abuse. Results: Women who experienced IPVA had on average 26% higher depressive symptom scores after adjustment for measured confounders (26%, 95% CI 13% to 40%), but not men (5%; -8% to 21%). Results from IPTW analysis were similar. In DiD analysis (accounting for both measured and unmeasured confounders), there was no evidence that IPVA affected depressive symptom scores compared to the non-exposed group for either women (difference-in-differences 1%, -12 to 16%) or men (-1%, -19 to 20%). All participants in the interviews had experienced mental health difficulties from a young age and prior to their abusive intimate relationship. Conclusions: On balance, the findings suggest the causal origins of higher depressive symptoms in this population are likely to reflect prior vulnerability, leading to increased risks of both depression and IPVA exposure. This vulnerability could be targeted for primary prevention. Regardless of causal origins, young IPVA survivors are a high-risk group for depressive symptoms and require appropriate trauma-informed support.

## Lifetime domestic abuse exposure in a national cohort of people seeking health and forensic care for sexual violence

Author: Dr Grace Carter

Institute: Coventry University

Co-authors: Dr Lorna O'Doherty, Dr Eleanor Lutman-White, Funmi Ladeinde, Kathleen Hill

Background and purpose: Sexual and domestic abuse have serious implications for public health, contributing substantially to the global burden of trauma. Around half of sexual violence occurs in the relationship context. The MESARCH project identifies the burden of domestic violence in the lives of survivors of rape, sexual assault and abuse who accessed care at Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) in England and explores the impact on recovery. We also present a campaign to tackle domestic abuse arising out of our work. Methods: Survivors of sexual assault, rape and abuse (n=335) aged 18+ who accessed 21



SARCs between 2019 and 2021 participated in a cohort study. Our sample comprised 302 women, 28 men, 5 non-binary individuals; 15% was culturally or ethnically diverse. Participants had a baseline interview and were followed-up 6 and 12 months later. Data include offence characteristics, adverse childhood experiences, lifetime exposure to domestic abuse and health outcomes including PTSD and depression. Findings: Fifty percent of participants witnessed severe forms of domestic violence in the household growing up. As adults, 75% had experienced domestic violence directly with 50% experiencing physical abuse from a partner or ex-partner. One third experienced domestic violence in the year before they entered the study. Further multivariate analyses explore how health and wellbeing changed at the 6 and 12 month follow up time points and how moderating effects of lifetime domestic violence and abuse impacted a person's long-term recovery from rape/assault. Conclusions and implications: SARC service users' needs are broad and often complex. This study generates much-needed evidence on the overlap of abuse types, to inform service-providers and policy-makers. Our findings also underscore the need to raise awareness about intersecting forms of trauma including domestic and sexual violence. Our #whatareyoudoing campaign arising out of MESARCH targets aspects of sexual violence in young people's relationships

**Title:** The mental health of survivors of violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic: Findings from the People Experiencing Marginalization and the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic Response on Violence Against Women Services study

**Author:** Bridget Steele

**Institute:** University of Oxford

**Co-authors:** Alexa Yakubovich, Priya Shastri

**Background:** Violence against women has demonstrated detrimental impacts on the mental health of survivors. The COVID-19 pandemic and its attendant restrictions have placed further strain on survivor mental health. We conducted the first formal qualitative analysis of its kind on the mental health of VAW survivors during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Methods:** We applied narrative analysis to qualitative data from 10 VAW survivor participants of a community-based study on VAW programming during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Greater Toronto Area. **Findings:** We identified four narratives pertaining to survivor mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic: (a) Mental health challenges prior to the pandemic, (b) The pandemic as the root cause of poor mental health, (c) Interaction with mental health services before versus during the pandemic, and (d) The future of survivor mental health (e.g., survivor identified recommendations for improving access and quality of care). **Conclusions:** We explored the mental health experiences of VAW survivors during the COVID-19 pandemic. We identified and categorised the ways in which survivors described their own mental health using a narrative analysis to contextualise the complexity and nuance of survivors' life histories. This approach is essential for informing effective and holistic policy and programming to VAW prevention and response.

## HEALTH RESPONSES II

**Associations Between Women's Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence and Self-reported Health Outcomes in New Zealand.**

Author: Janet Fanslow

Institute: University of Auckland

Co-authors: Brooklyn Mellar, Pauline Gulliver, Tracey McIntosh, Vanessa Selak

**Background:** Intimate partner violence (IPV) is increasingly recognized as a contributing factor for long-term health problems; however, few studies have assessed these health impacts using comprehensive IPV measures, or representative population-based samples. This study examined associations between women's lifetime IPV exposure and self-reported health outcomes. **Method:** A cross-sectional study recruited a population-based, representative sample of 1,413 ever-partnered women in New Zealand (63.7% of eligible women contacted). The study assessed women's IPV exposures: lifetime IPV, by types (physical, sexual, psychological, controlling behaviors, economic abuse), and number of IPV types women were exposed to. Logistic regression was used to determine if IPV exposure was associated with health consequences, such as: poor general health, recent pain or discomfort, recent pain medication usage, frequent pain medication usage, recent healthcare consultation, any diagnosed physical health condition (e.g., heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, asthma, arthritis), and any diagnosed mental health condition (depression, anxiety, substance abuse disorder). **Findings:** Exposure to any IPV and specific IPV types was significantly associated with increased likelihood of reporting adverse health outcomes. Compared to those unexposed to IPV, women who experienced any IPV were more likely to report poor general health (Adjusted odds ratio [AOR] 2.02 [1.46-2.78]), recent pain or discomfort (AOR 1.81 [1.34-2.46]), recently consulting healthcare (AOR 1.29 [1.01-1.65]), having a diagnosed physical health condition (AOR 1.49 [1.13-1.96]) and mental health condition (AOR 2.78 [2.05-3.77]). Findings suggested a cumulative or dose-response association, as women who experienced multiple IPV types were more likely to report poorer health outcomes. **Conclusions and implications:** IPV exposure was prevalent and associated with increased likelihood of experiencing adverse health, including chronic diseases and mental health problems. Healthcare systems and practitioners need to be mobilized to address IPV as a priority health issue. Effective IPV prevention could reduce the national health burden.

**Differentiating intimate partner violence by perpetrator relationship type. Types of crimes committed and consequences for victims' health and wellbeing by different types of intimate partner perpetrators**

Author: Niels Blom

Institute: City, University of London

Co-authors: Polina Obolenskaya, Jessica Phoenix, Merili Pullerits

Intimate partners include a range of relationship types, from current to former partners and from more institutionalised relationships (e.g. marriage) to less institutionalised relationships (e.g. dating). However, research generally overlooks this diversity and tends to focus on intimate partners as a combined relationship category or focuses exclusively on

a particular type of relationship (e.g. dating). Here, we investigate whether different types of intimate partners commit different types of crimes and whether victims' health and well-being consequences differ by intimate partner perpetrator type. Using the nationally representative Crime Survey of England and Wales (2001-2020), intimate partner relationships are differentiated into four groups by whether the victim described them as current versus former partner and by spouses/cohabitees versus boy/girlfriends. Crimes are grouped into physical, sexual, and economic crimes, and threats. We estimate the models for health and well-being consequences separately by gender using ordinal and multinomial logistic regressions and control for demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of victims. Results show that for both men and women, crimes committed by current partners are more likely to be physical crimes (e.g. assaults), while former partners commit relatively more threats and economic crimes. Furthermore, female victims of physical, threat or economic crimes, had more severe well-being consequences when the perpetrator was their current or former spouse/cohabitee compared to if they were a current or former boy/girlfriend. Women's physical health consequences of physical crimes were more severe when committed by current compared to former partners. Fewer differences by relationship type in the well-being and health consequences were found among men. Overall, type of intimate partner relationship is associated with the type of crimes and with well-being and health consequences for women. Future research and policy should therefore distinguish intimate partner relationship types to implement better and more targeted policies to implement better and more targeted policies.

Findings from the Australian Child-Parent Psychotherapy project: reconnecting mothers and children exposed to domestic violence (RECOVER).

Author: Leesa Hooker

Institute: La Trobe University

Co-authors: Emma Toone

Introduction Domestic violence (DV) is prevalent in Australia with one in six women reporting past experiences of partner violence, many of whom have young children in their care. Despite the significant harm caused by domestic violence, few relational interventions exist to support recovery. In the USA, Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) has been trialled and is effective in restoring maternal and child health and well-being. The RECOVER feasibility study aimed to evaluate CPP in the Australian context. Methods Using mixed methods, we tested the feasibility of implementing CPP in Australia, assessed therapist fidelity to the model and assessed the efficacy of treatment on a sample of families recruited in 2018-2020. Along with process evaluation interviews, therapists completed fidelity logbooks and documented treatment dose, and we conducted maternal surveys and recordings of free play between mothers and children before (T1), during (T2) and after treatment (T3). Results Eighteen dyads consented and received CPP treatment. The median number of treatment sessions was 23 (range 5-50). CPP was assessed as feasible and acceptable by all participants, with implementation barriers previously reported. Greater fidelity was identified by larger clinics and urban-based therapists. Post-treatment, no statistically significant treatment effects were seen across most outcomes, including maternal mental health, reflective functioning, children's trauma symptoms and dyad attachment, however trends in positive directions were noted. Significant improvements

were seen for parental warmth ( $p < 0.028$ ) and child emotions and behaviours ( $p < 0.005$ ). Interestingly, maternal reported partner violence fell significantly from baseline (T1) to post-treatment (T3) ( $p < 0.005$ ). Conclusion CPP can be implemented in Australian settings in locations with established domestic violence systems, partnerships and clinical governance structures. A larger sample size is needed to assess the true effectiveness of the relational CPP model.

### Post-Traumatic Growth Following Intimate Partner Violence: Main Facilitators and Hindrances to such growth among female survivors

Author: Hulda S. Bryngeirsdottir

Institute: University of Akureyri

Co-authors: Sigridur Halldorsdottir

Gender based violence (GBV) is a widespread, serious, public health issue around the world. The most common form of GBV is intimate partner violence (IPV). Suffering IPV is likely to negatively affect the victim in a diverse and a destructive way. Post-traumatic growth (PTG) is a positive psychological change in a person following a traumatic experience. Although research on the fields of IPV and PTG is increasing, research on PTG in connection with IPV is scarce. Aim: To define, understand and explain the main facilitators and hindrances, met by female survivors of IPV on their journey to PTG. Methods: In this phenomenological study, twenty-two women aged 23-56 were interviewed. All participants had survived IPV. The women self-reported their PTG following their experience of IPV, according to the working definition of PTG used in this study. Findings: Three main facilitators to the women's PTG following their survival of IPV were found: 1) Internal factors; 2) Attitude and reaction; and 3) Environmental Factors. Each of the main facilitators contained three to four subcomponents. Fourteen main hindrances to the participants' PTG were identified. Though most of the hindrances were intrapersonal, manifested in the women's negative feelings and attitudes towards themselves, the hindrances to their PTG were in a broad range. Conclusions: When aiming for PTG after surviving IPV, being aware of the main facilitators and hindrances to such growth can be a valuable, promoting part in increasing the women's wellbeing and enhancing their PTG. This information is not only valuable for female survivors of IPV, but also for people and professionals supporting and guiding the women on their PTG journey. Since research in the field of PTG of female survivors of IPV is scarce, further research is needed.

### “That this picture [of an evil world] does not overshadow your worldview”: Self-care and care when working with victims and survivors of domestic violence: a qualitative study with midwives and psycho-social professionals

Author: Heidi Siller

Institute: University of Klagenfurt

Co-authors: Sabine Seebacher, Martina König-Bachmann

Working with victims and survivors of domestic violence (DV) may impact violence support workers' personal and professional lives. Such impact includes vicarious traumatisation, exhaustion and stress, which are encountered with, for example, training, organisational

support and self-care. Various professions are involved in victim and survivor care, such as health and psycho-social professionals. Recently, there has been an increasing interest in the self-care and well-being of violence support workers. Therefore this qualitative study focused on how health and psycho-social professionals care for victims and survivors of DV. We used purposive sampling by inviting midwives and professionals with a focus on violence prevention or victim and survivor care to participate in the study. In total 22 interviews (21 women; 1 man) were conducted with midwives, professionals working in violence prevention or psycho-social support, psychotherapists, and psychologists. In interviews we explored how questions about domestic violence were managed and the strategies for promoting resilience and self-care. Data were analysed with (reflexive) thematic analysis. One of the four themes developed through analysis focused on violence overshadowing work and life and ways to manage such impact. It included the dominant power of violence, self-care and embracing self-compassion and personal histories with violence as well as personal perspectives on violence. Self-care and victim care of DV were placed on the same continuum of care and related to each other. Reflecting personal needs and experiences were essential as were awareness of boundaries. Personal experiences, self-care, resilience and care for others are not mutually exclusive, but relate to each other. Besides organisational support and training, well-being and self-care needs to be understood with its multiple individual trajectories and in interaction with work. Implications for research refer to studying the individual meaning of work and self-care in various professions involved in working with victims and survivors of DV.

The experience of domestic violence polyvictimisation for Australian nurses, and associated health and social impacts.

Author: Elizabeth McLindon

Institute: The University of Melbourne

Co-authors: Kristin Diemer, Anneliese Spiteri-Staines, Kelsey Hegarty

Background: Domestic violence (DV) is common and different types of abuse can occur across the lifespan. Previous research has suggested that nurses, midwives and carers - frequent first responders to patients who have experienced DV - may experience higher rates of DV in their personal lives compared to the community. However, little is known about the experience of cumulative abuse in the lives of nurses or the health and social impacts for this group of survivors. The aim of this study was to understand the cumulative experience of DV in the lives of a large sample of women nurses, and to understand health and social associations. Methods: An online cross-sectional study of 5,636 Australian women nurses, midwives and carers who had experienced one or more forms of DV across the life course (response rate of 38.4%). Findings: This study found that approximately half of DV nurse survivors had experienced a single category of abuse, while the other half had lived experience of polyvictimisation. More than one in ten survivor nurses had experienced three categories of abuse - child abuse, non-partner sexual assault and intimate partner violence. The analysis of polyvictimisation indicated a life course effect of abuse, and that the experience of child abuse may influence future abuse experiences. On every health and social measure, survivor nurses reported worse health and at least twice the number of health professional visits compared to their non-victimised colleagues. In general, the proportion of survivors reporting health issues increased as the categories of abuse they had

experienced compounded. Conclusions: This research has implications for DV survivors, health professional practitioners, healthcare workplaces, unions, educators and researchers. Being able to better support survivor nurses in their lives and at work has implications for their healing and recovery trajectory and their work as first responders.

## HEALTH RESPONSES III

**Family Violence is a Health issue: an Australian health services' approach to identifying and responding to family violence**

Author: Renata Kiss

Institute: Canberra Health Services, Australia

Co-authors: Anna McLeod

Health professionals play a vital role in identifying and responding to victim survivors of family violence. Through sustained, cyclical cultural and systems-level change processes, Canberra Health Services (CHS) has created a safer environment where anyone, at any time, can seek support to lessen the impact of family violence. Based upon the World Health Organisation guidelines, CHS implements the evidence-based Strengthening Health Responses to Family Violence (SHRFV) program, which embodies a whole of organisation cultural change process highlighting family violence as a health issue. Responding to the evidence that training alone is insufficient in producing holistic healthcare responses to family violence (Hegarty et al, 2020), CHS has created and sustained systems-level change. Underpinning this change is executive endorsement, embedded policy and documentation tools, and an established workplace support program (supporting staff experiencing family violence). CHS has built capacity and strengthened the capability of the workforce using the Sensitive Practice model as an alternate to 'screening'. As a trauma-informed, inclusive framework, Sensitive Practice is designed to facilitate feelings of safety, choice, and control for victim survivors, providing the foundation for health professionals to identify and respond to family violence across the lifespan. Its effectiveness evidenced by almost of a third of family violence disclosures documented in the Emergency Department were received during non-family violence related presentations. SHRFV supports staff to embed their learning into practice through opportunistic support, 'family violence consults' (mirroring well-established healthcare processes) and reflective practice 'on-the-run'. Unique, intentional, health specific elements incorporated into the implementation of SHRFV have proven effective in driving cultural change and responding to family violence as a health issue. CHS is in a strengthened position to support individuals, provide a systems response, and will demonstrate the adaptability and transferability of the SHRFV program across global health settings to identify and respond to family violence.

**Consequences of a history of violence on women's pregnancy and childbirth in the Nordic countries and the interventions used to reduce and/or prevent such consequences: A Scoping Review**

Author: Hafrún Rafnar Finnbogadóttir

Institute: Linneaus University

Co-authors: Henriksen Lena, Hegaard Hanne K, Halldórsdóttir Sigríður, Paavilainen Eija, Lukasse Mirjam AND Broberg Lotte

**Background and purpose of the study:** Violence against women, is a significant global public health concern. The childbearing period is no exception for domestic violence. Violence during pregnancy is associated with adverse outcomes and consequences for both mother and child. The Nordic countries are estimated to be some of the most equal countries in the world, regarding gender equality. Nevertheless, between 2.5 - 5.1 % pregnant women are exposed to domestic violence. To reduce the risk for gender-based violence in the Nordic population, knowledge about risk factors, consequences and possible preventive intervention strategies is crucial. The aim of this scoping review was to explore, in the Nordic countries, consequences of a history of violence on women's pregnancy and childbirth and the interventions used to reduce and/or prevent such consequences. Specific research questions were (1) How did pregnant experience/perceive and described the impact of violence on the pregnancy and childbirth? (2) What is the association between history of violence and on obstetric outcomes? (3) What is the association between history of violence and psychological outcomes? **Methods:** The study is a scoping review guided by Arksey and O'Malley's methodological framework as well as the Joanna Briggs Institute guidelines. Eight databases (MEDLINE, CINAHL, PubMed, PsycINFO, Web of Science (WoS), ASSIA, Social services abstracts, and Sociological abstracts) were searched in March 2022. The literature search consisted by following: (1) Geographical area that encircles the Nordic region/associated areas (2) Pregnancy/perinatal period and (3) Domestic violence/partner. No limitation for period was performed for the search. **Findings:** The initial screening of records identified was (n = 1104) and after duplicates removed (n = 452). Finally, 59 studies were sought for full text reading plus grey literature searched from each country (still unknown number). The review is in progress. **Conclusions and implications:** The report finished before September 2023.

**"My only option was to leave my job": a survey to investigate the experience and impact of domestic abuse on healthcare professionals (the PRESSURE study)**

Author: Sandi Dheensa

Institute: University of Bristol

Co-authors: June Keeling, Alison Gregory

**BACKGROUND:** Our recent meta-analysis calculated the lifetime prevalence of domestic violence and abuse (DVA) towards female healthcare professionals (HCPs) as 42%, which exceeds the global average. In the PRESSURE study, we investigated the experience and impact of DVA specifically for UK National Health Service (NHS) HCPs. **METHODS:** A cross-sectional survey was open for 10 weeks (Oct-Dec 2022) and promoted online. We adopted convenience sampling. Data were analysed descriptively. **FINDINGS:** Over 200 professionals (192 HCP-survivors, 20 staff who support survivors) responded. Among HCP-survivors, all abuse subtypes—physical, sexual, psychological, economic—were common. Ninety-one percent of abusers were male (ex)partners. For 16%, the abuser was also a HCP: a third used their position to further the abuse. Seventy-seven percent said abusers directly interfered with their work (e.g., prevented sleep before or harassed them during work; made accusations of infidelity with patients/colleagues) and 75% said their work and career were

affected (e.g., not pursuing promotions). Almost all reported physical and mental health consequences. Due to DVA, on average per year, HCP-survivors took 13 sick days and arrived late and left early 10 and 6 days, respectively. Fewer than 50% knew what formal support structures were available through work, and only 20% reported the presence of a staff DVA policy. Less than half disclosed at work; concerns that others would question their fitness to practice were common. Twenty-five percent said aspects of work, particularly long hours, stopped them from seeking specialist DVA support. Many felt they had no option but to leave their jobs. Of those who recently encountered survivor-patients, 75% said their own experiences shaped their responses—sometimes negatively, but often increasing identifications of abuse. CONCLUSION: HCPs face unique issues and need support from specialists who understand DVA AND healthcare roles. To this end, we now aim to influence NHS policy and practice via stakeholder engagement.

‘How did it happen to me?’: A qualitative study exploring the narratives of healthcare staff who have experienced domestic violence and abuse (the PRESSURE study)

Author: Alison Gregory

Institute: University of Bristol

Co-authors: June Keeling, Sandi Dheensa

BACKGROUND: Our recent meta-analysis indicated that a higher proportion of healthcare professionals (HCPs) experience domestic violence and abuse (DVA), than people in the general population. The reasons for this are unclear, but some researchers have suggested that people who have experienced abuse may be drawn to altruistic professions, and that experiences of workplace abuse, which are common among HCPs, may lead people to normalise abuse behaviours. HCP-survivors may also face unique barriers to help-seeking. Given the dearth of research with HCP-survivors, the PRESSURE study is exploratory, seeking to generate an understanding of the experiences and needs of HCPs who are survivors. METHODS: Twenty DVA survivors working in healthcare professions across England were recruited and interviewed in-depth following completion of a related survey for the PRESSURE study. The data from these interviews were amalgamated with qualitative data provided by participants in the survey free-text boxes. Interviews were conducted online, or in-person, and a topic guide provided structure. Audio-recordings from the interviews were transcribed and a thematic analysis is being conducted. FINDINGS: Analysis is ongoing. Preliminary findings indicate that healthcare staff who have experienced DVA: (i) describe wide-ranging forms of abuse - particularly notable in people’s narratives are reports of sexual and economic control; (ii) experience cognitive dissonance between the behaviours they view as abuse in their patients’ lives, and the behaviours in their own relationships; (iii) harshly self-berate, questioning and criticising many aspects of themselves and the decisions they have made; (iv) face additional challenges and barriers to help-seeking, particularly struggling to find positive workplace-based support. IMPLICATIONS: The findings from this pioneering study will help to illuminate the experiences of, and shape new and/or tailored interventions to improve support for, HCP-survivors.



**“Sometimes I feel like all I do is just hear and witness terrible trauma”: Exploring the psychosocial wellbeing of domestic abuse service providers**

Author: Michele Burman

Institute: University of Glasgow

Co-authors: Joana Ferreira, University of Cambridge, Jenn Glinski, University of Glasgow, Loraine Gelsthorpe, University of Cambridge

In this paper we present findings from research on the impact on frontline workers and team leaders of the delivery of therapeutic, advocacy and practical services to women subjected to domestic abuse. This forms part of a wider study investigating the cumulative effects of intensified service user needs, arduous work conditions, and job security concerns on the psychosocial well-being and welfare of women who work closely with marginalised and/or socially excluded women and girls. We draw on findings from an online survey and semi-structured qualitative interviews conducted at two different points in time with frontline workers and managers in support organisations across the UK. The first phase of interviews were undertaken just as the UK was emerging from Covid-19; the second took place 10-12 months later. High staff workloads and the physical and emotional toll caused by the demanding nature of the work often translates into emotional and physical impacts (e.g., stress, sleeping issues, relationship difficulties). Covid-19 elevated the challenges faced by women working in this sector who rapidly adapted their services to respond to stressed and traumatised clients, often neglecting their own health and wellbeing to provide support to their service users. The financial precarity of organisations, their staff, and the women they serve is currently being exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis which disproportionately impacts women’s lives. The findings point clearly to the importance of organisations developing a more heightened awareness and recognition of the possible adverse consequences for staff working in this sector, including the potential for vicarious traumatisation. We discuss examples of ‘best practice’ in leadership and management structures for the identification and mitigation of the traumagenic effects of this work which, we argue, should be considered as part of the duty of care that organisations have to ensure the safety and well-being of their staff

**Prevention of gender-based violence during pregnancy and early childhood: enhancing caring masculinities in perinatal services**

Author: Elena Lloberas

Institute: Faculty of Psychology, Educational and Sports Sciences. Blanquerna, Ramon Llull University /European Network For The Work With Perpetrators

Co-authors: Elena Lloberas, Alessandra Pauncz

Pregnant women or women with young kids are at a greater risk of suffering gender-based violence (GBV) (Helmuth et al., 2013; James et al., 2013). Prevention of violence in this sensitive period is of vital importance. Helping fathers in adapting to this new role and developing a caring masculinity can help to prevent situations of GBV. In this context, perinatal services are in a crucial position to intervene. Despite this, perinatal services face an important challenge when trying to involve fathers in their services. Research has pointed out that offering a specific service for them might be a good strategy to follow (Scambor et al., 2020). The project FATHERS’ ROCK has trained perinatal professionals from Spain, Italy,

and Austria on developing skills to enhance the inclusion and participation of fathers in those services by creating groups of fathers. The results of the groups of fathers and their impact on the development of caring masculinities will be reviewed in the presentation. Finally, implications for research and practice will be discussed.

## Health responses IV

### Interpersonal Violence Victimization among Post-menopausal Women: Assessing Health, Safety, and Service Needs

Author: Bethany L. Backes

Institute: University of Central Florida

Co-authors: Leila Wood, Elizabeth Baumler, Christopher Maxwell

Women 50 and older are at risk for intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual violence, including increased risk for economic abuse and homicide, but little is known about this population's health, safety, and service needs and experiences. We surveyed 271 female IPV and sexual assault survivors 50 and older in the United States and conducted follow-up interviews with 21 participants. Participants were, on average, 59 years old, White, and had some college education. Over 36% of survey participants had experienced IPV in the past 12 months, and 17% had experienced sexual violence in the last 12 months. Threats from intimate partners and family members, along with economic concerns such as housing, debt, and employment, diminished safety for IPV survivors. Along with physical health concerns, mental health was a critical issue for survivor participants, as 38% met criteria for probable depression and 31% met criteria for probable PTSD. While this population has significant victimization experiences and health and safety needs, only 30% reached out to law enforcement and just 10% accessed victim services. Legal aid and counseling were endorsed as top needs; however, participants were more likely to rely on informal supports and private mental health care. Those who did not use victim services reported not needing them, not knowing they exist, or feeling too embarrassed to seek help. Of those who used victim services, most indicated positive experiences, but reported a lack of developmentally appropriate services to meet the health, economic, and legal needs of older women. Recommendations for victim services agencies arose from interviews to include addressing the built environment, increasing collaborations, enhancing technology literacy and access, and focusing on the intersection of domestic violence, sexual violence, and elder abuse/maltreatment. Findings underscore the complex health, safety, and service needs of post-menopausal women and the need for developmentally appropriate services.

### Public-private co-operation aimed at supporting the identification and early intervention aimed at vulnerable non-western pregnant women in the context of the midwife clinic

Author: Anne Katrine Lundsryd Heide-Jørgensen

Institute: The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration

Co-authors: Helene Oldrup, Michelle Kolls

There is an increasing interest in identifying domestic violence amongst pregnant women in Denmark as a way of reducing this violence for the mother and early on in a child's life. At Amager and Hvidovre Hospital in greater Copenhagen, all pregnant women are screened with regard to domestic violence. When detecting violence, these women are subsequently offered support in the family clinic. During the first year of practice, one of the findings has been that it can be difficult to identify non-western women suffering from domestic violence and honour-based abuse as well as there are challenges in supporting these women subsequently, largely due to staff experiencing barriers at individual, organizational and structural levels. To address these difficulties, a co-operation was developed between the Family Clinic and SIRI – The Agency for International Recruitment and Integration. The aim of this co-operation is to: 1) Improve the identification subsequent support of this group of women. This is done by: a) improving staff knowledge and practice by giving them knowledge and tools to work with this group of women, including knowledge on women and families suffering from honour-based abuse and b) offering management personnel advice on the organizational framework. 2) Improve knowledge about a) this group of women and b) how best to support them in the context of an antenatal care unit. A qualitative study exploring the barriers and solutions that staff experience when working with this group of women is carried out, including interviews with management, midwives and social workers. This generates important knowledge, which can inform future practice for preventing domestic violence and honourbased abuse. The paper presents the model of public-private cooperation, including both a model for knowledge transfer and organizational advice as well as the first results from the qualitative study focusing on dilemmas and learning points.

**A European project enhancing medical and healthcare practitioners' responses to an older person experiencing domestic abuse (REVAMP)**

Author: June Keeling

Institute: Keele University

Co-authors: Delyth Wyndham, Vaiva Hendrixson, Freydís Jóna Freysteinsdóttir, Linda Rykkje, Eirin Gudevold

Older people may be at increased risk of domestic abuse by nature of age, vulnerability and mental capacity. The purpose of this practice initiative was to support medical and healthcare practitioners to recognise and respond to older people who are experiencing, or at risk, of domestic abuse. Recognition and Education in Violence, Abuse and Neglect for Medical and Healthcare Practitioners (REVAMP) is a trans-European project built on an innovative training programme specifically developed to meet the needs of practitioners. It brought together clinicians, researchers and educators from interdisciplinary and multi-professional backgrounds from the UK, Iceland, Norway, Lithuania, Greece, Germany and France. Respecting the differences across diverse contexts, the development of the educational online modules prioritised engaging practitioners to develop their knowledge and understanding in relation to older people and abuse. REVAMP used a series of interactive training videos and case studies to explore the nuances of an older person's lived experience whilst addressing inclusivity and representation across different relationships. The practice initiative was built on the core principle of encouraging practitioners to reflect on their current practice. From a European perspective, combining this training posed

several challenges, the most significant being differences in the meaning of language, policies supporting older people, legally recognised gender identities, contextual approaches to domestic abuse across the life span, differences in educational and healthcare systems across Europe and disagreements between team members on pedagogical theories and definition of concepts. This unusual European perspective supports a shared learning approach towards the professional education of practitioners', supporting them to recognise and respond to an older person experiencing domestic abuse.

## JUSTICE RESPONSES

Northern Irish Courts' response to applications for protective Orders by victims of domestic abuse during and post COVID– a legal practitioner's perspective.

Author: Claire Edgar

Institute: Francis Hanna & Co Solicitors

Co-authors: Grainne Murphy

Title Northern Irish Courts' response to applications for protective Orders by victims of domestic abuse during and post COVID– a legal practitioner's perspective. Introduction COVID public health guidelines to "stay at home" meant an increase in reports of domestic abuse throughout NI. However, statistics show a significant reduction in emergency protective orders being granted. Methods We consider: a. The legislation- Family Homes and Domestic Violence (NI) Order; b. Court Service and police statistics; c. High Court case law; d. Court practice. Results We have found that there are both protections and failings within the justice system for domestic abuse victims: • Legislation: -Provides the victim with required protection. • Funding: -Legal aid is available for victims regardless of their income/capital. • Practice: - Increase in domestic abuse crimes reported. -Decrease in Orders granted by the Court. -Possible "postcode lottery" where victims may not receive protection depending on location. Conclusions The numbers of victims getting Court protection during and post COVID has fallen dramatically. Changes to the application of the law by the Courts are concerning. NI justice system should provide protection to victims. The increasing refusal by the Courts to grant emergency Orders means that victims are not being protected and also that perpetrators are not accountable for their actions. Research evidences that victims are most at risk when separating from abusers. This is when emergency orders are required. The refusal of Orders can compound victims view that they will not be believed or are to blame for the abuse. The cumulative effect is that victims may feel disempowered and are less likely to permanently separate from abusers and the cycle of abuse continues. Public faith in NI's justice system may be damaged by the increasing refusal to make Orders required by the victims whom the legislation is intended to protect.

Increased knowledge regarding women and children subjected to violence who live with protected personal data

Author: Sophie Nilsson

Institute: Swedish Gender Equality Agency

Co-authors: Matilda Eriksson, Catarina Gustafsson, Lena Landén Jonas

**INCREASED KNOWLEDGE REGARDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN SUBJECTED TO VIOLENCE WHO LIVE WITH PROTECTED PERSONAL DATA** Living with protected personal data makes the lives of women and children subjected to violence complicated. Everyday situations may be difficult to manage or pose safety risks. Greater knowledge and improved procedures and guidelines are needed among public authorities. **Background** The Swedish Gender Equality Agency has been given the governmental mandate to increase knowledge regarding people exposed to violence who live with protected personal data, with a focus on women and children. The aim is to raise awareness regarding the legislation in force and bring attention to the situation of the target group. In 2021-2022 an interview study was performed, with 15 children and 86 women who were currently living in hiding. The purpose of the practice and presentation **Women and children in the target group** suffer from being exposed to psychological and physical violence. Children being forced to have contact with fathers who have perpetrated violence is one of the major threats to their safety. The women and children do not always receive the support or treatment needed. They might also have difficulties accessing public services such as health care, lack permanent housing and suffer economic violence and consequences after and prior to leaving the perpetrator. 75 percent of the women in the interview study had experienced disclosure of protected personal data by authorities. Several authorities are working together to improve knowledge, guidelines and procedures, as well as information and support for women and children who are victims of violence and whose personal data are protected. The purpose of the presentation is to give an account of our work, the interview study and a long-term plan on how to develop and monitor support to the target group and the measures being taken by authorities.

**Tool and training for police officers for tackling Honor Related Violence in Finland**

Author: Johanna Aapakallio

Institute: Loisto settlementti ry/ Sopus-work

Co-authors: Sirpa Koskela

**Tool and training for police officers for tackling Honor Related Violence in Finland** Sopus-work that is a unit for tackling HRV in Finland developed questionnaire with Helsinki police Department. Request for developing the tool came from Police Department. The Questionnaire was finished with cooperation and support of Police University College and it was approved by National Police Board of Finland and integrated to police's interrogation system. Questionnaire was tested during the in-service training organized for the police officer by Sopus-work and Police University College. Training was 2 academic credits wide and carried out as online meetings. Training was carried out during the Spring 2021 and Fall 2021. The questionnaire is meant to be used for interviewing victims of HRV and consists of different themes of questions that will help police officer to understand interviewee. Structure of questionnaire follows communication style of collectivistic way of perceiving incidences in social environment. It starts with wider incidents and narrows down to the specific. At the same time there is explanations for the police officers why these questions are needed to ask and why they are insignificant. The aim of the presentation is to explain the process and work done in Finland on HRV cases and what kind of tools is developed for

professionals. The presentation will bring some insights and experiences of officers who have been using the questionnaire.

### Preventing custody conflicts – the borderland between litigation and care

Author: Caroline Åvall

Institute: Stockholm University, Faculty of Law

In Sweden, society has a responsibility in child custody cases. According to Swedish law, courts as well as social services have a responsibility to investigate the facts of the case according to the best interest of the child, especially situations where there is a risk of violence. Although courts and social services operate in different administrative systems, they need to consider the principle of the best interest of the child and the right for the child to express his or her opinion. They also have a legally stipulated ambition of preventing parental conflicts. The aim of the thesis is twofold: to investigate the legal conditions when society do preventive work (including different agencies within the judicial system) in the context of custody cases and to contribute to development where society's efforts are adapted to the needs of families and children. Research questions: 1) How is the preventing and collaborating role of the social services and the legal system regulated? 2) How is the regulation applied in practice? 3) How can the process in court and the role of the social services be adopted to the principle of the best interest of the child? 4) How can children be more involved in the process (court and social services) in relation to the best interest of the child? The study includes a legal study of how regulations both enables and limits the preventive work and the collaboration between different authorities. Empirical studies (sociology of law approach) will be made regarding how the court and social services work with parental conflicts, which includes qualitative interviews. A qualitative analyse of the results of the legal studies and the result of the empirical studies will be done in relation to the third and fourth research questions.

### The Intended and Factual Functions of the Regulation around the Victim in the Criminal Procedure

Author: Johanna Karlervik

The Intended and Factual Functions of the Regulation around the Victim in the Criminal Procedure Aim and research questions The Ph.D. research project is constructed around the crime victims' legal opportunities according to Swedish law. The aim is to analyze the efficacy of the procedural regulation around the victim to the lawmaker's intended purpose and to victims' rights and interests. The victims' interests include for example, avoiding secondary and repeated victimization. The following issues will be investigated and analyzed to reach the stated purpose. 1. What were the Swedish legislator's intentions with the regulations regarding giving victims party status in the criminal procedure? The regulation includes the following rules. The victims' right to assist the state prosecution and to bring individual criminal charges, the victim not being heard under oath as a witness, the cumulation of the victim's claim for damages with the criminal suit, and the appointment of a state-funded victims' counsel. 2. What can be said about the realization of the purposes through current regulation and application of the law? 3. What rights, or what needs,

justifies a victim's participation in criminal proceedings, according to research within the field of victimology? And what does participation mean for the individual victim and for the outcome of the process? Research Methods The first two questions will be answered through a legal doctrinal method in a broader sense, where the historical development and the application of law will be considered and analyzed. Regarding the latter interdisciplinary question, a literature overview of victimology research related to crime victims' partaking and interests in criminal proceedings will be completed. This method might be described as a "light" but expectantly substantial, interdisciplinary research exertion.

The impact of seeking protection orders for severe violence on the lives of female survivors in South Africa

Author: Rachel Jewkes

Institute: South African Medical Research Council

Co-authors: Maureen Moretlo Mtimkulu, Samantha Willan, Rachel Jewkes

The impact of seeking protection orders for severe violence on the lives of female survivors in South Africa

## MULTI AGENCY RESPONSES

Rises in domestic violence during major sports events – the need for a multi-sectoral response

Author: Dr Kirsty Forsdike

Institute: La Trobe University

Co-authors: Associate Professor Leesa Hooker, Dr Anne-Marie Laslett, Mr William Douglas

Domestic violence increases during major sports events. It also increases during public holidays, certain seasons, and during economic crises. Drivers of domestic violence include gender inequality, whilst reinforcing factors include the condoning of violence. Additional risk factors for domestic violence perpetration include harmful masculinities, with the harmful use of alcohol and gambling playing a role in increasing risk of incidence and severity. Sport sits at the intersection of these drivers and risk factors, providing a distinct context resulting in more calls to police, specialist domestic violence services, ambulance, and hospitals. However, the association between major sport events and increased domestic violence reporting is uniquely nuanced. Whilst sport has long been associated with violence, with sanctioned aggression and the use of derogatory language in sledging the opposition, it is irrational passions in response to sport that most closely connect major sporting events with violence behaviour. This may be exacerbated through excessive alcohol consumption and gambling. Our systematic review found that whilst there appears to be a strong correlation, why this correlation exists and in what contexts is unknown. What is clear is that the association could be dependent upon a particular sport, in a particular country, at a particular point in history. We share implications for policy and practice. Contextually situated research is needed to understand the nuances for each country and its connection with sport, considering the contributing factors of alcohol and gambling. There is also a clear

need for improved data recording that is consistent across services and countries. Most importantly is the need for collaborative co-design of initiatives across policy and justice, health and specialist sectors that combine attention to appropriate major sport event scheduling, resource planning, and prevention initiatives. Whatever next steps are taken, initiatives must be evaluated for ongoing development and success in reducing domestic violence.

#### Immediate and coordinated responses to domestic violence – exploring the window of opportunity concept

Author: Mari Brännvall

Institute: The Västra Götaland Region Competence Centre on Intimate Partner Violence

Co-authors: Veronica Ekström

Effective interventions in domestic violence require professional collaboration among social workers, health care practitioners and police officers. Inspired by a study visit to Iceland, the “Icelandic model” was developed and implemented in the Western region in Sweden. In short, the “Icelandic model” is a model for immediate and coordinated responses to domestic violence, especially between the police and the social services. The “Icelandic model” assumes there is a moment shortly after a violent act where the victim is more open for support and change. In our study, we examined the window of opportunity concept and its implications for police officers’ and social workers’ perceptions of abused women’s agency. The study consists of a qualitative analysis of semi-structured interviews with eight police officers and eight social workers who have worked according to the “Icelandic model”. We found that the empirical basis for the window of opportunity concept was meagre. However, the professionals working with domestic violence thought that the concept was relevant, useful and in accordance with their experiences. During the time period they perceived as the window of opportunity, they attributed agency to abused women, and considered it important to offer support before the window closed. At the same time, they tended to underestimate women's agency, and viewed a choice not to accept support as a sign that the woman had returned to the abuser.

#### Substance use coercion: Bringing together the domestic violence and the substance use sectors

Author: Van Nguyen

Institute: The University of Melbourne

Co-authors: Cathy Humphreys, Margaret Kertez

Background and purpose: Long-standing tensions exist between the domestic violence and substance use sectors. Fragmentation between sectors impede opportunities to provide an appropriate service response for families experiencing domestic violence. The study sought to answer the research question: what are effective and sustainable ways to improve collaboration between substance use and domestic violence sectors? Methods: The study adopted an action research approach to bridge the gap between domestic violence and substance use sectors. Data collection occurred in two stages over a year. Firstly, 26 interviews were conducted with senior policy consultants across Australia. Following this, a



series of discussion groups and a workshop were completed with high-level policy stakeholders. Metaphor analysis was implemented for the first stage of data collection, followed by reflexive thematic analysis for discussion groups and workshop. Findings: Collaboration between domestic violence and substance use sectors was perceived as a contest of cultures. Pre-conceived assumptions of 'the other sector' were endemic, impeding fruitful exchange of ideas and dialogue in group settings. This required impartial facilitators to provide ongoing opportunities for stakeholders' to freely express their views. As a result, the concept of 'substance use coercion' emerged as a mutual area of interest for knowledge development and expansion. Substance use coercion was discussed by stakeholders as a common problem in which substance use is leveraged as a form of violence and manipulation. Conclusions and implications: Substance use coercion has been identified as a potential leverage point to bring together these two historically siloed sectors. The development of a shared understanding on substance use coercion presents an opportunity to extend the limitations of each sector whilst providing more effective services for families. This emerging concept has further implications for policy makers and funding bodies as it prompts attention and support to these issues.

#### A co-responder model between immediate response police officers and health in responding to domestic abuse incidents

Author: Michelle McManus

Institute: Northumbria University

Co-authors: Emma Ball

Operation Provide is an initiative in Lancashire, UK set up between Police and a NHS Foundation Trust, initially launched in response to the Covid-19 lockdown. This involved Independent Domestic Violence Advocates working alongside Immediate Frontline officers in responding to DA incidents. This initiative has now expanded across 3 areas in the Force. A mixed methods approach highlighted that Operation Provide was a more effective and efficient way to engage with victims of DA to safeguard them from further abuse. The initial evaluation findings showed significant statistical shifts of engagement of victims of domestic abuse: 1. Victim's engagement with safeguarding support shifted from 21.5% prior to Operation Provide, to 67.2% at the Operation Provide visit. 2. Victim engagement with DA prosecution/investigation significantly increased from 14.4% to 41.3% through an Operation Provide visit. Additional data importantly noted the victim's wishes (victim voice) at point of the DA incident, with the majority of victims stating they wanted to be out of their abusive relationship, but not wanting to engage with the police. This suggests that how we best safeguard victims is to not push investigative and prosecution-led initiatives at victims, but ensure they are safeguarded by empowering and supporting them to leave their abusive relationship. Evaluation of Operation Provide indicated it as a more effective and efficient way to engage with victims of Domestic Abuse to safeguard them from further abuse. Key recommendations highlighted the need for consideration of 'cop culture' and leadership in the effectiveness of Operation Provide (and other co-responder models), with further research underway exploring the longevity of the programme, the longer-term impact on repeat victimisation, as well as the various models of operating a co-responder model. Operation Provide and the evaluation evidence has been selected as best practice within the National Homicide Prevention Framework (College of Policing, 2022).

## Impacts of an Intervention to Improve the Identification, Referral and Safety of Those Experiencing Domestic Violence: A Mixed Methods Study in the UK

Author: Dr Shazia Zafar

Institute: University of Birmingham

Co-authors: Caroline Bradbury-Jones, Siddhartha Bandyopadhyay

**Background.** This study evaluated the impacts of a domestic violence (DV) intervention strategy known as Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) in England. IRIS is a DV training, support and referral programme based in primary care for intervention, to provide support to DV survivors. This is the first study to capture the impact of IRIS on long-term health issues associated with DV, and associations with poverty and ethnicity. **Methods.** This convergent, parallel, mixed-methods study took place 2019-2021. In the quantitative phase, we matched medical records of 294 patients who had a marker for DV, with records from DV support services to track the health conditions of participants before they were referred to IRIS and after several months of support. In the qualitative phase, we conducted semi-structured telephone interviews with 21 women who received IRIS support and thematically analysed the data. **Findings.** Descriptive statistics indicated that at referral to IRIS, the participants had a variety of health conditions (mean 2.78), with a drop in the mean number of conditions to 1.28 post-IRIS. Qualitative data are reported under five prominent themes: Life before; Driving forces for help-seeking; Experiences of support; Perceived impacts; Recovery as a journey. When we integrated data from both strands, we found that IRIS support had a positive impact on several health conditions, most evidently in relation to depression and anxiety, but also in relation to physical health. **Conclusions.** The study highlights the benefits of interventions that improve identification and referral of DV survivors, as part of the global DV response. The presentation is likely to appeal to conference delegates who are interested in effective interventions for DV. It will be of particular relevance to those who work in primary care or who want to learn about interventions concerned with identification of DV and referral pathways.

**The challenges of developing and sustaining innovations among multi-agency services when supporting children and families affected by domestic abuse.**

Author: Dr Daniel P Ash

Institute: University of Gloucestershire

Co-authors: Professor Margaret Malloch

**Background and Purpose of Study** When children experience domestic abuse, it is important that police, education and social services provide a coherent multi-agency response. Often, different service providers will attempt to innovate when developing policies and processes for supporting children and families with the aim of making services more efficient and effective. However, such innovations can be difficult to develop and sustain because a range of competing policy environments that exist within each service, which can be a barrier to shared innovation. This study explores how such demands relating to policy, legislation, organizational structure, risk management approaches and practice traditions can hamper innovation. **Methods** This paper reports on findings from interviews and focus groups with

social care, police and school professionals in England about the implementation of innovations in domestic abuse work. Reflexive Thematic Analysis (Braun and Clarke, 2021) was used to analyse interview transcripts. Based on this analysis, some key findings are presented exploring the challenges of implementing joint innovations within these settings. Findings Complex policy structures evolve over time to meet the needs of emerging findings from serious case reviews, 'lessons learned' processes and normal managerial or service development exercises. However, with each additional layer of policy that is developed, new and existing practices and policies can conflict, and this makes it more difficult for practitioners to innovate because of the ever increasing restrictions that are placed on them. Conclusions By exploring the barriers and enablers that practitioners and senior leaders face when seeking to innovate, themes have emerged that could inform policy development and allow for more coherent policies to be developed to support children and families affected by domestic abuse.

## PERSPECTIVES AND EXPERIENCES OF RISK ASSESSMENT

Emergency risk assessments within child welfare: Developing structured support to professional assessments

Author: Maria Eriksson

Institute: Marie Cederschiöld University

Co-authors: Filip Wollter

Background: A key issue to safeguard and support children exposed to violence in a family setting is the assessment of risk. In emergency situations, such as when the police are called out to a family with children due to violence and a decision on how to act to protect possible adult and child victims of violence is warranted, time is of essence and the opportunities to gather information are limited. There is a lack of support to professional risk assessments in emergency situations. The few existing methods tend to focus on the step of detecting cases that warrant further investigation. However, how to gather information and assess risk once a case has been identified has not been discussed to any greater extent. The aim of this pilot project was to develop a model for emergency risk assessments in cases of intimate partner violence in families with minor children. Method: Drawing on research knowledge, the "iRisk" model for structured risk assessments within child welfare investigations, and emergency social worker's professional knowledge and experience, researchers and social workers within an emergency social services unit co-produced a model for emergency risk assessments to be piloted. Six of the social workers were then interviewed about their experiences of trying out the model and checklists with information from 32 cases were analyzed. Results: The data indicates that the suggested model is feasible within emergency social services and can improve practice in the sense of enabling more child centered, research based and systematic risk assessments. In particular, it helped to highlight the child's agency and perspective in the cases of intimate partner violence in families with children. Conclusion: The paper outlines a model for structured support to professional emergency risk assessments in cases of violence in the family, to be further tested in other contexts.

## Criminal Charges, Risk Assessment, and Violent Recidivism in Cases of Domestic Abuse

Author: Jeffrey Grogger

Institute: Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago

Co-authors: Dan Black, Tom Kirchmaier, Koen Sanders

Criminal Charges, Risk Assessment, and Violent Recidivism in Cases of Domestic Abuse Dan A. Black, Jeffrey Grogger, Tom Kirchmaier, and Koen Sanders Background and purpose of the study: Domestic abuse (DA) is a pervasive global problem. Here we analyze two interventions taken by law enforcement to reduce violent DA recidivism. One involves charging the perpetrator with a crime; the other provides protective services to the victim on the basis of a formal risk assessment. We ask whether: (1) Charges reduce violent recidivism; (2) The risk assessment process reduces violent recidivism; and (3) The effects of these interventions are heterogeneous. Methods: We analyze over 150,000 calls for service involving intimate partner violence from a large English police force. The calls include all incidents, whether or not they were classified as crimes, over a four-year period. We use inverse propensity score weighting to estimate the effects of the interventions, which allows us to control for characteristics of the incidents and their participants that could otherwise threaten the validity of the analysis. We use police administrative data to equalize differences on roughly 80 features that predict recidivism, including criminal records, domestic abuse records, and data from the risk assessment instrument. We estimate causal trees to identify heterogeneity in the effects of the interventions. Findings: We find that pressing charges substantially reduces the likelihood of violent recidivism. We also find substantial heterogeneity in the effect of pressing charges. In contrast, the risk-assessment process has no discernible effect. Conclusions: The risk assessment process is not living up to its promise. At the same time, our heterogeneity analysis indicates that changes to investigative priorities could further increase the deterrent effect of pressing charges.

## Conversations about violence, risk and responsibility with divorced and support-seeking fathers in Sweden

Author: Linnéa Bruno

Institute: Stockholm University

Co-authors: Maria Eriksson

The aim of this paper is to analyse approaches to issues of risk, responsibility and representations of violence in women social workers' conversations with alleged or confirmed violent fathers. The study adds to a growing body of research on agencies' handling of intimate partner violence (IPV) in the context of separation. Empirically, the study draws from 12 structured, audio recorded and transcribed interviews with support-seeking and divorced fathers, from five municipalities in Sweden, conducted as part of a cooperation project in which a risk-detection method (Family Law Detection Of Overall Risk Screen [FL-DOORS]) was also tested. The results suggest a tension between different professional tasks. To validate information on IPV, detect risk and enhance a child perspective competes with other professional projects, most obviously with promoting cooperation between parents. The study confirms previous research, which demonstrates unique challenges facing women social workers and counsellors when working with men as

perpetrators. In conclusion, the paper concurs with the call for a focus on responsibility and on safe parenting in professional conversations with allegedly or confirmed abusive fathers.

### Risk assessment among children who are victims of honor related violence

Author: Hanne Martinek

Institute: The Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare

The Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare currently works on releasing a tool to assess risk for violence in the name of honour. The tool is designed for social workers who meet children (12-17 years). Risk-assessment in cases of violence in the name of honour is perceived as especially complicated and up to today no national tool for risk assessment in cases of honour-related violence exists. A draft of the tool is tested in social services during 2023. The presentation will contain the content of the tool, the reasoning behind its development and preliminary results from the ongoing tests. The tool consists of a manual and an interview-guide. The risk that is assessed concerns risks for a child's health and development. The tool includes five risk-areas: the child's mental health (1), restrictions, control and the child's behaviour concerning those (2), social network and family (3), oppression and threats (4) and physical violence (5). To all those areas the tool provides a number of closed and open questions and explanatory texts on how to interpret the child's answers. The risk-assessment tool was developed during 2018 to 2021 in a process of collecting research-findings and a continuous dialogue with researchers, authorities, non-government organisations and practitioners within social services. Through these dialogues the existing academic research on risk-factors could be enriched with practical knowledge from experts, which not (yet) had taken the form of scientific publications. The tool was tested in a small-scale pilot during spring 2022 and showed promising result. During 2023 the tool is tested further, both in regards to its utility in social services, validity and reliability (the latter tests are conducted by re-searchers outside of the National Board of Health and Welfare).

### Services to children at refuges for abused women in Norway

Author: Sabreen Selvik

Institute: Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies (NKVTS)

Co-authors: Carolina Øverlien

The experiences of children at refuge for abused women are gradually given research attention in the past 15 years. However, little attention is given to study the services and facilities provided for the children at the refuge. This paper is based on ongoing research which investigates the development of these services in Norway 14 years after the endorsement of children's rights as service users of refuges as part of The Service Refuge Act 2009. Data is being gathered from leaders and child coordinators at the 44 refuges through a digital questionnaire. The questionnaire is further developed from the Norwegian mapping study on the refuge services for children by Øverlien, Jacobsen, & Evang (2009). It has two parts, a general part for leaders with topics on the overall work with children at the refuge and cooperation with agencies, a specific part for child-coordinators on topics related to their direct work with children and cooperation agencies. The findings will be thematically

analysed and simultaneously compared to the earlier mapping study. Further, the findings will be discussed within the framework of earlier research on experiences of children living at refuges. Our tentative results point to an increase in variety and number of applicable services provided to children, most employees working with children have relevant education; many refuges are actively involved in networking and cooperation with other municipality services, and a few are engaged in implementing several self-developing projects. Some refuges are actively approaching children in schools, social media, and other arenas to raise awareness and are thereby becoming more visible and available to children in general and not only limited to those who made refuge stays. Further research involving children through a digital questionnaire on the available refuge services would add another view of the services developed from them.

### Psychological abuse and high-risk indicators for violence against women and children: a study using police risk assessment data

Author: Kristin Diemer

Institute: na

Background and purpose of the study: Historically greater emphasis has been placed on physical and sexual violence against women and children as compared with psychological abuse. It has been deemed easier to witness and measure physical and sexual abuse. More recently, qualitative, and quantitative evidence is building to support historically anecdotal evidence that psychological abuse can cause greater harm and have greater impact on healing and recovery than other forms of violence. With the increased use and refinement of risk assessment tools for responding to domestic violence in the field, we are gathering better data on the range of experiences of women and children living with violence across an array of service providers. This research examines data collected from a risk assessment tool used by the police in Victoria Australia during a period with proactive training in the use of the tool and investment in assessing risk to inform police practice, response, and appropriate referrals. Methods: Risk assessment data collected from police attending domestic violence incidents over a five-year period is analysed using factor analysis and correlation. Findings: The results show that some forms of psychological abuse cluster together with high levels of fear and forms of physical violence routinely accepted as high-risk, such as violence during pregnancy and use of weapons. Conclusions and implications: The results are relevant for raising the profile of psychological abuse as a serious risk factor to consider regardless of whether physical signs of violence are present. The findings assist to recalibrate considerations of a high-risk situation enabling earlier intervention among responders and practitioners who may not be familiar with domestic violence.

## POLICING RESPONSES TO DVA I

### Impact of Children's Presence on Police Response to Domestic Violence Calls

Author: Angela Hovey

Institute: Lakehead University

Co-authors: B.J. Rye, Evan George, Susan Scott, Lori Chambers

**Background and Purpose:** Research has established that children are commonly exposed to domestic violence (DV). Less is known about the impact children's presence may have on DV disputes. A large proportion of DV police calls commonly result in no charges being laid. Most research focusses on DV situations where charges were laid, limiting our understanding of children's presence during non-criminal domestic disputes. This study explored the differences in police responses to DV situations when children were present versus not present, both when charges are laid and when they are not laid. **Methods:** Chi-square tests and phi statistics were used to analyze a sample of 2,709 supplementary DV forms completed by police when responding to DV calls. About a third (33.6%) resulted in criminal charges being laid and 66.5% did not result in any charges. Children were present for 33.9% of all these DV calls. **Findings:** Key results demonstrated that when children were present: charges were less likely to be laid; the accused was more likely to be described as calm and less likely to be using substances; risk factors were more likely to be endorsed; and victim support interventions were more likely to be offered and accepted. **Conclusions and Implications:** Police appeared to take children's presence into consideration when determining whether or not to lay charges. The data also suggested that the involved adults and/or parents may behave more protectively during disputes (e.g., limiting substance use, being less emotional) when children are present. Yet, the increased risk factor endorsement contradicted this finding. Police could benefit from examining how the presence of children can, explicitly or implicitly, impact their actions and the actions of the involved adults/parents during DV calls. Further research is needed to better understand how children's presence changes the dynamic of the police response to DV situations.

### Coercive Control Cases and Repeat Police Calls

Author: Lori Chambers

Institute: Lakehead University

Co-authors: Angela Hovey, BJ Rye, Susan Scott

**Abstract:** **Background and Purpose:** Police in Canada and elsewhere experience a high volume of domestic violence (DV) calls annually. When responding, they must assess risk of escalation and ensure victim safety. Risk assessment is a challenging. Coercive control –use of intimidation, isolation, and control to create pervasive fear and limit the choices of one's partner - is highly predictive of risk of lethality, but easily missed. While victim's fear is pervasive in cases of coercive control, women may not be able to express their fear, or police may not credit it, if physical violence is absent. This study explores police response to fear and coercive control using data from DV calls over a three+-year period in a small Ontario community. **Methods:** Our mixed methods approach involved conducting chi-square analysis to explore the impact of fear and other risk factors on charges laid and safety referrals of call incidents involving heterosexual couples with male accused and female victims. From these analyses, we identified 15 cases of the highest risk of lethality based on the male accused charges and the female victim assessed as being afraid. We reconstructed longitudinal data by compiling their call histories in these cases. **Findings:** Police responded appropriately, laying charges and providing safety options for women when fear and control were accompanied by violence. Charges at the time of extreme violence are only part of the

story. The longitudinal case data to explore previous police interactions with these couples indicated that police failed to stop escalation for some cases. Conclusions and Implications: Enhanced response to DV calls involving non-violent coercion is needed including: better training regarding coercive control; more complete data collection, perhaps with social workers attending DV calls; criminalization of coercive control; and tracking devices to protect women at high risk of lethality.

#### Police Responses to Domestic Violence Calls Involving 2SLGBTQI+ Relationships

Author: Susan Scott

Institute: Lakehead University

Co-authors: Angela Hovey, Lori Chambers, BJ Rye

Background and Purpose: Common conceptions of domestic violence (DV) revolve around male-on-female DV among heterosexual, cisgender relationships. There is minimal literature regarding police responses to DV calls from 2SLGBTQI+ partners. The paper explores police responses to 2SLGBTQI+ DV calls and cases to better understand 2SLGBTQI+ DV, how police interact, and changes required. Methods: A mixed methods approach was used. Quantitative data and qualitative textual data were collected by police in a small-sized Ontario community for each DV call attended using either a criminal or non-criminal supplementary form, depending on whether charges were laid. The data set includes 3,414 criminal (985) and non-criminal (2,439) DV calls from January 2011 to November 2014. The 42 calls pertaining to same-sex partner data was extracted and compared with heterosexual call data to understand the characteristics of same-sex calls, including risk factor assessments. Cases were also compiled, joining all criminal and non-criminal calls in the data set involving the same individuals. The cases were analyzed qualitatively to identify differences and similarities between case characteristics and patterns of DV incidents between cases. Findings: The study found that the number of charges laid and seriousness of charges did not differ significantly from heteronormative relationship calls. There were some differences in police-identified risk factors. Same-sex couples had fewer risk factors noted per call. This might be attributable to the forms not including 2SLGBTQI+-specific risk factors related to “minority stress”. These factors can motivate violence and increase victim vulnerability. Conclusions and Implications: Recommendations include revising the forms to include non-heteronormative risk factors, as well as increasing training for police on responding to 2SLGBTQI+-related DV calls. Social workers providing services for DV should consider the unique experiences of 2SLGBTQI+ people and respond with appropriate professional intervention to better address their needs.

#### Review of Investigative Mechanisms for Domestic Violence Deaths with Prior Police Contact

Author: Elena

Institute: Griffith University

Co-authors: Janet Ransley, Lorraine Mazerolle

Recently, there has been increased focus on domestic violence deaths in Australia, particularly since the highly publicised murders of Hannah Clarke and her three children in February 2020 and Doreen Lagham in February 2021, which highlighted the indicators and



dangers of coercive control within an abusive and violent relationship. Both women died as a result of fires started by their estranged partners, Hannah and her children in her car, and Doreen in her home. Related to these types of deaths is the way police investigate complaints of domestic violence, raising questions about the appropriateness of any prior police response to such complaints. Scrutinising the response of police when a domestic violence death with prior police contact occurs, is often undertaken by the local police criminal investigation unit, unless there is evidence of police misconduct. Whether police should investigate the actions and conduct of other police when a domestic violence related death with prior police conduct occurs, became the subject of an independent review commissioned by the Queensland State Government in December 2021. This presentation reports on the findings of that independent review, including the need to ensure that investigations of domestic violence deaths with prior police contact examine not just individual officer lapses, but also systemic issues affecting the operational aspects of the organisation. Addressing systemic deficiencies is important for changing the way police respond to complaints of domestic violence and for ultimately preventing certain domestic violence related deaths from occurring. Systemic issues identified by the review include training and workload needs, and lessons learned in terms of missed key indicators for intervention that might have prevented the death. Recommendations made by the independent review will also be discussed.

#### Embedding specialist domestic violence officers in police communications

Author: Christine Carney

Institute: Queensland Police Service

Co-authors: Regan Carr

A mixed methods approach was used to assess the effectiveness of a specialist officer embedded within a police communications centre in Queensland, Australia. The trial was developed in response to recommendation 11 of the Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board (2017). Recommendation 11 called for responding police to have timely access to electronically available, current, relevant, and accurate information in relation to domestic and family violence. In response, the Queensland Police Service developed a Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator – Police Communications Centre (DFVC-PCC) trial for 12-months. Purpose: The purpose of the DFVC – PCC trial was to provide specialist proactive and reactive support to frontline officers to strengthen their understanding of, and response to domestic and family violence. This would be supported through:

- timely and professional responses to frontline police officer queries
- timely, detailed histories and advice regarding victims/perpetrators
- consistent guidance on the dynamics of domestic and family violence and coercive control
- advice regarding non-lethal strangulation
- support to access out of hours crisis care for victims
- greater understanding on the use of risk assessment tools and investigative processes
- supported decision making through provision of accurate advice
- feedback to responding officers, supervisors, and District DFVCs

Two sworn DFVC positions commenced within the PCC. The officers were tasked with reviewing all incoming calls for service designated as a domestic violence call. The officers then engaged with responding officers via police communications, telephone, or message. The DFVC-PCC reviewed police data systems for relevant information on the victim and

perpetrator and forward a summary of this to responding officers. The DFVC-PCC also provided guidance on how to best respond, provide advice on legislative, policy and procedural issues. The DFVC-PCC raised systemic issues with relevant regions and offered guidance to responding officers.

### Understanding Domestic Violence and Predictors of Police Outcomes

Author: Arianna Barbin

Institute: University of Suffolk

Co-authors: Dr. Ruth Spence, Ioana M. Crivatu

**Background:** One in three women worldwide have or will be likely to experience some forms of domestic violence throughout their lives, committed by the hands of a known individual and within the alleged safety of their household (WHO, 2021). This impacts victims and society, with an overall cost of over £66bn per year across England and Wales (Rhys et al., 2019). **Purpose:** This study explored the characteristics of domestic violence (DV) occurring between 2018 and 2020 in the jurisdiction of a large English police force, and investigated the predictors of charge outcomes, case attrition, and evidential difficulties despite victims' support in pursuing the allegations. **Methods:** The dataset included a total of 198,617 crimes, 145,996 suspects, 155,738 victims and 175,200 DV outcomes. In 94.1% of the cases, the suspect was not charged. Univariate and multivariate logistic regression were performed to predict the interaction of age, sex, suspect-victim relationship, repeat offending and multiple victim allegations on three different outcomes: charge, law doesn't pursue, victim doesn't proceed. **Findings:** Relationship type, suspect age and the number of victim allegations accounted for some of the variance in all three outcomes. For instance, partners/ex-partners were less likely to be charged than suspects that were an acquaintance of the victim. Thus, suggesting that the response to DV, especially when a partner is involved is still investigated with scepticism and prejudice. **Conclusion:** Despite the progress achieved through campaigns and support from multiple organisations, domestic violence remains a hidden crime, where victims find themselves unable or discouraged from reporting. The findings are in line with evidence from the literature which highlighted all-time low charge rates for DV and high levels of victim attrition. We argue that the potential influence of extra-legal factors should be considered by police personnel and members of the criminal justice system when assessing DV allegations.

## POLICY RESPONSES

Domestic violence against women: is there (enough) institutional solidarity in the Netherlands? How Dutch policy can reinforce the choice of a woman with a non-European migration background not to leave a violent relationship

Author: Chloé Roegiers Mayeux

Institute: University of Humanistic Studies

Co-authors: Sawitri Saharso, Evelien Tonkens

In the Netherlands, twenty percent of women have experienced physical or sexual violence from their partner more than once. It is to be noted that in shelters, women with a migration background are overrepresented. Despite the presence of shelters, escaping a violent relationship is difficult. Cultural influences can play a role, but Dutch policy creates serious barriers too. I argue that although the Netherlands declares that it stands for gender equality, lived experiences of women staying in a shelter and social workers show that there are still loopholes in Dutch policy that make it more difficult for women to leave a violent relationship. Even if the formulation of the law is gender-neutral and without any focus on race or nationality, women – especially born in non-European countries – are put in vulnerable positions. Making use of an intersectional perspective, this paper concentrates on how aspects such as fear and cultural influences already making it difficult for women to leave their partner, are reinforced by the way the Dutch system regarding migration and domestic violence is presented and how it can be used by women’s partners to make them stay in the relationship. This paper reflects on whether the Netherlands provides (enough) institutional solidarity to women who experienced domestic violence. In addition to analysis of policy documents and participant observations in a women's shelter, this paper draws on narrative and semi-structured interviews conducted at that shelter with social workers and with women of different ethnic and cultural origins, many of whom have migrated from a country outside Europe. Keywords: Dutch policy, intersectionality, domestic violence, migration background

## The Politics of Framing: Anti-Gender Resistance and Framing Domestic Abuse Policy in Scotland

Author: Leah McCabe

Institute: University of Edinburgh

At first glance, Scotland appears to be a feminist success story in its policy approaches to domestic abuse, with devolution providing women’s movement organisations with political and discursive opportunities to introduce and lock in gendered policy frames from the start. These gendered policy frames construct domestic abuse as a cause and consequence of patriarchal structures and a human rights violation. However, drawing upon a constructivist and feminist institutionalist approach, this article paints a more complex and contingent picture, exposing resistance to the gendered framing. In doing so, it asks: how has the problem of domestic abuse been debated, contested and resisted by actors in Scotland, in which institutional spaces, and with what effects? It answers this question by tracing policy developments and resistance over an extensive twenty-year timeframe, employing documentary analysis and elite interviews. Drawing upon the concept of ‘nested newness’ (Mackay, 2014), the article demonstrates the interactions and relationship between ‘new’ and ‘old’ institutions, tracing disputes to institutionalised cultures, norms, and practices in public agencies which were initially reluctant to address domestic abuse pre-devolution. Moreover, the study identifies three mechanisms of continuity and resistance: (mis)understandings, sanctioned ignorance, and active resistance, and draws attention to times when opposition has heightened. It concludes by arguing that mechanisms of resistance matter as it has detrimental effects on the framing of policy and has real-world consequences for victims/survivors. The study presents one of the most comprehensive and in-depth tracing of Scottish domestic abuse policy-making to date. More broadly, it provides

new empirical and theoretical insights into the discursive struggles over meaning-making and anti-gender resistance within policy-making and political institutions.

### Domestic violence-related use of services and the resulting costs in services

Author: Johanna Hietamäki

Institute: Finnish Institution for Health and Welfare

Co-authors: Heli Siltala, Tomomi Hisasue, Juhani Saari

Background and aim: Domestic violence (DV) is a serious social problem, but little is known about its societal costs. The study is based on the implementation plan to combat violence against women and DV in Finland. The aim was to assess the use and costs of services related to intimate partner violence in terms of health, social and legal services. Methods: The study used registers and a population survey. For the period 2015–2020, a total of 33,000 victims of domestic violence were identified in the registers (health care, shelters, police) and a five times larger control group was formed. More than 7,700 people responded to the population survey. Results. The additional cost in healthcare services as a result of domestic violence was EUR 1,024 per person annually compared to the rest of the population. Over a period of five years, the direct additional healthcare costs caused by physical intimate partner violence (IPV) experienced by women totalled EUR 150 million per year (146,000 women). According to the population survey, 44% of Finns aged 16-74 had experienced IPV and 65% had experienced DV in childhood. Among those who had experienced IPV, the costs in social services were 60–90% higher and in legal services (incl. the police), 70% higher than among those who had not experienced IPV. Domestic violence experienced in childhood was visible in adulthood as social and legal services costs that were 50% higher. Conclusions: The study led to recommendations for methods and structures of preventing and helping people experiencing violence in services, DV training for health and social services, recommendations for recording DV and carrying out regularly a population survey. I would be happy to give this presentation in sequence with my colleague Niklander if possible (our presentations relate to each other's).

### Excluding the 'Undeserving Victim': Evaluating the Provision of State-funded Criminal Injuries Compensation in Europe for Victims of Domestic Violence

Author: Liam O'Driscoll

Institute: Dublin City University

State-funded criminal injuries compensation allows victims of violent crime to apply for compensation from the State in respect of injuries sustained in the commission of a violent criminal act. The majority of European countries operate such schemes and since their initial establishment in the 1960's and 1970's, their underlying operational principle has been based on the concept that only truly innocent and blameless victims of violent crime are 'deserving' of the State's social solidarity in the form of monetary compensation. In several European countries, victims of domestic violence are one category of victim who have been deemed 'undeserving' of this support. In the United Kingdom and Ireland, the 'same-roof' rule excluded victims of violent crime where both victim and perpetrator lived together at the time the injuries were inflicted. Whilst this rule has been abolished in these jurisdictions,

other restrictive eligibility criteria, significant delays in application processing times and an absence of legal aid remain which put barriers in the way of domestic violence victims in their efforts to secure State compensation. These problems exist throughout Europe, despite Article 30(2) of the Istanbul Convention obligating States Parties to put in place 'adequate' State-funded compensation. In this paper, I will examine the legal rules in place throughout Europe which exclude domestic violence victims from accessing State-funded compensation. In examining the available criminological and victimological literature in relation to the 'ideal' and 'deserving' victim, I will demonstrate that the past and present exclusion of domestic violence victims from accessing this compensation is a symptom of outdated, patriarchal and misogynistic attitudes about this category of victim. In making this determination, I will set out ways in which State-funded compensation frameworks can begin to include domestic violence victims in a victim-centred manner after many years of exclusion.

**The Scottish Government approach to developing a multi-agency Domestic Homicide Review model for Scotland – an evidenced based approach to policy development.**

Author: Vicky Carmichael

Institute: The Scottish Government

The number of homicide victims in Scotland in 2021-22 was the lowest recorded number since comparable records began in 1976. Despite the overall reduction, the number of female victims increased and over half of female victims were killed by a partner or ex-partner. As part of the Scottish Government's commitment to tackling and eradicating violence against women and girls, work is underway to develop a multi-agency Domestic Homicide Review model for Scotland. The model aims to learn lessons to help prevent homicides related to domestic abuse, and give a voice to those killed. Hear from Police Scotland on the current process in Scotland and the Scottish Government on the early stages of developing a Domestic Homicide Review model and establishing a Taskforce to provide national leadership to drive forward work to develop and implement the model. Preventing domestic homicides - gov.scot ([www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)) The Taskforce is working with partners from across the sector including justice, health, social work, victims services and academia, on a range of wicked issues including defining the scope, purpose and principles, and exploring how lessons learned from the reviews, can be disseminated and implemented effectively. The approach taken by the Taskforce will be phased. It will build on existing evidence and best practice by working closely with jurisdictions across the UK and internationally to learn from existing Domestic Homicide Review models while also exploring alternative approaches. The Taskforce will undertake a series of deep dives, stakeholder engagement events and public consultation to inform the development of the model prior to testing and rolling out nationally. The aim of the approach taken is to ensure that when introduced, the finalised model is robust, fit for purpose and works within a Scottish context as well as being an example for other jurisdictions considering establishing a Domestic Homicide Review model.

**Safety Before Status: The Solutions**

Author: Office of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales

Institute: Office of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales

Co-authors: Amelia Barlow, Hannah Gousy, Rhy Hart, Emily Fei

Perpetrators use victims' insecure immigration status as a tool of coercive control known as 'immigration abuse'. This includes destroying documentation, threatening to report victims to immigration enforcement, and forcing them to work exploitive jobs. Victims' inability to regulate their status or have access to public funds enables this abuse. *Safety Before Status: The Solutions* provides ground-breaking new evidence on how the UK Government can improve support for migrant survivors. The report from the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales, provides evidence-based estimates of the number of migrant survivors of domestic abuse with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) in the UK in need of support, the costs of providing such support, and the benefits of doing so. Two potential scenarios to provide further support for migrant survivors, and cost-benefit analyses for both are presented. The Commissioner's recommended option enables flexible support for all migrant survivors via existing application processes, which are currently limited only to those on spousal visas. This option would provide more assurance to survivors that there is less risk of deportation and less risk that their children may be taken from their care. We recommend that the UK Government should extend the automatic right to apply for existing routes to support and immigration status (known as the Destitute Domestic Violence Concession and Domestic Violence Indefinite Leave to Remain) to all migrant survivors, including undocumented survivors. We explain how over ten years, this could generate overall social gains worth around £2 billion and incentivise about 320,000 survivors to report abuse to an authority, of which over 7,700 might access emergency accommodation to escape a perpetrator. An estimated 25,000 of these victims and survivors might regularise their status and receive Indefinite Leave to Remain.

## Researching DVA I

Researching Sensitive Subjects Online; Designing Compassionate Methods

Author: Katy Proctor

Institute: Glasgow Caledonian University

Co-authors: Dr Nancy Lombard

This paper presents a methodological case study based on research conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown that explored how women, who had reported domestic abuse and/or stalking to the police, experienced the processes of the Scottish Criminal Justice System (SCJS). Both domestic abuse and stalking are widely understood as courses of conduct that reduce the amount of power and control a victim/survivor has over their life. Therefore, it was critical to ensure power inequalities between the researchers and participants were minimised in order that the research did not inadvertently replicate the power and control dynamics faced by victim/survivors during their abuse. It was imperative to design research methods that were rigorous but compassionate and appropriate for use during periods of lockdown and social distancing as well as accessible for an often considered 'hard to reach' population. This paper will describe how mixed methods (in this case, an online survey and online interviews using the Free Associative Narrative Method)

were used within the context of a feminist methodology, to ensure researcher bias and power inequalities were minimized, participant control and choice was maximized, and victim/survivor voices were heard. In particular, we will detail the design of our survey and the modifications that were made to make it as welcoming, safe, and as accessible as possible which included the incorporation of an introductory video of the researchers. The presentation will reflect on participant feedback about the survey and will discuss the successes and challenges of conducting research in this way. The paper will end with recommendations and 'issues to consider' for those who may wish to incorporate these methods in to their research.

### Mass Killings as a Gendered Crime in Ontario, Canada: A Descriptive Analysis

Author: Ciara Boyd

Institute: University of Guelph

Co-authors: Myrna Dawson

Mass killings, defined as the killing of three or more victims in a short period of time, have received minimal attention in Canadian literature. Moreover, most research focuses on mass killings involving non-intimate victims (e.g., strangers), often ignoring mass killings that involve intimate victims (e.g., family members). The purpose of our study is to understand what mass killings look like in Canada by focusing on its most populous province (Ontario) and explore how their characteristics compare to mass killings in other countries. Using mixed methods, we analyze 42 mass killings between 1985 and 2012 and find that Ontario's mass killings share similarities (e.g., gender of perpetrators) and differences (e.g., gender of victims) from mass killings that occur in other countries, highlighting the need to further explore mass killings in the Canadian context. Drawing from prior literature, our study examines histories of controlling behaviour and/or domestic violence among perpetrators, triggering events for mass killings, and motivational factors, among other variables. Based on our findings, it is essential that research recognizes mass killings as a gendered crime, regardless of whether the perpetrator targets male or female victims. This finding is exemplified by two large mass killings that occurred in Canada in recent years (2018 and 2020), both of which involved male and female victims but had motivations that were connected to females.

### BEING FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO ABUSED WOMEN – a qualitative study of digital technology in intimate partner violence

Author: Susanne Boethius

Institute: Lund University

Co-authors: Malin Åkerström

Digital technology and internet-connected devices are highly integrated into our lives and are an essential part of people's way of interacting as well as managing everyday tasks. Furthermore, digital technology has been shown to be highly important for victims of domestic violence. On the one hand it provides new ways to perpetrate violence and facilitates the reach of the abuse, and on the other hand it enables positive actions, being a means for the victims' help seeking process and in managing their victimization. In this

study, we discuss how digital technology is integrated into the lives of intimate partner violence victims with a special focus on their relations and interactions with their social networks: friends, relatives, family, and coworkers. Building on interviews with 18 Swedish women, all abused by male partners, and interviews with 24 persons from the abused women's social networks, this study explores digital technology use in intimate partner violence settings. The empirical material shows that digital technology emerges as important in the early stages of growing recognition of the violence, as crucial tools in the period when a victim is still living with the perpetrator and wants documentation of the violence, and in the aftermath when the woman has left her violent partner. Digital technology is important not only for abused women in domestic violence situations but also for their friends, families, and other acquaintances. For both parties, digital technology may act as especially rhetorically convincing in producing identities of victims and offenders through their immediacy, semi-public and encompassing character.

### Restorative justice and domestic violence: Challenges and critical issues

Author: Jane Dullum

Institute: Norwegian Social Research (NOVA)

In Norway, restorative justice is an option in cases of domestic violence. Restorative justice can be an alternative to, or used in addition to, a criminal proceeding. The virtues claimed for restorative justice, are the responsabilization of the offender, repairing of harm, and healing and empowerment of the victim. However, extending restorative justice to cases of domestic violence is not straightforward. Based on a study on the use of restorative justice in cases of domestic violence in Norway, I will explore key-issues that arise when restorative justice practices are implemented in a field characterized by gendered forms of harms and asymmetrical power relations. It is argued that an approach that differs from today's restorative justice practices is necessary to protect and attend to victim's interests.

### The validation process of the Family Needs Checklist

Author: Heidi Rantanen

Institute: Tampere University, Finland

Co-authors: Jari Kylmä, Arja Halkoaho, Eija Paavilainen

Background of the study: Child maltreatment in a family has lifelong and devastating consequences for a child's physical, mental and social health, affecting profoundly their future. In the ERICA project Stopping Child Maltreatment through Pan-European Multiprofessional Training Programme: Early Child Protection Work with Families at Risk (2019–2021), an evidence-based risk assessment instrument, Family Needs Checklist (FNC), was developed, in the mobile application format. FNC is an early prevention instrument of child maltreatment, based on multidisciplinary, international research evidence, and presented also as the Nursing Research Foundation's Clinical Practice Guideline in Finland. It is meant to be used by all parents (general population) separately and in joint conversations with social and health care service professionals and parents. Further, the validation process of the FNC in the Finnish culture has proceeded to validate the evidence base of the FNC, utilizing experts by experience, living in risk circumstances, in the validation process. The



research questions are 1) How do parents living with children define the risk conditions that may cause child maltreatment? and 2) How do these experiences cohere with the Clinical Practice Guideline and how do parents appraise the Family Needs Checklist for child maltreatment prevention? Methods: In the first phase research data on the experiences of parents living or who have lived in risky conditions (n=30) (experts by experience) will be collected through open interviews. Interviews will be analyzed by deductive analysis, based on the content of FNC. The results are used for modifying and finalizing the checklist guided by parents' experiences. Findings: The main findings will be introduced in September 2023. Conclusions and implications: The main conclusions and implications will be introduced, aiming toward validated and reliable, an easy-to-use online instrument to prevent child maltreatment in the family.

### Current status of Data Sources and Data Collection Processes on Cyber Violence against Women and Girls across the EU-27

Author: Diogo Costa

Institute: European Institute for Gender Equality

Co-authors: Eleonora Esposito

Cyber violence against women and girls (CVAWG) is an emerging new dimension to gender-based violence facilitated by the increased use of digital technologies. CVAWG remains under-reported in the EU and there is a significant lack of valid and comprehensive data, that allows assessing its prevalence and incidence in a comparable way. Building on a previous assessment of current definitions, legislations and policies on CVAWG at the EU, international, and Member State level (EIGE 2022), EIGE is currently working towards the creation of a comparable measurement framework and operationalized definitions and related indicators. The final aim is to allow EU Member States to collect comparable data on CVAWG from different administrative types of sources, and enable monitoring this form of violence. In this paper, EIGE presents a review and update of the current state of the art on national administrative data sources and surveys on CVAWG. This includes existing definitions used for data collection purposes on different forms of CVAWG, national regulations regarding data collection processes, and the main actors involved in established mechanisms through which data on different forms of CVAWG is collected and made available. Moreover, in this paper EIGE shares the results of a systematic review of existing local/national level studies with published results within the last five years that have measured CVAWG in the EU-27, with a particular focus on the methodological options taken. The review illustrates, among other aspects, which tools, instruments or specifically designed questions were used in the selected studies, how were forms of cyber violence defined, what methods of administration were used, and the nature of samples sizes and frames. References European Institute for Gender Equality - EIGE (2022). Combating Cyber Violence against Women and Girls. <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/combating-cyber-violence-against-women-and-girls>

## Researching DVA II

Costing the mental health harms of sexual and physical violence in adulthood: a prevalence-based analysis in England

Author: Sally McManus

Institute: City, University of London

Co-authors: Estela Capelas Barbosa, Sylvia Walby

**Background:** When economists estimate how much violence ‘costs’, they rarely address the longer-term mental health harms resulting from sexual violence or the combined impact of sexual and physical violence, nor have most gender-disaggregated costs. **Methods:** We applied prevalence-based modelling techniques to estimate the annual cost of experience of violence in adulthood, in terms of reduced quality of life and health service costs. Data were drawn from multiple sources, including the general population probability sample Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey. Prevalence and duration estimates used weighted data. Adjusted marginal effects for limiting mental health conditions and substance dependence were estimated for experience in adulthood of sexual violence, physical violence, and both sexual and physical violence combined. Disability weights were applied to estimate associated reduced quality of life and relative risks applied for to health service delivery costs. **Findings:** The estimated cost in 2019 of long-term reduced quality of life adults in England experienced because of violence during their adult years was £3,767 million (€4,290 million), with associated healthcare costs of £4,130 million (€4703 million). Both the costs of long-term lost quality of life and healthcare were higher in women than men. The costs associated with combined sexual and physical violence were particularly high, with an estimated 96% of these costs resulting from experiences of violence in women. Combined sexual and physical violence in women was associated with the highest cost per victim. **Conclusions:** Sexual and physical violence both have substantial and independent associations with long-term mental distress, substance dependence and associated treatment and service use. Violence reduction interventions have the potential to reduce health service costs and increase population level quality of life. Future costings of sexual violence should fully incorporate the longer-term impact on mental health and gender-disaggregate estimates. **Funding:** UK Prevention Research Partnership (Violence, Health and Society; MR-VO49879/1)

The Mirror Cracked – the representation of domestic abuse in contemporary narrative fiction – a Creative Writing PhD

Author: Jo Higson

Institute: Bristol University

I am both an avid reader and a survivor of domestic abuse. However, I didn’t recognise what I was experiencing was domestic abuse because it didn’t involve physical violence - he didn’t hit me. What I read in novels was about physical abuse, or at best extreme coercive control leading up to physical violence. I wanted to know if other survivor’s felt their experiences were reflected in novels over the last thirty years, or like me, not usually. Would they read a book about the more subtle forms of abuse? Could I write that book and still make it compelling? Accurate representation in literature, film and other media is crucial for victims

to recognise unhealthy behaviours in intimate relationships, for the people around them – family, friends and the professionals they come into contact with - to be educated, and for a change in societal attitudes overall. My research combines the initial writing of a novel, data collection involving other survivors, analysis and re-writing based on the results. To gather the views of other survivors, I am running a monthly book club where survivors can express their feelings about a diverse range of novels featuring domestic abuse, including my first draft. I will talk about the challenge of designing a book club to ensure a safe, supportive environment which will not retraumatise those involved, including myself. The data produced by the book club will be analysed using reflexive thematic analysis and initial findings from this will be available by the date of the conference. The results of the analysis will be used to feed back into a re-write of the novel.

### Enhancing recovery for people who have experienced domestic abuse using nature-based therapy

Author: Kirsty Shanks

Institute: University of Essex

This presentation will highlight research into how nature-based therapy might be used to support the recovery of victim-survivors of domestic abuse in respect of their health, well-being and resilience. This has been explored through the co-design and evaluation of a structured nature-based programme. Domestic abuse costs the UK approximately £66billion each year – with the most significant cost being the physical and emotional harm suffered by victim-survivors themselves which amounts to £47billion (UK Gov., 2019). Impacted by a lack of funding coupled with increased demand for services, domestic abuse services are increasingly working under significant strain (Woman's Aid, 2020). With services lacking the funding to fully meet even the immediate physical safety needs of survivors, there has been a lack of support for victim-survivors 'beyond the crisis of leaving' to address the longer term physical and emotional impact (e.g. Ford-Gilboe et. al, 2011). Meanwhile, nature connectedness and green care projects have been shown to mitigate against or help to ameliorate poor physical health and mental health issues in other vulnerable groups (e.g. Bragg, 2016). Although limited, there is some emerging research to suggest why this might be specifically beneficial for victim-survivors of domestic abuse (e.g. Varning Poulsen et. al, 2020). This presentation will highlight more about the rationale behind the project, the process of codesigning an intervention and outcomes from the pilot which ran in spring/summer 2021. Findings show that attendees who took part in the evaluation of the pilot reported improved sense of social connection, self-esteem & wellbeing, and resilience over the course of the programme. Other benefits included an increased awareness of their personal boundaries and the confidence to implement these as well as increased feelings of calm and feeling able to be present without worrying as much about the future or fixating on the past.

### Getting beyond the 'Nordic Paradox'

Author: William Østerby Sørensen

Institute: European University Institute

It came as a surprise for most, when the EU's Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) concluded in its 2014 report, that women from the internationally recognized gender egalitarian Nordic EU countries, had the highest prevalence of violence against women. The findings challenged the presumed negative relationship between equality and violence and has become known as the "Nordic Paradox", which has triggered the formulation of several hypotheses, as well as comprehensive methodological criticism of the study. Almost a decade later, the debate is stagnated on whether the paradox is real or not. In an attempt to push the discussion further, this project is structured around the hypothesis that no consensus on what constitutes violence exists across EU member states. To explore the hypothesis, a study is designed consisting of four core parts: I) A review of the Nordic Paradox literature II) Engagement with theories on violence, III) Findings from a comparative study on concepts of violence in a southern and northern EU context, and IV) EU policy and reports on violence. It is found that what constitutes violence, including how it should be defined, the explanations for its existence, and the best way to combat it is not consistent across national contexts and across the literature. Despite variations in conceptualizations, violence is treated as one at the EU level which is problematic for the development of effective policy. At the academic level, the findings highlight the need for further research on how violence is conceptualized across different contexts as well as research that develops approaches to define and delimit violence. At the level of policy, the findings highlight the need for reflections on contextual differences when crafting supranational policies, e.g., policy at the level of the EU.

Introducing the Biographical Narrative Interpretive Method Interview technique as a viable means of investigating IPV life stories.

Author: Melissa Corbally

Institute: Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin

Co-authors: Aisling Callan

Background: Many support service decisions for those experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) are made on the basis of a told story. Men in particular are a hard-to-reach research population who struggle with recognising vulnerability and seeking help, especially in relation to talking about IPV. It is imperative that innovative and sensitive research methods are utilised to elicit the gendered nuances of IPV as experienced by men. Narrative research methodologies are a useful means of exploring how victims of IPV make sense of their experiences which at times can be difficult to articulate. Summary: The Biographical Narrative Interpretive Method (BNIM) (Wengraf 2001) interview technique consists of asking a tailored single narrative framing question to elicit a life story, followed by subsequent structured inquiry into aspects of the person's story. This paper presents the philosophical basis, and strengths of the BNIM interview technique by presenting two separate BNIM studies which effectively utilised this method of data collection. One study elicited heterosexual men's life stories of IPV whilst another elicited gay men's life stories of IPV. Across both studies, BNIM allowed men to provide in depth IPV descriptions whilst recognising more covert forms of IPV in real time. The utility of BNIM interviewing as a viable means of examining hard-to-reach topics such as IPV amongst hard-to-reach groups is presented. Implications for scholarship: The BNIM interview technique offers real potential for scholars to understand how IPV victims make sense of their life stories in an empowering

way. Whilst this paper illustrates the utility of BNIM amongst a male population, we contend that this method has broader potential application in the area of IPV research. Reference: Wengraf, T. (2001). *Qualitative research interviewing—Biographic narrative and semi-structured methods*. London, England: Sage.

## Researching DVA III

**Different scripts, different casts: A crime script analysis indicating intimate partner violence is not all the same**

Author: Christine Carney

Institute: Griffith University and Griffith Criminology Institute

Co-authors: Mark Kebbell, Li Eriksson, Regan Carr

**Purpose:** This paper applies crime script analysis to intimate partner violence incidents and demonstrates the importance of examining diversity within such incidents by identifying variables that are significantly associated with different script tracks. The paper discusses implications for situational crime prevention and the use of mixed methods for strengthening the crime script analysis approach. **Method:** Using a mixed method approach, qualitative thematic analysis was conducted using official police administrative data from Queensland, Australia to develop an intimate partner violence protoscript (n=40), followed by quantitative hierarchical cluster analysis and cross tabulations to examine diversity within scripts. **Results:** Four script tracks were identified in the data highlighting diversity not only in the behaviour of offenders but also in the ways in which victims respond to violence. These were conceptualized as ‘escalating jealousy’, ‘persistently possessive’, ‘controlling victim agency’ and ‘enduring argument’. **Conclusion:** Diversity exists within intimate partner violence incidents with divisions based on several statistically significant variables. Identifying diversity evident across script tracks supports greater understanding of the types of situational crime prevention measures required at an individual level. Crime script analysis can be strengthened through the use of mixed methods such as qualitative thematic analysis and cluster analyses.

**Using participatory visual methods in the field of gender-based violence in diverse socio-cultural contexts: Challenges, risks, and potentials**

Author: Anıl Özge Üstünel

Institute: Istanbul Bilgi University

Co-authors: Büşra Yalçınöz Uçan

Participatory visual methods, such as photovoice and digital storytelling, are considered as accessible, egalitarian and engaging strategies that give priority to participant voices and blur the lines between research and intervention. In the field of gender-based violence, these methods are mainly used to give voice to survivors, increase the visibility of their experiences and mobilize community engagement with anti-violence efforts. Despite their positive uses and transformative potential, this presentation will describe some challenges and risks involved in using these methodologies, based on examples from two research

projects conducted with diverse communities. The first project involves digital storytelling with immigrant and refugee women who have experienced violence and been living in shelters in Norway. The second one, initially designed as a photovoice project, works with young adults for the prevention of sexual violence and coercion in Turkey. The observations throughout the planning and beginning phases of these projects revealed 3 main challenges and risks involved in using these visual methods in violence research: 1) Emotional labor: This challenge captures the risks posed to emotional well-being of the participants, the demanding nature of visual methods and inherent vulnerability in creating a product for media consumption. 2) Accessibility and inclusivity: This challenge is related to the difficulty some participants experience about learning to express themselves through visual, creative and symbolic means, and raise questions about cultural appropriateness and familiarity. 3) External constraints: This challenge is related to the constraints related to time limits and societal pressures about the topics being studied. The revisions and strategies adopted to overcome these challenges in the projects will be shared. These observations are intended to serve to the development of a contextualized and situated understanding of participatory visual methods in the field of gender-based violence.

#### Domestic Violence in Romania- how exposure affects women victim-survivors

Author: Beatrice-Andreea Neacsu

Institute: Bath Spa University

PhD Project Domestic violence is a significant issue in Romania, with high numbers of cases and a lack of research in the area. The east side of Romania, region of Moldova is known to have the highest rates of violence and poverty in the country. Statistics show that 1 in 4 women over the age of 15 have been victims of physical violence at least once in their lifetime, and 60% of the population believes that violence is acceptable. The aim of the project is to draw attention to the way DV is handled in Romania. Another aim is to give the opportunity to the people affected by DV to share their experiences, and their perception of the current help that is available. The main questions: How are victims affected by DV? How is the society's view impacting their decision to leave/stay in abusive relationships? What were their experiences with the police and social services? How would they want to change the current strategies on DV? A qualitative study will be conducted on how exposure to DV affects women victim-survivors in Romania. A review of the relevant literature on the issue will be included, together with the analysis of women's experiences. Two sets of interviews will be conducted, one in September 2022 (already done), and one after 6 months, conducted in an emergency DV shelter in Romania. The results will be analysed using NVivo and thematic analysis. So far it has been found how the lack of proper legislation and shelters affect victim-survivors who not only have to leave their homes, but are also constantly in danger. It has also been found how the majority of Romanian people agree with the use of DV which has a negative impact on victim-survivors. Abusers are not prosecuted even when victims press charges, and there are constantly cases of women being murdered, even though they have asked for help. The study and implications for practice, policy or further research. The main outcome is raising awareness regarding DV and giving the victim-survivors a chance to speak about their experiences. This is meant to offer new perspectives on how DV is handled by the police and social services. Better methods

need to be created and the study aims to provide the basis of new legislation and help provided to victim-survivors.

### Methodological approaches in the research of domestic violence in the archives of social work in Slovenia

Author: Tanja Buda

Institute: University of Ljubljana, Faculty of social work

In Slovenia, studies of domestic violence and its impact on individuals were not conducted until the 1990s. Before that, Slovenia was part of Yugoslavia from 1954 to 1991, where domestic violence was not addressed by social work, sociology, and psychology professionals, nor by political actors. The most significant evidence of this is that there was not a single governmental or non-governmental program for women and children who were victims of domestic violence in the former Yugoslavia. There was also no explicit mention of domestic violence in legislation. Nevertheless, the occurrence of domestic violence in the former Yugoslavia cannot be denied. The question is how we can study the phenomenon historically and systematically in order to prove its prevalence and, above all, the inaction of the responsible institutions and the political regime of the time. The question also relates to the choice of methodology, which cannot be exclusively historical or sociological, because uncovering domestic violence when it does not officially exist requires creative research approaches. Research was conducted in the archives of the Center for Social Work (state institutions) for the occurrence of domestic violence in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, as these archives are accessible for research purposes for the first time in history. The archives contain cases of social workers who worked with families in Centers for Social Work. The results of the research make an important contribution to the development of the methodology of the history of social work and domestic violence, as this area is poorly researched during the period of state socialism. In the absence of a review of archival sources and systematic research on domestic violence in Yugoslavia, such research is all the more important to add to the historical knowledge of state socialism in Yugoslavia.

### Systematic reviews in domestic abuse: Ethical and methodological priorities

Author: Karen Schucan Bird

Institute: UCL, UK

Co-authors: Nicola Stokes, Martha Tomlinson, Carol Rivas

Background: Over the past fifteen years, there has been a significant expansion in the conduct and publication of systematic reviews in domestic violence and abuse. This growing body of review level evidence has a critical role to play in informing development of effective policies and programmes to prevent, reduce and mitigate the effects of domestic violence and abuse. Yet, consideration of the methodological and ethical dimensions specific to systematic reviews in domestic abuse are absent from the literature. This paper takes steps to begin to fill this gap. Methods: A completed systematic review in domestic abuse, conducted in collaboration with stakeholders in the wider sector, provides a pertinent case example to highlight ethical and methodological priorities. The presentation will document and interrogate the systematic review process using ethical frameworks and tools from the

field of domestic abuse. The Five Pillars of the Research Integrity Framework (Women's Aid, 2020) serves as a useful framework for doing so. Findings: Ethical and methodological priorities of systematic reviews in domestic abuse include 1) wellbeing of project team, including stakeholders, 2) transparency in reporting and tailored outputs for diverse audiences, 3) representation of diverse perspectives and consideration of researcher positionality/ reflexivity in the review, 4) involvement of non-academic stakeholders and individuals with lived experience throughout the review process, 5) thorough and independent ethical scrutiny of systematic review proposals. Conclusions: Further research is necessary to develop and advance ethical frameworks for the conduct and reporting of systematic reviews in domestic abuse.

### Ethical challenges in global health research on violence women: a qualitative study of policy and professional perspectives

Author: Natalia V Lewis

Institute: University of Bristol

Co-authors: Beatriz Kalichman, Yuri Nishijima Azeredo, Loraine J Bacchus, Ana Flavia d'Oliveira

Background: Our group on health system responses to violence against women (VAW) included two universities in a European high-income country (HIC) and four universities in low-and middle-income countries (LMICs). This study aimed to investigate professional and policy perspectives on the ethical challenges specific to the ethics approval stage of the global projects on VAW and health. Methods: We used the Network of Ethical Relationships model, framework method, and READ approach to analyse 18 qualitative interviews and 27 policy documents. In March-July 2021, we recruited a purposive sample of researchers and members of Research Ethics Committees (RECs) from the five partner countries. Interviewees signposted policies and guidelines on ethics in global research, including VAW. Findings: We developed three themes with eight subthemes. The global nature of the group contributed towards power and resources imbalance between HIC and LMICs and differing RECs' rules. Location of the studies in health care services highlighted differing rules across university RECs and health authorities. The VAW topic contributed towards differing conceptualisations of VAW and vulnerability and limited methodological and topic expertise in some LMIC RECs. These factors threatened the timely delivery of studies and had a negative impact on researchers and their relationships with RECs and funders. Most researchers felt frustrated and demotivated by the bureaucratized and uncoordinated approval process. Participants suggested involving LMIC representatives in developing funding agendas, redistributing power between HICs and LMICs, coordination between RECs and health authorities and capacity strengthening on ethics. Conclusions and implications: The ethics approval process for global research on VAW and health should be more coordinated across partners, with levelling up between HICs and LMICs, researchers and RECs. While some of these objectives can be achieved through educating RECs and researchers, the power imbalance and differing rules should be addressed at the institutional and funder levels.



## Researching DVA IV

### Efficacy of Psychosocial Interventions for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence –A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Author: Hannah M. Micklitz

Institute: Department of Medical Psychology and Medical Sociology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany

Co-authors: Carla M. Glass, Jürgen Bengel, Lasse B. Sander

**Background:** Survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) face severe health-related and socioeconomic consequences, requiring effective and safe psychosocial interventions for their support. Recent research efforts in the field call for an updated research synthesis on the efficacy of psychosocial interventions in improving safety-related, mental health and psychosocial outcomes. **Methods:** We preregistered the methods in a study protocol (Micklitz et al., 2023). We searched four literature databases (PsycInfo, Medline, Embase, CENTRAL, 23/03/2022) for randomized-controlled trials investigating the efficacy of psychosocial interventions compared to control groups on safety-related and mental health outcomes in IPV survivors. We performed random effects meta-analyses to calculate weighted effects on IPV, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). We investigated moderating effects of predefined intervention and study characteristics in subgroup analyses. We rated study quality using Cochrane Risk of bias tool 2 and overall quality of evidence using GRADE. **Findings:** We included 80 studies in qualitative synthesis and 40 studies in meta-analyses. Preliminary results indicate modest effects of psychosocial interventions on depression (SMD -0.26 [95% CI -0.44 to -0.09; P = 0.004], I<sup>2</sup> = 85%) and PTSD (SMD -0.37 [95% CI -0.60 to -0.13; P = 0.02], I<sup>2</sup> = 85%), and no effects on IPV re-experience (SMD -0.13 [95% CI -0.27 to 0.02; P = 0.08], I<sup>2</sup> = 75%) compared to controls at post. Subgroup analyses showed favorable effects of high-intensive and integrative interventions, combining advocacy-based and psychological components, in reducing IPV re-experience, depression and PTSD. **Conclusions and implications:** Psychosocial interventions show modest and only short-term effects on the safety and psychosocial well-being of IPV survivors. The quality of evidence is low and potential harms remain unclear. To overcome these problems, future research must adopt higher standards in research conduct and reporting. Further, research, practice and policy makers need to acknowledge the complexity and diversity of IPV experiences. Literature (not included in 300 words word count): Micklitz, H. M., Glass, C. M., Bengel, J., & Sander, L. B. (2023). Efficacy of psychosocial interventions for survivors of intimate partner violence: Protocol for a systematic review and meta-analysis. *BJPsych Open*, 9(1), E9. doi:10.1192/bjo.2022.625

### The feasibility of an epidemiological monitoring system for the surveillance of the risk of intimate partner violence in cities

Author: Enrique Gracia

Institute: University of Valencia

Co-authors: Marisol Lila, Antonio López-Quílez, Miriam Marco

Despite past and current efforts, the prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV) in our societies remains alarmingly high. More advanced tools are needed to monitor IPV risk and

to assess the results of prevention strategies to reduce this risk. The risk of IPV is not equally distributed in space, and this inequality is also manifested geographically in cities. However, cities do not have monitoring systems to analyze the spatio-temporal distribution of IPV risk across their neighborhoods. The aim of this study is to illustrate the feasibility of an epidemiological monitoring system for the surveillance of IPV in cities. To this end, we use as an example the city of Valencia (Spain). We use geocoded data of cases of IPV (N = 5,867), and neighborhood-level covariates to analyze variations in IPV risk in space and time during 8 years across the city neighborhoods (N = 552). Results from Bayesian spatio-temporal modeling showed that disadvantaged neighborhoods (in terms of income, education, residential instability and criminality) had higher relative risk of IPV (almost four times higher than the city average), and that the high risk of IPV persisted over time. Areas of stable low risk and with increasing or decreasing risk were also identified. By providing specific risk estimates at the small-area level (i.e., neighborhoods) this analytic approach also provides relevant information for intervention purposes. As IPV risk is monitored over time, changes in spatial and temporal patterns of risk can be detected (stability, increase, or reduction) and, therefore, preventive strategies can be directed and assessed in specific areas. Using administrative data, this study illustrates the feasibility of an epidemiological monitoring system for the surveillance of IPV, and its potential for public administrations as a complementary tool to design, and assess policies for preventing IPV in our cities.

**Evaluation of Perpetrator Programmes: what works according to men in the programme and their (ex-) partners?**

Author: Berta Vall

Institute: European Network For The Work With Perpetrators

Co-authors: Jaume Grané, Marianne Hester, Alessandra Pauncz

The outcome of perpetrator programmes has been discussed in research ((Babcock, Green & Robie, 2004; Gondolf, 2003; Lilly-Walker, Hester, and Turner 2016). The main challenges for outcome evaluation are the different research methodologies and the variety of tools available for outcome evaluation. The “Impact Outcome Monitoring Toolkit (Impact Toolkit)” is a tool that has been developed to assess the outcome of perpetrator programmes (Vall, Sala, Hester & Pauncz, 2021). This innovative tool analyses a wide range of outcomes that go beyond the analysis of behavior change, which has been stated as a good practice in outcome evaluation of perpetrator programmes (Kelly and Westermarland, 2015). It measures several longitudinal perpetrator programme outcomes, stated by the perpetrators and their (ex-) partners, which emphasizes the victim-centered approach in outcome evaluation. Participants were more than 1500 hundred in total, including men that were following treatment in a perpetrator program and their (ex-) partners. Their views on the outcome of the perpetrator programmes were compared and analyzed, further analysis revealed groups of perpetrators according to the level of violence and the impact of this violence. Finally, recommendations for research and practice are discussed.

**The co-occurrence of domestic violence and workplace sexual harassment victimisation: Findings from an Australian study**

Author: Nicola Helps

Institute: Monash University

Co-authors: Stefani Vasil

In 2022 the International Labour Organisation reported that more than one in five workers globally have experienced violence and harassment at work. This study, published in December 2022, provides the first global estimate of the problem of workplace gender based violence. While recognising the ways in which the harms of domestic violence can impact victim-survivors at work, there remains limited data on the extent to which victim-survivors of work based violence also experience domestic violence. Addressing this gap in current knowledge, this presentation will examine the findings from a national survey of 1464 Australian victim-survivors of workplace sexual harassment. The national study aimed to explore victim-survivors experiences of, and views on early intervention and prevention opportunities for workplace sexual harassment. Within the survey sample, there was a significant overlap between experiences of harm - with over 40 per cent of workplace sexual harassment victim-survivors also reporting domestic violence victimisation. Within this cohort of victim-survivors the survey found a diversity of experiences, with some workers reporting single perpetration and others experiencing gender based harm from multiple perpetrators. While policy and practice responses to different forms of gender based harm have often been siloed, this study reveals the need to acknowledge and address the co-occurrence of domestic violence and workplace sexual harassment victimisation. Presenting the quantitative and qualitative findings from the national study, this presentation will explore implications for policy and practice in Australia and internationally.

#### Development of a Decision-Making Framework for Measuring Intimate Partner Violence

Author: Jessica R. Williams, PhD, MPH, PHNA-BC, FAAN

Institute: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Co-authors: Jocelyn C. Anderson, PhD, RN, SANE-A, Candace W. Burton, PhD, RN, AFN-BC, Jessica E. Draughon Moret, PhD, RN

**Background:** A major challenge to researchers and others working in the field of intimate partner violence (IPV) is the complexity involved in its measurement. Numerous validated instruments exist; however, they vary widely in focus and scoring. This has created difficulty and confusion for researchers when selecting an instrument to study intimate partner violence, interpreting study results, and comparing findings across studies. **Objectives:** The purpose of this presentation is to discuss a preliminary framework that will assist researchers in (1) selecting instruments for measuring IPV based on the goals of the research project and (2) making decisions about how to score instruments. **Methods:** Our framework is based on a review and synthesis of published literature identifying instruments for measuring IPV and methods for scoring these instruments. **Results:** Intimate partner violence instruments are greatly divergent in terms of the population of interest (e.g., general vs. survivor), timeframe of abuse (e.g., current vs. lifetime), and focus of assessment (e.g., abuse experiences vs. outcomes of abuse). Numerous methods were identified for scoring IPV instruments including examining IPV as a dichotomous outcome, number of abuse experiences, severity of abuse, and chronicity of abuse. Each method provides a different picture of the distribution of IPV experiences and varies regarding the ease of interpretation. Methodological decisions should focus on aligning both instrument and

scoring procedures with the goal of the research project. Discussion: The wide variation in methods for measuring IPV highlights the need for researchers to be purposeful when selecting a method and even to apply multiple methods when necessary. Our framework provides a guide to assist researchers when making decisions about the use of different instruments and scoring methods in different contexts.

### **Sex trafficking, ethics and empowerment: Reflections on data collection (during COVID-19 pandemic) with survivors of sex trafficking**

Author: Ileana-Maria Turda

Institute: University of Central Lancashire

Co-authors: Prof. Nicky Stanley, Dr. Sarah Shorrocks, Dr. Emily Cooper, Dr. Lis Bates

Research on sex trafficking involves various ethical considerations and dilemmas when victims and survivors become research participants. In addressing trafficking and informing effective policies, scholars recommend micro-scale in-depth empirical research since they take an inductive approach to understanding complex problems (Cockbain & Kleemans, 2019; Weitzer, 2014). The voices of sex trafficking survivors are often overshadowed within research (Broad & Turnbull, 2019; Richardson et al., 2016), with conclusions and recommendations based on limited data or the perspectives of professionals. Whilst these sources create knowledge around sex trafficking, they lack the authenticity victim, and survivor accounts provide. Although accessing victims and survivors of sex trafficking can be complex, particularly in relation to ethical practices, such challenges should not deter researchers from engaging with survivors. As Pascual-Leone and colleagues (2017) note, opportunities to share stories of traumatic events can be therapeutic and aid the healing process. Researchers need to ensure they provide a supportive environment for stories to be shared, with the individual choosing what is shared. To recognise the importance of placing women survivors of sex trafficking at the centre of research, this paper explores the methodological approach to investigating the post-trafficking trajectories of Romanian women. A critical overview of the challenges encountered throughout the research process will be provided, with specific attention given to 'the question of ethics' and the potential disconnect between empowering women to have a voice and a need to protect women from re-traumatisation. It will highlight the roles of gatekeepers and researchers in navigating ethical challenges, especially in the context of online research and the COVID-19 pandemic. The paper will conclude by offering some solutions to the problems so that practice and policy changes are more inclusive of lived experiences.

## **Researching DVA V**

### **Canadian News Representations of Intimate Femicide: Research Insights and Preliminary Findings**

Author: Jordan Fairbairn

Institute: King's University College at Western University

Co-authors: Ciara Boyd, Myrna Dawson

News media have an important role to play in preventing intimate femicide, defined as the killing of a woman by her current or former intimate partner. Media representations are an important space for understanding and shaping attitudes surrounding violence against women (VAW), an elusive area of primary prevention work (see Ryan, Anastario, and DaCunha 2006), but critical to social change (Johnson and Dawson 2011). Internationally, researchers and advocates are increasingly vocal about the invisibility, downplaying, and/or misrepresentation of femicide in the media and among society, and news media are increasingly recognized as not only information sources, but as active participants in social change (Fairbairn & Dawson 2013; Comas-d'Argemir 2015; Jilozian 2017). This presentation focuses on the Canadian media responses to intimate femicide with the aim of increasing media capacity to operate as an agent of primary prevention. Taking a constructionist and intersectional feminist approach, we share preliminary research findings from our larger study *Representing intimate femicide in Canada: Understanding media framing of gender-related killings of women and girls, 2010-2024*. We first outline the process for data collection for the overarching project, including the creation of a search strategy and a coding instrument for Canada-wide data collection. Next, we share early findings from our analysis of patterns in reporting from 2010-2021 and select thematic analyses with a focus on the representation of racialized, Indigenous, and/or immigrant and refugee populations in Canada. Finally, we consider the pivotal role that journalist collaboration, education, and training can play in increasing the capacity of news media to operate as a site of primary prevention, and share insights and updates on our journalist engagement strategy, survey data collection, and research dissemination goals.

Evaluation of the Serious Youth Violence project in Kent.

Author: Dr Tirion Havard

Institute: London South Bank University

In 2020 Kent County Council dedicated its allocation of the Government's 'Supporting Families Against Youth Crime Fund' to a multi-disciplinary intervention for children involved in serious violence. The project targeted children and young people (CYP) aged between 10-17 years of age who were believed to be highly vulnerable to child criminal exploitation. This presentation provides the outcome of a two-year multi-methods evaluation. It engaged the voice of CYP, professionals and parents/carers involved in the project. Simultaneously, it recorded the number of police call outs, arrests, school exclusions and incidents detailing missing young people. Before and after comparisons of the intervention created a cost benefit analysis. Quality of life data at a CYP participant level was also collected. Findings from the evaluation were extremely positive. Smaller caseloads and the offer of support over 12 months provided the time for staff to build strong relationships with young people and their families. Professionals ability to build trust meant they understood the challenges faced by the CYP and were able to tailor their intervention to meet individual need and fill gaps in service provision. CYP were able to make safer choices, reduce reoffending and in some cases exit gang life. They spoke of improved mental health and the ability to plan for their future. The intervention also showed the ability to make cost savings within the criminal justice and education systems alongside improvements in quality of life for the CYP. The police's tendency to see the CYP as an offender first (and child second) was contrary to other organisational cultures which created barriers to partnership working. Schools play an

important role in the safety and reintegration of CYP, but their responses, including relationships with the police were inconsistent. The presentation will end with suggestions for future policies and practice

### Validating the Revised Scale of Economic Abuse (SEA2) in India: Results from psychometric testing

Author: Sangeeta Chatterji

Institute: University of Edinburgh

Co-authors: Mohan Ghule, Nicole E. Johns, Sarah Averbach, Anita Raj

**Background:** Economic violence includes behaviours that control an individual's ability to acquire, use, or maintain economic resources to threaten their financial security and potential for self-sufficiency. While research has demonstrated that economic abuse is a unique form of violence with negative consequences for victims, more research is needed to advance its conceptualisation and measurement in low-and-middle-income countries as existing measures have been primarily developed in high-income countries. This study addresses this gap and describes the psychometric evaluation of the Revised Scale of Economic Abuse (SEA2) in India. **Methods:** We use data from 1061 women, aged 18-29 years, recruited as part of an evaluation of CHARM2 (Counselling Husbands and wives to Achieve Reproductive health and Marital equity), a family planning intervention in Maharashtra. Participants were interviewed at baseline, 9-, 18-, and 36 months post-intervention. We use data from the 36-month follow-up when the measure was added and include participants from the intervention and control groups. **Findings:** The full SEA2 demonstrated good reliability ( $\alpha=0.81$ ); subscales for economic control ( $\alpha=0.78$ ) and exploitation ( $\alpha=0.88$ ) also demonstrated internal consistency. The results for construct validity were less clear. The SEA2 was positively associated with physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, and the magnitude of association was highest between economic and emotional abuse. Women who reported economic abuse were also more likely to report symptoms of depression, anxiety, and self-reported poor physical and mental health. However, Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) did not support the original two-factor structure of the SEA2. Exploratory factor analysis indicated a three-factor structure which had a poor fit in subsequent CFA. **Conclusions and implications:** This study provides limited support for using the SEA2 in India. More research is needed to uncover forms of abuse that may be unique to the cultural context in India that the SEA2 does not capture in its current form.

### Redeveloping questions and statistics on domestic abuse for the Crime Survey for England and Wales.

Author: Marianne Hester

Institute: University of Bristol

**Background and purpose:** Questions on domestic abuse are asked as part of the self-completion section of the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). These have largely remained the same since they were introduced in April 2004. However, the data currently collected does not align with new legislation on coercive control and defining domestic

abuse, does not measure frequency of abuse nor provide detail about the nature of the abuse. Between November 2021 and April 2022 we carried out research for the UK Office of National Statistics to develop new questions and statistics to overcome these problems. Methods: Based on earlier findings (Hester et al. forthcoming) an initial set of 25 questions were developed. These covered relationship status and context, controlling or coercive behaviour, physical assault and use of weapons, sexual coercion, and the impact of non-physical and physical abuse. These questions were tested with 27 victims with differing characteristics and experiences through a mixture of online focus groups and interviews. The revised questions were cognitively tested with a further 30 individuals, a mixture of victims of domestic abuse and a sample of the public with no experience of domestic abuse. Findings: The research has led to a new set of questions on intimate partner and family abuse and new statistical approach. The research suggested that victim abuse profiles which take account of both the level of abusive behaviour and the impact of such behaviour on the victim should be used to differentiate types of victims, and thus to identify victims of "one-off" or infrequent abuse where the impact felt is reported as limited, separately from those suffering ongoing, coercive abuse. Conclusions & Implications: The questions and approach have been adopted and are currently being tested with a large split sample in the Crime Survey for England and Wales.

**Administrative data on intimate partner violence, rape and femicide: a look into the available indicators and their relationship with Gender Equality dimensions across the EU.**

Author: Diogo Costa

Institute: European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

Besides survey data, administrative data on violence against women can be a useful resource for monitoring incidence and support policy developments that aim at tackling different forms of violence. Starting in 2014, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) has worked towards the development of comparable indicators for collecting administrative data on rape, femicide and intimate partner violence (including physical, psychological, sexual, and economic intimate partner violence), as collected by the police and justice sectors across the EU Member states. EIGE developed 13 indicators on these forms of violence against women with the help of Member States, and started collecting data for the period covering 2014-2018. A new data collection exercise, with improved indicators and data collection tool is ongoing, to cover the period 2018-2022. This work presents the results obtained for the first period of data collection. It highlights the difficulties in populating the indicators and some of the reasons for cross-national non-comparability of data. For selected Member States, this work also explores the longitudinal relationship between the rates obtained for the most available indicators between 2014-2018, and the evolution in the scores of the Gender Equality Index different domains (namely the domains of Work, Money, Health, Power, Time and Knowledge - <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index/2022> ) for the same period.

**Review of measurement instruments for violence against older women used in quantitative surveys conducted globally**

Author: Claudia García-Moreno

Institute: World Health Organization

Co-authors: Claudia Garcia-Moreno, Chris Mikton, Laura Campo-Tena

Violence against women (VAW) is a serious public health and human rights violation affecting women of all ages. However, to date the majority of surveys on VAW fail to adequately capture violence against older women. To address this concern and develop a more valid approach to measuring violence against older women, a systematic review of relevant instruments was conducted. A seven-step systematic search was performed to identify relevant studies and instruments. Studies and instruments were included if they focused on community samples and provided estimates of the prevalence of elder abuse (60 years and over) or violence against women (50 years and over) at national or subnational level. We obtained 60 instruments to measure elder abuse and 13 instruments to measure violence against women 50-years and older, used in 89 and 26 studies, respectively. Descriptive statistics and comparison of instrument constructs and items were conducted. Instruments measured 20 different constructs for elder abuse and 24 constructs for violence against women 50-years and older. Results indicated that constructs that purport to be the same are being measured by sets of items that appear quite different. Psychometric data were missing for most of the instruments. The review informed the development of a new survey module that could help capture violence against older women more validly and robustly by: 1) Including constructs unique to elder abuse instruments (e.g. neglect, financial abuse); 2) Inquiring about potential perpetrators in caregiving roles, such as adult children, grandchildren, informal and paid caregivers; 3) Including items specific to older women to capture forms of abuse specific to this population group (e.g., physical and chemical restraints in measures of physical abuse, threats of being sent to a long-term care institution in psychological abuse); 4) Including items specific to particular age ranges, to capture age-specific risk of violence.

## Responding to DVA

Academic online-resource on men's violence against women for university lecturers in Sweden

Author: Ivana Bragman

Institute: The National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence against Women (NCK), Uppsala University

Co-authors: Ulla Albért

Education is essential to prevention and elimination of men's violence against women. Since 2018, the subject is mandatory in eight study programs at Swedish universities. Graduates from these programs are expected to meet victims of violence in their future work and it's therefore important that they are equipped with knowledge based on both practice and research. The mandate was adopted with consideration to article 14 in the Istanbul convention and the Swedish government's ten-year national strategy for the prevention and elimination of men's violence against women. Education has been a key part of NCK's work since its founding in 1994. Since the mandate was adopted for the eight university programs, NCK has educated lecturers and program managers who in their turn are responsible for the



students' education on men's violence against women. In total, NCK has educated almost 240 lectures at Swedish universities. To further spread knowledge of education concerning men's violence against women, NCK has produced new in-depth material directed to university lecturers. The material is based on research and the expertise and knowledge from our prior work within the field. In this digital era, we deemed it appropriate to distribute the material online to ensure a wide spread and easy access. In November 2022 the online resource for higher education was published. Based on cross discipline knowledge and research to ensure qualitative content, the resource offers guides on specific challenges faced when teaching men's violence against women, different types of examinations on the subject, check-list for lectures and examples of seminars. The resource also offers program-specific knowledge and an array of interviews with experts, lecturers and program managers and is frequently updated with new material. In 2023, the work to evaluate and further expand the resource continues – foremost concerning the program-specific material.

### **Interventions to Prevent or Alleviate Economic Violence against Women: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis**

Author: Ines Böhret

Institute: Technical University of Munich

Co-authors: Prof. Janina Steinert, Deeksha Suresh

**Background:** Economic abuse against women includes economic control, economic exploitation, and employment sabotage. It threatens women's economic welfare and independence, traps them in abusive relationships, and adversely affects their mental health. However, research has so far neglected this crucial dimension of intimate partner violence. This systematic review aims at assessing the worldwide experimental evidence on interventions seeking to reduce or prevent economic violence against women. **Methods:** Medline and Web of Science were systematically searched, supplemented by hand searches of reference lists. Of 8,228 screened records, 30 randomized controlled trials were eligible by documenting evidence of interventions that included aspects of economic violence as outcome measures and targeted partnered women aged over 15 years and older. Findings were summarised narratively and will further be summarised quantitatively in a meta-analysis (ongoing). **Findings:** Most studies were conducted in Africa (57,6%), followed by Asia (27,3%), South America (12,1%), and Europe (3,0%). Interventions comprised different types of economic empowerment programmes, including savings promotion (21,4%), financial literacy training (19,6%), cash-, food- or in-kind transfers (12,5%), and microcredits (7,2%). Other intervention types included gender transformative programmes (21,4%) and psychological interventions (12,5%). Most studies measured intervention effects on women's economic decision-making (30,19%), followed by economic control (26,42%). Interventions including psychological components or microcredits were associated with higher treatment effects. **Conclusions and implications:** The results of this review highlight the high prevalence of economic violence against women. Economic violence was not a primary outcome in any of the included studies and none of the included interventions were designed with an explicit focus on economic violence and may therefore fail to consider specific triggers of economic violence in their underlying theory of change. Standardised measures and terminology are needed to facilitate a better understanding of economic violence and to develop effective prevention strategies.

## Climate change and violence against rural women: local government response

Author: Dr. Elena Wilson

Institute: La Trobe University

Co-authors: Dr Karen Anderson, Dr Nicole Johnson, Belinda Buck

Violence against women is a major health and welfare issue in rural Australia where women are 24 times more likely to be hospitalised for domestic violence than women in major cities. As recent fires and floods attest to health challenges of climate change there is growing evidence that an increased risk of violence against women is characteristic of the aftermath of disasters. The Victorian government in Australia mandates municipal climate change adaptation plans and health plans to address health implications of climate change and prevention and response to violence against women. The aim of this study was to explore how rural municipalities in Victoria recognise and prioritise preventing and responding to violence against women in the context of climate change. Using a qualitative study design, data was collected for policy analysis. A total of 191 policy documents of all 48 rural municipalities in Victoria were analysed for recognition of health impacts of climate change on women and proposed adaptation strategies. Documents were further analysed for recognition and prioritisation of preventing and responding to violence against women. Eight documents included minor recognition of climate change impacts on women and lacked adaptation strategies. Violence against women was included as a health priority in 11 documents, six of which included specific measures for prevention or response. Findings suggest that this health issue is poorly recognised and not a high priority. Despite policy mandates, the lack of a sense of urgency and commitment to real change is problematic. Urgent action is needed so that vulnerability of rural women is not exacerbated by disaster. Further data collection is planned to explore attitudes of rural municipalities and their capacity to effectively respond to policy mandates to achieve health and safety for women.

## What is behind statistics: An Analysis of Domestic Violence Criminal Files Cases in the Czech Republic

Author: Martina Novopacka

Institute: Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention

Co-authors: Hana Preslickova

Although prosecuted cases of domestic violence crimes are still only the tip of the iceberg, they represent one of the main sources of information on this issue. Statistical analyses show that in the Czech Republic, the courts deal with an average of around 400 cases of domestic violence between partners each year, and more than half of the perpetrators in these cases leave court with a suspended sentence. In 2022, as a part of the Norwegian-funded ViolenceOFF project, which focuses on the treatment of perpetrators of domestic gender-based violence, we completed an analysis of criminal case files to find out what lies behind the statistics regards the decision-making practice of courts in cases of domestic violence in partner relationships in the Czech Republic. We analyzed 126 randomly selected criminal files of domestic violence in partner relationships cases heard by courts in the Czech Republic in 2008, 2009, 2018 and 2019. We specifically focused on the characteristics of

perpetrators and victims, their family history, social background, and characteristics of the violence perpetrated, as well as other factors that appear in domestic violence cases. Our goal was to, among others, determine, if or how some of the factors we looked at affect court decision-making in specific domestic violence cases. These findings may provide a more detailed description of the characteristics of domestic violence crime perpetrated in a partner relationship. Thus, they may help to promote an individualized approach to offenders in criminal proceedings and to meet the needs of victims of this type of violence.

#### **Ethical and safety considerations in the use of virtual intimate partner violence services**

Author: Stephanie Baird

Institute: King's University College, Western University

Co-authors: Sarah Tarshis

The COVID-19 pandemic increased the need for virtual supports for those experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV). Beginning in March of 2020, countries around the world began implementing public health measures including physical distancing, stay-at-home orders, and temporary closures of in-person services to reduce the spread of COVID-19. In many areas, these public health guidelines for physical distancing meant that IPV service providers needed to quickly adjust service delivery methods to meet the needs of those experiencing IPV. Service providers developed ways to connect virtually with those experiencing IPV and established procedures focusing on maintaining the safety of service users and staff. Virtual services provided an opportunity for social support, resources, and counselling services, to reduce isolation for many individuals experiencing IPV. Since then, virtual technologies (e.g., online, internet-based, and/or smartphone applications [apps]) have continued to gain traction as forms of virtual support, while those experiencing IPV have also been using technology to access help informally, such as through social media. Despite the opportunities for support and reduced isolation provided by virtual IPV services, they have also created new challenges for service providers to address, such as equitable access to internet, financial barriers to accessing technology, and assessing safety of service users. Given the change to virtual services and the continuing use of virtual services going forward, it is imperative to consider ethical and safety challenges in using virtual IPV services as a form of IPV support. In response, this presentation will outline five key ethical and safety considerations in virtual IPV service provision, including: 1) prioritizing the needs and service preferences of gender, racial, and cultural groups; 2) ensuring adequate service provider training in assessing safety; 3) protecting privacy; 4) maintaining professional boundaries; and 5) responding to financial and access barriers.

## **RESPONDING: PREVENTION & INTERVENTION IV**

Learning from practice: Adolescent-focused approaches to prevent violence against women and girls: Lessons from Civil Society Organizations Funded By The UN Trust Fund To End Violence Against Women

Author: Shruti Majumdar

Institute: UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, UN Women

Although adolescence is a critical time for both boys and girls, it is a time when girls are especially vulnerable to violence, but also a promising entry point for early VAWG prevention efforts. Adolescent girls face new gendered risks because they are more vulnerable to various forms of violence and harmful practices. The phrase “women and girls” has improved efforts solely aimed at women, it has not resulted in the tailored interventions desperately needed to prevent and respond to specific forms of violence against adolescent girls. Prevention interventions for girls are still largely bundled with those aimed at women or children. It is in this regard that this synthesis review aims to draw some cross-cutting best practices, challenges, and lessons from 10 diverse interventions funded by the UN Trust Fund. The interventions focused solely on adolescent boys and girls, or an adolescent-focused approach was a subcomponent of a wider multilevel project (targeting women and girls, men and boys, parents, households, schools, communities and institutions). Through content analysis and coding of monitoring reports, evaluation reports and transcripts of focus group discussions with key staff from the 10 projects, four cross-cutting conclusions emerged: First, practitioners' insights suggest that there are specific needs and risks associated with adolescence that must be addressed in prevention programming. Second, practitioners emphasized the importance of less ad hoc and more targeted strategies for engaging boys through adolescent-focused approaches. Third, partnerships with grassroots youth and WROs were critical to their success. Fourth, all of the CSOs found that their projects left a legacy of "symbolic resources," which were critical to empowering adolescent girls. This synthesis review fills evidence gaps identified in adolescent-focused approaches to violence prevention by researchers and practitioners. It puts practitioner-based insights into conversation with the existing evidence on the topic.

**Finland's new national recommendations for the structures of violence prevention and organising the services for the victims, perpetrators and children exposed to violence**

Author: Elisa Niklander

Institute: Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)

Violence in close relationships is a major societal and social problem in Finland. Violence significantly affects the daily lives and wellbeing of individuals, families, and communities. Moreover, latest research shows that domestic violence causes significant costs and resource needs especially in the social and health care sector. The organisation of public healthcare, social welfare and rescue services are currently in enormous change in Finland. The responsibility for organising these services has been transferred from municipalities and hospital districts to 21+1 self-governing wellbeing services counties in the beginning of the 2023. The main objective of this reform is to improve the availability and quality of public services throughout Finland. Finnish legislation (Social welfare Act) requires the new wellbeing services counties to provide social services for the need the violence in close relationships has caused. Previously this has been municipalities responsibility. It varies how the law has been understood and implemented. Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) is responsible for giving guidance and support for the counties in developing the structures of violence prevention and organising the violence related work and services for all parties of violence. THL published new recommendations for the counties in June 2022. Strategic planning and coordination of joint activities is in the key position, violence related

work must be coordinated and modeled in the well-being services counties. The effective services must be available for all the parties of violence and the pathways should be documented well. The guide includes also more practical-level examples and recommendations how the violence related work and prevention could be organized. The recommendations are in line with the recommendations given in the LAKU research project. Abstract from the LAKU project is submitted to the ECDV abstract call, we would be happy to give the presentations in sequence with my colleague Hietamäki.

### **Promoting Positive Masculinities in Ireland: A Group Concept Mapping Study**

Author: Robert Bolton

Institute: University College Cork

Co-authors: Claire Edwards, Fiachra Ó Súilleabháin, Máire Leane

Background Violence against women remains an intractable global problem with 1 in 3 women having experienced intimate partner violence and/or non-partner sexual violence at least once in their lifetime. Constructions of masculinity are a key part of the perpetration of VAW, thus, there has been increasing focus on promoting 'positive masculinity' to address men's VAW. Aligning with this focus, this paper presents the Irish results of a group concept mapping (GCM) study deployed as part of a multicounty research study involving Ireland, Israel, Spain and Sweden that sought (among several aims) to explore young people's (aged 18-24) and stakeholders' ideas on how positive forms of manhood can be promoted to address VAW. Methods We deployed GCM methodology. Through 165 semi-structured interviews, stakeholders' and young people (aged 18-24) were asked to brainstorm ideas on how to promote forms of manhood. The research teams reduced the ideas to 41 clear statements that address the question. In Ireland, thirty-eight participants were individually asked to sort the statements 'in a way that makes sense to you' and labelled each group of statements accordingly. Ninety-six participants rated each idea in terms of their perception of the relative importance of each. Seventy-eight participants rated each statement in terms of their perception of how easy or hard it would be to apply each idea relative to other ideas. Results The sorted statements could be represented in a seven-cluster solution. Ideas relating to education were perceived as high in importance to address VAW and included topics such as sex and relationships, gender stereotypes, emotional regulation, peer pressure, healthy relationships, alternative and more positive ways of being a man, critical media literacy, bystander intervention skills and sociological analysis of gender socialisation. Conclusion The results show the need to implement multiple levels of intervention across multiple settings to address VAW.

### **Education and Domestic Violence: Evidence from a School Construction Program in India**

Author: Souparna Maji

Institute: Geneva School of Economics and Management, University of Geneva

Co-authors: Madhuri Agarwal, Vikram Bahure, Katja Bergonzoli

National Family Health Survey (NFHS) in 2015-2016 found that 29.3% of the women in India faced domestic violence, whereas the female literacy rate increased by 14.4% between 2010 and 2021. In this paper, we study the impact of a large school construction program (District

Primary Education Program (DPEP)) on domestic violence in India. DPEP, launched in 1994, constructed new schools in districts where the average female literacy rate was below the national average of 39.3% in 1991. We exploit a fuzzy regression discontinuity (RD) design to estimate the causal impact of the policy. Using the DPEP and individual-level self-reported NFHS data (2015-16), we find that the program has reduced emotional violence by 11%, sexual violence by 10%, and physical violence by 25%. To explore the potential mechanisms, we first find that the DPEP increases female education by 1.54 schooling years. We then use the IV-RDD study design to find that a 1-year increase in schooling reduces emotional violence by 8%, sexual violence by 7%, and physical violence by 17%. Further, we explore how the rise in female education could reduce domestic violence. We do not find an increase in monthly income of female, but it improves potential outside employment options that could lead to a higher bargaining power within the household. Education also changes the attitudes of female partners toward domestic violence through a fall in the justification of violence. Finally, female education has increased awareness and access to information, which could increase the likelihood of reporting. We observe an increasing effect of the DPEP on the reporting of domestic violence to the police using National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data. The increased likelihood of reporting raises the opportunity cost of domestic violence; hence, a potential deterrent itself to the incidence of domestic violence.

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cost of domestic violence; hence, a potential deterrent itself to the incidence of domestic violence.

**What do we know so far about survivor-support services integrated within domestic abuse prevention programmes?**

Author: Karen Morgan

Institute: University of Bristol

Co-authors: Helen Cramer, Rachael Bloomer, Nate Eisenstadt, Rwth Leach, Sandi Dheensa

**Background and purpose of the study** Domestic Abuse Prevention Programmes (DAPPs) aim to help abusive people change their behaviour and to increase survivors' safety and freedom from abuse. Survivor-support work within DAPPs helps to manage risk, helps survivors have realistic expectations of their (ex-)partner's behaviour-change, informs case management and gives survivors practical and emotional support. Much of the research into DAPPs focuses on understanding and improving the support given to perpetrators but much less is known about the support given to the partners, although it is known to vary considerably between services. **Description of the problem and research questions** Some standards and guidance exist for survivor support work but it is limited in detail. This presentation focuses on support for survivors provided by these programmes and asks the following: 1) What types of survivor-support are there? 2) How do different types of support meet survivors' safety and other needs? 3) What do DAPP survivor-support workers need to cope with the challenges of their role? Outlining what is already known about survivor support work within DAPPs is needed if we are to build a better knowledge base. This presentation takes advantage of the UK's REPROVIDE study looking at the effectiveness of DAPPs. There were four different examples of survivor support within the REPROVIDE study. As well as outlining how support work within DAPPs differs from survivor support work outside DAPPs we will examine some of the different models. We will draw on interview data on the experiences of the survivor support work from both survivor and perpetrator perspectives. We will seek to suggest an initial understanding of the role of survivor support work within overall DAPP theories of change. Survivor-support may be a crucial element in the success of domestic abuse perpetrator programmes and is worthy of further exploration.

## **RESPONDING: PREVENTION/INTERVENTION I**

The Icelandic information portal on violence and abuse - 112.is

Author: Eygló Harðardóttir

Institute: Ríkislögreglustjóri

Co-authors: Sigríður Björk Guðjónsdóttir, Lovísa Lilliendahl, Jana María Guðmundsdóttir, Margrét Dóra Ragnarsdóttir

Police crime surveys estimate that 2-4% of the population experience domestic abuse. Of those about 20% report the abuse to the police. Early in the COVID pandemic in Iceland two women were killed by close relatives and an increase in reports of domestic violence and child abuse was noted. The government responded by establishing a task force along with

appropriate funds to implement actions against violence and abuse. A key action was to create an information portal that would help those that live in or know of such circumstances better understand the situation, resources available and how to reach help quickly. The task force identified the local emergency number operator as an appropriate base for this portal. This is one of the most trusted public entities in Iceland and placing the portal within a well-established entity would make it a lasting resource. The design of the portal aims to be inclusive and undercut unhelpful stereotypes around violence and abuse. The tone is non-judgmental, supportive and in plain language. These design guidelines were identified in interviews with survivors and survivor support groups as most important in helping our audience overcome shame, isolation, and minimize the cognitive load associated with looking for resources. Public awareness campaigns were organized alongside the launch of the portal, including some that were targeted towards groups that are especially vulnerable to abuse. We have noted a steady usage of the website to a few hundred people per day. The web portal was awarded website of the year 2020 by the Icelandic Web Awards. Since the opening of the website, we have seen a marked increase in the number of people using the resources available. In 2022, the police reported the highest number of domestic abuse cases ever reported.

### Preventing Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in a North England University: findings from the Bystander Intervention

Author: Nicola Farrelly

Institute: University of Central Lancashire

**Background** Growing concerns about the welfare of students in universities with regards to the prevalence of domestic violence (DV) and sexual violence (SV) led to the recommendation by Universities UK for all UK universities to implement a bystander intervention based on the Intervention Initiative (Fenton et al, 2014). The initiative aimed to raise awareness, change students' attitudes towards DV and SV, and empower them to take action. **Methods** The bystander intervention pilot was delivered between 2017-2018 in a North England university to undergraduate students in Social Work, Sports and Medicine to reflect diversity and professional practice. Drawing on findings from pre (n=231) and post (n=148) intervention student surveys and individual interview and focus groups, this study examined both the impact of the bystander intervention on knowledge, attitudes and confidence to address behaviours and seek support. Basic descriptive statistics were used to analyse survey data; interviews were transcribed and analysed thematically. **Findings** Improvements were made across all three schools in relation to knowledge around DV and SV, confidence to deal with unwanted behaviours, understanding consent, knowledge of law on DV and SV, awareness of DV and SV support services, and where to report and seek support. However, before the programme levels of confidence, knowledge and skills varied between schools, with Sports students reporting higher levels of confidence than students from Social Work and Medicine. Social Work students remained the least confident in relation to DV and SV knowledge, confidence to address sexual comments, and speaking out, following the training. Interview data indicated students were better prepared to become pro-active bystanders. **Conclusion** Universities need to adopt a whole system response with designated training for all university students and staff. Students need clear and accessible



systems for reporting, and collaborative partnerships should be developed with police and DV/SV specialists.

### Domestic Abuse Disclosure Schemes – Examining user experiences

Author: Alison McDonald

Institute: Queen's University Belfast

Introduced in the UK in 2014, Domestic Abuse Disclosure Schemes (DADS) are a relatively recent initiative among domestic violence (DV) prevention/early-intervention strategies. In Northern Ireland (NI) the Domestic Violence and Abuse Disclosure Scheme (DVADS) was introduced in 2018. Such schemes claim to empower potential victims of DV to make choices about their relationship by providing access to their partner's criminal DV history. There is limited research focussing on the operation of these schemes across all relevant jurisdictions. Existing research tends to focus on outcomes (numbers of disclosures requested/made) and experiences of professionals tasked with their implementation. Currently, only one study (different jurisdiction) has examined experiences of applicants to DADS. This study investigates lived-experiences of applicants to the DVADS and aims to understand how such schemes affect their users from the perspective of applicants, and professionals supporting them. Purposive sampling was adopted to recruit nine women aged 18+ who have accessed the DVADS. Participants took part in narrative-interviews and were asked to recount experiences of their decision to apply, application process and outcomes. Narrative analysis was conducted on interviews with DVADS applicants, with a key focus on their emotions surrounding the scheme. Additionally, focus-groups with professionals were conducted which identified key-themes around victim-blaming and responsabilisation. Preliminary findings suggest applicants' experiences of accessing the DVADS are not as positive or empowering as official reports imply, instead revealing that women believe themselves responsible for managing potential future violence. Where participants were mothers, this sense of responsibility is intertwined with duty to protect their children. The pattern of interpretation of this responsibility ranged from: anxiety about participants' ability to protect themselves and their children from potential DV risk, to: anger/frustration at what was perceived as an unfair burden of responsibility. Understanding lived-experiences of these schemes is vital and will have far-reaching implications for policy and practice around DADS across jurisdictions.

### Addressing intimate partner abuse perpetrated by heterosexual men in substance use treatment: evaluation of the ADVANCE digitally supported intervention

Author: Gail Gilchrist

Institute: King's College London

Co-authors: Elizabeth Gilchrist, Amy Johnson, Sandi Dheensa, Polly Radcliffe, Juliet Henderson

Substance misuse is a risk factor for intimate partner violence (IPV) perpetration. Men who misuse substances are more likely to perpetrate IPV than men who do not. Despite this higher prevalence, men who misuse substances do not often meet criteria for community perpetrator programmes and tailored interventions are needed. We developed the

evidence-based ADVANCE intervention to reduce in IPV perpetration by men receiving substance misuse services. ADVANCE has a strengths-based approach, promoting personal motivation and responsibility to facilitate meaningful change. ADVANCE incorporates an understanding of gendered power dynamics and reflects the complex links between substance use and IPV perpetration by highlighting individual risks, including substance use, poor emotional regulation, and poor stress-coping. ADVANCE teaches men how to reduce these risks by promoting self-regulation, distress tolerance, and personal goal setting. We first developed an in-person group intervention and conducted a randomised controlled trial with 104 men in substance misuse treatment comparing ADVANCE plus usual substance use treatment (TAU) with TAU only. The ADVANCE group intervention was adapted for digitally-supported delivery (ADVANCE-D; including video group sessions; self-directed website sessions with a digital coach to recap and practise skills learned in the group followed by one-to-one video/phone coaching) during COVID-19. We conducted a feasibility study of ADVANCE-D with 40 men in substance misuse treatment. Men's (ex)partners received telephone support from integrated support service workers, had access to key safety messages and the men's website content for information. The majority of men followed-up at the end of ADVANCE-D self-reported reductions in abusive and controlling behaviours and drug and alcohol-using days. A similar proportion of current or ex-partners followed-up reported similar positive changes. With correct risk and case management in place, alongside integrated support for female (ex)partners, our research has shown that ADVANCE-D could be delivered safely and effectively, although longer term follow-up is needed.

## RESPONDING: PREVENTION/INTERVENTION II

A photo elicitation study with young adults on safe sex in Turkey: Implications for the prevention of sexual violence and coercion

Author: Anıl Özge Üstünel

Institute: Istanbul Bilgi University

This study is conducted as part of a broader project on the development of a prevention program for young adults in Turkey, with the goal of increasing sexual safety in their dating and intimate relations and decreasing sexual coercion and violence. The project adopts a feminist and collaborative approach and gives priority to the match between program content and young adults' needs and perspectives, although currently little is known about this issue. Accordingly, as an initial step in the project, this study aimed to explore the following research questions: 1) How do young adults define safe sex in dating and intimate relations? 2) What are some challenges and barriers they observe or experience with respect to safe sex? The study employed a qualitative design and involved repeated photo-elicitation interviews that were audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim. The sample, recruited through convenience sampling, consisted of 18 participants aged 22-30, with a majority being well-educated women. Data was analyzed by a thematic analysis approach and preliminary analysis of the interviews and the photographs revealed the following themes about safe sex: a) A space for exploration and play, b) Sense of comfort in one's skin, c) Respect for boundaries, d) Open and reciprocal communication. The participants explained

that the broader context of violence against women, societal pressures around women's virginity and men's sexual performance, and heterosexist norms create barriers to positive and safe experiences. They described a slowly growing sense of confidence in navigating the domain of sexuality and coping with self-doubt, guilt, shame, and anger. The findings indicate that sexual empowerment can be a guiding concept for the prevention of sexual violence and coercion in Turkey and similar contexts characterized by patriarchal and heterosexist discourses and absence of a comprehensive policy on violence prevention or sexuality education.

### Authorities fail to prevent abductions

Author: Matilda Eriksson

Institute: The Swedish Gender Equality Agency

Co-authors: Madelene Larsson, Sara Bäckström

**AUTHORITIES FAIL TO PREVENT ABDUCTIONS** Every year, children and youths are being taken out of Sweden and subjected to honour-related violence and oppression. Society must be more proactive to protect these individuals. **Background** The Swedish Gender Equality Agency has been tasked by the Swedish government to analyse and disseminate knowledge of honour-related oppression and other violence and abuse that people with links to Sweden have experienced while abroad. The purpose is to compile and analyse individuals' stories to contribute to the development of preventive measures and treatment interventions in Sweden. **Purpose and method** Semi-structured interviews have been carried out with 31 professionals throughout the country. They have spoken specifically about 143 individuals who have been abducted, of which 120 were children. Some have returned, but a majority of these individuals are still being held abroad. The purpose of the interviews was to study risk factors as well as society's interventions after and prior to an abduction. **Findings** According to this study the most common risk factors for these individuals are exposure to honour-related oppression and to physical violence. A common denominator is previous knowledge from one or more authorities about an individual's vulnerability (64 per cent of the cases). In cases where an abduction has occurred the most common triggering factor is a decision or an impending decision by an authority. This does not mean that authorities should avoid intervening, but rather that they need to review how they ensure that the child or youth receives the support and protection that the individual is entitled to and needs. **Conclusions** Authorities lack sufficient guidelines, resources, and knowledge to handle these types of cases. Furthermore, the threat and risk assessments regarding the target group are inadequate and knowledge of the child's or the youth's vulnerability does not necessarily lead to adequate interventions.

### LGBTQ+ Inclusive RSE and the prevention of domestic violence

Author: Cait Jobson

Institute: Durham university

Co-authors: Dr. Kendra Nixon

Existing research shows a high prevalence of domestic abuse amongst LGBTQ+ relationships yet LGBTQ+ people are much less likely to report domestic abuse to the police than their

heterosexual cis counterparts. LGBTQ+ people in their first relationship are also at heightened risk and LGBTQ+ survivors do not recognise their experiences as serious enough to report to the police, i.e. they do not perceive themselves to be an 'ideal victim' of domestic abuse. One way to address this is through inclusive relationships and sex education yet, as this paper reports, there is little evidence that RSE is inclusive. The implications of this will be considered. This mixed methods project was the first to compare Scotland and England through discourse analysis of guidance and a survey of 153 young LGBTQ+ people. Taking a feminist epistemological approach, the results are situated within debates on sexual citizenship, neoliberalism, and gender policing to argue that, although there is space for radical interpretations of sexual citizenship within RSE policy, it is likely that current practices in both Scotland and England reinforce, rather than prevent, power hierarchies that are fundamental to domestic violence and abuse amongst young LGBTQ+ people. The project explores the variability between young people's experiences of RSE and suggests that young LGBTQ+ people are resisting negative experiences and gaining information and support through alternative (online) sources of informal and peer education. This has implications, not just for those who work with LGBTQ+ young people, but for all teachers, youth workers and practitioners who work with youth. As this paper argues, for RSE to be preventative of DVA it needs to be inclusive of all young people.

#### Risk factors for entering a safe house aimed at young adults exposed to honour-based conflicts

Author: Helene Oldrup

Institute: VIVE

Co-authors: Helene Oldrup, Karen Margrethe Dahl

**Background:** In many Western countries, policy attention towards honour-based conflicts and violence has increased considerably within the last two decades, and many initiatives have been launched to prevent and help victims. Among these initiatives is RED Safe house – a refuge for youths experiencing honour-based conflicts - which has existed in Denmark since 2005. **Objective:** This article describes the characteristics of residents of RED Safe houses and investigates the risk factors for entrance into RED Safe house. Such knowledge is essential to further inform and develop the preventive work targeting honour-based conflicts. **Methods:** We used Danish administrative data on all youth enrolled at RED Safe house from 2005-2019 and two comparison groups of peers from the same birth cohorts never enrolled at a RED Safe house: 1) peers with the same countries of origin as RED Safe house residents 2) the remaining peers. We used chi<sup>2</sup>- and t-tests to describe (dis)similarities of the three groups and multivariate regression models to investigate risk factors of entrance into RED Safe house. **Findings:** The preliminary results show that in most regards (e.g. individual characteristics and parental background) youth enrolled at a RED Safe house have a more disadvantaged background than their remaining peers (group 2). In contrast, they are very similar to their peers who have the same country of origin (group 1). Nonetheless, when solely comparing the youth enrolled at RED with group 1 in the regression analyses, we still find a number of significant risk factors. **Conclusion:** The findings have important implications for preventing honour-based conflicts, because many RED youth and their families have been in contact with the social welfare system prior to their RED enrollment.

## **Group sessions with immigrant survivors of female genital mutilation in Sweden – A qualitative study of their experiences**

Author: Cecilia Kjellgren

Globally it has been estimated that at least 200 million girls and women alive today, have experienced female genital mutilation (FGM) (UNICEF, 2020). According to the latest national Swedish estimate about 40.000 females living in Sweden have been victims of FGM. A Swedish women's shelter, Existera, has particularly been focusing on FGM. They meet women mainly in some suburbs of Stockholm where immigrant families often reside. They offer individual support and have in the last three years been running group sessions for women. The group meet for twelve sessions focusing on FGM and related themes as; facts about FGM, psychological and medical consequences of FGM. Further on the Swedish legislation, gender roles and norms, and traditions that limit girls' quality of life. At each group session, a physical activity is also held that aims to build self-esteem, increase body awareness, and to improve mental and physical health. To explore the experiences among women who attended group sessions during autumn 2022, women concerned were invited to participate in the study. Nineteen of thirty women who attended the group accepted the invitation. They were aged 27-72, originated from different African countries and almost all had been subjected to FGM. They met with the researcher in close connection with the final group session. The interviews were recorded. The analysis of the transcribed text is in progress. In the findings, following preliminary themes were identified; the silence after FGM in childhood until now, the importance of talking about FGM today, growing knowledge from the group sessions, and to express opposition to FGM. Further participants variously expressed the value of combining verbal sessions with the physical activity component. Implications of the findings will be discussed during the session.

## **RESPONDING: PREVENTION/INTERVENTION III**

**Developing a Trauma Informed Curricula: 'Trigger Warnings' in research and teachings on gender-based violence**

Author: Melanie McCarry

Institute: University of Strathclyde

Co-authors: Karen Boyle, Melody House

Trigger and content warnings are part of public space. Potentially triggering content, including that related to gender-based violence, suicide, and racist violence, is flagged for audiences on social media, in festival programmes, or through pre-broadcast announcements. This has raised questions about how to prepare students for potentially triggering content in the classroom particularly in relation to the study of domestic abuse, gender based violence, social welfare and related policy development. What student-survivors actually need and/or expect in the classroom has, however, rarely been investigated. Issues are complicated by the fact that in much public debate, trauma, distress and offence have been unhelpfully grouped together. Focusing on gender-based violence,

this research will gather information on current practice and investigate staff and student-survivor experiences and needs, to ask what trauma informed curricula might look like. The main aims of the research are to: investigate how teaching staff understand, use and/or refuse trigger warnings, in relation to gender based violence teaching content; investigate the classroom experiences and needs of student-survivors in relation to engaging with university classroom content on gender based violence; investigate understandings of, and relationships between, trigger warnings, content notes and concerns about distress and offence in university classroom contexts. To investigate these aims we employ a mixed-methodology involving: an anonymous online staff survey; focus groups with staff; and focus groups with student-survivors. Key findings will be reported once data analysis is finalised in early 2023.

### Primary prevention of sexual violence and harassment against women and girls: Combining evidence and practice knowledge

Author: Leesa Hooker

Institute: La Trobe University

Co-authors: Jessica Ison, Kirsty Forsdike

**Background** Sexual violence and harassment are pervasive issues globally. In Australia, one in five women has experienced sexual violence. To address this issue, the focus needs to shift towards primary prevention. Primary prevention of sexual violence and harassment refers to stopping the violence before it starts by addressing the root causes of gender inequality. The Australian Government Department of Social Services commissioned this project to identify effective primary prevention interventions and analyse other forms of data that may inform a Theory of Change and future national research agenda on the primary prevention of sexual violence and harassment. **Methods** We conducted an evidence review of evaluated and effective primary prevention strategies, and we explored high-risk cohorts/target audiences for policy intervention. Following this, we synthesised data to identify the extent of sexual violence and harassment. We then conducted an extensive national consultation to explore sexual violence prevention priorities to ensure project findings and recommendations were meaningful. **Findings** While national policy in Australia on the prevention of violence against women exists, there is a lack of focus or evidence on the prevention of sexual violence and harassment of women. Very few evidence-based primary prevention interventions exist and no Australian studies were identified. Our Theory of Change brought together all elements of the research and was synthesised into five areas of the social ecology: early supportive relationships; education for behaviour change; safe environments; transform social norms; policy and reform. In this presentation, we will share the evidence base on what works to prevent sexual violence and harassment and our steps in the development of the Theory of Change. **Conclusions and implications** Sexual violence and harassment is pervasive, yet preventable. Evidence-based policy and a pathway to change can prevent and reduce sexual violence and harassment. Solutions are complex, multilevel strategies across the lifespan.

## Motivational strategies in intimate partner violence intervention programs: The relationship between goal setting and dropout

Author: Marisol Lila

Institute: University of Valencia

Co-authors: Cristina Expósito-Álvarez, Gail Gilchrist, Enrique Gracia

**Background and purpose of the study:** Systematic reviews on the effectiveness of intervention programs for intimate partner violence (IPV) perpetrators suggest a positive but small effect on reducing IPV recidivism, being the high dropout rates one of the main factors that contribute to this modest effectiveness. Incorporating motivational strategies has shown promise in increasing engagement with the intervention in IPV perpetrators. Goal setting is a specific motivational strategy in which participants play an active role in their process of change, by voluntarily co-constructing their own plan of change. Although not widely studied, goal setting could improve participants' outcomes by increasing their engagement with the intervention. This study aimed to evaluate whether goal setting was associated with lower dropout in a sample of IPV perpetrators. **Methods:** A quasi-experimental study was conducted. Univariate and multivariate analysis were used to evaluate whether goal setting was associated with lower dropout by adjusting for socio-demographic (e.g., age), individual (e.g., substance use), relational (e.g., community support) and attitudinal variables (e.g., sexism) in a sample of 282 IPV perpetrators attending Programa Contexto, an intervention program for IPV perpetrators in Spain. **Findings:** Binary logistic regressions showed that goal setting and substance use were significantly associated with dropout when adjusting for socio-demographic, individual, relational, and attitudinal variables. Participants with substance problems were more likely to dropout compared to those without substance use problems. Participants who set goals were more likely to complete the intervention in contrast to those who did not set goals. **Conclusions and implications:** Participants with substance use problems may have specific risks and needs that require attention in intervention programs for IPV perpetrators. Findings on goal setting have important implications for practice as this motivational strategy could be useful to reduce the high dropout rates that hinder the effectiveness of intervention programs for IPV perpetrators.

## Violence prevention efforts -Youth intimate partner violence

Author: Lisa Lindström

Institute: Gender Equality Agency

The main task of the Swedish Gender Equality Agency is to contribute to an effective implementation of the government's gender equality policy. The overarching goal of Sweden's national gender equality policy is to guarantee that women and men have equal power to shape society and their own lives. This goal is separated into six sub-goals that address power and influence, gender equality in economy and education, equal distribution of unpaid housework and provision of care. It also addresses gender equality in health and an ending of men's violence against women. Since 2017 Sweden has a 10-year strategy and a targeted action program to Prevent and Combat Men's Violence against Women. Two factors are emphasized in the strategy: the importance of preventive measures and men's participation and responsibility in the work against violence. It also stresses the need for

stronger protection for abused women and children, more effective law enforcement and improved knowledge, approaches, and methods. This strategy is also one of the tools used to meet the requirements for action imposed by the ratification of the Istanbul convention. The Swedish Gender Equality Agency provides support for violence prevention efforts, such as:

- The national campaign "Jealousy is not romantic", aimed at young people and organized by the County Administrative Boards in Sweden, the foundation 1000 opportunities and the Swedish Police Authority. The main target is to raise awareness of and combat youth intimate partner violence.
- A government mandate to translate, adapt and evaluate two evidence-based violence prevention programs (dating matters and safe dates) aimed at schoolchildren.
- Calls for government grants, which aims to strengthen violence prevention work and promote the development of evidence-based interventions.

The aim of the oral presentation is to demonstrate three concrete efforts to prevent and combat youth intimate partner violence in Sweden.

**"But one of the best things is, I don't feel so bound": how a specialised youth work model can support children affected by domestic abuse.**

Author: Laura Bellussi

Institute: University of Stirling

Co-authors: Joanne Alexander, Jasmine Plumpton, Jane Callaghan

**Background and Purpose of the Study** In the United Kingdom, support for children affected by domestic abuse (DA) is usually provided in therapy sessions or as part of family services. This study analysed a model of support based on youth work: it provides a drop-in centre which offers different activities for children and young people (CYP) aged 9-16 years affected by DA, without the need to talk about the abuse, unless CYP want to. CYP are integrated into peer groups and supported by DA-trained youth workers in the long-term, with the option of additional therapeutic services. This study aimed to understand CYP's experiences of the centre and define the features of an ideal service for CYP affected by DA.

**Methods** We conducted five participation groups with a self-selected sample of eight CYP aged 10-14 years who attended the youth centre. Qualitative data were collected by providing CYP with "workbooks" to use throughout the participation groups and a final reflective survey. A spoken word piece was co-created with the CYP, and the materials used throughout the sessions (such as postcards or noticeboards) provided additional data alongside researcher observations. Reflective thematic analysis (Braun and Clarke, 2006) was used to analyse data.

**Findings** Early findings show that CYP appreciate a flexible service, where they have a choice to talk or not to talk about DA with trusted adults or peers. They also value the opportunity to access physical and emotional spaces where they can let go of their emotions and find motivation and joy from choosing amongst a range of activities.

**Conclusions and implications** A model based on youth work is a safe and empowering alternative to one-on-one support for CYP affected by DA. Policy-makers should consider funding this model consistently to ensure the lasting of safe spaces that aid recovery from DA.

**Growing up in the context of gender violence does not necessarily imply accepting it**

Author: Patricia Melgar Alcantud

Institute: University of Girona



Co-authors: Claudia Hereu

Despite the extended association between exposure to domestic violence and future gender-based violence, several studies have not found significant links (Renner and Slack 2006; Smith-Marek et al. 2015). In this sense, the results of the quantitative study conducted in the framework of the SOLNET research (Melgar, 2019-2022; Melgar, Geis-Carreras, Flecha & Soler, 2021) question the generalisation of the intergenerational transmission of violence. The study was carried out through a survey of a significant sample of the Spanish population over 18 years of age -1541 people- using a multistage sampling procedure, with selection of the primary sampling units (autonomous communities) in a proportional random way, and of the ultimate units (individuals) and quotas of sex and age. The results showed that domestic violence was present in the childhood of 14% of the population. These minors were also direct victims of violence, 47% say that they also suffered violence from the same person who perpetrated it on their mother. The most relevant findings were found with regard to the later life trajectories of these people. They have shown greater social activism in the fight against gender-based violence than the general population and, in turn, they also show a general tendency to help when they have witnessed or been aware of situations of gender-based violence. The results of this research contribute significant knowledge to the work carried out to present with people who have grown up in contexts of gender-based violence. These findings are of particular interest when analysing the impact of domestic violence on children, reducing the re-victimisation they suffer and rethinking intervention programmes with children who suffer domestic violence. These people, far from showing in their adult life -through their reactions- an acceptance or normalisation of violence, are generally predisposed to oppose it.

## Responding: Professional Perspectives & responses

Online support for women survivors of intimate partner violence and abuse: RCT, process evaluation and feasibility outcomes of the Dutch SAFE eHealth intervention.

Author: Nicole van Gelder

Institute: Radboudumc

Background + purpose: Many women experience intimate partner violence and abuse (IPVA) and they often face difficulties in help-seeking. Online means address some of these barriers through anonymity and easy accessibility. Therefore, we developed and evaluated the SAFE eHealth intervention. Methods: We conducted a randomized controlled trial (RCT), process evaluation (including interviews) and open feasibility study to assess the intervention's effectiveness on self-efficacy, mental health, awareness and perceived support, and on multiple feasibility aspects. Findings: RCT: control (C) vs. intervention (I), baseline N=198. I received a more extensive and interactive intervention than C. Both groups were positive about safety, ease of use, comprehensible language, suiting their needs, and feeling helped; I scored significantly higher than C. I graded SAFE significantly higher than C (resp. mean = 7,82 and 6,07). Both groups scored significantly lower on anxiety and fear of (ex-)partner after 6 months. Process evaluation: SAFE helped with acknowledgement, awareness, and support. Women were satisfied with the information and support options. Areas of

improvement include: the website's clarity and (additional) information on for example digital IPV, judicial trajectories, and child involvement. Open feasibility study: N=170. The study showed good results on various aspects of feasibility, such as acceptability and demand. Conclusions + implications: Although no significant between-groups difference was found for self-efficacy and mental health, both groups significantly improved on anxiety and fear of (ex-)partner, both groups were satisfied with the intervention (significantly in favor of the intervention group), and SAFE was helpful for awareness, acknowledgement and support. Challenges arise in evaluating this type of intervention. To obtain a more in-depth understanding of the extent to whether, how, and why an (online) intervention yields successful results and to assess its context in a real-world situation, it's crucial to conduct mixed methods research and gather data through various methods and sources.

**How can therapists recognise subtle abuse of women in intimate heterosexual relationships? Preliminary findings of a doctoral study.**

Author: Rosemary Parkinson

Institute: University of East Anglia

Co-authors: Stephanie Jong, Sarah Hanson

**Background:** There is a lack of literature defining subtle intimate partner abuse (IPA). In addition, there is no literature on how psychological therapists might recognise clients who are unknowingly experiencing subtle IPA. Existing literature indicates women attending psychological therapy can be misunderstood by therapists, who cannot help them to identify the abusive relationship. This can lead to the continuation of the abuse and its detrimental mental and physical health consequences. **Methods:** A qualitative research study using semi-structured interviews was conducted with 15 participants purposively sampled from two groups; 1) women of high educational and socio-economic status who reported experiencing subtle IPA from intimate heterosexual ex-partners (n=11), and 2) psychological therapists who had worked with similar women who had experienced subtle IPA (n=4). Interviews were analysed using reflexive thematic analysis. **Findings:** There were two key findings from recruitment; 1) over half of group 1 volunteers were therapists who had experienced subtle IPA, and 2) it was difficult to identify participants who met criteria for recruitment to group 2, perhaps further indicating the need for this research on therapist recognition. Initial findings from interview data indicate a subtle and insidious form of abuse perpetrated by their partners on women participants and an ongoing cycle of emotional and psychological processes within the women described by both victims and therapists. **Conclusions and recommendations:** Subtle IPA and its effects were described by both women victims and therapists. In order to educate therapists and minimise the effects of therapist misunderstanding, final analysis will include recommendations for therapists with definitions and examples. Given the paucity in literature to support therapists in this sphere, it is recommended that findings from this study be disseminated as therapist teaching materials.

**Family therapists' experiences of a model for support to families in cases of child abuse**

Author: Lisa Sandelin

Institute: JPS, social work, Örebro University

Co-authors: Anna Petersén

In Sweden, a child who has experienced child abuse, can be interviewed by the police without the parents' knowledge or consent. Afterwards, the parents receive the information from both the police and the social services. About thirty percentage of the children are taken care of immediately after the interview, while the rest are going home to their parents. Social work professionals acknowledged the importance of giving support to families after the police interview, as a crisis can occur in these kinds of situations. Therefore, a model has been developed, called After the child interview [Efter barnförhöret] (ACI). This study reports the interim findings from a program-theory evaluation of ACI: how do family therapists experience working with ACI and how does the model meet the challenges when dealing with the complexity of child abuse? We focus on strengths and weaknesses of the ACI, as identified by the family therapists, and the potential changes the model resulted in for the families involved. The findings indicate that ACI motivates families to accept further help from the social services, and that it benefits the child's perspective on violence. Organizational limits keep professionals from using the model to the extent they desire, and there are also several local adaptations made, which may influence the outcome of the model. Practical implications for the model as well as practice will be presented as well.

**Can we let families speak about domestic violence and abuse (DVA) and respond restoratively? Exploring family practices and restorative practices where there is DVA and contact with state child protection services.**

Author: Permala Sehmar

Institute: University of Sheffield

Domestic violence and abuse (DVA) continues to be a significant factor in referrals to state child protection services (CPS) in the UK and other countries. Whilst families impacted by DVA have become more visible to CPS, little is known of the family practices of these families. Previous research in this area has tended to ignore the lived experiences of families by having an individualised focus on mothering and fathering deficits. Additionally, the use and efficacy of restorative practices (RP) with DVA has been contested. This study explored the family practices of families where there is DVA and CP concerns, and, explored restorative service responses to DVA with families. The study draws on qualitative data from one English city where RP were implemented, including the expansion of their Family Group Conferencing (FGC) service. 21 semi-structured interviews, 4 focus groups and observations of practice were undertaken. Data were thematically analysed. Key findings illustrate that families are not routinely given opportunities to share their stories or are listened to. As such, service responses fail to engage adequately with the complexity of family practices where DVA is conceptualised in isolation from other difficulties. Traditional gendered narratives of 'good' mothering and fathering and desire for 'normal' family were prevalent. Gendered practice in CPS continues to responsibilise mothers for DVA while engagement with fathers is inconsistent. Attempts to embed RP is restricted by gendered practice, a risk focused CP system, professional confidence and capacity, and a lack of clear policy and guidance to work restoratively with families. This study contributes to conceptual and applied understandings of families living with DVA and CP concerns, and concludes that while there is evidence of some good practice with families, the aspiration and scale of RP

implemented to support restorative family resolution in situations of DVA remain in their infancy.

### **Professionals' perspectives on detecting domestic violence and work-oriented activities for people on long-term sick leave with experience of domestic violence**

Author: Hanna Li Kusterer

Institute: University of Gävle

Co-authors: Sara Skoog Waller, Mikaela Olovson, Ulla Forinder

The association between exposure to violence, ill-health and sick leave, and shortcomings in the detection and mapping of domestic violence (DV), has prompted government assignments to coordinate efforts to detect DV and support measures for DV victims. Engagement with working life is crucial for society and the individual, particularly for DV victims. The present study is part of research project conducted in collaboration with Coordination Association Gävleborg investigating how people with DV experience on long-term sick leave can get closer to working life. To understand the importance of violence exposure for the individual, a first step is to detect the occurrence of DV. Accordingly, the present study takes the perspective of the professionals within social services, health care, the Swedish Social Insurance Agency and Public Employment Service in one region in mid-Sweden, and aimed to answer the following research questions: 1) How do the relevant authorities in the region work with the implementation of the government assignment to detect and map domestic violence? 2) How is an individual's violence exposure considered in proposed measures within health care and work-oriented activities? 3) How do the professionals reason regarding strengths and difficulties in the current way of working, and opportunities for developing their practices? Interviews are held with approximately 15 professionals at the relevant authorities. The results identify various difficulties in implementing the government assignment at systemic and individual levels, and a lack of consideration of the importance of previous exposure to DV for health and work ability. Some important implications are the need to strengthen routines within and between authorities, increase competence in detecting DV and raise awareness of its many consequences.

### **Breaching Taboos: Towards Evidence based training for stakeholders working in interpreter mediated Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence (DSGBV) settings**

Author: Lorraine Leeson

Institute: Trinity College Dublin

Co-authors: Lianne Quigley, Haaris Sheikh, Jemina Napier, Leonie O'Dowd, Catriona Freir

Discussion and disclosure of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (DSGBV) remains taboo for many cultures, communities, and societies. However, DSGBV has been spotlighted across 2020-22 with police forces and NGOs reporting significant increases in instances of abuse recorded during the Covid-19 pandemic. Concurrently, lack of access to information in many sign languages, along with limited organised opportunities to discuss DSGBV has left many of those experiencing DSGBV in Deaf communities in a vacuum. A review of the literature reveals robust consensus that migrants, refugees and members of Deaf

communities who experience DSGBV should have timely access to interpretation by competent and specially-trained professionals, in a respectful framework of practice based upon integrity, which respectfully upholds their human rights in order to facilitate full and equitable engagement with the legal system and relevant support services (e.g. Admire and Ramirez's (2021)). The literature also reveals a need for further research on interpreter preparedness towards enhanced understanding of its impact on disclosures by victims and survivors of GBV. The issue of vicarious trauma for interpreters and the gaps in understanding on the parts of law enforcement and support agencies about what constitutes positive interpreting experiences for all parties, are among the areas most urgently requiring further research. The Erasmus+ funded Justisigns 2 project has developed evidence-informed resources for interpreters, police officers, counsellors and other key stakeholders who engage with deaf, refugee, and migrant women and girls who experience DSGBV but who use a language other than that of the host community. In this paper, we present results of a survey of key stakeholders that we ran in 2021 in Ireland, the UK and Spain and unpack important points for the development of specialist training. We also present activities with Deaf communities NGOs and government bodies.

## SHELTERS/REFUGES RESPONSES

**Safety-Related Empowerment: What do we know from abused women seeking shelter services?**

Author: Isabelle Cote

Institute: Laurentian University

Co-authors: Joël Gagnon, Dominique Damant, Simon Lapierre

Drawing upon the results of a quantitative study conducted on a sample of 189 women receiving shelter services in the province of Québec (Canada), this presentation will look into the variables associated with women's safety-related empowerment (Goodman et al., 2015; Côté et al., 2021) in the context of domestic violence. Our research team conducted a cluster analysis on the data which revealed that women seeking shelter services can be grouped into two subgroups who differ in their level of safety-related empowerment: high empowerment (n = 114) and low empowerment (n = 75). Each group contrasts from the other on a series of variables: self-esteem, self-efficacy, satisfaction with life, perceived social support, and psychological distress. However, contrary to our expectations, very few demographic variables distinguished the two groups of women, aside from two socio-economic variables (annual income, status of employment). Furthermore, even though a greater proportion of women in the low empowerment group experienced physical violence, more women in the high empowerment group experienced severe violence from the perpetrator (death threats and attempted murder). The results raise interesting avenues for research and intervention practices with abused women, which will be discussed during the presentation.

Should domestic violence shelters continue to separate men and women? Lessons learnt from a pilot project at Romerike Krisesenter in Norway.

Author: Silje Vold Løwe

Institute: Romerike Krisesenter IKS

Co-authors: Renate Iversen

Domestic violence shelters in Norway have a proud tradition of being women's safe spaces, set up by volunteers to protect women from partner violence. Norway also has high ambitions regarding gender equality, reflected in laws and policies. With the arrival of the national law on domestic violence shelters in 2010, all municipalities have to provide domestic violence shelters to both men and women, but they have to be physically separate. The experience of practitioners at Romerike Krisesenter after 2010 is that the physical separation based on gender had unintended consequences. Male survivors of domestic violence became isolated from other residents, had less contact with staff and overall received a lower quality of service. In our experience, this may have contributed to mental health challenges as well as increased stigma for male survivors. In addition, children who stayed at the shelter with their fathers became isolated from other children and had less access to child-friendly spaces. Further, we have seen a trend of greater diversity of residents at the shelter as well as their abusers. Increasingly, domestic violence occurs in a variety of relations and relationships, including same-sex relationships, between siblings, in adult parent-child relations and within extended families. Given these changes, we found it necessary to explore whether a gender-divided shelter in itself contributes to a discriminatory service not suited to the needs of the target group. Therefore, we started a two-year pilot project with the aim of testing out whether we could provide a better service in a joint facility. Since 1. February 2022, all residents live in the same facility, with shared common areas and access to the same services and staff. The pilot continues through 2023, and the results will be documented by independent researchers. The findings will have implications for laws, policies, and practice regarding domestic violence.

Neglect by design – Shelter working conditions and their effects on work with racially minoritised victims

Author: Nataša Mojškerc

Institute: Tampere University

The working conditions in which domestic violence shelter workers perform their work are rarely considered in domestic violence shelter research. However, understanding these conditions and their effects is a necessary step in improving our understanding of the structural preconditions for sensitive domestic violence shelter work with a diversity of victims and especially with victims in intersectionally vulnerable positions. The paper presents a part of PhD research on racialisation in domestic violence shelter work in Finland. Data was collected by participatory and autoethnographic observation in the shelter, where the researcher worked as a counsellor. This paper focuses on the everyday conditions of shelter work and how they affect shelter workers and victims, with a special focus on the effects on racially minoritised victims. The paper tackles the research questions: How do shelter working conditions affect the work with racially minoritised victims? The analysis of autoethnographic voice tape recordings suggests that understaffing and the lack of essential

services caused repeated interruptions of individual counselling, which was especially harmful during interpreter-assisted work, as counselling could not be done later. The understaffed shelter could not provide a sensitive or decent reception of newly arrived families. Moreover, because of being understaffed and operating within a supposedly gender-neutral framework, the conditions in the shelter caused that victims' needs were being neglected. The working conditions in the shelter field can thus be interpreted as neglectful by design, resulting in revictimisation of victims and contributing to the reproduction of intersectional inequalities. Results imply the need for critical examination of detrimental shelter working conditions which result in intersectional inequalities, and the development of mechanisms to counter their disempowering effects. Key words: domestic violence shelter, working conditions, racially minoritised, intersectional inequalities

#### A new film for children at the Crises centers and shelters for victims of DV

Author: Wanja J. Sæther

Institute: The Crises Centre in Salten

The Crisis center in Salten will launch a new film for children in 2023. The film will give an insight into what a crisis center is and what it is like for children to go there. The film is based on a well-known Norwegian reality series for adults - "Helene checks in" and in our film we meet the boy Emrik who moves into the shelter. Here he gets a tour, he talks to staff and he also gets to meet children who have lived at the crisis centre. The aim of the film is to give children at the crisis center a voice, as well as ensure that all children who meet the crisis center get the information they are entitled to. In our presentation, we will show the film and talk about the background and the process of making the film "Emrik moves in - at the Crisis Center in Salten"

#### The Women's Shelter in Iceland – growing and evolving for over 40 years

Author: Linda Dröfn Gunnarsdóttir

The Women's Shelter (Kvennaathvarf) was established in Reykjavík in 1982 and is the only of its kind in Iceland. The shelter is based on feminist ideology that sees violence against women, domestic and other forms of violence, as social problem. The shelter is an emergency shelter and has a history of over 40 years in providing women and their children a shelter when staying at their own home is not safe due to violence. During the stay, women are offered interviews, general consultation, advice, support and information. The shelter furthermore offers interviews, where women who have experienced violence in a close relationship or currently live with violence can visit the shelter to get support, without formally staying at the shelter. The shelter is run by the non-governmental organization Women's Shelter Association, financially supported by the government, various municipal authorities and private donors. The Women's shelter is based on extensive experience which has led to constant development and improvement of best approaches and practices. For the past years the contributions to the shelter from private donors have grown considerably, allowing the shelter to embark on various new developmental projects, such as opening a shelter in Akureyri, which is in the far North of the country; opening a safe house for families that have stayed at the shelter, offering more extensive counselling and limitless length of

stay at the shelter; and developing more in-depth service to the children during their stay at the shelter. During the presentation, the presenter will introduce the development of these projects and discuss the possible impact they may have had on the journey of women and children that seek shelter from domestic violence.

## SOCIAL Work & Child Protection Responses

Supportive or repressive? Swedish social worker's support to female survivors of IPV

Author: Josefin Kjellberg

Institute: Department of Social Work, Uppsala University, Sweden

The current study investigates how Swedish social workers understand and handle the support needs of female survivors of IPV, and focuses on how knowledge and theories are applied in this work. The study is based on 15 group interviews with 49 social workers in 13 different organizations (women's shelters and social services units) in different parts of Sweden, as well as observations of meetings where social workers discuss how to deal with domestic violence cases. The material has been analyzed thematically, adhering to Braun & Clarke's (2006) approach to thematic analysis. A main theme generated by the analysis is that social workers are selective in their knowledge use when it comes to which theories they use in "psychoeducation" to inform female survivors about violence, its consequences, and why it can be hard to leave an abusive relationship. These theories seem to form a paradigmatic practice theory (cf. Kuhn, 2017; Payne, 2012, 2021), that also influences support in other ways; social workers argue that survivors "normalize" violence and therefore need to be taught how to protect themselves from violence. When survivors disagree with the social workers and for example wants to leave the shelter, social workers sometimes argues that survivors don't know what's best for them since they are "normalized", and that it's the social workers job to "de-normalize" survivors to make them stay at the shelter. Thus, the study sheds light on knowledge/theory use of social workers and how it may influence the support offered to female survivors. Such knowledge is important since these social workers offer the shelter and support that is supposed to help survivors break free and recover from violence. It's key that such support is actually supportive, rather than repressive.

If You Build It Will They Come?

Author: Negar Katirai

Institute: University of Arizona

The first family justice center co-locating staff from private and public agencies to serve victim-survivors of intimate partner violence opened in 2002 in San Diego, California. The model quickly rose in popularity, assisted by grants from the Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women as well as other government institutions and private foundations. Family justice centers have proliferated across the United States, and are being exported to other countries through funding by the U.S. State Department. The appeal of the family justice center model is understandable. Ideally, the model provides "wraparound"



services that are both coordinate and centralized, so that victim-survivors address all their needs, from safety-planning to medical assistance, from legal services to social services, without having to retell their story. Yet an inter-disciplinary review of research reveals few published studies of the effectiveness of this organizational model. Rather, scholars have pointed out that despite the collocation of service providers, victim-survivors must still repeat their traumatic experiences due to confidentiality rules as well as the different aims of each provider. In addition, collocation does not address the lack of funding for the services victim-survivors need most, including housing, civil legal-services, case management, and counseling. Moreover, several scholars have cautioned that the core values of the family justice center model include an emphasis on prosecution and offender accountability that runs counter to the interests of victim-survivors of who may be more reticent to engage with the criminal legal system, particularly marginalized victim-survivors. In this respect, the rise of the family justice center model represents another iteration of how law and policy on intimate partner violence has been centered around the criminal legal system to the detriment of marginalized groups.

#### **Ethical issues in collaborations between social workers at woman shelters, the victims of intimate partner violence and researchers**

Author: Emilie Rasmussen

Institute: Aalborg University

From the (user) perspective of female victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) my Ph.D. study explores the barriers and requirements victims experience in their attempt to receive (formal) help from various Danish help sources. Through the narratives of female victims of IPV the aim of the study is to generate knowledge of victims' experiences of receiving formal help and secondly identify the problematic of social work practice in enabling help and support to victims of IPV in need of it. The study enrolls in the research field within social work of clientisation with a unique micro sociological focus on the meeting between Danish social workers and female victims of IPV. I have been granted access and have collected empirical data at two woman shelters in Denmark during 2022. My initial and highly explorative empirical collection has revealed unanticipated challenges and crucial ethical questions concerning the collaboration between me as a researcher, the social workers at the shelters and the female victims of IPV. The aim of my presentation is to unfold and discuss these challenges and ethical issues and what is required of the researcher when exploring victim's perspective in collaboration and negotiation with practitioner working with victims of IPV e.g., when it comes to protecting the female victims. My explorative approach has provided a reflexive methodological foundation which has led to an adaption in the method design of my Ph.D. from being primarily ethnographically based to alternatively focusing predominantly on narrative methods as source of knowledge of female victims' (user) perspective.

#### **Dilemmas on Implementing Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect, and Maltreatment**

Author: Benjamin Shmueli

Institute: Bar Ilan University Law School

Several countries worldwide implement mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect at the hands of parents, other family members, and other caregivers. Some countries support imposing mandatory reporting to help ensure the protection of the child's life, rights, health, and welfare. In countries that oppose mandatory reporting their motivation is often based on the fear of harming the family autonomy and privacy, interfering with individual liberty, and harming the professionals' livelihood. The presentation's aims are: (1) to better understand the theoretical and practical difficulties of such reporting; (2) to propose some legal amendments to the law in several countries which implement this duty; and (3) to offer several training improvements for professionals and mechanisms to educate the lay public. The issues that will be addressed: (1) The offenses for which the duty should be imposed. (2) The possibility of expanding the duty to cases of a parent who should report maltreatment inflicted on their child by their sibling. (3) The question whether to impose the duty on the entire public or only upon some professionals. (4) Is there a place to exempt people who themselves are subjected to abuse and maltreatment from the duty? (5)

A proposal to impose privilege on persons who report in good faith, even if eventually the report is found to be incorrect, and the need to handle false reports issued deliberately in a severe manner. (6) The question of mandatory reporting in a multicultural society. (7) The need to grant resources for training enforcement officers (police and welfare officers), also from the minority sectors, and for expanding education programs for the lay public to dramatically increase the awareness of the phenomenon of abuse and maltreatment, given the assumption that law enforcement alone is inadequate in managing this issue, and should collaborate with other social agents.

**Advocating for a proactive, cross-sectoral approach to intimate partner violence (IPV):**

**Insights on how child protection services (CPS) respond in Saskatchewan, Canada**

Author: Adrienne Ratuszniak

Institute: University of Regina

Co-authors: Lise Milne

Background: Despite recent targeted policy efforts, exposure to IPV remains the highest reported form of child maltreatment and police-reported violence in Saskatchewan. As part of a larger Canadian project, we endeavoured to create a foundational understanding of how CPS responds to cases of IPV to identify gaps in policy or practice, and provide province-specific recommendations. Methods: Participants were recruited in various ways for this exploratory project (e.g., CPS organizations; outreach) for five phases of data collection: CPS worker survey (N=122) and focus groups (n=5); CPS supervisor interviews (n=9); collateral support interviews (n=10); and interviews with survivors of IPV (n=3). Survey data was analyzed using SPSS. Qualitative datasets were coded with Dedoose and thematically analyzed, individually and comparatively. A critical feminist perspective was essential for unravelling this complex intersectional issue. Findings: Prominent preliminary findings include insufficient community infrastructure, inadequate training for CPS and law enforcement in trauma-informed practices and IPV, and discrepancies between policies and practices. Disconnected systems continue to be a prominent barrier to justice and child safety across Saskatchewan, despite a commitment to cross-sectoral collaboration promised in the Saskatchewan Child Abuse Protocol (2019). Survivors feel unheard and traumatized by CPS, and cynical of the justice system. Survivors are also often unaware they are

experiencing abuse due to the normalization of violence and inter-generational trauma in many families and communities. Conclusions: Collaborative systemic change is necessary to reduce IPV and child maltreatment rates, including a cross-sectoral shift away from reactive approaches towards preventative, holistic strategies. Realistic, long-lasting change is only possible if CPS workers receive adequate training and support for responding to cases with IPV, and the unsustainable workload burdening them is addressed. Recommendations for training, education, policy change, and advocacy will be provided.

### How a nation was called on child protection duty during COVID-19: The case of Iceland

Author: Eva Dögg Sigurðardóttir

Institute: Barna- og fjölskyldustofa

Co-authors: Guðný Björk Eydal

As stated in the Icelandic Child Protection Act, anyone who through their position or occupation is involved or works with children, has an obligation to report any child abuse concerns they have or suspect. This mandatory duty to report is further extended to the general public, by law. Whilst most reports to Child Protection Committees come from public bodies, roughly a third of all reports comes from the general public. A duty to report, so embedded in the Icelandic Child Protection System, therefore poses questions on the role of the public during a time of crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Icelandic Government put in place measures such as social distancing, ban on large gatherings and reduced school hours. Early on there were concerns of the effects of such measures, sparking a nationwide discussion of how everyone collectively has a role in the child protection system. The paper discusses the crisis management measures and how child protection was emphasised throughout the pandemic. The paper applies data on reporting of suspected child abuse to Child Protective Services in Iceland in the 12 months leading up to the beginning of COVID-19, compared with reports in the 12 months from the onset of the pandemic. This data was gathered locally by every Child Protection Committee in Iceland, but collected and analysed by the National Agency of Children and Families. This paper found that in the 12 months of the pandemic, the number of reports of abuse increased significantly. In addition, the composition of those who reported changed where members of the public reported more than ever. These findings reflect on the important role of an unequivocal obligation to report suspected abuse and thus highlight the unofficial safeguarding role of the child's closest environment.

## UNDERSTANDING DVA THROUGH AN INTERSECTIONAL LENS I

Should I stay or should I go? When agency is not a black-or-white matter for women (with a migration background) experiencing domestic violence (working title)

Author: Chloé Roegiers Mayeux

Institute: University of Humanistic Studies

Co-authors: Sawitri Saharso, Evelien Tonkens, Jonathan Darling

In the Netherlands, twenty percent of women have experienced physical or sexual violence from their partner more than once. Leaving a violent relationship is never an easy choice to make. Women realize that when leaving the relationship, there will also be sacrifices to make. For women with (parents with) a migration background, cultural expectations can be an additional barrier to leaving their partner. The intersection of gender and having a migration background puts especially women born in non-European countries in a vulnerable position, particularly when there is a tension between (Western) feminist ideas and cultural solidarity. In this paper, I argue that lived experiences of women staying in a shelter show that the tension is much more complicated, and that several aspects play a role in to stay with or leave their partner. I therefore argue that women in a violent relationship do not always have the possibility to make a choice of their own due to different (f)actors that affect their life. This paper makes use of the concept of agency proposed by, among others, Serene Khader. The methods used for this research are participant observations in a women's shelter and narrative interviews with women of different ethnic and cultural origins staying there, many of whom have migrated from a country outside of Europe. Keywords: Domestic violence, intersectionality, migration background, agency

### Service and support for immigrant women in Iceland: Institutional practices and the reproduction of colonial discourses

Author: Flora Tietgen

Institute: University of Iceland

According to the #metoo stories by immigrant women published 2018 in Kjarninn, their experiences with institutions which provide services and support for immigrants and/or women who experience intimate partner violence (IPV) are characterized by a lack of cultural sensitivity and appropriate responses to the women's needs. Inspired by these stories, 20 semi-structure interviews were conducted between autumn 2020 and spring 2021 with service providers and NGOs that work with immigrant women who have experienced violence – either at work or in the intimate relationships. Drawing on decolonial/postcolonial theories, the paper will analyse how service providers/NGOs in Iceland construct the needs of immigrant women which are often framed within the “rights” discourse by focusing specifically on the intersection of ethnic background, gender, and immigration. Furthermore, the paper draws attention to how service providers and NGOs in Iceland construct unilateral knowledge on immigrant women which sustains and reproduces whiteness and coloniality. The paper aims to understand the working power in terms of service provision for immigrant women and how it reproduces colonial discourses. This critical examination of how services are provided and which shortcomings there are, has the potential to make suggestions for more culturally appropriate and decolonial services for all immigrant women.

### Intimate partner violence and family violence against indigenous Sami and non-Sami populations in Sweden and the mediating effect of historical losses and discrimination.

Author: Johanna Simmons

Institute: Linköping University

Co-authors: Christina Storm Mienna, Maria Josefsson, Per Axelsson, Katarina Nägga

**Background and purpose of the study:** The prevalence of intimate partner violence has been reported at higher levels among indigenous than non-indigenous populations worldwide, but has not been investigated among the indigenous Sami population in Sweden. Our aims were to A) Investigate life-time prevalence of violence by intimate partners and other family members among people self-identifying as Sami or Swedish in one northern region in Sweden B) Investigate if experiences of discrimination or historical losses mediates the anticipated association between ethnicity and violence. **Methods:** Cross-sectional questionnaire data collected in 2021 for the “Health and Living conditions in Sapmi” (HALDI) study was used. All adults in one northern region in Sweden were invited to participate (response rate 40%, n=1627). Respondents self-identifying as “Sami” (n=376, 26%) or “Swedish” (n=1079, 74%) were included in the current study. **Findings:** Intimate partner violence was reported at similar rates in both ethnicity groups but varied considerably between the sexes (men: Sami 0.8%, Swedish 2.1%; women: Sami 14.2%, Swedish 15.7%). Mediation analysis revealed a negative direct effect of being Sami on reporting intimate partner violence, but this was counterbalanced by a positive indirect effect of reporting discrimination and historical losses. Family violence was more common among Sami than Swedish women (17.0% vs 8.8%), but there was no significant difference among male respondents (Swedish 6.1% Sami 5.7%). Again, mediation analyses revealed that experiences of discrimination and historical losses were associated with reporting violence. **Conclusions and implications:** The reported prevalence of violence was similar for respondents identifying as Sami and Swedish, except for women reporting family violence. However, mediation analysis revealed that both historical losses and discrimination was associated with violence by both intimate partners and other family members. Our results underline the importance of historical context when investigating violence against indigenous populations.

### **A Maze of Violence: Migrant Experiences with Psychological Violence in Denmark**

Author: Ida Nielsen Sølvehøj

Institute: The National Institute of Public Health, SDU

**Background** As in many other European countries, domestic violence is widespread in Denmark. The most common type of domestic violence is psychological violence, which, in Denmark, recently received an inordinate amount of public attention because of its 2019 criminalization. One often overlooked form of psychological violence, however, is that perpetrated against women recently migrated to the country, and who therefore are not familiar with norms, rules, and regulations in Denmark. This paper addresses this lacunae. **Methods** Data has been generated through six weeks of ethnographic fieldwork at a women’s shelter in November–December 2022. Six interviews were conducted with women exposed to violence and four with shelter staff. The study further included observations of psychological consultations and participation in various out-of-house activities, such as grocery shopping and doctors’ appointments. The analysis attends to experiences with violence and rely on phenomenological anthropological approaches. **Preliminary findings** The participants of the study deal with fear, low self-esteem, shame, and divorce and post separation dilemmas often observed in the literature. Moreover, ignorance of the Danish welfare system and uncertainty about residency permit was created and leveraged to exert

control and maintain dependence on the perpetrator. These circumstances led to feelings of profound uncertainty about the short-, middle-, and long-term futures of the participants, where residency, and therefore housing and job opportunities, are kept opaque. In other words, these women feel stuck in a maze, where danger may await at every turn, and where seeming outs turn into dead ends. Conclusion The participants of this study experience psychological violence in various forms, many of which are familiar from the literature in the field. Additionally, they are exposed to pressure points that are particular to their vulnerable migrant position. Attention to specificities of such psychological violence can contribute to targeted interventions, in Denmark and beyond.

### **Change and resistance. Couple formation across religious and ethnic boundaries**

Author: Monica Five Aarset

Institute: Norwegian Welfare Research (NOVA), Oslo Metropolitan University

Co-authors: Monika Grønli Rosten

In this paper, we discuss couple formation across religious and ethnic boundaries, based on findings from an ongoing study of mixed couples among descendants of immigrants in Norway. The study was funded by the Norwegian authorities through government action plans to prevent negative social control as well as forced marriages and gender mutilation (The Norwegian Government 2021, 2017). Research shows that concern for children's future marriages can be a central driving force in the exercise of control over children in parts of the minority population, but also that significant changes are taking place in connection with marriage and family life (Aarset, Smette & Rosten, 2021). In this paper, we aim to explore opportunities for, and consequences of, entering a romantic relationship/marriage that violates endogamous norms and understandings of who constitutes an acceptable partner. We will investigate couple formation across different types of boundaries. In addition to romantic relationships/marriages between persons from the majority and minority populations, it may include couples sharing religious backgrounds, but with different ethnicities, couples across caste/clan, or same-sex couples. The focus is on minoritized groups where arranged marriages are widespread and where marriage is considered a family matter. We ask: What changes are taking place and how are the boundaries of acceptable and unacceptable partner choices altered? What happens when boundaries are challenged and exceeded? What types of resistance do mixed couples meet from family, relatives, local community? The data material consists of 1) Qualitative interviews with adults who have been or are dating, married, or cohabiting with persons from a different religious and/or ethnic group. 2) Focus group interviews with young people concerning their views on mixed couples, on couple-formation norms, and understandings of who constitutes an acceptable partner.

### **Religious coercive control and spiritual abuse: Muslim community in the UK**

Author: Nadia Aghtaie

Institute: University of Bristol

Co-authors: Natasha Mulvihill, Andrea Matolcsi, Marianne Hester

The paper is based on two qualitative field study of the experiences of religious coercive control and spiritual abuse by victims/survivors of gender based violence as well as exploring the practitioners, and religious leaders perspectives on the role of faith and accessing Justice among the Muslim community in the UK. These two studies extend existing scholarship on coercive control within an intimate relationship by exploring how the experiences of 'religious coercive control' in conjunction with structural spiritual abuse make it more difficult for the victims of domestic violence and abuse to seek justice. The analysis in this article draws on two datasets: secondary data analysis of 13 semi-structured interviews with female victims/survivors and 8 practitioners (5 from Sharia Councils & 3 NGOs), primary data collected through an online anonymous survey eliciting 6 qualitative responses (5 female & 1 male), supplemented by 1 follow-up interview with a female victim-survivors. Thematic analysis suggest that the concept of structural spiritual abuse and religious coercive control should be given more attention by the domestic violence and abuse literature and also by those who are working with women of faith.

## UNDERSTANDING DVA THROUGH AN INTERSECTIONAL LENS II

What supports and jeopardises Black and minoritised survivor's healing journeys to recover mental wellbeing

Author: Prof Ravi Thiara

Institute: University of Warwick

Co-authors: Sumanta Roy, Dr Akima Thomas

Since the publication in 2003 of an article on the importance of recognising the link between women's experiences of domestic violence and mental distress, we have been struck by the increased and routine pathologisation of survivors through psychiatric diagnosis. Considering the historical antecedents of abused women's construction as 'mentally unstable', we examine what this means for racialised bodies in a context where psychiatric labels are increasingly accorded to women's expression of distress resulting from multiple violations. Faced by a lack of engagement with their histories of abuse from mental health professionals, survivors narrate finding refuge in the pathologies they are offered, to make sense for themselves of the effects of men's violence in their lives. Drawing on the narratives of Black and minoritised survivors from a recently completed study, our presentation focuses on survivor's journeys to healing, what they find supportive and what is re-traumatising in the responses they receive from the support system. Locating violence as an experience rather than an event, the importance of understanding the social-structural context in which distress occurs is highlighted, as well as the particular issues encountered by racially minoritised women.

Qualitative comparative analysis of the influence of family in reproductive coercion experienced by women born in Canada and immigrant women

Author: Carole Boulebsol

Institute: University of Montreal

Co-authors: Sylvie Lévesque, Marie-Marthe Cousineau

Background and purpose of the study: Reproductive coercion (RC) refers to control, intimidation or violence used by an intimate partner or a family member to influence women contraceptive and reproductive choices. For example, women may experience contraceptive sabotage, pressure to have children and coercion to continue or terminate a pregnancy. In Canada, little is known about RC, especially for immigrant women and cultural minority communities. Likewise, little research has examined the influence of family or in-laws on both the experience of RC and the formal and informal support that women may receive. To address this gap, we conducted a qualitative comparative case study to better understand the influence of family and in-laws on women RC experience, while considering their cultural background and their geographical journey. Methods: In-depth semi-structured interviews were conducted with 33 women living in Canada. An inductive thematic analysis was used. Data were analyzed with a feminist, transcultural and intersectional theoretical framework. Results: Results are organized into three categories through a comparison of the experiences reported by immigrant and Canadian-born women: 1) Forms of RC; 2) Cultural representations of reproductive autonomy and violence against women; 3) Family role in RC context. The results show a variety of forms and contexts in which RC can be used by the partner and the family. It appears that migration considerably weakens the living conditions of women and exposes them to a risk aggravation of RC. For some of the Canadian-born women and for almost all immigrant women, family and in-laws had a significant impact on the violence they experienced and on their access to services. Conclusion: Cultural representations, religious beliefs and social structures have a significant influence on the RC experienced by women and must be better considered in future research to develop culturally sensitive services.

### Intimate Partner Violence Research and Practice with Latina Survivors: A Cross-Cultural Scale Validation

Author: Iris Cardenas

Institute: University of Maryland, Baltimore

Co-authors: Hsiu-Fen Lin, Kristina Nikolova, Judy Postmus

Background: There is a need to fully capture the intended goal of intersectionality: produce knowledge that would allow us to take action toward social equality. As such, attending to Latinas' intersecting oppressions, assuring that the construction of knowledge properly reflects their lived experiences, and exploring whether structures may be inadvertently reproducing their subordination are key in working with this population. Through a discussion of the Spanish validation of the Abusive Behavior Inventory – Revised, this paper illuminates scholars and practitioners' capacity to advance the implementation of intersectionality. This paper discusses and guides the application of a cross-cultural scale validation in intimate partner violence (IPV) research and practice to support refocusing on individuals of marginalized backgrounds. Methods: The Abusive Behavior Inventory – Revised (ABI-R) examines three types of violence: psychological, sexual, and physical violence. However, the degree to which the ABI-R measures these constructs across English and Spanish-speaking IPV survivors has not yet been tested. Utilizing scales that have not been validated with minority populations may lead to biasing our understanding of these population services need. We conducted multi-group confirmatory factor analyses using



data collected with English-speaking (n = 209) and Spanish-speaking (n = 207) IPV survivors from the United States and Puerto Rico. Findings: Despite survivors having different interpretations of the same events based on their social location, results support the validity of the Spanish version of the ABI-R. Practitioners can use this scale to accurately assess IPV experiences among Spanish-speaking survivors to provide them with appropriate intervention and prevention services. Conclusions & Implications: Accurately measuring Latina survivors' experiences of abuse is an important component in understanding the type and severity of the violence experienced. We highlight an approach to advance commitments of inclusivity and evidence-based practice and offer recommendations to align our work with the goal of using an intersectional framework.

### Examining the intersections between migrant precarity and domestic violence among women in Australia

Author: Stefani Vasil

Institute: Monash University

While understanding the diversity of women's lived experiences is a key focus area in the international feminist literature on domestic violence, research with migrant women in Australia remains limited. This presentation draws from a qualitative study that seeks to contribute to the growing body of intersectional feminist scholarship that examines how immigration or "migration status" impacts the dynamics of migrant women's experiences of domestic violence, including their risk of ongoing violence. Drawing on interviews with 18 victim-survivors with "insecure migration status" and 23 professional stakeholders, the presentation examines precarity in relation to migrant women's lives in Australia and focuses on the ways that their specific circumstances contribute to and are compounded by the experience of domestic violence. It also considers how precarity functions as a structural condition that has implications in terms of various forms or patterns of inequality that can heighten women's vulnerability to violence and undermine their efforts to ensure their safety and survival. In drawing on the lens of precarity to interpret women's experiences, the presentation will speak to the structural and systemic factors that exacerbate domestic violence for women who move to Western multicultural societies for the purposes of work, study and family reunion.

### Forced marriages in Slovakia

Author: Mária Vargová

Institute: National Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of Violence Against Children

Co-authors: Petra Grznárová

We would like to bring to the fore the issue of arranged marriages in Romani communities in Slovakia. However we will not use the term arranged marriage but forced marriage, because it happens largely against the will and unfortunately often the victims are children. Children are brought up in the spirit of the customs of forced marriages. Girls are aware, that in the event of a violation of these standards sanctions can be expected such as disruption of contacts with their family and loved ones. They submit to the parents' decision. The real acceptance or consent from the bride to be is missing. However, not all the girls with tacit

consent accept they role. We also have to take into account the fact, that if the child does not follow the rules of the family, she is excluded from the whole community. Even though the justice has been done, the position of the child is not secure and the biggest challenge for us, at this point, has just risen. To turn against own family is equal to deadly sin in Romani families. In our oral presentation, we would like to talk about the risky environment for children trafficking in terms of forced marriages. These include marginalised social subculture, submissive position of women in the society, strong knit family ties etc. Since the Romani community is closed it is difficult to penetrate it. Therefore, we have to focus on the particular signs of the victim especially at school or leisure activities. In our presentation we would like to focus on multidisciplinary approach among schools, police, prosecutors, judges, authorities of social and legal protection of children, doctors etc., who are involved into creating and implementing protective measures, recognizing the signs of forced marriages and adoption of effective legislation.

**Precarious situations caused by immigration laws: a comparative study and a way out**

Author: Jasmin Beck

Institute: University of Münster, Germany

This presentation compares the impact of immigration laws in Council of Europe member states on the protection of survivors of domestic violence with precarious residence statuses. It first summarises the requirements contained in the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (“Istanbul Convention”) for the protection of this particular yet heterogeneous group of survivors. Next, these requirements are briefly contrasted with the preliminary findings of the continuous monitoring of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the contracting states by the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO). The method used to analyse these texts is the Critical Frame Analysis as employed by Choudhry (2016). Against this background, and consulting a multidisciplinary selection of academic literature, the ways in which immigration laws facilitate the continued perpetration of violence by the perpetrator and obstruct access to justice for survivors are mapped and conceptualized. This mapping of the impact of immigration laws on survivors of domestic violence builds on Feith Tan and Gammeltoft-Hansen’s 2020 topographical approach to accountability for human rights violations in migration control. Selected cases of the European Court of Human Rights are systematically dissected in order to further illustrate the role that discrimination plays in the violation of the rights of survivors without national or European Union citizenship. Finally, the lessons learned are transformed into future policy recommendations for the effective non-discriminatory prevention of violence and protection of survivors’ rights.

## **UNDERSTANDING DVA THROUGH AN INTERSECTIONAL LENS III**

**Family in the era of gender equality in East African Community (EAC): A scoping review of men and women’s perceptions on gender equality in their family life**

Author: UWIHANGANA CONSOLEEE

Institute: University of Gothenburg

Co-authors: Mikaela Starke

**Background and purpose:** The motivation to conduct this scoping review was to understand men and women's reflections on gender policy and implementation of gender equality in the family life in EAC. The aim was to investigate the existing knowledge and the knowledge gaps in the research about the perceptions on gender equality in the everyday family life of men and women living from EAC members countries, i.e., Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, and South Sudan. **Method:** Eight journal articles were reviewed. **Findings:** The findings reveal that men and women reflections are that those cultural norms influenced gender equality. Men worried about the effects of gender equality and women described challenges of gender equality such as dual work. The results also reveal that conflicts between men and women arise from preconceptions about gender equality and how gender equality should be lived and promoted within the family. Results reveal that the cultural norms and principles are based on strong values that support a sex divided everyday life of married men and women. The practice of family life to a great extent are guided by these principles which means that women are under pressure as they are performing the same domestic work as before, together with their paid work outside the family. **Conclusions and implications:** The knowledge gaps identified are a need for studies on how gender equality is lived in family everyday life and experienced by men and women in the EAC countries. Further studies should focus on studying gender equality taking into consideration cultural values that shape gender relations, considering that change is a process that requires perseverance and determination. **Key words:** East-African Community, family life, gender equality, men, perceptions, women.

**'Where can we get help when things go wrong?' – exploring young LGBTQ+ people's help-seeking for domestic abuse**

Author: Cait Jobson

Institute: Durham university

Young people's relationships are often seen as naïve and unimportant leading to lack of recognition and support 'when things go wrong'. There is a public story about domestic abuse which centres cisgendered and heterosexual experiences of physical violence leaving those experiences outside of this dominant narrative invisible. For example, LGBTQ+ young people do not see themselves as the 'ideal victim', have little positive or negative representation of relationships both in the media and school sex education, and fear and stigma can prevent them from gaining the support that they deserve. Therefore, should LGBTQ+ young people experience domestic abuse, barriers to help-seeking are often exacerbated. This research explores this intersection of youth and LGBTQ+ identities through a participatory action research (PAR) approach. The paper discusses the methodological process of PAR with young LGBTQ+ people using both the online platform of Discord and in person meet ups to co-design and implement a research project exploring help-seeking experiences and co-creating action for change. The paper will consider the role of PAR with young people in online and offline spaces for future research. The paper also proposes an initial discussion of the findings from this project and seeks to highlight its implications for

young LGBTQ+ people's help-seeking practices and the practitioners and domestic abuse support services who work with them.

#### Attitudes of US adults towards coercive control in heterosexual and LGBTQI relationships

Author: Dr Julie-Ann Jordan

Institute: IMPACT Research Centre, Northern Health and Social Care Trust

Co-authors: Dr Susan Lagdon, Dr Kevin Dyer, Dr Claire McCartan, Daniel McFadden, Prof Ciaran Shannon

Background: Lagdon and colleagues recently demonstrated that public attitudes towards coercive control are influenced by victim demographics. For example, when victims were portrayed as male rather than female, the public were less likely consider the behaviour to be abuse, or believe that the victim's wellbeing would be affected. Rates of IPV in LGBTQI relationships are reported to be equal to or higher than those in heterosexual relationships. Despite this, barriers to getting out of abusive LGBTQI relationships (e.g. general population attitudes) have received limited focus. The present study examined if attitudes towards coercive control held by US adults vary depending on whether the behaviours occur in heterosexual or LGBTQI relationships. Methods: US residents (n=2000), recruited via MTurk, participated in an attitudes towards coercive control survey. Two coercive control scenarios were shown, one obvious and one more subtle. Following this, respondents were asked to rate: the likely impact on the victim; if the victim should seek help; and if the behaviour was domestic abuse. All participants were shown the same scenario text; however, the genders of the victim and perpetrator varied. Participants were randomly allocated to one of four conditions: 1) female victim, male perpetrator; 2) male victim, female perpetrator; 3) male victim, male perpetrator; 4) female victim, female perpetrator. For those allocated to conditions 3 and 4, an additional scenario was presented describing LGBTQI specific forms of coercive control (e.g. threats of outing). Findings: Mixed Analysis of Variance models will be used to determine if attitudes vary by victim gender or relationship type. Conclusions & implications: Negative attitudes towards coercive control held by the public make it more challenging to leave abusive LGBTQI relationships. The findings will be discussed in terms of implications for public health messaging and educational programmes relating to coercive control in LGBTQI relationships.

#### Victims of forced marriage: Vulnerability to violence and the need for explicit criminalisation

Author: Lisa Grans

Institute: Institute for Human Rights, Åbo Akademi University

Co-authors: Mikaela Heikkilä, Maija Mustaniemi-Laakso

This presentation discusses the criminalisation of forced marriage in the Finnish Criminal Code. The introduction of such a criminalisation is suggested in the current Government Programme in Finland and finds wide support within the civil society. Currently, forced marriage is not explicitly criminalised in the country as it has been held that the different acts that forced marriage consists of fall within the existing provisions of the Criminal Code. This view is reaffirmed in a recent Ministry of Justice memorandum holding that the current provisions of the Criminal Code on trafficking in human beings, aggravated trafficking in

human beings and coercion are “rather broadly applicable to the acts of forcing a person to enter into marriage” and that there thus is no need for explicit criminalisation. The memorandum does, however, note the possibility of specifying the Criminal Code’s provision on trafficking in human beings by adding a mention of forced marriage among the purposes of human trafficking. The presentation takes issue with the suggestion to regard forced marriage only as a form of human trafficking or coercion, arguing that this does not adequately reflect the particular traits of forced marriage. Furthermore, focusing on the intersection between vulnerability, criminal law, and human rights law, the presentation problematizes the current conceptualisation of forced marriage and discusses the precarious situation of victims of domestic violence in situations easily overlooked in the context of forced marriage. This includes individuals forced into informal marriages or forced to remain in marriages. It will be argued that there is a pressing need for a more nuanced discussion of the concept of forced marriage, one that is conscious of the different forms of coercion related to forced marriages and the different forms of vulnerability that such marriages create.

### Examining the Nature and Context of Intimate Partner Violence in 2SLGBTQ+ Communities

Author: Ashley Haller

Institute: University of Manitoba

Co-author: Kendra Nixon

As little as 3% of IPV literature focuses on experiences of IPV in 2SLGBTQ+ communities. To address this critical gap, a community-based study was conducted alongside local 2SLGBTQ+ organizations in the Canadian Prairie provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta). The research sought to gain a comprehensive understanding of 2SLGBTQ+ IPV in the Canadian Prairies in order to inform intervention and prevention strategies. The research questions specifically addressed how IPV is experienced by 2SLGBTQ+ communities, the perception of IPV within 2SLGBTQ+ communities, the help-seeking experiences of 2SLGBTQ+ persons; available resources and supports for 2SLGBTQ+ survivors, and recommendations for improving the service response to the issue. The study utilized a mixed methods approach, including an online survey with 73 2SLGBTQ+ survivor respondents, and in-depth interviews with 60 2SLGBTQ+ survivors and service providers. Survey data was analyzed using SPSS software, while interview data was analyzed using qualitative analysis software Dedoose. Our results indicate that 2SLGBTQ+ survivors experienced unique forms of abuse based on their gender identity and/or sexual orientation, deemed “gender/sexuality-specific abuse.” 2SLGBTQ+ survivors also faced substantial barriers when help-seeking, as existing services largely catered to heterosexual women, and there were few services available specifically for 2SLGBTQ+ communities. Additionally, significant variation between experiences of abuse, injury, and help-seeking were found after accounting for intersectional identities, revealing differences amongst specific gender identities, sexual orientations, ethno-cultural backgrounds, and disabilities. In conclusion, our results underscore the need to: (1) ensure that existing services are inclusive of 2SLGBTQ+ individuals, (2) the development of services designed to serve the unique needs of 2SLGBTQ+ communities; and (3) the importance of addressing barriers for multiply marginalized identities in service provision for IPV.

## The 'loverboy' and sex trafficking: Abusive relationships and sexual exploitation of Romanian women in the UK

Author: Ileana-Maria Turda

Institute: University of Central Lancashire

Co-authors: Prof. Nicky Stanley, Dr. Sarah Shorrocks, Dr. Emily Cooper, Dr. Lis Bates

In recent years, Romania has maintained a top position as a country of origin for sex trafficking in the UK (Home Office, 2019). Recruitment into sex work and sex trafficking brings substantial gains to traffickers, who are often men, whilst exposing female victims to psychological abuse and coercion (Rothman, 2015; Doychak & Raghavan, 2020). Together, these factors create a toxic situation which can impede women's ability to exit trafficking and start the path to recovery. This paper draws from a PhD study on the post-trafficking trajectories of Romanian women sexually exploited in the UK. Using a feminist research framework and semi-structured in-depth interviews, the voices of Romanian survivors of sex trafficking, alongside practitioner and key informant experiences of working in the anti-trafficking field, were captured and analysed. Sex trafficking trajectories were identified and explored. Though trafficking journeys were diverse and nuanced, many survivors experienced the so-called 'loverboy' approach to recruitment, which kept them in trafficking. Regardless of vulnerabilities and risks, the women desired to migrate, succeed in life and be in a romantic relationship; the traffickers fulfilled these needs in the early stages of recruitment. As a result, women 'fell in love', did not consider themselves victims, did not want to engage with authorities and could not exit the exploitation. The findings highlighted their coercion into trafficking and the implications and effects of psychological, sexual and physical abuse within relationships with the traffickers. Upon exit, women acknowledged the importance of deconstructing the image of their love relationships with the traffickers as crucial to recovery. The complexities of their experiences and relationships with traffickers reinforce the need to better understand women's vulnerability, roles and the 'loverboy' effects to ensure engagement with authorities and provide better support post-trafficking.

## UNDERSTANDING DVA: Focusing on Femicide

"That was the only option left": A pooled analysis of self-reported triggers for femicide perpetration

Author: Dabney Evans

Institute: Emory University

Co-authors: Martin H DiMarco, Brielle Berkowitz, Kathryn Wyckoff

Femicide, the gender-based killing of women, is an underreported and understudied issue. Gaps in data, particularly data on perpetrators limit the ability to understand triggers, and upstream factors behind this phenomenon in order to prevent its occurrence. The purpose of this study was to conduct a secondary analysis of in-person interviews with male-femicide perpetrators from Argentina, Chile, Honduras, Israel, Namibia, South Africa, and Venezuela to identify their self-reported triggers prior to committing femicide. The qualitative data sources were derived from independent studies yet shared a similar qualitative methodological approach examining the life histories and narratives of femicide

perpetrators. Ninety-seven (n= 97) interviews derived from 63 men included in the pooled dataset were analyzed using MAXQDA. The data exposed a clear relationship between the perception of gender roles and femicide triggers. The most commonly noted trigger for femicide was the perceived violation of strict gender norms. Notable prior lived experiences among perpetrators included divorce, adverse childhood events, and learned family dynamics including violence between intimate partners and family violence. While not indicative of causation, these factors serve as explanatory rationalizations for the perpetration of violence against women. Additional research is needed on early intervention for femicide prevention including gender norms transformation and the deconstruction of patriarchal and misogynistic attitudes.

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PERPETRATORS OF INTIMATE PARTNER FEMICIDES IN SLOVENIA

Author: Jasna Podreka

Institute: Faculty of Arts University of Ljubljana

When we deal with intimate partner femicides, which are one of the most frequent causes of violent death of women, some questions inevitably arise: "Who are these murderers?" and "What are their personal characteristics?". International studies suggest that there are some "risk factors" for intimate partner femicides which are related to the individual characteristics of the perpetrators, such as unemployment or social disadvantage, victimization in youth through domestic violence, alcohol and drug abuse, mental and personality disorders (Cambpell et al., 2003; Cambpell et al., 2007; Aldridge and Browne, 2003). All of these characteristics of perpetrators are undoubtedly important and must be considered when analyzing the causes of intimate partner femicides. However, the article shows that the individual characteristics of the perpetrators should not be considered the main reason for intimate partner femicides. The main cause of men's (lethal) violence against their partners should be understood in the context of social and cultural patterns that form the basis of a man's violent behavior in an intimate partner relationship. Intimate partner violence is the main risk factor for intimate partner homicide. The author tested the above hypothesis by analyzing the characteristics of 52 male offenders convicted of murder or attempted murder of a former or current intimate partner in Slovenia. This analysis is based on the review and qualitative analysis of 24 criminal records from all the District courts in Slovenia (in total 11 courts), for the period between 2000 and 2011, and supplemented with the retrospective analysis of media publications for news about intimate partner homicides that occurred in Slovenia in the last two years (2019 and 2020).

#### Rural Intimate Partner Femicide in Australia

Author: Freya McLachlan

Institute: Queensland University of Technology

While violence against women and domestic violence can be seen throughout Australia, emerging evidence suggests that intimate partner femicide (IPF) is more common in rural spaces than urban ones. This presentation unpacks a research project that examined 100 IPF cases in Queensland Australia. This project, one part of a doctoral thesis, looked to determine the rate of femicide and frequency of common risk factors in rural areas of

Queensland, Australia. The study also explored how victims accessed services and the characteristics of rural IPF and male offenders. This presentation will discuss findings which indicate that IPF is more common in rural areas and that associated risk factors are similar between urban and rural cases. The presentation will explore the unique aspects of rural IPF, including the forms and contexts of violence. These differences will then be examined through the lens of social isolation in physically isolated places. Implications will be discussed with a focus on the need for specialised, rural-focused policies and responses.

### Intimate partner femicide in Australia: Offender pathways to homicide perpetration

Author: Li Eriksson

Institute: Griffith University

Co-authors: Shilan Caman, Hayley Boxall, Paul Mazerolle, Richard Wortley

It is well recognised within the domestic violence literature that men who perpetrate violence against their partners can be classified into different 'clusters' of perpetrators based on various attributes such as their past violence, behavioural characteristics, and disposition (e.g., Holtzworth-Munroe et al., 2000). A growing body of research is showing that a typology approach is also applicable to the most serious form of domestic violence, namely intimate partner femicide. For example, work by Boxall et al. (2022) demonstrates three primary offender pathways: "fixated threat", "persistent and disorderly", and "deterioration/acute stressor". The current study uses self-report data from 68 men convicted of murder or manslaughter of a current or former intimate partner. The interviews were conducted at custodial and community corrections facilities in Australia. Using two-step cluster analysis, the current study reveals at least two clusters of offenders who differ across areas such as past perpetration of intimate partner violence, alcohol and/or drug use, prior offending patterns, coercive control, and pre-offense functioning. Although a typology approach can have great implications for practice, research suggests that practitioners working on the ground offenders are unsure of the value typologies bring to their own case practice (Boxall et al., 2015). We discuss how the typologies arrived at within our study can be more effectively integrated into practice to cater to the specific needs of practitioners.

### Direct and indirect victims of femicide: Fatal consequences of violence

Author: Freydís Jóna Freysteinsdóttir

Institute: University of Iceland

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 nearly 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.

## **UNDERSTANDING DVA: Focusing on Intimate Partner Homicide**

**Health care utilization and mental disorders among perpetrators of Intimate partner Homicide and their matched controls: a registry-based case-control study from 2000-2016 in Sweden.**

Author: Solveig Lövestad

Institute: Medicine, Gotenburg University and Västra Götaland Region Competence Centre on Intimate Partner Violence

Co-authors: Karin Örmon, Viveka Enander, Gunilla Krantz

**Introduction:** Little is known about differences in health care utilization and mental disorders between perpetrators of IPH and the general population. **Aim:** The aim was to analyse differences in health care utilization and mental disorders between perpetrators of IPH and their matched controls from the general population. **Methods:** This study includes 48 males and 10 females who perpetrated IPH between 2000 and 2016 in the Region of Västra Götaland, Sweden. Further 458 general population controls were randomly selected and matched on sex, birth year and residential area. Data was retrieved from the Swedish National Patient Register and the Western Swedish Health care register. Mental and behavioural disorders was classified according to ICD-10 (F00-F99). Mann-Whitney U test was used to test for differences in health care utilization and mental health disorders between perpetrators of IPH and their matched controls. **Results:** Compared to their matched controls, male perpetrators had more registered contacts with primary care 30 ( $p < .001$ ) and 365 days before homicide ( $p = .019$ ), with specialist outpatient care 30 ( $p < .001$ ) and 365 days before homicide ( $p < .001$ ) and with inpatient care 30 ( $p < .001$ ) and 365 days before homicide ( $p = .024$ ). Female perpetrators had more outpatient special care ( $p = .040$ ) and inpatient care contacts 365 days before homicide ( $p = .003$ ) as compared to their controls. Male perpetrators had a higher number of at least one registered mental and behavioral disorders within all health care settings except for within inpatient care 30 days before homicide. Female perpetrators had more registered mental health disorder within the outpatient specialized care 365 days before the homicide ( $p < .001$ ). **Conclusions:** Health care contacts by perpetrators of IPH do occur proximate to the homicide. Health care professionals should gain necessary skills in how to routinely enquire about perpetration of IPV.

**Bereaved by Intimate Partner Homicide: Consequences and Experiences of Support**

Author: Viveka Enander

Institute: VKV - The Västra Götaland Region Competence Centre on Intimate Partner Violence, and Department of Social Work, University of Gothenburg

Co-authors: Gunilla Krantz, Solveig Lövestad, Karin Örmon

**Aim:** The aim of this qualitative study is to describe the experiences of family members bereaved by intimate partner homicide. The focus is on immediate and long-term consequences of the killing, and on the experiences of information and support offered following the IPH as described by the bereaved. This includes interactions with health care, the social services, the criminal justice system and the media. **Method:** The study is part of the IPH-STOP study, which aims at identifying and analysing all IPH cases perpetrated in the Västra Götaland Region in western Sweden during 2000-2016. Via police records, 59 IPH cases were identified, including 48 male and 10 female perpetrators. Parents, siblings and adult children of the victims were asked to participate in an interview, resulting in 22 interviews with bereaved family members. **Results:** The bereaved described the social support offered following the IPH lacking or inadequate, and that they were left alone with handling practical and emotionally difficult tasks, such as for example cleaning up after the killing. More specifically, they found the institutional responses lacking in regard to information, understanding, coordination between professionals, continuity, professionalism, and restoration. In hindsight the participants wished that some professional person should have reached out to the family and offered emotional and practical support, as well as information. The results indicate that a coordinated response to persons bereaved by IPH is necessary, and if lacking, needs to be developed.

**Contextual factors and relationship characteristics prior to Intimate Partner Homicide: a qualitative case file study from Sweden.**

Author: Karin Örmon

Institute: VKV - The Västra Götaland Region Competence Centre on Intimate Partner Violence

Co-authors: Viveka Enander, Solveig Lövestad

**Background and purpose of the study:** One in seven homicides are perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner. The majority of perpetrators of intimate partner homicide are men. Female perpetrators often commit intimate partner homicide in self-defence. Investigating risk factors are often the focus in these cases. However, in a public health perspective, moving beyond risk factors to examine the implications of contextual factors and relationships characteristics prior to the homicide is significant in preventing these murders. Hence, the aim of this study was to identify risk factors for intimate partner homicide, by investigating contextual factors and characteristic of the intimate relationship prior to the homicide. **Methods:** Identified cases of intimate partner homicide from verified court verdicts, were identified, respectively perpetrated by 40 male and 10 female offenders during 2000- 2016 in Region Västra Götaland, Sweden. Manifest content analysis was used analysing court case data. **Findings:** Including overlapping characteristics in the 50 cases of court verdicts, 27 cases were characterized by social vulnerability, 19 cases were characterized by mental health problems and 29 cases were characterized by controlling behaviour and/or previous violence, making it the largest contextual factor among the cases. Further 3 cases did not show any specific contextual factors. When looking at non-overlapping cases, ten cases were characterized by social disadvantage only, five cases were characterized by mental health problems only, and 10 cases were characterized by

controlling behaviour only. Social vulnerability was the most common factor among female perpetrators. Divorce or separation were identified in 23 of the cases. Conclusions and implications: The result contributes to a deeper understanding of contextual factors and the characteristics of relationships that together with gender, influence the risk for perpetrating or becoming a victim of IPH. The result enables detection and prevention of intimate partner homicide

#### Intimate partner homicide: male and female perpetration and the role of close relatives

Author: Gunilla Krantz

Institute: VKV - The Västra Götaland Competence Centre on Intimate Partner Violence, and Dept of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Co-authors: Karin Örmon, Viveca Enander, Solveig Lövestad

**Background and Purpose:** The IPH-STOP study identified all cases of intimate partner homicide (IPH) in the Västra Götaland Region in Sweden during the years 2000-2016. This presentation is focused on two parts, the first part will give background data comparing male and female perpetrated IPH cases, focusing on differences in weapon used, court verdicts, sentences, and in life circumstances at the time of the crime (published data). The aim of the second part was to investigate what relatives knew about the relationship, if control tactics and violence were ongoing, any abuse involved, feelings of guilt afterwards and other factors. **Methods:** Data for the first part emanates from court records and preliminary inquiries. In all 58 IPH cases, 48 male perpetrated and 10 female perpetrated cases were identified. Descriptive statistics and a register-based case-control study presents data on life circumstances at the time of the crime. The interview study identified and asked close relatives for an interview, 22 interviews were performed. Simple content analysis was used to extract the main content. **Results:** There were striking differences in conviction and sentences between men and women. Only male perpetrators were sentenced to life imprisonment, while women were given fixed-term sentences. Male perpetrators were more often unemployed as compared to male controls. Female perpetrators were lower educated as compared to the controls. The interview study confirmed that control tactics and partner violence were at hand in cases but the informants expressed various difficulties in acknowledging and act upon it. Some of the interviewees consented to pangs of conscience after the killing due to not having interfered, but few considered the possibility to seek help and support from an authority. **Implications:** To reduce number of IPH cases, close relatives could form an important part if supported by the health and social sectors.

#### The limits to self-defense claims in case of domestic violence homicides

Author: Elisabete Ferreira

Institute: Oporto School of the Law Faculty of Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Domestic violence is a serious social concern, cross-sectional to social classes and countries. It is mostly a gender inspired issue and the victims are in the most part women. Domestic violence develops in cycles: it starts with the building of tension, then takes place the incident of abuse and last happens the reconciliation, or honeymoon. As time goes by, the shorter these phases become and the greater and more severe are the attacks. Death is not

rarely the outcome to the victim of abuse. But in some cases, the victim stops the abuse by killing the aggressor. The victim commits a homicide, but usually, after the aggression has taken place. This poses a question: should this victim be punished by the crime of homicide or is it thinkable that she may claim she acted in self-defense? To answer this question, we must revisit the requirements demanded by the law so that the self-defense claim is admissible as exemption of criminal responsibility – as a justification of the fact and exclusion of its unlawfulness. The main problem with self-defense claims in such cases is that the law requires the act of aggression to be present or imminent so that it is permitted to the victim to take her defense into her own hands. If the episode of aggression has already taken place, we fail to fulfill this requirement, unless we interpret the concept of actuality of the aggression broadly, as follows: domestic violence is a permanent offense, so, for as long as the victim stays under the domain of the aggressor, the aggression will remain present and allow self-defense claims to be admissible. It will only be left to answer whether the victim acted within the legal requirement of the necessity of the means used in her self-defense.

The Portuguese Domestic Homicide Review Team

Author: Sandra Tavares

Institute: Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Portugal has implemented a Domestic Homicide Review Team. This Team has the aim of retrospectively analyzing homicide situations that have occurred in the context of domestic violence. That goal is achieved by the retrospective analysis of definitively finalized penal procedures concerning homicides that occurred in the context of domestic violence. The purpose of this analysis is to create knowledge that allows assessing what may have gone less well, in procedural terms, allowing the adoption of more efficient means of intervening preventively in the phenomenon of domestic violence, and, particularly, in the escalation effect that it contains. As a result of its efforts, the Team produces and publishes case reports and recommendations, thus trying to enlighten a large range of public and private institutions involved with domestic violence issues about the “best practices” to embrace. The purpose of this oral presentation is to introduce the conceptual framework inherent to the Portuguese Domestic Homicide Review Team, exemplify its scope of action and demonstrate its virtualities in changing practices and consolidated institutional options. Some examples of specific case reports will be addressed to demonstrate the concrete efforts made by the Team to emphasize what practices should be reinforced, or abandoned, in future similar situations, thus demonstrating the practical importance of this kind of analysis. This presentation is intended to make foreign researchers, practitioners, and policy makers, aware of the possibilities of this kind of retrospective analysis, with the aim of seeing it replicated in other countries and/or deepening collaboration networks in countries that have similar mechanisms for studying the phenomenon of domestic homicide.

## Understanding DVA: Focusing on Post-Separation Contact

Custodial conflicts and violence linked to separation – a planned registry-based study

Author: Malin Pauli

Institute: Karolinska Institutet

Co-authors: Björn Hofvander, Axel Haglund, Katarina Howner

Background Custodial conflicts linked to parental separations affect a many children every year. Research on custodial conflicts is sparse, but indicate that parents involved are both socially and economically disadvantaged, and that causes of parental conflicts are multiple. According to the Swedish Gender Equality Agency (2022) domestic violence is present in 64 % of all custody cases, a fact that is not given adequate attention in court proceedings. However, there are no Swedish registry-based studies regarding risk factors for custodial conflicts, its detrimental effects for parents or children, or regarding violence in custodial conflicts. The aims of the current project are to identify risk factors of custodial conflicts and violence linked to separation. Furthermore, we aim to investigate detrimental effects stemming from custodial conflicts, for both parents and children. Method The planned case-control study will be based on data from legal, social and medical registries. The source population is co-parents with children under 18 years of age. Cases consists of co-parents where either party have filed a petition for custody during 2016 and 2017. Both parents and children will be followed, using data from different registries, including the Swedish National Patient registry, Prescribed Drug Registry, the National Crime Register, the Enforcement Authority registry (Kronofogden), as well as registers from Statistics Sweden; the Total Population Registry, LISA (a longitudinal integrated database for health insurance and labour market studies), and STATIV (a longitudinal database for integration studies). Implications We hope with this study to increase the likelihood of identifying individuals at risk for custodial conflicts. Additionally, further knowledge is needed to enhance the support systems for preventing acrimonious processes and their long-term effects, especially for children involved. As the planning of the study is still on-going, the presentation will focus on outlining and discussing the methodology.

### INFORMATION ABOUT VIOLENCE IS COMMON IN CUSTODY DISPUTES

Author: Åsa Hjertström

Institute: Swedish gender equality agency

Co-authors: Madelene Larsson

Part of Sweden's commitment to the Istanbul Convention, § 31 is to take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that, in the determination of custody and visitation rights of children, incidents of violence covered by the scope of the convention are considered. The Swedish Gender Equality Agency received an assignment from the Swedish government to determine the extent of, and in what way, information about violence or other abuse by one parent against the other parent or a child has been presented in court-cases involving custody, residence, and visitation. Furthermore, to what extent this information is considered in court judgements. The Swedish Gender Equality Agency reviewed 814 court-cases. There were reports of violence or other abuse by one parent against the other parent or a child in 518 cases. Only a low proportion of the information

about violence or other abuse that emerges in the judgements are considered a risk in the mandatory risk assessments. Furthermore, the courts tend to focus on parent's difficulties cooperating rather than on the information about violence or other abuse. Also, the assessment of the best interest of the child was in many cases inadequate. To ensure the best interests of the child, a strong child's rights perspective is required as well as thorough risk assessments, which GREVIO highlights in its recommendations for Sweden. The review reveals that the courts need greater knowledge about men's violence against women, violence against children and honor-related violence and oppression, as well as what potential consequences exposure to violence and decisions about custody, residence and visitation can have for those affected. The results of this case-review will be presented at the session along with an analysis and conclusions.

**Post-separation abuse and women's experiences of quality of life, safety and space for action**

Author: Susanne Mattsson

Institute: Uppsala universitet (department of women's and children's health)s health

Co-authors: Sara Skoog Waller

Separation from a perpetrator of domestic violence does not necessarily mean that violence and abuse ends. Instead, abuse may continue through different tactics a long time after separation. There is currently a lack of research examining post-separation abuse as a coherent phenomenon in a Swedish context. This project intends to investigate post-separation abuse with different research approaches and from different perspectives. More specifically the project studies subjection to different tactics of post-separation abuse among women, how the post-separation abuse interferes with women's living conditions, physical and psychological health, space for action and safety. Another purpose of the projects is to study women's experiences of how authorities and agencies respond to post-separation abuse and how women experience the support offered. The project includes a quantitative survey to measure prevalence, correlates and consequences of post-separation abuse, and an interview study exploring women's experiences of post-separation abuse. Selected results, based on a qualitative content analysis of interviews with twenty women recruited in a Swedish clinical setting for women who has been subjected to IPV, will be presented. The results will highlight women's experiences of post-separation abuse and its impact on their living conditions, safety, and space for action. The project as a whole will contribute with theoretical knowledge on post-separation abuse, increase the understanding of how perpetrators can use legal rights in different ways to perpetrate continued violence and threats and what the consequences might be for the victims. Through knowledge and conceptualization of the extent, expressions, responses and consequences of post-separation abuse, different tactics can be counteracted and prevented by adequate interventions.

**Domestic abuse and child contact: the interface between civil and criminal proceedings**

Author: Michele Burman

Institute: University of Glasgow

Co-authors: Ruth Friskney, Jane Mair, Richard Whitecross

Scotland has seen considerable developments in its attempts to tackle domestic abuse including the creation of a specific criminal offence through the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018. The Act also created for the first time a child aggravator, recognising the negative impacts on children from perpetrators of domestic abuse. While there have also been reforms in family law in Scotland, there remain concerns that in practice domestic abuse is disregarded by family courts making decisions about child contact. This paper draws on responses from an online survey (n=38) and qualitative interviews with family and criminal law practitioners (n=15) in Scotland to consider how relevant information about domestic abuse is accessed by the family courts determining issues around child contact, how it is considered in proceedings and how it affects decision-making. The findings suggest that there are no systematic mechanisms for the court to obtain relevant information about domestic abuse; even information from the criminal courts only reaches the family courts by chance. Where information about domestic abuse is known to the family court, it is rarely fully considered during the course of proceedings, with the family courts perceiving domestic abuse primarily as a dispute between adults rather than a (gendered) crime with adverse impacts on children. The interviews suggest decision-making in family courts is underpinned by an enduring pro-contact philosophy without access to robust, expert risk assessment to consider whether contact is in fact in the best interests of children.

#### **Allegations of parental alienation in custody decisions in IPV cases**

Author: Vesna Leskošek

Institute: University of Ljubljana, Faculty of social work

In 2021 the European Parliament adopted a Resolution on the impact of intimate partner violence and custody rights on women and children (2019/2166(INI)). The document calls on Member States not to use terms such as Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS) and similar in court proceedings, as they tend to minimise violence calling into question victims' parental skills. PAS is increasingly used in Slovenian custody decisions, both in social services and in courts, which are applied also in cases where a restraining order is in force. We will focus on the use of PAS in social services, as they write a report for the court, which includes custody recommendations. The main research question is what the arguments for the use of PAS are and how it has been diagnosed, as there is no valid and internationally accepted definition. Interviews were conducted with psychologists and social workers. They were asked about their understanding of PAS, how they define it and what are the elements of PAS that help. The research shows a strong belief that PAS is a new type of violence perpetrated by mothers against fathers and can be used exclusively in custody cases. Fathers are seen as victims of violence. Their right to have contact with their children is defended by the belief that children need their father regardless of the violence they have experienced. The main conclusion is that PAS is used as a gender-specific diagnosis that applies only to women. The definition of IPV has changed and is seen as a weapon against men to deprive them of their right to have contact with their children. The main recommendation is to apply Resolution 2019/2166 (INI) in the Slovenian legal system, using the examples of other EU countries. Training on IPV should also be organised for social services practitioners.

## Lonelification as a core aspect of domestic violence and post-separation abuse

Author: Sara Skoog Waller

Institute: University of Gävle, Faculty of Health and Occupational studies; Uppsala University, The National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence against Women

Co-authors: Ulla Forinder

Social relatedness and connectedness in time and space are essential for our fulfillment of basic needs and sense of self. Access to social resources and support is of particular importance for abilities to cope with hardships and recover from trauma. However, in the case of domestic violence and its aftermath, social isolation and disconnection appears to be central aspects. In this study we explored women's lived experiences of social and existential loneliness related to domestic violence, from a response based approach. The purpose was two-fold: (1) to study mechanisms of loneliness in the context of domestic violence and its aftermath, and (2) to study the meaning that loneliness had in the women's everyday lives. In-depth teller-focused interviews were conducted with 20 women who had been subjected to domestic violence by a previous partner. The interview data was analyzed through thematic analysis. We found that women experienced social and existential loneliness, not as a passive result of victimization, but through active isolating and 'lonely-making' tactics inflicted on them by the abusers, but also through the responses from authorities, pre- and post-separation. To describe these mechanisms, we present a model of the concept we call lonelification. The model illustrates how abusive tactics on a relational level, such as limitation of the woman's autonomy in time and space, and disruption of her sense of self and reality, are aimed at making women socially and existentially lonely. Furthermore, it describes how corresponding mechanisms on an institutional level reinforces abusers' power and control. This study provides insights into the lived experiences of loneliness among women subjected to domestic violence and post-separation abuse. It also offers a framework for the understanding of loneliness as an integral aspect of domestic violence, illustrating how institutional responses may contribute to and prolong post-separation abuse.

## Understanding DVA: Focusing on the Criminal Justice System

Obscuring Domestic Violence? The Intersections of the Social Sciences and the Law in the Australian Family Law System

Author: Zoe Rathus

Institute: Griffith University

Although the social sciences and family law systems are deeply intertwined in many countries, little research has been conducted about the consequences and implications of those intersections. My research into the Australian family law system shows that when social science enters the law, and the law enters social science there may be adverse consequences for mothers and children who have experienced domestic violence. This paper examines those consequences at two distinct moments. Firstly, it looks briefly at the beginning of the 'modern' family law system in Australia in the mid-1970's. At that time the new social sciences about child development and amicable divorce entered the law through



the legislation, the intentionally ‘therapeutic’ Family Court and the attitudes of the social scientists who worked directly in the courts. The legislation, the judges and the social science professionals all eschewed fault and blame. This paper uses case law, official Parliamentary and government documents and historical research to show how ‘no fault’ approaches impeded the Family Court’s ability to deal effectively with domestic violence. Secondly, over forty years later, interviews with social science professionals in the family law system considered how the law might penetrate their social science practices. Their discussions revealed the challenges of appearing neutral and dealing with the adversarial nature of the system where there is legislative encouragement of post-separation shared parenting. These challenges affect how the family narrative is presented in their reports, lead to ambiguous recommendations and leave some survivors of domestic violence feeling betrayed. The law has the potential to enter social science in a way which obscures domestic violence and may lead to harmful outcomes for women and children who are survivors.

### **Organisational Processes for Data Recording of Honour-Based Violence and Abuse, Forced Marriages and Female Genital Mutilation: Policing in England**

Author: Prof Geetanjali Gangoli

Institute: Durham University

Co-authors: Dr Nikki D'Souza, Dr Kate Butterby, Ms Ayurshi Dutt

Honour-based violence and abuse (HBV/A) is a serious issue particularly affecting racially minoritised communities, with an added strong gender bias. This paper reports on a project funded by the N8 that assessed, mapped and suggests ways to improve data collection by the police for such crimes. The research was conducted in collaboration with five police forces and two specialist organisations in Northern England, and aimed to critically investigate the police recording of HBV/A, including Forced Marriage (FM) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). We used multi methods, including interviews, focus groups, an online qualitative method and evaluation of anonymised datasets. Using thematic analysis, our findings indicate that the police have a fairly good understanding of HBA , but third sector organisations have an excellent and comprehensive understanding of these phenomenon. The police use multiple systems to record which often don’t speak to each other. There were four issues in relation to the recording of HBA, FM and FGM, including: ☐

Over-recording (where incidents are double/triple counted within systems) ☐

Under-recording (where domestic abuse incidents that include an element of honour are not recognised and recorded as such) ☐ Mis-recording (instances where incidents/crimes are recorded as HBA/DA or FM when they are not) ☐ Creative recording (where incidents are not ‘typically’ perceived as HBA/FM or FGM, but fit under the legal definition (for FM and FGM) and are recorded under this category) We suggest that addressing these four issues will result in more accurate recording identifying the extent of recorded crimes and incidents in communities and pave the way for a more fit-for-purpose definition of HBA.

### **Filicide in Australia: Findings from a national study**

Author: Holly Blackmore

Institute: Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS)

Co-authors: The Australian Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Network

Filicide, or the killing of a child by their parent(s), is a relatively rare but alarming phenomenon that has wide-reaching and long-lasting impacts on families, communities, and countries across the world. Australia sees an above average rate of filicides when compared to similar nations worldwide, with filicide being the second most common form of domestic homicide, after intimate partner homicide. Several previous studies have indicated that domestic and family violence (DFV) is linked with the perpetration of filicide, however research interrogating filicide within a DFV context is limited. In an attempt to examine the rates of filicide in Australia and contribute to a deeper understanding of the context within which filicide occurs, the current project was undertaken using national data. In 2020, ANROWS and the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Network (the Network) commenced a unique partnership, which involves the collection, analysis and reporting of national data concerning DFV-related deaths. ANROWS and the Network recently undertook data collection across all states and territories of Australia, as part of their project to establish a national minimum dataset for filicides. The data captured includes victim, perpetrator and case characteristics, as well as information relating to the DFV context for each of the filicides. This presentation will provide an overview of this project and explore the preliminary findings from the national filicide dataset, with a particular focus on filicides occurring in the context of DFV. The implications of the findings and potential application in policy and practice will also be outlined.

**Involving children and young people in Domestic Homicide Reviews: barriers and enablers to child participation**

Author: Laura Reid

Institute: University of Stirling

Co-authors: Jane Callaghan, Margaret Malloch

**Background/Purpose of Study** The aftermath of domestic homicide is complex for children as they experience a unique combination of trauma and loss. Statutory guidance in England and Wales recommends that children should be given the opportunity and specialist support to contribute to Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) (Home Office, 2016). However there is currently no further guidance or standardized process which guides professionals and DHR Chairs in how to do this in practice. This study explores how children and young people are currently involved in and supported through DHRs, investigating any barriers and enablers to meaningful participation. **Methods** This paper reports on findings from interviews undertaken with people with lived experience, DHR Chairs, and practitioners supporting children through the DHR process. Reflexive Thematic Analysis (Braun and Clarke, 2022) was used to analyse interview transcripts. Key findings are presented which explore participants views on child involvement in DHRs and the barriers and enablers to child participation in reviews. **Findings** Early findings indicate that there is a spectrum of views around if and how children and young people should be involved in reviews. Whilst many participants feel that children should be given the opportunity and support to participate, there are concerns around the benefits of taking part and the weighing up of protection and participation. This reflects a broader concern from participants about the already varying experiences of families. Accessing children and young people to understand their views has been

challenging due to gatekeeping practices, this has made it difficult to understand what children and young people think and feel about participating in these reviews. Conclusions Exploring the views of a range of stakeholders has produced themes which can inform policy and practice development, particularly in relation to developing processes which create consistency across the workforce where children are bereaved by domestic homicide.

### Gender justice advocates, a domestic abuse law, and a theory of change: Honouring Emma Ritch

Author: Marsha Scott

Institute: Scottish Women's Aid

Co-authors: Emma Ritch

In February 2018, the Scottish Parliament passed the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 (DASA)—the new “gold standard” for domestic abuse legislation, according to Evan Stark. Two linked laws followed: the Children (Scotland) Act 2020 and the Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Act 2021. DASA’s foundation was decades of feminist activism in Scotland. The development and passage of the new laws—and the introduction of a new feminist discourse about “gender competence” and system change—offer a theory of change for gender justice advocates. What is “gender competence”? Emma Ritch, an amazing and erudite feminist activist who died in June 2021, and I were asked to define the phrase for our chapter in the *International Handbook of Domestic Violence and Abuse* (2021): “Women and men and girls and boys live very different lives. Any analysis, research, policy, or legislation can be said to be “gender competent” when it reflects that principle. Familiarity with the dynamics of gender in our gendered world enables the development of policy and laws that disrupt the unequal distribution of power, prosperity, and safety in our families, communities, and institutions and promote social justice. Gender competence is thus required for activists, governments, and state institutions to develop and deliver policy and practice that sees oppression, understands how it works, and then dismantles it.” “Gender competence”—through intentional feminist influencing—now appears in official Scottish government commitments to gender mainstreaming. This presentation suggests that a theory of change is emerging that could be useful outwith Scotland. As Emma wrote: “The interaction of feminist activists, policy machineries within government, and legislatures is complex (Mackay, 2015).... If legislatures and governments are currently gendered, then a possibility exists for what Karen Beckwith (2005) describes as ‘regender[ing]’, by which process these institutions can be reoriented to the realisation of women’s equality.”

### Domestic Abuse and the Family Court

Author: Office of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales

Institute: Office of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales

Co-authors: Alisha Ebrahimi, Andrea Campos-Vigouroux, Rhys Hart, Emily Fei, Hannah Gousy

The Family Court is an arena within which the state engages with the ‘private’ sphere of the home. Within the home are vulnerable [legal] subjects, including victims and survivors of domestic abuse and their children. The Family Court, therefore, is the state’s arena for

disputes between two private individuals. Many of these legal proceedings flow from child contact arrangements; and others from financial proceedings in relation to divorce remedies which may run in parallel. The Family Court is a unique forum which sees domestic abuse, children's rights and post-separation control interlock with both the private and public sphere. Complex legislation further reflects the complexities of domestic abuse. The work of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner of England and Wales will lead the UK Government's response to the reforms needed by the family justice system. Research by the Commissioner to date has culminated in the report *Improving the family courts response to domestic abuse*, which will be followed by a report in Spring 2023. Areas of academic, legal and policy focus within the research include judicial understanding of post-separation control; the use of so-called 'alienation' allegations made by perpetrators of domestic abuse which instrumentalise children; and the need for abuse-informed training and methodologies to render the family court fit for purpose. The research is informed by primary data obtained from across the UK and official engagement with other governments. The recent call for input by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, supports the understanding that 'custody' cases often implicate domestic abuse, yet a poor understanding of such abuse is evident. The Special Rapporteur in her call has reinforced that this is both: a) a global issue; and b) one which directly engages the international human rights law framework.

## Understanding DVA: Forms and Contexts IV

Suicidality among women as a result of intimate partner violence

Author: Lynette M. Renner

Institute: University of Minnesota

Intimate partner violence (IPV) and suicide are both devastating and preventable public health crises, affecting millions of individuals, families, and communities. Despite the robust literature linking IPV and suicidality, very few researchers make intentional efforts to connect the occurrence of IPV with suicidality via measurement. In most inquiries, these phenomenon are measured separately. As such, the nature of the association is not well-established; and, the link between IPV and suicidality is made via statistical tests of association rather than how suicidality is measured among survivors of IPV. This study utilized data from a two-year study of women who experienced IPV and received civil legal services (N=150). Women reported whether they had any suicidal thoughts, made suicidal gestures, developed a plan for suicide, or attempted suicide as a result of the IPV and/or childhood abuse they experienced. Bivariate analyses focused on group differences in suicidality with respect to sociodemographic characteristics, measures of IPV, and measures of well-being. Over half of the sample reported no history suicidality (n=83; 55.33%) and 67 women (44.67%) reported any suicidality as a result of IPV. Of these, 32 women (21.33%) reported suicidality in the past year. The mean value of physical IPV was significantly different between women who reported both lifetime and past year suicidality and women who reported no suicidality ( $p=.027$ ). The mean value for measures of depressive symptoms, post-traumatic stress disorder, interpersonal support, and empowerment were significantly different between women who reported lifetime and past year suicidality and women who

reported no suicidality. Women who experience IPV report higher rates of suicidality but these two concepts are rarely measured in ways to explicitly attribute suicidality as a cause of IPV. Focusing on suicidality as a result of IPV has implications for interventions, as these are arguably different than intervention efforts among other populations.

### Factors associated with intimate partner homicide-suicide versus homicide-only cases in the United States

Author: Laura Johnson

Institute: Temple University

**Background:** Intimate partner homicide-suicides have a significant impact on families and communities. To guide prevention efforts, a growing body of research has sought to understand their unique risk factors. The question guiding this study was: What demographic and incident-level correlates are associated with increased odds of intimate partner homicide-suicide compared to homicide-only cases? **Methods:** This secondary analysis used data from years 2016-2020 in the United States' National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS). NVDRS is a state-based reporting system that documents violent deaths. Cases were included if they involved: (a) an intimate partner single homicide or homicide followed by suicide, and (b) a victim and perpetrator who were current or former intimate partners aged 18 or older (n=5,335). Classification and regression tree analysis (CART) was used to differentiate between homicide-suicide cases and homicide-only cases. Logistic regression analyses were used to confirm CART findings controlling for socio-demographic characteristics. **Findings:** Overall, 26% of eligible cases involved homicide-suicide. CART analyses found that factors associated with homicide-suicide compared to homicide-only included: (a) use of a gun; (b) victim-perpetrator relationship of current or ex-spouses (compared to never been married); (c) a history of stalking; and (d) whether an argument precipitated the incident. Logistic regression analysis confirmed that use of a gun (OR:11.16, 95% CI=9.01-13.83) and a relationship of current or ex-spouses (OR:1.39, 95% CI=1.06-1.82) were associated with greater odds of homicide-suicide, while an argument precipitating the event was associated with lower odds of homicide-suicide (OR:0.55, 95% CI=0.47-0.65). Stalking was not significant in the logistic regression model. **Conclusions and implications:** Findings suggest that intimate partner homicide-suicides are unique from homicide-only cases. Consistent with other studies, including those in international settings, firearms emerged as a significant incident-level factor; thus, reducing the availability of firearms may be critical to reducing the occurrence of intimate partner homicide-suicides in some countries.

### Characteristics of femicide-suicide committed with firearms: The Case of Serbia

Author: Vedrana Lacmanovic

Institute: Autonomous Women's Center

Co-authors: Tanja Pavlov, Tanja Ignjatovic

The analysis offers insights into the femicide-suicide cases with firearms, including the characteristics of the cases and shortcomings in their institutional processing. The goal is to generate recommendations for improving institutional practises and preventing femicide.

Femicide and femicide-suicide cases (N = 27) committed with firearms over a period of four years (2019–2022) were analyzed, with a focus on the specifics of femicide-suicide cases in partnership (N = 16). Information on femicide-suicide cases was examined using qualitative and quantitative methods based on reviews of media reports (N = 786) and focus-group discussions (N = 3) with representatives of institutions (N = 27). The findings point to the specifics of femicide-suicide cases in a partnership. The more common thing is that they happen in the city and in public spaces, compared to cases of femicide committed by other means that happen more in private places and in the villages. The most common partner relationship is that of a former partner and spouse. The perpetrators are on average older than the victims by 10 years and have significant mental health problems (alcohol abuse, depression, aggression). Although there was violence (including persecution) and fear of the victim before the murder, none reported it to the institutions. The most common risk factors are control or jealousy, abandonment or announcing the abandonment of a partner, work/life abroad, and the presence of children who are not in common. The results underlined that a focus on the identified risks may be critical in preventing femicide-suicides. Developing professional competences and knowledge, learning from mistakes, reflective supervision, and having the opportunity to discuss dilemmas are key to an adequate response to reported violence and the prevention of fatal outcomes. Informing women about the risks, developing a safety plan and receiving support when leaving an abusive partner are crucial for victims.

## UNDERSTANDING HELP-SEEKING

Help-seeking of HIV positive women with experiences of Intimate Partner Violence in Ghana.

Author: Victor Agyei-Yeboah

Institute: Memorial University

Co-authors: Akosua Pokua Adjei, Eric Y. Tenkorang, Adobea Y. Owusu

Background: Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) remains a global health and security threat particularly in developing countries like Ghana. However, help-seeking for IPV among women is generally low, not least for HIV-positive women. Although several studies have established a high prevalence of IPV among HIV-positive, none has specifically explored the help-seeking behaviour of IPV among HIV-positive women in Ghana. This study fills this gap. HIV-positive women who experience IPV are a vulnerable group that suffers a certain level of stigma and discrimination which may hinder help-seeking. Thus, we problematize the help-seeking behaviour of HIV-positive women to understand their condition and associated factors that may trigger their decision to seek support after IPV. Relevant knowledge of help-seeking among these group of people is essential for contextualizing interventions for support systems for victims of IPV. Methods: Data was collected from a cross-section of 530 ever-married Ghanaian women living with HIV/AIDS aged 18 years and older in Lower Manya Krobo in the Eastern region of Ghana. Descriptive statistics and multinomial logit models were employed to analyze the data. Findings: Results showed that about 49% HIV-positive women did not seek help after experiencing IPV. Approximately, 36% utilized either informal or formal sources, while (15%) accessed both informal and formal support networks. Women who experienced severe forms of physical and emotional violence were most likely

to seek help from both formal and informal sources, than not seek help. Significantly, women who experienced severe forms of physical, sexual, and emotional violence were most likely to seek help from either formal or informal support networks. Conclusion: Policy makers must expand access to formal support networks systems for HIV-positive women and educate them on the relevance of seeking help from formal support networks.

### Exploring the concept of engagement in specialist domestic abuse service delivery

Author: Althea Cribb

Institute: University of Central Lancashire

My oral presentation presents findings from my PhD study exploring the concept of engagement within domestic abuse research and specialist domestic abuse services in England. Engagement is often named but not defined in research and service provision; its conceptualisation often relates to service user compliance with service-defined outcomes. The PhD is funded by SafeLives/Women's Aid Federation England Roadmap for System Change project. My qualitative study involves semi-structured interviews with workers at specialist domestic abuse services and women accessing those services. This presentation focuses on findings from interviews with 16 workers, recruited from two SafeLives-commissioned Roadmap projects and two additional services I identified to meet my original sampling strategy. I am conducting reflexive thematic analysis, informed by my position as an intersectional feminist researcher, informed by social constructionist approaches. I have found that, while they aim to be client-led and empowering, domestic abuse services, influenced by funders, must define whether a woman's contact with the service constitutes engagement, and consequently, whether they will receive a service. Yet such services are essential to women because their contact with other professionals or informal networks involves judgement and blame they do not receive from specialist services. My findings have implications for the future design and delivery of specialist domestic abuse services. Despite their history in the women's movement, many services no longer campaign to change societal perspectives on domestic abuse or abusers' behaviours: their focus has become the individual woman they are supporting, and whether they are ready to 'engage' in their own journey towards recovery from abuse. While services do involve survivors in service design, and meet the needs of many women, once a service is in place, its role is limited when women cannot adhere to expectations of 'engagement', including when the abuser's behaviour presents a barrier.

### Abuse against older adults in the UK: An overview of characteristics and help-seeking behaviours

Author: Dr Silvia Fraga Dominguez

Institute: Birmingham City University, UK

Co-authors: Dr Jennifer E. Storey, Dr Emily Glorney

Background and purpose of the study. Abuse suffered by older adults has received less attention than abuse suffered by other age groups, despite affecting over 15% older adults annually. Updated knowledge about its characteristics and the help-seeking experiences of older victims is necessary to inform practice and policy development. Methods. This paper

will present data from a large-scale study using secondary data from 1,623 cases of abuse against older adults that were self-reported to a UK helpline between 2017 and 2018. Descriptive statistics were calculated to present the characteristics of these cases (i.e., alleged victim and perpetrators, victim-perpetrator relationship, and abuse) and reflect the help-seeking behaviours of older victims (i.e., barriers to help-seeking, facilitators, and experiences accessing support). Findings. Most cases were reported by someone other than the victim. Victims were often female and living in the community. Perpetrators were predominantly relatives, particularly adult children. Abuse was primarily financial or psychological, and often involved two or more abuse types. Common barriers to help-seeking were isolation, barriers related to social services, and fear of negative consequences. Victims often sought help when the abuse escalated or they feared for their safety. When victims had previously sought help, they had been mostly unsuccessful in stopping the abuse. They received overall positive responses from informal sources of help but had more negative experiences with formal services. Perpetrators were often a barrier to receiving help and blocked services and informal third parties from having contact with the victim. Conclusions and implications. Findings indicate that specific types of abuse, such as financial and psychological may be particularly common, and interventions or safeguards for these kinds of abuse should be prioritised. Investigating and addressing barriers to help-seeking, especially those related to formal services, is necessary to provide older victims with support suited to their needs.

#### Help-seeking behaviour of victims of violence

Author: Nathalie Leitgöb-Guzy

Institute: Federal Criminal Police Office - Police Crime Statistics, Research and Advisory Unit, Research on Unreported Crime

Co-authors: Dr. Ina Bieber, Henrik Schwarze

For victims of violence, the willingness to seek and get help is the key to cope with the consequences of becoming a victim. Unfortunately, victims of domestic violence often do not take advantage of these offers and remain alone with their experiences. The presentation will show results on help-seeking behavior of victims of violence, with a focus on domestic violence. A differentiation will be made between police reporting, professional (victim) support services, and private support from family and friends. Moreover, the reasons against the use of support services will be presented. Following the work of Kaukinen (2002, 2004), based on latent class analysis, different groups of help-seekers are presented, considering various types of help. The data base for the analyses is the German Victim Survey "Security and Crime in Germany 2020" with a sample size of over 45,000 persons. These and other analyses show the (close) relationship between the use of different support services and police reporting, especially among victims of domestic violence. The results provide an important basis for understanding help-seeking behavior among victims of domestic violence and for improving the assistance offered.

#### Barriers to disclosure of domestic violence among Black and Minority Ethnic and Migrant Women: Findings from a UK national victimisation survey

Author: Hannah Manzur



Institute: Violence and Society Centre (City, University of London)

Co-authors: Ravi Thiara, Annie Bunce

Black and minoritized ethnic and migrant women experience a variety of challenging and compounding barriers to disclosure of domestic violence victimisation. Whilst research on barriers to disclosure among Black and minoritized women through support services has revealed the breadth and hidden nature of these challenges, barriers within national victimisation surveys have been underexplored. Gendered, racialised and immigration systems of inequality, precarity and marginalisation not only shape the contexts within which domestic violence occurs, but also informs the contexts through which it may be disclosed and (mis)represented through practices of data collection and interpretation. We analyse nearly a decade of quantitative data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) from 2001 to 2019, using descriptive statistics and regression modelling to investigate the association between intersecting inequalities (gender, ethnicity and migrant-status) and a range of barriers to disclosure throughout the survey. The preliminary findings of this study reveal significant barriers to disclosure of domestic violence victimisation among Black and minoritized women. We found that this group is more likely to experience a lack of confidential opportunities for disclosure, interference by household members, language barriers, and hostile interviewers when attempting to respond to sensitive questions on domestic and sexual violence. Further analyses (in progress) will investigate exclusionary practices of data interpretation with the CSEW, as well as barriers to disclosure to police and criminal justice services. National statistics which fuel domestic violence policy decision-making may be significantly misrepresenting the true nature and scale of domestic violence against Black and minoritized women. Our methodological and practical recommendations, which focus on building trust, removing barriers and improving inclusivity, are not only applicable to victimisation surveys, but may be translated to wider engagement with marginalised victims and a better understanding of the scale and complexities of domestic violence against Black and minoritized women.

## Understanding Violence and Abuse in Young People's Relationships

Violence against Adolescent Girls in India during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Mixed-Methods Investigation

Author: Janina Isabel Steinert

Institute: Technical University of Munich

Co-authors: Hannah Prince, Jessy Ezebuihe, Shruti Shukla

Purpose: While the "shadow pandemic" of violence against women during the global health crisis caused by COVID-19 is well documented, little is known about its impact on adolescent girls. This mixed-methods study assesses the pandemic's effect on different forms of violence against girls in India. Methods: 13- to 18-year-old girls from rural communities and urban slum pockets in Maharashtra were surveyed between February and April 2022. Quantitative data on health-related and socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, family violence, and intimate partner violence (IPV; for married/partnered girls) were collected using audio-/computer-assisted self-interview techniques. We estimated a

multivariable logistic regression model to assess the pandemic's impact on violence risk. Qualitative data were collected across eight focus group discussions and nine in-depth interviews, and transcripts were coded using thematic analysis. Results: 3049 adolescent girls were recruited into the study, 277 (9.1%) of whom had been married as children. 2003 (65.7%) girls reported exposure to at least one form of family violence in the preceding year and 405 (71.7%) partnered girls reported incidents of IPV. Domestic violence risk increased significantly in households who suffered greater economic harms (OR=1.19, 95% CI 1.13 to 1.26) and negative health consequences (OR=1.76, 95% CI 1.54 to 2.02) from the pandemic. Similarly, greater detrimental health and economic impacts were associated with higher IPV risk. Conclusions: The COVID-19 pandemic has substantially increased girls' vulnerability to violence. Preventive measures and concerted, youth-focused policy efforts to extend support services to adolescent violence survivors are urgently needed.

### Step up, Speak Out: Navigating young people's understandings of violence and abuse in relationships and its prevention

Author: Janelle Rabe

Institute: Durham University

**Background and purpose of the study** A growing body of research with young people revealed an apparent tolerance and normalization of violence in their relationships. However, research with young people to unpack their attitudes on and understandings of sexual violence and abuse remains to be limited. My study aims to address this gap by seeking to understand how young people make sense of sexual violence and abuse in their lives and its prevention. **Methods** Following a co-production model, 20 young people (13-18 years old) in England joined a series of creative and participatory workshops. Ethical and practical considerations in engaging young people in participatory research on sexual violence and abuse will also be presented. **Findings** The young people co-developed a shared understanding of sexual violence and abuse in various contexts, including relationships. They drew on different narratives and experiences to distinguish between healthy, unhealthy, and abusive relationships as well as barriers and facilitators to bystander action. They articulated nuanced understandings of concern and control, trust and jealousy, acceptable and unacceptable behaviour, and the impact of contexts and peer relationships to rationalize their views on violence and abuse and its prevention. **Conclusions and implications** The study contributes to the limited empirical literature that amplifies the voices of young people on sexual violence and its prevention. The collaborative and participatory approach of my study allowed young people to express themselves using the language and ideas that were most relevant to them. Young people's feedback validated the benefits of this approach. These include feeling educated, understood, and safe and appreciating how everyone is involved and can give their input with no judgment or discrimination. These have implications for meaningfully engaging young people in co-developing research, policy, and programmes on addressing sexual violence and abuse.

### Teen Dating Violence and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Trends from a Longitudinal Study

Author: Elizabeth Baumler

Institute: University of Texas Medical Branch

Co-authors: Leila Wood, Morgan PettyJohn, Jeff Temple

**Background:** Globally, it has been documented that COVID-19 contributed to an increase of intimate partner violence (IPV) among adults, but little is known about the impact of the pandemic on teen dating violence (TDV) victimization. Our research questions were 1). What was the impact of COVID-19 on TDV victimization and 2). What factors were associated with risk for TDV victimization during the first year of the pandemic? **Methods:** We utilized data from our existing longitudinal study of adolescents in Texas, USA.. Using behaviorally specific measures for TDV and related risk factors, we examined TDV prevalence and related risk factors for the two years prior to and first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Findings:** In our sample of 2,265 adolescents (mean age 15), 5.2% had experienced any sexual, threatening, or physical TDV victimization, down from 7.5% in the previous year (age 14). Sexual TDV (2.9%) was the most frequent reported following threatening (2.5%) and physical (2.4%). Logistic regression was used to assess risks for TDV victimization during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Victimization during COVID-19 was associated with previous TDV (OR 3.51;  $p < .001$ ), history of sexual intercourse (OR 2.96;  $p < .001$ ), alcohol use (OR 2.24;  $p = .003$ ) acceptance of violence (OR 1.84;  $p < .001$ ) no household maternal figure (OR 2.25;  $p = 0.03$ ). While most variables were associated with TDV victimization across timepoints, household configuration and sexual experience were uniquely associated with TDV victimization during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Conclusions:** TDV victimization rates decline during the COVID-19 pandemic, likely due to reduced opportunities from social distancing and online schooling. Factors that historically contributed to risk (e.g. prior victimization) remained significantly associated with TDV victimization, signaling enduring precarity independent of environmental changes. Findings indicate potential benefit to target efforts during times of disaster to existing risk groups and the need to engage caregivers in TDV prevention.

### Gender dimensions of youth intimate partner violence in Slovakia

Author: Zuzana Ocenasova

Institute: Institute for Social Communication Research, Slovak Academy of Sciences

Co-authors: Milan Fico, Slavka Karkoskova

Youth intimate partner violence has been established as a separate area of IPV research. In the past decade, several prevalence and qualitative studies have been conducted throughout Europe. Nevertheless, the data for Slovakia were absent and youth IPV has been an unexplored area both in research and in practice. The first Slovak prevalence study has been conducted in 2022 on the sample of 1 182 youth aged 15 – 17 years through an online questionnaire administered directly in schools. 65 % of youth having been in a relationship (N=632) experienced at least one of the 16 explored violent behaviors. The most frequent form of youth IPV was face-to-face psychological violence and digital violence, followed by sexual violence; physical violence being the least experienced. Although all forms of violence have been reported by boys and girls, there is a significant gender dimension. The most significant difference is for sexual IPV. The risk of victimization is 2,6 higher for girls. In addition, girls have been exposed to more types of violent behavior (5 in average compared to 3,7 of boys) as well as they more often faced violent situations repeatedly. Similarly, it seems that IPV impacts girls to a greater extent as they experienced more negative emotions. The Slovak results parallel existing European youth IPV prevalence studies

showing its significant gender dimension with correspondence to adult IPV. Contrary, the hypothesis that the COVID-19 pandemic would contribute to higher incidence of digital violence has not been proved as the reported level of digital violence is comparable to studies carried out before the pandemic. The results have implications for the practice as the youth IPV proved to be a wide spread phenomenon that needs to be addressed both by youth and/or IPV services as well as in awareness and prevention activities.

#### Sexual consent in youth intimate partner violence

Author: Clara Fahlstadius

Youth intimate partner violence (YIPV) is an under-researched topic in Europe. However, the STIR-study has provided important knowledge on the extent and pervasiveness of violence in young people's relationship (Barter et al., 2017). A central part of the violence young people experience is sexual, which underlines the importance of studying sexual violence and consent. Sexual consent is deeply intertwined with expectations and stereotypes based on gender, age and sexuality - which are often the guidance for youth at the starting point of their sexual lives - conditioning their sexual experiences (Hirsch & Khan, 2020). This presentation will focus on a new study in Sweden on contextual and communicative aspects of sexual consent when occurring in YIPV situations. The study, which is work-in-progress, aims to explore how sexual consent is understood and negotiated in youths' daily lives. Empiric material include both focus groups with youth using vignettes, in-depth interviews with youth exposed to sexual YIPV and judgements involving youth under Swedish rape law 2018-2022. In the presentation some emergent findings will be presented, as well as methodological challenges involved when studying youth and sensitive topics. Drawing from sociological and feminist research, emergent findings from the interviews and the court cases will include youths understanding of where and how to draw the line between sexual violence and sexual encounters, understanding of sexual subjectivity and youth-specific factors such as schooling and family life. Findings are particularly interesting in the light of Swedish rape legislation adopting a requirement of voluntariness in 2018, which has led to more cases involving youth going to court.

#### A comparative study of healthy relationships and gender based violence in England & Ghana

Author: Nadia Aghtaie

Institute: University of Bristol

Co-authors: A. Oduro, A. Twum-Danso Imoh, J. Kidger, D. Takyiakwaa

While much attention has been paid to changes to understandings of gender in Western societies, recent research has also shown significant continuity in constructions of gender amongst young people (YP) in non-Western contexts. This paper explores the construction of gender within schools and its implications for forming healthy relationships and gender-based violence (GBV) among YP aged 13-19 in England and Ghana. Underpinning this research project is the evidenced link between constructions of gender, healthy relationships, and their implications for GBV. Schools are deemed one of the major platforms for conveying social knowledge and attitudes to children and young people, and may serve both as sites for construction of gender stereotypes and for enabling social

change. Thereby, it is important to consider how gender is constructed in everyday interactions within schools as this can be a vehicle for the formation of healthy relationships, and prevention of GBV which, if not addressed, can lead to anxiety and depression among YP. By using collaborative techniques between academics, artists and young people themselves, the research is co-producing data to address firstly, YP's views on the constructions of gender within the school environment and how these constructions manifest themselves in everyday interactions involving teachers and peers. And secondly, exploring their implications for healthy relationships and GBV among YP. Working closely with YP involved in the project, culturally appropriate creative techniques is used to facilitate three in-person workshops with 8 YP in each setting and four joint online workshops bringing the two groups of YP together. The approach adopted is based on the premise that knowledge generation about ideal masculinities and femininities must arise from the experiences and knowledges of YP and that the most appropriate methodologies to explore these involve processes of co-production that place equal value on academic and community knowledge and expertise.

## Violence in a broad context II

Feasibility of a reconfigured domestic violence training and support intervention responding to the needs of women, men and children through primary health care

Author: Dr Eszter Szilassy

Institute: University of Bristol

Co-authors: Dr Estela Capelas Barbosa, Dr Caroline Coope, Dr Elizabeth Emsley, Dr Emma Williamson, Professor Gene Feder

Background Success in identifying women through primary care is growing, but men experiencing or perpetrating domestic violence and abuse (DVA) and children/young people (CYP) who are exposed to DVA are rarely identified in primary care and referred for specialist support. To address these gaps, we collaborated with IRISi (UK social enterprise) to develop and test the acceptability and feasibility of IRIS+, an adapted and enhanced training and support programme. In addition to prioritising female victims/survivors, IRIS+ also responds to the needs of men experiencing or perpetrating DVA, and CYP living with DVA and/or experiencing it in their own relationships. After an initial pilot, we strengthened elements of the IRIS+ intervention which included the identification of men, direct engagement with CYP, and improved guidance on responding to information received from other agencies. Our study tested the adapted IRIS+ intervention for feasibility and prospective cost-effectiveness in England and Wales between 2019-21. Methods IRIS+ is an evidence-based multi-component intervention that has been developed with multi-professional input and has been evaluated for feasibility and acceptability using mixed methods: secondary data extraction, semi-structured interviews and questionnaires. Findings The rate of referral for women in the study period doubled (21.6/year/practice) from the rate (9.29/year/practice) in a previous trial of an intervention focusing on women only (IRIS) modelled by IRIS+. The intervention also catalysed the identification and specialist referral of men (11% of total referrals) and identification and direct referral of CYP (15% of total referrals). GPs were the principal referrers of patients to specialist DVA services. Conclusions Although the study

showed acceptability and feasibility, there remains uncertainty about the effectiveness, actual cost-effectiveness and scalability of the intervention. Building on the success of our feasibility research, the next step would be to test the effectiveness of IRIS+ implementation in a trial context to inform future commissioning.

#### Individual partner violence. Not so individual after all?

Author: Anja Bredal

Institute: NOVA, Oslo Metropolitan University

Co-authors: Kari Stefansen

**Background and purpose** Research on intimate partner violence tends to focus on the couple itself. Recent studies on domestic abuse in extended families of certain immigrant backgrounds, shows that partner violence may be actively encouraged or perpetrated by in-laws. This contrast between majority individual violence and minority collective violence is often taken for granted, even though we have little actual research on the role of family and social network in individual couple violence. The aim is to explore various roles that the social network may play in the abuse, as experienced by women who have been subjected to violence by their male partners, and for some, their in-laws. **Methods** 97 women were interviewed, face-to-face or by telephone.  $\frac{3}{4}$  were of ethnic majority and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of immigrant background. We invited the women to tell their stories chronologically. For the purpose of this analysis, the interviews have been coded in NVivo and are analyzed with a thematic approach. **Findings** The interviews showed that members of the couple's social networks could play a wide range of roles in the abuse, ranging from passive support to active perpetration. E.g. some were helping to keep the violence hidden and discouraging the women from contacting the support system. Others were ambivalent in the support to the perpetrator. We also saw examples of in law-family members being the ones the women feared the most. The paper will discuss how to conceive of and conceptualize this diversity of acts and "non-acts". **Conclusions** The findings suggest that the dichotomy between individual and collective violence in majority and minority families is a simplified contrast that needs to be unpacked. To improve the understanding of the perpetration and silent support for domestic violence, the couple's social network and their actions cannot be overlooked. **Implications for practice and policy** will be discussed.

#### Confusion between Domestic Violence and Parental Conflict: Challenges in Shifting Child Protection Workers' Practices

Author: Simon Lapierre

Institute: University of Ottawa

**Background:** Several studies have highlighted problems in child protection practices in domestic violence cases. A significant issue is the persistent confusion between domestic violence and parental conflict, particularly in the post-separation context where post-separation violence is often misinterpreted as high conflict. In Quebec, this specific issue was highlighted in a recent report published by a high-profile commission on children's rights and youth protection. **Purpose:** This paper presents how this issue has been addressed in a training program for child protection workers, and reports results from the evaluation of this

program. This program has been funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada. Methods: Data have been collected before and immediately after the four-day training sessions. The online questionnaire included a vignette and different questions regarding the violent parent's behaviors, the victimized parent's protective strategies, the consequences, and the workers' expectations regarding each parent. Quantitative and qualitative analysis have been conducted. Findings: One section of the training sessions focuses on the distinction between domestic violence and parental conflict, including in the post-separation period. Our hypothesis was that there would be significantly less references to parental conflict in the participants' answers following the training sessions. This hypothesis was partially verified. Regarding the violent parent's behaviors and the victimized parent's strategies, the participants were as likely to refer to parental conflict after the training sessions. These findings suggest that child protection workers are so used to describe the parents' behaviors in these terms that it is quite difficult to shift the way they talk about these situations. However, the participants were significantly less likely to refer to parental conflict with regards to the consequences and the expectations for each parent. These findings suggest that, despite issues in their description of the parents' behaviors, child protection workers can see that the children's difficulties have been caused by the violent parent's behaviors rather than by the parents' conflictual relationship. They can also design interventions that focus on the violent parent's accountability, and that do not blame the victimized parent. Conclusion: Despite the challenges. In shifting child protection practices, the distinction between domestic violence and parental conflict needs to be addressed in all domestic violence training program. Additional measures ought to be put in place in order to support this shift in child protection workers' everyday practices.

## Violence, contexts and forms

"They don't leave us alone": Married women's experiences of technology-facilitated domestic violence in Bangladesh.

Author: Md Mamunur Rashid Sheikh

Domestic violence is a significant problem in Bangladesh, as it is in many other countries, and it takes many forms, including physical, emotional, psychological, and economic abuse. Strong patriarchal culture, traditional gender norms, and a highly sexually conservative mindset prioritise the authority of men and discourage women from speaking about violence and abuse in their married life, considering it a 'private matter'. In the past several years, the conventional form of domestic violence has taken on a new form and shape due to the rapid development of technology and the increased usage of mobile phones. The male partner increasingly uses these techniques and technologies to harass, abuse, coerce, and monitor their wives. In this paper, I will discuss the experiences of married women victims of TFDV. The study was based on in-depth interviews with 15 married women who expressed their intention to participate in the Facebook page of the centre for cyber violence and abuse studies. Through thematic analysis of the data, the result demonstrates how married women's husband uses technology to monitor their activities or communications with others, gain or restrict their access to digital tools and platforms, coerce them to make visual formats of their intimate moment, and control their views on

social media. This presentation reflects the critical lens on the extent of TFDV among married women in Bangladesh, the cultural context of this violence, and a series of recommendations to tackle this new type of violence and abuse.

### Parallels between male abusers' technology-facilitated abuse against children and female partners

Author: Molly Dragiewicz

Institute: University College London

Parallels between male abusers' technology-facilitated abuse against children and female partners Molly Dragiewicz Background: This talk presents findings from research on children's involvement in technology-facilitated domestic violence. Methods: The study includes a survey of 515 professionals, focus groups with 13 child DV specialists, interviews with child survivors of tech abuse by their fathers, 11 mothers whose children were affected by technology-facilitated abuse, and 11 fathers enrolled in a domestic violence perpetrator program. I analyse technology-facilitated abuse against children as a form of gendered proprietary control. Findings: Male domestic violence perpetrators use similar strategies to abuse children and adults. These findings illustrate how children are central to the dynamics of domestic violence, revealing its impact on children's lives. Conclusions: study findings challenge the minimisation of children's experiences of domestic violence pre- and post-separation.

### Women Survivors' Experiences of and Responses to Tech-facilitated Abuse in India

Author: Sahana Sarkar

Institute: University College London

Women Survivors' Experiences of and Responses to Tech-facilitated Abuse in India Sahana Sarkar Background: New technologies may sometimes pave the way for various forms of harmful and exclusionary behaviour. One of the reasons to investigate everyday experiences of tech-facilitated abuse encountered by women is that they frequently get dismissed as harmless as it is so common. Methodology: This research is an exploratory study of women survivors' experiences of and responses to tech-facilitated abuse in India drawing from 20 interviews with women survivors (3 Dalit survivors, 2 Muslim survivors, 2 bisexual survivors and 2 lesbian survivors) and 10 advocates/activists. Findings & Conclusion: This study provides an understanding of how experiences of tech-facilitated abuse are on a continuum and marginalised women experience a continuum of violence entailing sexual, caste, religious and sexuality based violence.

### 'Bad Sisters' and 'Maid': How family drama can tackle dominant media narratives on domestic violence

Author: Zoe Asser

Co-authors: Amy Beddows, Melody House, Ankita Mishra

The Apple TV drama 'Bad Sisters' explores the varied impacts of men's violence on survivors, families, and communities. The juxtaposition of character-driven drama and darkly comic



moments is an effective way of presenting the harsh realities of violence in a way that may be more relatable to audiences. The Netflix drama 'Maid' - based on the real-life experiences of author Stephanie Land - also explores often overlooked impacts of emotional abuse and the role of cultural contexts - such as socioeconomic status - which enable men's violence against women. This paper discusses how different genres of mainstream media can depict the complex realities of domestic violence in ways that are compelling and relatable. The use of creative storytelling - weaving real-life experiences through fiction, mixing dramatic and comic conventions - is an effective way of challenging traditional notions of violence, causality, and justice.

# Workshops

## Treatment for men who act violently against their partners - how therapeutic alliance influence treatment outcome

Author: ingunn Askeland

Co-authors: Bente Lømo

Treatment for men who act violently against their partner - how therapeutic alliance influence treatment outcome. The quality of the client–therapist alliance is a well-founded predictor of a positive outcome in therapy. This has been found across therapy approaches and client populations. Little is known about how alliance influence outcome in treatment for men who are violent towards their partner. To better understand how alliance influence therapy outcome in this group we have conducted both quantitative and qualitative analysis of different courses of therapy. Methods: We will present and discuss research from a process-and outcome study with 84 men who have been in individual treatment for violence toward their partner and children. The therapy processes took place at an out-patient clinic, Alternative to violence (ATV), in Norway. Data was collected before, during and after treatment. Use of violence was measured by the questionnaire; Violence, Alcohol and Substance abuse (VAS), the working alliance was measured with the working alliance inventory (WAI) by both clients and therapists. The quantitative data on violence and alliance was analyzed by statistical models. Transcripts of audio-recorded sessions was analyzed qualitatively following the principles of Grounded theory and Interpretive phenomenological analysis. Findings: We will discuss how the therapeutic alliance influence treatment outcome. Firstly, we will present preliminary results from a quantitative study of how alliance on a group level predicts outcome and whether client or therapist measured WAI best predicts outcome. Secondly, we will present the results from the qualitative studies showing that the interactional pattern formed by therapist strategies in the beginning of therapy seemed necessary for a good outcome but not sufficient. The way in which the therapist built on the common ground for the beginning of treatment created developmental pathways that expanded but also stagnated the clients capacity of relating safely with partner and children. Implications: We will discuss the implications of these studies seen together and involve participants to reflect on this. This will be done in smaller groups and with the whole group together. We will also invite participants to practice some of the therapist strategies developed through the qualitative analysis of therapy sessions.

## The Capacity & Ability to Supervise and Protect - Risk Framework

Author: Gareth McGibbon

Co-authors: Marcella Leonard

Although responsibility for an individual’s abusive behaviour should always remain with that person it has long been accepted that positive, protective parenting plays a crucial role in keeping children safe from victimisation. Yet, the determination of a non-abusive parent’s capacity to protect a child from exposure to domestic violence and abuse has been incredibly challenging for practitioners to conclude upon with any objective defensibility. The origins of the Capacity & Ability to Supervise and Protect - Risk (CASP-R) framework was triggered by the absence of pragmatic ‘capacity to protect’ assessment tools which considered those issues uniquely relevant to the dynamics of intimate personal violence when considering how or if children could be safely supported at home. The CASP-R was

developed as a structured approach to assist practitioners in their assessment of a primary parent or proposed carer's (PC); • capacity and ability to hold person of concern(POC)to account for compliance with any agreed safety / re-unification plan. • resilience to manipulation of potential vulnerabilities and; • ability to meet the child's needs for safety, security and appropriate development. The CASP-R framework was informed by a review of the current models and supporting literature. In developing the framework the authors intention was to provide an objective and strength based model that would inform a programme of support designed to address those areas of need in the proposed carer's (PC's) presentation or circumstances which could compromise their ability to supervise a person of concern in their relationship with a child at risk. The CASP-R consists of 17 items across 4 domains. It is not intended to conclude a static rating of 'high' 'moderate' or 'low' capacity to protect. Rather it asks the assessing practitioner to formulate an understanding of how the rated items have impacted on the PC's current presentation and what level of support is required to enhance their ability to assume the specific roles of a parent, partner, protector and supervisor. This interactive workshop will introduce the model to participants and using videoed footage of a mock CASP-R assessment (with Geese Theatre UK actors) attendants will be provided with an opportunity to view the techniques of completing such an interview. They will then be encouraged to analyse the evidence from the video and rate the relevant items within the CASP-R framework. The workshop will culminate with a formulated understanding of the proposed carer's needs and a recommended plan of intervention.

#### The Dewis Choice Initiative

Author: Sarah Wydall

Co-authors: Elize Freeman, Rebecca Zerk, Tom Chapman, David Cowsill

Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) has significant social, welfare and economic impacts. Criminal Justice Inspectorate reports (HMICFRS, 2021) and the PEEL assessments 21/22 highlight the police response to domestic abuse victims 'was not good enough and forces need to take decisive action to rectify this' Recommendations include adopting a 'whole systems approach involving partners' and securing 'more effective engagement with victims'. This workshop uses a social science perspective to explore the potential of immersive virtual reality tools to support both victims as help seekers and practitioners as help providers at different stages in the help seeking journey. It draws on findings from a twelve-week pilot funded by Welsh Government 'Through their eyes' the immersive experience of help seeking for older victim-survivors' involving the team from Dewis Choice and colleagues Dr Helen Miles and doctoral researcher Andra Jones. The pilot led to a co-produced Virtual Reality (VR) working prototype comprising eight scripted branching scenarios created from the longitudinal study Dewis Choice. The subsequent evaluation demonstrated significant training potential using immersive VR experiences presenting a victim's perspective 'through their eyes' of EITHER examples of secondary victimisation/disengagement OR safe positive responses/engagement with help-providers. The findings also highlighted the value of VR in facilitating empathy for practitioners experiencing 'compassion fatigue' We wish to host this workshop to discuss potential training and development opportunities in the areas of domestic abuse and sexual violence and seek collaborators to work us to support survivors

of VAWDASV across the life course. We aim to have an inclusive approach to the workshop and explore ethical, methodological and pedagogical implications of undertaking co-produced VR research that involves diverse groups of victim-survivors

#### **Disruptive Pracademic Pedagogy:**

Author: Di Turgoose

The 'Feminist Classroom' is used to describe any learning zone committed to equality, social justice, and inclusion, embracing diversity as central to the learning of all participants in a positive and impactful way. This disruptive workshop takes an intersectional approach to issues in the 'classroom' utilising feminist pedagogy which boundary spans across the theory/practice, academic/practice gap in relation to the real-world problem of domestic violence and abuse (DVA) utilising the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). After a brief introduction to core concepts being used in the session and a whistle-stop tour of the UNSDGs, we will first actively consider how social categories impact learners (students/colleagues/our) experience(s) of learning, engagement, and success per se. Exploring how learning is impacted by social categories and how we can respond to them in practical ways is a central component of this session. Participants will then move on to the main session of the workshop where we will undertake a number of activities (aided by both high and low tech) with participants being encouraged to actively reflect on their own scholarship/practice 'boundary spanning' experience of learning and teaching, and in the facilitation of others learning. To do this participants will sample worked examples of feminist pedagogy to assist in creating and facilitating learning in a feminist classroom on how UNSDGs can be incorporated to enhance learning in DVA to support change on a Micro, Meso, and Macro level 'glocally' i.e. locally and globally. The workshop concludes by calling for a collaborative theory and practice i.e. 'pracademic' approach in addressing the social problem of DVA incorporating the UNSDGs. This disruptive workshop is a must-attend for those with a commitment to knowledge exchange in addressing inequality across practice, social activism, and academic domains in the DVA arena. Pedagogical methods – resources

For the brief introduction, the facilitator will utilise an internet connection to demo how to access and interact with the UN SDG website to the larger group. Access to power point is required in order to deliver information about core concepts and a social categories impact reflective learning exercise which participants will undertake both individually and as a peer/group exercise. The facilitator will provide low-tech (hard copy) UNSDG prompt cards for small group work. Participants are not required to complete any pre-task work in order to enroll for this session. A flat classroom rather than a tiered lecture theatre is preferred.

#### **Hear Her Voice**

Author: Sonya McMullan

Co-authors: Sarah Mason, Sandra McNamee

**Hear Her Voice Description** This workshop will amplify the lived experience of 91 survivors of domestic abuse who participated in the Women's Aid NI "Hear Her Voice" research, funded by Comic Relief. Background and purpose of study: The research enabled 91 women to share their stories of domestic abuse and its lasting impact on their lives. One woman referred to it

as the ‘The Systematic Dismantling of a Woman Bit by Bit’. These stories show that while there is no typical survivor of domestic abuse (women ranged in age from 22 to 61, came from every class, and included minoritised, bisexual, and disabled women) there were common themes throughout all their journeys, particularly the feelings of being unheard, misunderstood, and/or dismissed. The common themes identified by these ‘experts-by-experience’ constitute the chapters of the research. Part One deals with women’s lived experiences of domestic abuse and its aftermath. Part Two draws on survivors’ expertise to show how we as a society can do better by domestic abuse survivors. Methods and findings: The workshop will be facilitated by staff from Women’s Aid NI. It will begin by setting the context and methodology of the “Hear Her Voice” research. It will profile key findings which drew from focus groups and interviews. The research recognised that lived experience often escapes words and sought to engage women through creative means, such as photography, painting, and vocal lessons which will also be profiled in the workshop. The testimonies of these women are powerful. Participants will learn from these experts in relation to the impact of domestic abuse and the change that is needed, in our communities and in government structures and systems. The workshop will utilise a range of delivery methods including, presentation, discussion and the creative showcasing of women’s voices. The workshop will conclude with a powerful show case of the “Hear my Voice” song recorded by women involved in the research. (<https://www.womensaidni.org/hear-her-voice/about-hear-her-voice/>). Conclusions and implications: Workshop attendees will understand the importance of listening to the voices of survivors to identify change that needs to happen. The goal of the ‘Hear Her Voice’ research was not just about hearing, but about learning and ultimately about influencing meaningful change. It is hoped the “Hear Her Voice” research will become a beacon of good practice, and that legislators and decision makers will see the value of engaging survivors as ‘experts- by-experience’ at every stage of policy development.

#### Immersive Virtual Reality for the rehabilitation of Intimate Partner Violence:

Author: Ana Gallego

Co-authors: Nicolás Barnes, Maria V. Sánchez-Vives

Due to its great potential for placing people in situations they could not experience otherwise, and to the widespread availability of low-cost, high-quality equipment, Virtual Reality (VR) is increasingly used in therapeutic and clinical contexts. Embodiment in VR, whereby people can be virtually placed in the body of another and take their perspective on events, have a transforming impact on user’s attitudes and even behaviours and has been validated as a powerful tool for self-transformation since it provides experiential, implicit learning (Banakou et al., 2013; Maister et al., 2015). In a recent study (Seinfeld et al., 2018), we demonstrated that, in offenders, embodiment as the victim during a virtual scene of intimate partner violence (IPV) resulted in better emotion recognition, an impact that tackles the roots of empathy in brain networks (Seinfeld et al., 2020). Comparing a virtual scene of IPV from the victim’s perspective (first-person) versus that of an observer (third-person) (Gonzalez-Liencrez et al., 2020), or from the perspective of a child (Seinfeld et al., 2022), we also determined the impact of perspective on the effectiveness of this potential rehabilitation tool. In this workshop, we will present and discuss our ongoing work with perpetrators in prison using VR and embodiment tools based on the cited studies, in collaboration with the Department of Justice of Catalunya, and as part of the VR-Per-GENERE

European project. (Virtual Reality Prevention of Gender-Violence in Europe based on Neuroscience of Embodiment, peRspective, and Empathy). The general aim of this project has been to reduce IPV through the deployment of cost-effective prevention and rehabilitation tools. To achieve this aim, a main pillar is to reduce recidivism in IPV offenders through rehabilitation. This project is based on the work we are conducting with the Justice Department of Catalonia using VR as part of the gender violence rehabilitation programme. This workshop will therefore be based on our actual experience of working with offenders. The workshop will be organized as follows: • First, we will present the VR per GENERE project, and the results of the studies we conducted for rehabilitation of perpetrators and will discuss our experience so far. • Next, workshop attendants will be shown a video of a virtual scenario used for rehabilitation, from the perspective of a user and a video testimony of a user in a prison service. • Finally, the presenters will facilitate a discussion on the integration of such a tool in rehabilitation programmes.

### The ARC3 Surveys for Assessing Sexual and Gender-Based Misconduct in Higher Education

Author: Kevin M. Swartout

Co-authors: Meredith Smith, William F. Flack, Martie P. Thompson, Heidi Zinzow, Kamilla Bonnesen

Campus sexual and gender-based misconduct is endemic. This fact has been highlighted over the past decade by international grass-roots student activism, widespread media attention, and relatively recent public policy changes across several western countries. In response, the Administrator-Researcher Campus Climate Collaborative (ARC3) has curated empirically-sound, no-cost campus climate assessment measures for institutions of higher education to establish baseline sexual and gender-based misconduct climate assessments and monitor progress across time as they engage in health-promotion and community-building efforts. The ARC3 surveys include tailored assessments for students, alumni, faculty, and staff climate, with modules that assess a range of sexual and gender-based misconduct, including harassment, dating violence, stalking, and sexual violence. The surveys additionally assess respondents' knowledge and perceptions of sexual and gender-based misconduct prevention efforts, resources, and responses at their institution as well as key predictors and outcomes of misconduct. To date, the ARC3 surveys have been implemented at over 350 colleges and universities, spanning institutions in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and North America. As examples, both the student and faculty and staff versions of the ARC3 survey have been implemented across higher education institutions in the Republic of Ireland, and the student version has been implemented across the U.S. state university systems in Illinois, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington. The student version has been publicly mandated in the U.S. states of Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The overall objective of this workshop is to disseminate best practices for assessing sexual and gender-based misconduct on college and university campuses, with an emphasis on tried and tested ARC3 approaches. The workshop will begin with a brief overview of the international literature on sexual and gender-based misconduct. Discussions will follow on the survey design process, adapting measures for specific institutions and policy contexts, implementation methods, lessons from ARC3 data thus far, and how institutions can move from climate data analysis to interpretation and action planning. Each of these components will be interactive, with time allotted for questions and discussion throughout. In the last 20 minutes of the workshop,

participants will pair with one another to map the process for assessing sexual and gender-based climate at their institutions. They will then have the opportunity to share those initial plans and receive feedback from the group. The workshop presenters are either ARC3 survey originators or have vast experience implementing the measures, including college administrators and researchers with expertise in sexual and gender-based misconduct reduction.

#### Helping the helpers:

Author: Francesca Jarvis

Co-authors: Zoë Firth, Hera Hussain

People who work with survivors of domestic abuse are at high risk of experiencing secondary trauma, which refers to '[i]ndirect experiences of distress resulting from empathic engagement with clients who experienced trauma' (World Health Organization, 2013). Despite the acute need to identify, understand, and mitigate secondary trauma amongst frontline practitioners, many services lack adequate infrastructure for team support, contributing to low retention and hence decreased service quality across the sector. Moreover, research is urgently needed to better understand risk factors for and effective strategies against secondary trauma. In this session, we will conduct a workshop to facilitate capacity-building and knowledge-sharing on secondary trauma amongst the researchers, policymakers, and practitioners of the ECDV audience. We will begin by presenting our own work on addressing secondary trauma in specialist gender-based violence organisations, including our recent pilot project with European organisations funded by the Resistiré consortium, sharing insights on what challenges, barriers, and recommendations practitioners have shared with us, and how we addressed secondary trauma through this project. We will then facilitate group discussions on the risks of secondary trauma associated with gender-based violence work as well as with the research process, with a particular focus on researchers who work with gender-based violence practitioners to conduct their research. Building on our own research on how to conduct trauma-informed, survivor-centric research, we will employ and share our trauma-informed, participatory research methodology with participants, as we capture their expertise as researchers, policymakers, and practitioners. With 10 years of experience in supporting survivors of gender-based violence as a survivor-led organisation, we have combined our lived experience with work across the academic and non-profit sectors to create a trauma-informed HR toolkit implementing our approach to secondary trauma. Our aim in this session is to build awareness of secondary trauma and the importance of addressing it, and strengthen participants' understanding of their own position as stakeholders in the fight against secondary trauma across the sector. We hope that the workshop will stimulate further research into secondary trauma amongst gender-based violence practitioners, as well as uptake of trauma-informed research methods.

#### Holding Ground - exploration of the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people

Author: Sonya McMullan

Co-authors: Patrick J. O'Reilly, Jack Dawson, Sarah Mason



Description The workshop will allow participants to explore the issue of trauma and the impact of domestic abuse on a child and young person through drama and the use of creative workshops as an alternative way of public awareness, recovery and therapeutic interventions. Background and Purpose Holding Ground is a play written by Jack Dawson which explores the impact of domestic abuse on children who grow up in abusive homes. The play will feature as part of a local art's festival in NI in May and will be supported by a creative therapy programme for young people and survivors. Holding Ground is a co-partnership between Tinderbox and Women's Aid NI. The play has been in development since 2020 with Tinderbox and Jack Dawson (writer and creator) in partnership with Women's Aid NI. The development has provided opportunities for Jack's story to feature on BBC news and ITV programme 'Home Terror' (12th March 2022). Holding Ground is an autobiographical account of Jack's own life experiences witnessing and living through domestic abuse in his family home. Jack's story deals with the impact of this childhood trauma on his adult life. It looks at a confrontation with one of his parents in the supermarket which forces him to question whether we can ever fully heal from childhood trauma. Holding Ground is a play about memory, trauma and our attempts to move past and heal from experience. Through focusing on Jack's unique experience, the play will reach a universal perspective. Main points of the practice and innovative elements The workshop will be facilitated by Patrick O'Reilly, Tinderbox and staff from Women's Aid Federation NI. It will begin by setting the context and methodology of the use of theatre to creatively allow discussions around trauma and domestic abuse. Select parts of the play which have been recorded will be shown to participants and they will be able to see and experience the site-responsive theatre and experimental auditory design through watching the play, which has been written and performed by Jack Dawson. The work will achieve its full objectives through intricate sound design to create a physical theatre performance that will reveal the impact of childhood domestic abuse on the body and mind. Conclusions and implications Workshop attendees will understand the importance of exploring the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people and will have an opportunity to explore this emotive topic showing the benefits and advantages of using specialist theatrical innovation and creative therapeutic support. There is an outlet for audiences to understand the everyday and life-long impact of this topic, and thus use the arts to create positive change and reflection in our society. It will show how this creative approach to awareness workshops can exploring the themes of re-writing the narrative for healing. The workshops can offer stress management skills, trigger responses, fight/flight awareness and elements of music therapy and writing therapy showing alternative methods.

### Learning from the Field: Using Case Studies to Improve Responses to Domestic Violence

Author: Ioana Enany

Institute: St. George's University of London

Co-authors: Melissa Hamilton, Emily Setty, Caitlin Sulley, Rachel Brinkmann, Rachel Brinkmann, Noel Busch-Armendariz

Prevalence rates of gender-based violence among women and girls are high, and the violence perpetrated against women and girls causes significant harm to society. The UN Secretary-General conceptualises these as burdens as public problems when he states that they "impoverish women, their families, communities, and nations. It lowers economic

productivity, drains resources from public services and employers, and reduces human capital formation.” We focus on domestic violence/intimate partner violence/dating violence experienced by women at university. In general, Great Britain lacks campus-based research and evidence to inform programs, services, and policies in this area of gender-based violence. What we know is startling. In Great Britain, 32 percent of women experienced at least one form of harassment in the last year, and women between 16 – 34 were twice as likely to have experienced harassment than women 35 and older. Sixty-two percent of students reported having experienced sexual misconduct in their current or most recent university. Survivors of dating violence suffer significant physical, psychological, emotional, and financial consequences from their partners, with negative consequences that may last throughout their lifetime. However, innovative interventions and training geared toward university professionals are lacking. This interactive workshop will engage participants on an evidence-based “toolkit” explicitly developed for professionals intervening in dating violence and misconduct cases at universities across the United Kingdom. Participants will be immersed in activities where they learn to synthesize, apply, and practice using an anonymized, factual case study. Facilitators will engage participants in activities to bring back to their practice, including uncovering myths and biases, applying aspects of the neurobiology of trauma and trauma-informed practices with young adults, building structures for institutional accountability, and much more.

### Using Virtual Gaming Simulations to Provide Inter-Professional Training Opportunities

Author: Angelique Jenney

Institute: University of Calgary

Co-authors: Jennifer Koshan

Background: IPV/GBV is both widespread and of global concern and the field of professionals who will face IPV/GBV in their work is multi-disciplinary and contextual. Research has been clear that the most effective responses to addressing intimate partner and gender-based violence (IPV/GBV) are cross-disciplinary, involving social work (child welfare, child mental health), healthcare (nursing), and the justice system (law). Repeatedly, studies recommend enhanced collaboration between community partners. Violence in families was exacerbated during the pandemic while at the same time, students and practicing professionals in all disciplines were faced with reduced availability of real-life practice opportunities to learn how best to respond. Methods: Our interdisciplinary team of both faculty and students across three faculties (Law, Social Work, Nursing), completed a scoping review on the use of Simulation-Based Learning (SBL) to teach competencies in responding to IPV/GBV to helping professions with a focus on interprofessional education (IPE), then collaborated to develop, script and film, both discipline specific and IPE specific scenarios involving a family where issues of IPV/GBV were present. Each member of the family experiences services through a variety of means (attending a hospital emergency room, a student wellness clinic, a sexual health clinic, a legal clinic for domestic violence and sexual assault victims, a walk-in mental health center and they also receive a home visit from child protection services). The team worked collaboratively to integrate the VGSBL within courses across the three faculties, incorporating a virtual IPE session for students from all of the participating courses. As part of this work, the research team created structured pre/debrief materials, incorporated student reflective practice activities as well as pre/post-

test measures of student learning in both IPV/GBV and IPE knowledge, skills and abilities in order to assess efficacy of this unique pedagogical model. Findings and Implications for Practice: will present the results from our teaching and learning project which expanded access to experiential learning across multiple disciplines by using virtual gaming simulation-based learning (VGSBL) technologies to address a critical aspect of professional education – responding to experiences of intimate partner and gender-based violence (IPV/GBV). Conclusions: This experiential and interactive presentation will provide participants with the background research and development processes followed by the opportunity to actively participate in the Virtual Gaming Simulation experience itself and discuss the impact and provide suggestions/recommendations for further development of experiential learning to improve professional skills and collaboration in this critical area of service delivery.

### **Porn Talk: Raising Awareness Among Youth on the Connections Between Porn and Violence**

Author: Ragnhild Lindahl Torstensen

Institute: Lightup Norway

As a youth NGO, Lightup Norway has worked extensively the past years on the topic of youth and porn consumption. In 2018, we launched the website Pornopratt.no. In 2021, I published the book “Pornopratt” (“Porntalk”), together with my colleague Jeanette K. Frøvik, providing parents and teachers with tools for how to talk to kids and youth about porn. For several years we have visited schools all over Norway leading workshops for thousands of youth about the topic. I also have good experience of facilitating workshops for students, teachers and various practitioners, also in English. We are deeply concerned about the alarming statistics showing the rise in the numbers of children and youth who experience domestic violence and sexual abuse, either from adults or from peers, both online and offline. Mainstream porn is the primary source of ‘sex ed’ for many children, promoting a narrative of violence in sexual relations as pleasurable and fun. The accounts from youth themselves as well as the extensive amount of research findings connecting the dots between porn consumption among youth and normalisation of violence underpins this concern. I propose to lead this workshop to connect practitioners, researchers and other participants interested in the topic. Outline for the workshop: 1. Ice breaker: Participants are asked to respond anonymously in a Mentimeter on the following question, answers appear on screen: “Share your number one tip on how to do the talk about porn with children and youth!” (Short sentences encouraged) 2. Presentation from Lightup Norway: - Short introduction of the organisation - Present our work with the topic of youth and porn in connection to prevention of violence. - Sharing the main features of Lightup Norway's approach to the topic, our method and experience on doing the porn talk - Sharing about roadblocks and challenges in the Norwegian context: Is porn still a taboo topic? Are we recognising the connections between porn and domestic violence? How can this be talked about without increasing shame and pointing a finger towards children and youth? 3. Group discussion (small groups): - What can be hindering us from facilitating conversations with youth on the harmful connections between porn and violence? - Are there any particular challenges in your country? - How about best practices when it comes to prevention work with children and youth on this topic? 4. Plenum discussion enabling an exchange of perspectives 5. Conclusions

## Held in Mind' : Creating a Responsive Multiagency System for Families living with Risk

Author: Marcella Leonard

Institute: Leonard Consultancy

Co-authors: Gareth McGibbon

Living with the risk of domestic abuse in a family means living in a dynamic atmosphere of continual change to reduce the likelihood of the next outburst of violence. It is an ever changing environment , weighing up each decision against multiple possible outcomes yet never knowing whether any of those decisions will keep you safe or result in injury or possible death. Multiagency working is structured, organised, procedural, process driven to create safety in decision making for the professionals around the table. This workshop will explore how multiagency working can become dynamically responsive to the needs of those families living with domestic abuse and violence. Through integration of known clusters of risk factors such as seeking court orders, leaving the relationship, pregnancy, establishing a new relationship, into multiagency collaboration a more effective response by agencies can meet the needs of victims and families. Developing multiagency responses at acute risk times are essential for effective protection. The workshop will - 1. Provide an overview of a multiagency assessment forum - family violence (MAF- FV) which has been developed to address not only the needs of the victim but the analysis of the risk posed by the perpetrator and the needs of other family members such as children and adults with additional needs. 2. Through the use of a case study , follow the pathway needs of a family through the MAF-FV to consider the acute practical responses to increase safety and decrease risk. Consider the longer term responses which are required from the agencies to reduce likelihood of repeat offending , to increase the victim's skills and resources to reduce likelihood of repeat incidents, to increase the therapeutic intervention with the wider family members to reduce the impact of ongoing trauma of living in a family where domestic abuse and violence is present. The workshop will also provide a personal insight into the impact in a family where domestic homicide has occurred , the presenter's cousin was murdered in a domestic homicide in 2017 in Northern Ireland and the findings from her inquest , in particular the multiagency responses , will be shared to underpin the need for effective multiagency working.

## The Untold Story of Domestic Violence

Author: Dr. Amy Elizabeth Bonomi

Institute: Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center

Co-authors: David Martin

Workshop Vision and Overview: Our vision for the interactive workshop (limited to 60 participants) is to empower people and communities in improving their understanding and skills in domestic violence cases that involve recantation. We will utilize several interactive pedagogical strategies—pairing and sharing; small group brainstorming and analysis; and facilitated group exploration of our published five-stage recantation model (supplemented with audio-recorded jail calls) showing how abusers manipulate their victims to recant [Figure - from Bonomi et al., 2011, reprinted with permission from Elsevier Publishers]. The recorded jail calls are the most accurate objective evidence available to reveal and advance the field's understanding of the second-by-second micro-interactions in which abusers

exploit the victim's agency, care, love, and humanity to influence victim recantation. We will explore what abusers say, how they say it, and how victims respond. Pedagogical Approach: The workshop uses several interactive strategies to improve understanding of and build skills in domestic violence-related recantation. Introduction, Pair and Share (15 minutes): We will introduce the workshop (5 minutes) and then move directly into a 10-minute icebreaker to engage participant-pairs in exploring their experiences—successes, frustrations, and common myths—with victim recantation. Interactive Analysis with All Participants of Our Five-Stage Model (and Jail Calls) (30 minutes): This 30-minute interactive segment will involve an “annotated speed review” of our five-stage model [see Figure below] showing how domestic abusers tamper and manipulate victims to recant. We will utilize Q&A in the speed review to engage participant perceptions of what they're hearing. Small Group Brainstorming and Dissection of Case Studies Involving Jail Calls (20 minutes): This 20-minute segment will involve small groups (comprising 3 to 4 participants) to access our jail audio-recordings (online) and to brainstorm/dissect where/whether the audio-recordings “confirm” or “disconfirm” one (or more) aspects of the five-stage model. Synthesis of Themes from the Small Groups (15 minutes): This 15-minute segment will engage a report-back from the Small Group brainstorm and analysis. Close with (Volunteer) Individual Sharing of “Take-aways” (10 minutes): The workshop will conclude by inviting (a few volunteer) participants to share their individual take-aways from the session.

### Using an 'In Room Consultant' to stop Domestic Violence and Increase Safety for Victims/ Children and Perpetrators

Author: Sarah Quirke

Institute: Dublin Safer Families Service

Co-authors: Maureen Looney, Margaret Jocye

**Aim of workshop** This workshop aims to provide participants with an understanding of what the function of an 'In Room Consultant' is and how it is used with families attending Dublin Safer Families Service. In order to reduce domestic violence and improve safety for victims, child(ren), and perpetrators, it is important to consider the function of the 'In Room Consultant' as a therapeutic intervention. Dublin Safer Families Service uses a systemic model which includes the use of an 'In Room Consultant'. **Workshop description** In this workshop the role of the 'In Room Consultant' is explained, demonstrated and explored. The participants will have the opportunity to see, learn, interact and discuss the benefits and challenges of the 'In Room Consultant' for clients and practitioners. **Method of participant involvement** Through social constructivism participants will be involved in the workshop, led by the presenters. The participants will: • View and discuss video recordings of the 'In Room Consultant' in action. • Engage in role play experience. • Discuss the benefits and challenges of the role of the 'In Room Consultant' as a therapeutic tool and reflective process.

**Anticipated key learning** Participants will have a clear understanding of the role and value of having an 'In Room Consultant' when working with Domestic Violence in the family context. They will also see how this role promotes reflection, increases safety and contributes to stopping violence in families. The 'In-Room Consultant' is a role that speeds up the therapeutic process for the clients in a manner that maintains safety at all times and this will be portrayed throughout the workshop. The workshop will provide participants with enough understanding and information about the positive benefits of utilising an 'In Room

Consultant' to consider bringing this tool into their own practice with clients in a Domestic Abuse service. \*The concept of the 'In Room Consultant' was developed by Professor Arlene Vetere and Jan Cooper during the course of their work at Reading Safer Families Service in the United Kingdom. Author 1: Sarah Quirke BA Social Care in Social Studies, Diploma in Counselling and Psychotherapy, MA in Cognitive Behaviour Therapy. Family Worker-Dublin Safer Families Service, Daughters of Charity Child and Family Services, Dublin, Ireland. Author 2: Maureen Looney BA, Exceptionality in Human Development, University of Toronto, Diploma in Counselling, Trinity College Dublin. Deputy Manager - Dublin Safer Families Service, Daughters of Charity Child and Family Services, Dublin, Ireland. Author 3: Margaret Joyce P.Grad.Dip. (Systemic Psychotherapy), M.Sc. (Economics and Social Care), M.Sc. (Psychological Trauma) Manager – Dublin Safer Families Service, Daughters of Charity Child and Family Services, Dublin, Ireland.

### Together we can prevent violence

Author: Katarina Eman Risberg

Institute: Swedish gender and equality agency

Co-authors: Alex Snäckerström

Together we can prevent violence The Swedish Gender Equality Agency is a government agency under the Ministry of Employment, created to contribute to effective implementation of the Swedish gender equality policy. The overarching goal of Sweden's national gender equality work is for women and men to have the same power to shape society and their own lives. This goal is divided into six sub-goals. One of these are to end men's violence against women and it includes violence in close relationships, honor-related violence, prostitution, and trafficking for sexual purposes. Sweden has a ten-year national strategy for achieving the goal of ending men's violence against women. Therefore, has the Agency, in cooperation with vital NGO:s and other agencies, developed a handbook which provides a concrete five-step- guidance regarding how to implement systematic and knowledge-based violence-prevention work. It is built on a gender transformative approach which means changing and broadening norms related to gender and sexuality. WHO confirm that if we can challenge harmful and limiting ideas related to masculinity and femininity, it will have an impact on stopping violence. The five steps are 1. Initiate collaboration 2. Describe violence as a problem 3. Identifying factors of change 4. Develop interventions 5. Implement, follow up and disseminate The content of the handbook is built on the socio ecological model, as well as public health prevention levels, which are divided into interventions targeting; individuals who already perpetrated or experienced violence, risk groups or the general population. Each level plays an important role, are intimately connected, even though they target different groups and use various methods. Based on the handbook the Agency have developed an education, which right now is being piloted on a national level, in process-support, aiming regional experts on gender equality at all our county administration boards. The goal is that they should be able to offer long time support to local organizations at municipal level in violence prevention work. In addition to this, a website is under construction with material that both give knowledge and examples of different methods that can be used, as well as inspiring good examples. In this workshop we invite the participants to listen to our experiences of systemic prevention work, try one of

our methods and give us feedback on our work. This last point is important for us in our constantly ongoing development in violence prevention work.

### **Establishing Domestic Abuse Court Advocacy Standards in Scotland**

Author: Dr Kirsty Campbell

Institute: SafeLives

Co-authors: Dr Lan Pham

Scotland's Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate (IDAA) role has transformed the experience of victims seeking help. A single point of contact, IDAAs provide risk management, safety-planning and practical and emotional support, linking into the multi-agency system for whole family support. However, critical gaps remain, including a 'postcode lottery' of court advocacy provision. Victims may receive expert, structured advocacy only if they live in an area with a dedicated domestic abuse advocacy service, otherwise provision is variable and particularly challenging in rural communities. No consistency exists for victims, criminal justice partners or services. Yet a robust evidence base suggests that dedicated specialist criminal justice advocacy support is essential for victims' wellbeing and recovery, and can also address attrition. A 3-year partnership project between UK domestic abuse charity SafeLives and specialist court advocacy provider ASSIST was funded by the Scottish Government to establish domestic abuse court advocacy standards, design an accreditation framework from the emerging standards, and develop and deliver specialist training on court advocacy for frontline staff. Together with systematic- and 'grey'- literature reviews, innovative methods have been used to establish these standards. To capture the nuances of local partnership responses to domestic abuse, more than 30 workshops have been organised with criminal justice, public protection, and specialist domestic abuse professionals across Scotland. The authentic voice of survivors has been integral to the design, development and delivery of this project. SafeLives' 'Authentic Voice Panel', a group of 10 survivors of domestic abuse, supported the funding application, programme design, co-facilitation of events, membership on the steering group and analysis of findings. Other lived-experience groups from a range of backgrounds have provided fresh perspectives about court advocacy support and the needs of specific communities. There is a dearth of existing evidence on court advocacy standards. The innovative nature of this project will make multiple contributions to this evidence gap, providing insights on: how standards are developed; victim and IDAA justice journeys; the value of embedding lived experience; and the impact of variances on local systems. Ultimately, the work will establish a basis on which the best practice in supporting families engaged in criminal court can be built, in Scotland and across international jurisdictions. Continuing the workshop design of the project, facilitators will use a variety of plenary and interactive methods to present emerging findings, compare Scotland's experience with other jurisdictions, and deliver a section of the IDAA training on specialist court advocacy to participants.

**The Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA): an example of an effective housing response to domestic abuse as a part of a Coordinated Community Response.**

Author: Deidre Cartwright

Institute: Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance & Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

Co-authors: Judith Vickress

Background: The Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) was established in 2014 as a partnership between Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse (STADA), Gentoo, and Peabody housing associations. Led and delivered by STADA, DAHA provides England's housing sector with domestic abuse (DA) training, accreditation and national policy influencing. Our accreditation framework is recognised by the UK government as best practice in response to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Learning objective: We will introduce participants to the innovative DAHA approach and enable participants to reflect on why housing providers play a critical role in the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to domestic abuse. The workshop will give participants the knowledge and skills to consider how they would apply the DAHA approach within their own context. Pedagogical methods & session structure: After an introduction to DAHA and the CCR and short icebreaker activity, we will use a case study to tell a story of a woman and children experiencing DA to enable the learners to understand the context and impact of the issue of DA, homelessness, the critical role of housing partners. To enable an interactive approach to the case study, we will split into small groups that will each represent key agencies in response to DA (e.g. housing, health, police). Each agency will hold key information and support to the victims (including children, and the perpetrator and come together to create a CCR response. Through the key agencies' information and actions, critical pieces of the story will unfold, and we'll understand the important roles of each agency in sharing information and offering support to victims and perpetrators of abuse. Through this activity, learners will critically analyse what information would or would not have 'come to light' and what action would or would not have been taken by the agencies without the vital information and support provided by housing. To conclude the activity, we will reveal that this case study is based on a UK domestic homicide review (DHR). We will share the learning from the DHR, which clearly identified where information and support provided by housing was limited, and how this contributed towards the missed opportunities that could have prevented this victim's murder. We will finish the workshop by asking participants to identify actions that they can take back to meet the learning objective, including addressing barriers to information sharing and support between housing and other partners locally.

### A COVID-19 Good News Story

Author: Natalie Collins

Institute: The Women's Liberation Collective (UK charity)

Through the Own My Life course we support organisations and practitioners to enable women to regain ownership of their lives after they have been subjected to abuse by men. We provide a suite of multimedia resources including short videos, structured discussions, group and individual activities, and a comprehensive learning journal. Our content explains complex concepts about trauma and abuse, with easy to understand audiovisual clips which also evidence how popular culture reinforces or perpetuates sexism, rape culture, violence, misogyny, disrespect in relationships and abusive behaviour. Offering 5-day "train-the-trainer" events, we equip practitioners to run 12-week Own My Life courses via domestic and sexual violence services, addiction services, social care, housing providers and others. After a 2019 pilot, we were due to deliver UK-wide local training events but COVID-19 halted



these plans. We were not deterred. We developed an online training method which proved extremely successful in training practitioners, but not only that! We developed a coaching programme to equip practitioners to safely and confidently deliver the course to women online. This creative response allowed us to expand at a much faster level than we could have through localised in-person training events. Rural and isolated services have wholeheartedly taken on Own My Life and through the course women are being enabled to take back ownership of their lives in Orkney, the Shetland Islands, other rural Scottish communities, rural Wales and across Ireland; as well as in big cities and towns. Our training events provide joyous cross-pollination of learning with practitioners coming together from hugely diverse areas and particularly rich learning opportunities occurring between British and Irish practitioners. Organisations and practitioners who had previously been suspicious of, or hostile to, delivering group work online are now confidently running multiple online groups per week. Women in rural communities, those with care responsibilities, work commitments, disabilities and/or transport issues have all been enabled to meaningfully access transformational group work that they tell us has changed their lives. While COVID-19 has been extremely difficult for everyone, this workshop offers a COVID “good news story”, with some additional reflections on the sustainability implications of a UK landscape where injections of COVID funds allowed our work to financially stabilise, but has now become more precarious as financial scarcity overtakes organisations who were short-term beneficiaries of COVID crisis funding. This workshop will be interactive, hopeful and include videos, group work, and front-led presentation.

How to best consider and take into account the rights and needs of Roma women when addressing gender-based and domestic violence?

Author: Lene Nilsen

Institute: The Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security

Co-authors: Rachel Eapen Paul

Background and purpose of the practice or policy initiative; When addressing domestic and gender-based violence, international standards state that the rights and needs of the victims shall be at the centre of all efforts, and that non-governmental organisations and civil society actors shall be involved. A new handbook has been developed on how to consider and take into account the rights and needs of Roma women when addressing gender-based and domestic violence. The authors of the handbook are Rachel Eapen Paul and Zora Popova, and the handbook is a part of a EEA and Norway Grants project cooperation between the European Institute in Bulgaria, the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security and the Council of Europe’s Roma and Travellers team and the Gender Equality Division. A summary of the main points of the practice or policy initiative and any innovative elements; Women in general can meet obstacles when seeking access to justice, and women facing intersectional discrimination can meet even more obstacles. Roma women and girls are among the most vulnerable groups within and across European states. Roma women and girls face multi-dimensional discrimination and intersectional challenges, they are often socially marginalised and frequently economically disadvantaged. The situation of Roma women requires specific and equitable measures to ensure their access to justice when subject to gender-based and domestic violence. The workshop will discuss the following 4 areas: 1. Participation of Roma women and relevant NGO representatives in the development,

implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes/projects etc? 2. Prevention of violence against women be addressed within Roma communities? 3. Protection of Roma women victims of domestic violence from further violence, and support of Roma women to overcome the multiple consequences of such violence, allowing them to rebuild their lives. 4. Prosecution of perpetrators of domestic violence against Roma. Conclusions from and implications of the learning for practice, policy or further research. This 90 minutes workshop will contribute to improve intersectional approaches to understanding domestic violence, by sharing knowledge about Roma women's perspectives. The main points of the handbook on how to consider and take into account the rights and needs of Roma women when addressing gender-based and domestic violence will be presented. What kind of implications could this learning have for policies addressing violence against women and domestic violence? A dialogue between workshop participants will be facilitated.

# Poster presentations

## Knowledge and skills of professionals working with families with minors in identifying the child maltreatment risk

Author: Eija Paavilainen

Institute: Tampere University

Co-authors: Heidi Rantanen, Irja Nieminen, Marja Kaunonen, Giovanni Vigano, Emmanuelle Jouet

Child maltreatment is a serious, global public health problem, that has not been able to be solved. Previous studies also indicate, that with the training the professionals' skills in identifying minors living in families where child maltreatment is a risk and promoting appropriate interventions has been successful. The focus of the EU funded ERICA Project was to improve the detection and management of child maltreatment within the family by developing Training Programme to develop the expertise of professionals working with children. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the knowledge and skills of professionals who participated in the ERICA training program regarding the identification and intervention of risk conditions for child maltreatment before and after the training. This was a quasi-experimental study design, where the data were collected from professionals (N=364) in six European countries using a questionnaire adapted to the content of the ERICA project, used in previous studies. Descriptive frequency and percentage distributions and the t-test were used in the analysis. Before the training, both knowledge and skill level were average. The participants' perceived awareness of their own knowledge and skills increased with the training, in many areas statistically significantly. Similarly, their perceived competence in their own knowledge and skills increased. Training can quite extensively increase the knowledge and skills of child and family professionals in identifying and assessing the risk of child maltreatment. The increase in knowledge and skills is important in the development of work between families and professionals, which makes it possible to help children and their families even better. See More:<https://projects.tuni.fi/erica/>

## Perpetrator perceptions on the emotions and motivations driving their technology-facilitated abuse: a story completion study

Author: Renee Fiolet

Institute: University of Melbourne

Co-authors: Cynthia Brown, Bridget Harris, Dana McKay, Sally Marsden, Kobi Leins

Background and purpose: Technology-facilitated domestic violence (TFDV) has become a widespread social problem and has a significant impact on victim-survivors. The majority of contemporary evidence focuses on victim/survivor, advocate and practitioner perspectives, rather than the perpetrators emotions or motivations for choosing this form of abuse. Without an understanding of the drivers to use TFDV, there is little opportunity to prevent the abuse from occurring. The aim of this research was to determine perpetrator perspectives on emotions and motivations influencing their choice to use technology in their abusive behaviours. Methods: Online recruitment was used to engage perpetrators of TFDV in completing stories about hypothetical behaviours used by a character (story-completion methods). This method was used for its recognition in success with engaging hard to reach

populations when exploring sensitive topics. Thirty-five (35) self-identified perpetrators of TFDV completed a total of 70 story stubs using hypothetical scenarios exploring abusive online behaviours. Reflexive thematic analysis was used to generate themes. Findings: TFDA perpetrating participants identified as men (21), women (12), trans man (one) and non-binary (one) who were mostly between 26 and 35 years of age and predominantly heterosexual. We found that negative emotions such as anger and/or sadness often influence a decision to use TFDV. A loss of trust and desire for control were commonly cited motivators for the use of technology to abuse. Encouragingly, some participants identified avoidance of conflict and respect for partners as rationales for occasional avoidance of TFDV behaviours. Conclusions and implications: Findings indicate that there is significant potential to work with perpetrators on refraining from using technology to abuse partners. There are actions that can be taken by technology designers to intervene and offer potential perpetrators an opportunity to reflect on their intended behaviours and avoid using them to harm.

### **Reproductive Coercion and Related Intent as Perceived by Victims: Mixed Results from a Canadian Study**

Author: Sylvie Lévesque

Institute: UQAM

Co-authors: Carole Boulebsol, Catherine Rousseau, Mylène Fernet, Simon Lapierre, Marie-Marthe Cousineau

Introduction. Reproductive coercion (RC) refers to behaviors aimed at forcing or preventing pregnancy. Contraceptive interference (CI), unlike RC, refers to any behavior that prevents the proper use of contraceptive methods, without deliberate intent to induce a pregnancy. This presentation is informed by the following research questions: 1) What are the manifestations of CI? 2) How are gender-based power relations articulated in CI? Methods. The qualitative data are from two Canadian research projects: one on RC with 15 women aged 26 to 40, and the other on CI with youth aged 16 to 25 (data collection starting February 2023). Semi-structured interviews are conducted in both projects. To be included in this subsample, participants had to have experienced CI with a male partner. A comparative analysis based on age will contrast the results of these two studies. Thematic analysis will allow exploration of CI across the life. Findings. Preliminary results indicate that, in both subsamples, participants distinguish CI from RC based on the perceived intention to (not) make them pregnant. Participants says that their partners wanted to increase his sexual pleasure, without concern for their sexual and reproductive health or their consent to safe sex. Non-consensual condom removal and non-compliance with withdrawal before ejaculation are the most reported manifestations. Another distinction concerns control. Participants who have experienced both RC and CI report that the former is about controlling family planning, while the latter is about controlling the sexual relationship. For them, it is about the inequality of power in the sexual relationship: although they mentioned wanting to have safe sex, their partner had the final say. Conclusion. CI is an important health and social issue impacting women and non-binary individuals by limiting their sexual and reproductive integrity. Future research should focus on CI to better understand its implications and develop prevention strategies.

## An exploration of stalking behaviours from a large UK police dataset

Author: Dr Terri Cole

Institute: Bournemouth University, UK

Co-authors: Dr Kari Davies, Niamh Tenniswood, Sophia Margato, Ani Sperryn

Definitions of stalking vary, however generally include behaviours experienced by the victim as intrusive and unwanted, which continue over time and may evoke fear or upset. Behaviours can include actions such as writing messages, verbal abuse, approaching or following the victim, and threats. The physical and psychological consequences to victims can be severe, however reporting to the police is not always done immediately. This is due in part to potential prior relationships between the offender and victim, and some of the ambiguous behaviours exhibited, which dependant on circumstance may be seen as either romantic, or terrifying. This study involves a collaboration between Bournemouth University and West Midlands Police (UK). The purpose is an exploration of behavioural actions in stalking cases (e.g. methods used), the consistency of such actions (e.g. do behaviours remain consistent or do they change), and the role of the victim/offender relationship and the effect on investigations (e.g. does relationship impact outcome of the case). It utilises samples from an original dataset of 40,000 stalking and harassment cases which occurred between 2016-2020 in a large metropolitan police force. Using this secondary data, cases are coded and analysed in order to explore patterns and relationships. Initial findings suggest individual differences in methods – some offenders try and make contact, others do not. There are also individual differences in consistency, both between and within offenders. Many offenders write messages repeatedly; some use a variety of different methods of communication and attempted contact, but others do not. The majority of offenders appear to have had some form of previous relationship with the victim, however this is not the case for all. Nevertheless, from the emergent patterns, recommendations for policy, practice and future research are made.

## Assessing the Prevalence and Impact of Lived Experiences of Violence and Abuse in Medical Students

Author: Aimee Wilkinson

Institute: University of Bristol

Co-authors: Alison Gregory, Sandi Dheensa, Andrew Blythe, Gene Feder

Background: Domestic violence, sexual assault and child maltreatment (DVSACM) lead to a range of physical and mental health presentations. Healthcare professionals (HCPs) and medical students have important opportunities to ask patients about DVSACM and direct them to appropriate services but might also experience (or perpetrate) abuse themselves. This study aimed to assess the prevalence and impact of lived experience of DVSACM in a UK medical student population. Methods: An online questionnaire was distributed to clinical year medical students via mailing lists and social media. Data on demographics and self-reported DVSACM experience (using questions derived from the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children) were collected. A final free-text question asked respondents to suggest how medical schools could best support students with DVSACM experiences. Findings: 81 students responded (response rate: 9.4%). Self-reported rates of DV, SA and CM were 19.4%, 35.8% and 22.4% respectively. Just over 60% reported that an adult in their

family had smacked them for discipline, and 14% reported sexual abuse before the age of 11. Of students who had witnessed one adult verbally abusing another adult, 63% reported that the experience impacted them. Over 30% stated that they had been pressured by a partner at least once into having sex, while 5% reported that they had pressured a partner at least once into having sex. Over 80% stated they knew at least one peer who had lived experience of DVSA. Suggestions for support included “making it normal” to discuss abuse experiences, offering “support for mental health” and including DVSA in curricula “sensitively” with “trigger warnings”. Conclusions and Implications: The prevalence of lived experience underlines the necessity of trauma-informed teaching about DVSA and highlights the importance of adequately preparing healthcare students for encounters with patients. Inadequate preparation may risk exposing victim-survivor HCPs to re-traumatizing scenarios or vicarious trauma.

**The influence on recurrent intimate partner violence by police risk assessments and management: a prospective cohort study.**

Author: Merete Berg Nasset

Institute: St. Olav's University hospital

Co-authors: Camilla Buch Gudde, Tom Palmstierna, Johan Håkon Bjørngaard, Richard Whittington

Background Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a global problem. Police officers are often first line responders and thereby have a potential for identifying and preventing recurring violence. Identifying recurrent risk for IPV requires robust assessment procedures e.g. the Brief Spousal Assault Form for the Evaluation of Risk (B-SAFER). In Norway, specially educated police officers are appointed to handle IPV-cases including risk assessment and suggesting interventions. Purpose of the study We explore correlation between police officers' B-SAFER assessments as well as the influence of violence alarm and restraining orders on recurrent violence. Methods Study design: Prospective cohort. Sampling: All 1273 IPV-cases assessed with B-SAFER in Trøndelag Police District, Norway from 2015 until 2021. Data collection: B-SAFER ratings, police interventions and information on reoccurrence of physical violence was collected. Analysis: Risk for reoffending was analyzed with time-to-event analyses. An event was defined by time to next incident of physical violence. Hazard ratios (HR) were calculated with Cox regressions. Findings: 46 % of the cases were rated as low risk, 46 % as medium risk and 8 % as high risk. Medium and high risk cases had significantly higher risk of recurrent physical violence as compared to the low risk. HR 1.6 (95 % CI 1.2-2.1) and 3.2 (95 % CI 2.2-4.7) respectively. Both violence alarm and restraining orders correlated with a significantly lower risk for recurrent physical violence in the high risk group. In the low risk cases, these interventions did not correlate with reduced risk for new episodes of physical violence. Conclusions and implications: Trained police officers accurately identify risk of recurrent IPV. Protective measures such as violence alarm and restraining order substantially reduce the risk for recurrent IPV in high risk cases.

**“We don't get money in our own hands” Evidence from focus group discussions on economic abuse against women in three states of India**

Author: Janina Steinert

Institute: Technical University of Munich

Co-authors: Ines Böhret, Rucha Vasumati Satish, Sanchita Sharma, Sangeeta Chatterji

**Introduction:** Violence against women is a serious human rights violation. While much attention has been given to the prevalence and prevention of physical, sexual, and emotional violence, one crucial dimension is to date less well understood: economic abuse against women. This paper presents rich qualitative data on economic abuse against women in India to improve the understanding of economic abuse in the context of economic hardship, patriarchal gender norms, and low rates of female employment. **Methods:** We conducted sixteen focus group discussions (FGDs) in the states Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Rajasthan. FGDs were conducted with married employed and non-employed women, husbands, and mothers-in-law. Discussions were recorded, transcribed verbatim and translated to English. Transcripts were coded using thematic analysis and grounded theory and emerging themes were discussed among all authors. **Results:** Women suffered from four distinct dimension of economic abuse. Economic control emerged as the most prevalent theme, amplified by women's marginalisation from financial decision-making in the household. Discussions further alluded to employment sabotage, which husbands commonly justified by not wanting their wives to neglect their duties at home. A third dimension was women's economic exploitation, expressed by husbands taking their salaries, accumulating debt in their wife's name, and using their wife's wedding endowments for own purposes. A last theme was husbands' refusal to financially contribute to necessary household expenses, which hindered investments in children's education and adequate coping with healthcare emergencies. We identified important linkages with other forms of abuse, such as emotional abuse of women if their family's wedding payments (dowry) were deemed too low or physical violence and marital rape in consequence of financial conflicts. **Conclusion:** Economic abuse has the potential to captivate women in abusive relationships. Effective interventions to reduce economic abuse in partnerships and economically empower women are urgently needed.

### **Bystanders responses in cases of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women: types and significance**

Author: Leila Irea Vázquez González

Institute: Pontifical University of Salamanca

Co-authors: Virginia Ferreiro-Basurto, Carmen Delgado-Alvarez, Leila I. Vázquez-González, Victoria A. Ferrer-Perez

**Background and purpose of the study:** Intimate partner violence against women (IPVAW) is a serious social and health problem that requires urgent action for its prevention and eradication. One promising strategy to prevent it is to work with bystanders or witnesses. However, bystander responses are diverse and not always beneficial. The aim of this paper is to analyze the structure of these responses. **Methods:** An ad hoc online questionnaire was administered to the general Spanish population (n = 1,568, 20.54% men and 79.14% women), consisting of a vignette describing a case of IPVAW and questions about the probability of executing different responses. A hierarchical cluster analysis by variables and a principal component analysis were performed. **Findings:** Two main explanatory clusters were obtained: on the one hand, passive/negative helping responses (not doing anything because



of blocking, fear, considering that it is not my problem, and blaming the victim), i.e., inaction and negative responses; and, on the other hand, active/positive helping responses (helping the victim, asking for help and calling the police), i.e., helping behaviors, and confrontation with the perpetrator. Principal component analysis showed that blaming the victim and confronting the perpetrator had different behavior from these two dimensions, grouping them into another factor. Conclusions and implications: The classification of bystander responses into active/positive or passive/negative would support what has been described in the literature on the subject, and the suitability of working to enhance the former and reduce the latter as a strategy to prevent IPVAW. Although it is necessary to delve deeper into the motivations or explanatory mechanisms underlying these bystander responses, the principal components analysis suggests that confronting the perpetrator and blaming the victim could be more related to the traditional male mandate than to the deployment of a preventive strategy. Probing these issues will allow improve prevention programs.

### Harnessing digital technology to better reach and support survivors of domestic violence

Author: Joan Mnene

Institute: UNICEF

Co-authors: Caroline Masbounji, Alexia Nisen, Abeera Akthar

Access to response services can be lifesaving for survivors of domestic violence. However, oftentimes, the lack of updated service repository or referral pathways constitutes a major challenge for survivors to find safety and support. Referral pathways are flexible mechanisms that safely link survivors to services, such as health, psychosocial support, safety, and legal support. When women and girls experience domestic violence, the abuse can take multiple forms and last over long periods or repeat over time. They often need immediate, specialized, multi-sectorial support. Whoever they speak to, a friend, community member or service provider, should know where to direct them to find adequate help. But it is rarely the case, and they end up having to repeat their story which puts them at risk and discourages them to find help. This is what referral pathways try to solve. However, in reality, these pathways are often outdated and not adequately disseminated which results in survivors not receiving life-saving assistance. This is particularly true in fragile and emergency contexts, especially with people on the move. To respond to this, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR), has developed a digital pathway app (eRPW). This Progressive Web App, designed for low connectivity, low literacy settings, enables crowdsourcing of information to reflect real-time updating of services and digitalizes referral pathways. UNICEF adopted a human-centered design methodology to foster a co-creation with women and girls, including those exposed to domestic violence in Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, Syria, and Sierra Leone. Their insights guided the development and contextualization of eRPW. The result? Survivors of domestic violence can access appropriate services in timely manner and find safety near them. UNICEF has compiled lessons learned on how to build ethical and safe digital products for survivors of domestic violence to share during this event.

### Resilience in domestic and sexual violence advocates: what role do personal strengths play?

Author: Harriet Bromley

Institute: University of Worcester

Co-authors: Dr Sarah Davis, Dr Holly Taylor-Dunn, Dr Blaire Morgan

Domestic and sexual violence advocates face numerous occupational stressors including regular exposure to traumatic material. As such, they are at risk of experiencing emotional, physical, and psychological symptoms. Research has highlighted how personal strengths may buffer the negative impact of exposure to trauma within the workplace, but it is unknown whether these are useful for the domestic and sexual violence workforce. The current research aimed to establish what role personal strengths play in the professional quality of life of domestic and sexual violence advocates. A sequential explanatory mixed methods design was utilised to explore a range of protective factors that have the potential to mitigate against the negative effects of trauma exposure. This paper focuses specifically on the quantitative phase of the research. The sample consisted of frontline domestic and sexual violence advocates employed by specialist domestic and sexual violence organisations within the UK. Data was collected using an online questionnaire which aimed to examine the value of personal strengths as protective factors within the social and organisational setting. This includes a particular focus on emotional intelligence, psychological flexibility and hope. The data was analysed using correlation and multiple regression analyses. Preliminary findings regarding the role of key strengths on the well-being of domestic and sexual violence advocates will be introduced, as well as how these strengths interact with their setting/organisation. The findings will be discussed alongside their implications for policy and practice. This includes the potential to inform strengths-based interventions aimed at fostering well-being for this workforce specifically. Developing a better understanding of the role that protective factors play in fostering resilience could have important benefits for advocates, and ultimately result in the provision of better quality services for victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Disabled children and young people's experiences of, and responses to, domestic violence and abuse; informing children's social work practice

Author: Katie Martin

Institute: University of Central Lancashire

Co-authors: Professor Nicky Stanley, Professor Berni Kelly, Dr Kelly Bracewell

Disabled children and young people are thought to be at an increased risk of domestic violence and abuse but are under-represented within the evidence base. This qualitative PhD research study proposes to ascertain the views of disabled people aged 11-18 in England who have experienced domestic violence and abuse, in order to contribute to addressing this gap (mindful that this is not a homogenous group). The research questions are: - What are disabled young people's experiences of, and responses to, domestic violence and abuse? - What are disabled young people's needs when experiencing domestic violence and abuse? - What have disabled young people found helpful with, or challenging to, their experiences of domestic violence and abuse (from themselves, carers, community and/or professionals)? - What would be helpful for social workers to effectively respond to disabled young people who are experiencing domestic violence and abuse? The methods proposed are to recruit up to 20 participants through specialist domestic abuse and social work organisations. Methods will be developed as the research progresses through an adolescent

advisory group. Ethical approval will be sought. Materials will be developed to introduce the researcher and the study to potential participants, and a pre-interview undertaken to discuss consent and the young person's needs in respect of the research. The young person's experiences will be shared through creation with the researcher of a story about a young person accessing a specialist domestic abuse organisation. The story creation will be audio-recorded, transcribed and analysed (informed by young people). Support for participants will be available from a specialist domestic abuse service. Findings will be explored in interview with social workers and domestic abuse practitioners. The aim of this research is to hear and document disabled young people's experiences of domestic violence and abuse and develop supportive and effective service responses.

### European project looking at perpetrator prevention of domestic violence and abuse

Author: Terri Cole

Institute: Bournemouth University

In relation to domestic violence the majority of support has been provided to survivors of abuse. However many perpetrators are both repeat, and serial offenders. As such, changing perpetrator behaviour can have a huge impact on not only their current, but also potential future victims. This presentation will outline a collaborative European project (involving Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Romania and the UK), between academics and practitioners, looking at perpetrator prevention of domestic violence and abuse (DVA). The purpose was to increase capacity of frontline workers supporting perpetrators to adopt nonviolent behaviour and understand the impact of DVA on them, their family and community. The method involved initial fieldwork to map current provision in each Country and explore any gaps or suggestions. This was undertaken via questionnaires with victims/survivors (n=95); interviews with perpetrators (n=18) and focus groups with professionals (n=173 police, social workers, third sector etc). Findings from thematic analysis elicited several themes. 1. The need for a coordinated community response between different agencies and individuals; 2. Resourcing pressures (such as differences in availability of services); 3. The importance of labelling (e.g. perpetrators being labelled as such could enhance feelings of shame and reduce likelihood of engagement). 4. Importance of enhancing knowledge (e.g. in relation to the Istanbul Convention); 5. Need for enhanced training of professionals (e.g. recognising and knowing how to signpost potential victims or offenders). The project not only provided recommendations for policy, but created on-line work packages and delivered bespoke training to professionals. In the UK over 80 professionals attended training events, and evaluation from pre and post attendance questionnaires indicated there was a 30% increase in knowledge in relation to bias and stereotypes of perpetrators, recognition of indicators of violence, being prepared to ask questions about violence and being aware of the importance of perpetrator work.

### Assessing the Capacity of CPS Workers' Ability to Manage IPV Cases

Author: Kendra Nixon

Institute: University of Manitoba

Co-authors: Tara Black

The paper presents the findings of a survey completed by child protection services (CPS) workers in Ontario, Canada to assess their capacity to manage intimate partner violence (IPV) cases. Background and Purpose of the Study In Canada, children's exposure to IPV is one of the most common forms of maltreatment; however, little is known about the capacity of CPS workers to respond to such cases. A survey was customized to assess their capacity, and results were used to develop recommendations for policy and practice. The survey is one component of a five-year, multi-site study. Methods: An online survey was customized to understand the capacity of CPS workers in cases of IPV, using a KAP design (Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices). The 100-item survey was adapted from the Physician Readiness to Manage Intimate Partner Violence Survey (PREMIS) (Short et al., 2006). The survey was launched in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. Three hundred and seventy-seven (377) respondents completed the survey. Results for Ontario (n=68) will be shared. Findings: The majority (79%) of Ontario respondents had attended at least a half-day training about IPV. Most felt well prepared to manage cases involving IPV, and reported they had good knowledge of IPV, except for issues regarding Indigenous peoples and newcomers/refugees. Workers felt few resources existed for perpetrators, making it difficult to hold them accountable. Most agreed they could intervene better if greater collaboration existed with other systems. Conclusions and Implications: The survey is useful for understanding the capacity of CPS workers. The findings can be utilized to guide the development and implementation of IPV-related training and can identify important gaps/barriers, e.g., inadequate organizational protocols, unsupportive supervisors, insufficient time to manage cases, inadequate community resources, and poor relationships with community/collateral agencies. Identifying these gaps is critical if CPS jurisdictions want to improve their response.

### Estimating the global health impact of gender-based violence and violence against children: a systematic review and meta-analysis of longitudinal data

Author: Nicholas Metheny

Institute: University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies

Co-authors: Corinne Spencer, Emmanuela Gakidou, Joht Singh Chandan

Background and purpose of the study: Gender-based violence (GBV) and violence against children (VAC) are important causes of global morbidity and mortality, with immediate impacts including injuries and death and longer-term consequences spanning a variety of physical, mental, and sexual and reproductive health issues. However, the evidence for these claims often comes from cross-sectional studies that preclude inferences of temporality regarding violence exposure. Longitudinal studies of GBV and VAC are commonly country-specific and rarely model exposure types beyond physical and sexual intimate partner violence (IPV). To date, there has not been a holistic accounting of the evidence regarding how different typologies of violence lead to long-term health implications across countries, hampering priority-setting and advocacy efforts. The aim of this study is therefore to conduct a systematic review and meta-analysis to generate comprehensive estimates of the all the known health impacts of GBV and VAC across the lifecourse. Methods: Following the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (PRISMA-P) guidelines, seven databases were searched using a common search strategy for longitudinal GBV and VAC studies from 1970-2022. Data is

currently being extracted from studies meeting the inclusion criteria, with synthesis and meta-analysis plans to be conducted according to the published protocol. Findings: The initial search yielded 56,671 unique records, which were screened against inclusion criteria by title and abstract. Of these, 3632 studies were included for full-text review and data from 469 studies is currently being extracted. Synthesis and meta-analysis will be completed by summer, 2023. Conclusions and implications: This study comprises the largest systematic review of the health consequences of GBV and VAC. Findings will be used to inform global priority setting and advocacy through updates to the Global Burden of Disease Study (GBD) and inform interventions designed to reduce the negative health impacts of GBV and VAC.

### **Domestic Violence Perpetrator Pathways in the Czech Republic: The Current Practice and Future Challenges**

Author: Hana Preslickova

Institute: Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention

Co-authors: Martina Novopacka, Viktorie Palousova, Michaela Roubalova

The poster presents the outcomes of the Norwegian-funded ViolenceOFF project. The project aims to improve the system of treatment of perpetrators and support of victims in cases of domestic and gender-based violence in the Czech Republic. The main objective of the project is to identify good practices and gaps in the current system and to propose effective measures that will improve the situation of victims by reducing the harm caused by violent people. The aim of this paper is to visualize the possible pathways of the perpetrator of domestic violence who meets the 'system' and to highlight its strengths as well as its weaknesses. This could serve as a signpost for relevant stakeholders, enabling them to understand the treatment of perpetrators in a broader context and help to design more effective strategies and policies in this area.

### **Networking in the fight against male violence against women**

Author: Francesca Proia

Institute: IRPPS-CNR

Co-authors: Alice Mauri, Anna Gadda, Pietro Demurtas

Territorial anti-violence networks are the tool for building on the territories an integrated system of interventions for preventing and combating male violence against women: as the outcome of the intertwining of national and local devices and systems of horizontal relations among actors, they are highly heterogeneous. ViVa Project's qualitative-quantitative surveys have highlighted how anti-violence networks are, across their differences, places of "symbolic challenge" between the practices of anti-violence centers (AVCs) and the cultures and professional routines of general services that emerges on several dimensions, from the representation of what an AVC is and the meanings of its action to the tendency of general services to re-propose matrices of agency hinging on the "deservingness" and empowerment of women. The surveys revealed the prevalence of a logic of intervention by aggregation instead of integration and the difficulty in implementing interventions based on a woman-centered gender approach and capable of offering a holistic response to violence. Finally, a focus of network interventions on the management of emergency situations and

their poor activation in the area of accompanying women toward pathways to empowerment emerged.

**Improving emotional safety, coping, and resilience among people conducting research on violence and abuse.**

Author: Anjali Kaul

Institute: King's College London

Co-authors: Danai Chavendera, Katherine Saunders, Sharli Anne Paphitis

**Background and study purpose:** Secondary trauma arises through indirect exposure to trauma through engaging with firsthand accounts and narratives of traumatic events. While a significant amount of research has explored secondary trauma experienced by professionals who work with survivors of trauma, such as clinicians and front-line service providers, there is little research exploring the experiences of secondary trauma amongst violence researchers who routinely engage with traumatic firsthand accounts through their work. This study qualitatively explored violence researcher's professional experiences of secondary trauma and their perceptions of what enables and constrains their own coping and resilience. **Methods:** Participants were recruited using purposive sampling methods. Semi-structured interviews were conducted online with seven female violence researchers from the UK. Questions explored participant's experiences of secondary trauma symptoms related to their research, perceptions of their own coping and resilience, and experiences of organisational support that have enabled or constrained their resilience. Data were analysed thematically using a coding framework applied reflexively across interview transcripts. **Findings:** All participants reported experiencing symptoms of secondary trauma from their work including cognitive disturbances; altered beliefs of themselves, others or the world; and challenges connecting with others. Participants' assessment of their own expertise in violence research did not generally impact their perception of their own resilience. Organisational support for violence researchers was rarely provided and participants felt generally unsupported - left to manage any resultant distress alone. **Conclusions and implications:** Research organisations and universities should implement trauma-informed policies which positively transform workplace culture, provide peer support spaces and conduct effective training in order to mitigate psychological harm and promote resilience amongst violence researchers. Support should be tailored to the requirements of violence researchers, and institutions should develop policies that are specifically attentive to the needs of researchers who also have lived experience of violence and abuse.

**Prevalence and Correlates of Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence in Low- and Middle-Income Countries**

Author: Rebecca Harris

Institute: University of Southampton

Co-authors: Sara Morgan, Amos Channon

**Background:** Childhood exposure to domestic violence and abuse (DVA) is associated with negative outcomes in both child and adulthood. However, little is known about the scale and factors associated with exposure, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

This study will answer the following research questions: -What is the prevalence of exposure to DVA in selected LMICs? -Which factors are associated with exposure to DVA within these countries? Methods: The CDC Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS) were used to gain prevalence estimates of children's exposure to DVA in 10 LMICs. Logistic regression was used to explore factors associated with exposure within the ecological domains of individual, family, community, and society level factors. Findings: Exposure to DVA ranged from 11.8% in Honduras to 30.7% in Malawi. Other countries with high prevalence included Zambia, Nigeria and Lesotho. Regression analysis found the domains of community and society to be most important, with individual and family factors less so. Individuals exposed to community violence had much higher levels of exposure to DVA, while a relationship with societal beliefs and norms about violence was also seen. Females were at significantly higher risk of exposure to DVA in four of the ten countries. At the family level, wealth produced mixed results across countries. Finally, individuals from Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and Zambia, who lived in a household with multiple children were also more likely to be exposed to DVA. Conclusions: A high number and proportion of children are exposed to DVA within LMICs, and this study indicates that exposure is related more to the context of violence, rather than to individual characteristics. There was homogeneity in factors related to exposure across countries, with some exceptions which need to be explored further. Policies related to DVA in LMICs need to acknowledge childhood exposure to mitigate its effects.

### Thinking Outside The Square: Exploring Innovative Prevention and Intervention Responses to Violence Against Women and Children

Author: Patrick O'Leary

Institute: Griffith University

Co-authors: Amy Young, Ana Borges Jelinic

Activism and advocacy have helped elevate violence against women and children as one of the most pressing and entrenched global social problems. Public awareness programs are more visible than ever but occurrences of violence against women and children continue to occur at alarming rates often overwhelming justice and services responses. Murder, injury and trauma result in unassailable suffering and immense economic loss. Death reviews and research often highlight the preventable nature of the problem. Recidivism amongst perpetrators remains widespread phenomenon. Research and scholarship on violence against women and children has risen dramatically in the last few decades. Yet the search for an antidote remains abstruse in both prevention and intervention. Gender stereotypes, inequality, and toxic masculinity are some of the factors that have been exposed as key drivers of violence against women and children. In this presentation we present some evolving and hopeful innovations in prevention and intervention that utilise technologies and communities to break the cycle and reproduction of violence. First, we examine the role of developing communities where bystanders can take active roles in reaching out to victims and perpetrators as well as interrupting everyday drivers of violence. A whole of community approach to mobilise all members of the community across families, groups, institutions, businesses, and governments is needed to change a consciousness that we are all part of the solution by being active and self-reflective bystanders. Two examples of innovation are explored one using a phone app and another engaging workplaces in cultural change to

promote respect. Second, we examine how perpetrator responses can be better supported by suite of intervention options that represent contemporary social engagement. Examples utilising virtual reality technology, phone apps and community-based interventions are explored. The presentation concludes with some implications for future policy, practice, research initiatives.

#### A systematic review of LGBTQ+ experiences of domestic violence.

Author: Chloe Smith

Institute: Bournemouth University

Co-authors: Dr Terri Cole, Dr Kari Davies

Domestic violence and abuse (DV/A) is often described through the types of behaviours expressed between two individuals, these behaviours can include anything from physical violence through to many types of coercive control, financial abuse, and more. DV/A has been described as an epidemic in recent years, impacting millions across the globe. One population specifically impacted are those under the LGBTQIA+ umbrella. Recently research has shown some in that community are more likely to experience DV/A than those who identify as heterosexual or cisgender, yet there are few bespoke support services available. This systematic review of the literature aims to understand the current knowledge base in relation to this specific group, in order to explore how their experiences and needs may differ to heterosexual populations. This will lead to further research and recommendations for policy and practice.

#### Exploring the use of Virtual Communities of Practice for Stakeholders in Gender-based Abuse Intervention

Author: Claudine Donnellan

Institute: Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest

Co-authors: Dr. Niall Corcoran, Dr. Matthew Cannon

Gender-based violence is violence directed towards a person due to their gender, with women and girls the main victims, and causes significant harm to family units, communities, and society. It includes physical, sexual, and psychological violence and can take the form of domestic abuse or sexual harassment. There are many agencies that work to support the victims of gender-based violence through social and educational programmes, including charitable organisations, healthcare, criminal justice, and local authorities. Each operates within its own policies, procedures, and norms, independently developing its own knowledge base and assets. Improved outcomes may be possible through coordinated multi-agency approaches to support and prevent. This study focuses on the implementation of a virtual community of practice (vCoP) to support the knowledge management practices of gender-based violence support agencies in Ireland. A vCoP is a community that uses the Internet to provide a virtual space for people to connect, communicate, and collaborate on a shared domain, not bound by time, geography, or politics. They can support the knowledge creation, capture, and transfer process through peer-to-peer collaboration and social interaction, enabling the creation of new insights, processes and policies, and the development of synergies across the agencies. Using an Action Research approach, a multi-



agency vCoP will be established as a knowledge management system, and the study aims to evaluate the interaction of community members that contribute to the knowledge-sharing process. Encouraging and maintaining community engagement can be challenging and a moderator and agency-based facilitators will be appointed to assist with community engagement and management. A mixed-methods approach will be adopted with data collected from surveys, focus groups, interviews, and user metrics. A possible outcome will be the development of a framework for the implementation and management of a vCoP for multi-agency settings that may be transferrable to groups working in similar contexts.

### LeSuBiA – A Victimisation Survey on Violence with a Focus on Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual and Digital Violence

Author: Ina Bieber

Institute: Federal Criminal Police Office

Co-authors: Nathalie Leitgöb-Guzy, Henrik Schwarze

LeSuBiA is a victimisation survey on violence with a focus on intimate partner violence, sexual and digital violence against women and men in Germany (Study Title: Life Situation, Safety and Strain in Everyday Life), that also fulfills the requirements of the ratified Istanbul Convention. With our poster, we would like to present the main goals of this project, the innovative elements of our study design and the thematic focus. LeSuBiA is a cooperation project between the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community and the Federal Criminal Police Office in Germany. It pursues scientific as well as practical goals. The survey will build the empirical base for many general and in-depth analyses in the field of intimate partner violence, sexual and psychological violence, stalking and the increasingly widespread phenomenon of digital violence, e.g. about the distribution of violence, risk factors and consequences of violence. Furthermore, it will provide an evidence-based foundation for developing and implementing appropriate policy decisions in the field of victim protection, victim assistance and police work. The study design of LeSuBiA is complex and innovative: It is designed as a sequential mixed-mode survey with face-to-face interviews in the beginning followed by an online survey. People with migration background from certain areas are oversampled in order to be able to analyze their specific exposure to violence. In total it is planned to interview more than 22.000 respondents. We will survey women and men, so that we can examine not only the requirements of the Istanbul Conventions but also the differences in the experience of violence in a gender-comparative perspective. Beside established scales, the questionnaire will include innovative interviewing techniques (e.g. item count technique) as well as experimental elements (e.g. factorial surveys), that will be presented.

### Experiences of leading a violence and abuse prevention program for adults with intellectual disabilities in Norway - A qualitative explorative study

Author: Tone Hee Åker

Institute: Western Norway university college of Applied Sciences

Co-authors: Kristina Areskoug Josefsson, Karianne Moen

People with intellectual disabilities (PWID) are at increased risk of experiencing violence and abuse and violence prevention programs are crucial in ensuring the safety and well-being of this vulnerable population. Intellectual disabilities are characterized by significant cognitive and social functioning limitations and adaptive behaviours that affect daily life. Consequently, PWID may have difficulty with communication, self-care, and social interactions, which can put them at risk for violence and abuse. Studies have shown that violence prevention programs targeted to this group recommend using several different pedagogical strategies such as role-play, drawing and writing exercises and videos. Additionally, the curriculum needs to be adapted to their level of functioning. To be able to use recommended pedagogical strategies and adapt the curriculum involving sensitive topics like violence and sexual abuse, group leaders need knowledge and experience in different fields for example didactics, sexual health, and psychology. The current study aimed to explore group leaders' experiences leading a manual-based violence prevention program (VIP) developed for PWID. Qualitative semi-structured interviews were conducted with twelve group leaders. The group leaders were health professionals employed by municipalities in Norway and had experience working with PWID. Data were transcribed and analysed using a stepwise deductive-inductive method. Preliminary findings show that three themes were identified 1) VIP didactics 2) VIP identity and 3) VIP dilemmas. Despite the written didactic VIP course plan and the course leaders' training as VIP instructors, they struggled to balance the course leader role. Their experiences can be described as a challenge linked to being both a healthcare professional and a course leader. In addition, several course leaders expressed a wish to use VIP as a tool in a more political fight to secure PWID's human rights.

The Public Health Approach to Domestic Abuse: Embedding the voice of victims and survivors into local domestic abuse responses.

Author: Susie Hay

Institute: SafeLives

Co-authors: Iona Hartshorn, Martha Snow

Background: In 2020 SafeLives (UK domestic abuse charity) created the 'Public Health Approach' to Domestic Abuse. It was developed from the World Health Organisation Public Health Model and uses systems thinking methodology to identify opportunities to improve the domestic abuse response within local areas across England and Wales. This involves an assessment of the local landscape including consulting with professionals, victims/survivors, and those that harm. This poster will focus on the voices of survivors, with the following research questions: 1. What are survivors' experiences of the domestic abuse response and frontline services? 2. What are survivors' views on what is working well and where do they think improvements are needed? 3. What are the common support needs of survivors? Methods: Survey and interviews (one-one-one and group). Responses at reporting time: • Survivor survey: 173 responses • Survivor interviews: 58 participants including 5 group interviews Findings: • Survivors identified mental health as a key area of need, yet there were often not enough services offering long-term support. • Poor communication between agencies led to survivors retelling their stories which many found re-traumatising and encouraged disengagement with services. • Many felt court was not a safe environment, with judges and lawyers lacking awareness of domestic abuse. • Survivors told us there was not enough good quality support available for

their children. Conclusions: One priority recommendation: • Local authorities should develop an Authentic Voice strategy (voice of survivors) and framework that embeds the expertise of survivors with lived experience into every part of the system. This should include routinely listening to the experiences of survivors with services as part of the development of a learning and improvement culture. The integration of Authentic Voice at all levels of the system, including in the governance, will truly embed lived experience within the services offered locally.

### The Association between Childhood Trauma, Impulse Control, Drinking to Cope, and Perpetration of Relationship Violence: A Moderated Mediation

Author: Noelle G. Mongene

Institute: Oakland University

Co-authors: Wenqi Zheng, Michele R. Parkhill

Previous research suggests that childhood trauma (CT) is associated with higher rates of relationship violence perpetration (RVP) in adulthood and that difficulties in regulating emotions, specifically impulse control difficulties (ICD), is a factor contributing to this association. It is also known that alcohol use contributes to all forms of violence. The current study explored RVP in a male sample (N = 133), as well as CT and drinking to cope (DC). Additionally, ICD was examined as a moderating factor in the relationship between CT and DC. Participants completed a survey assessing CT, ICD, DC, and RVP using validated measures. Moderated mediation was conducted using PROCESS Macro for SPSS. Results indicated that the indirect effect of CT on RVP through DC is moderated by ICD, as the index of moderated mediation (index = .04, 95% CI = [.0019/.1000]) is significant since the 95% CI does not include zero. DC partially mediated the relationship between CT and RVP. CT predicted DC ( $\beta = .33$ ,  $p = .01$ ), DC predicted RVP ( $\beta = .10$ ,  $p < .01$ ), and ICD moderated the relationship between CT and DC ( $\beta = .35$ ,  $p < .05$ ). Simple slopes testing indicated that when participants experienced high rates of childhood trauma, but did not have impulse control difficulties, they were not likely to use alcohol as a coping mechanism. These findings provide support for the previous research indicating that CT, DC, and ICD are all important factors contributing to RVP. Emotion regulation interventions could be valuable in lessening the use of alcohol as a coping mechanism which can lead to relationship violence perpetration.

### Digital course Basprogram Barnafriid as a strategic tool to disseminate evidence-based knowledge about violence against children among professionals in Sweden

Author: Maria Johansson

Institute: Linköping university, The National Competence Centre Barnafriid

Co-authors: Dr. Ann-Charlotte Mürger - Linköping university, Prof. Laura Korhonen - Linköping university

Background and purpose of practice: High competence among professionals who in some way come into contact with children is essential in identifying victims of violence. Keeping with the high number of professionals working with children, high staff turnover, and complexity of the topic, there is an urge for scalable training solutions. Main points of

practice: The National Competence Centre Barnafrid launched September 30, 2020, a web-based course to facilitate the implementation of evidence-based knowledge on violence against children in Sweden. The training covers child's rights, legislation and policies, epidemiology, risk- and protective factors, and knowledge about different types of violence, including domestic violence. Also prevention, identification, and case management in multisectoral contexts are covered. All the educational material is accessibility adapted, the course is free of charge and the training can be done individually or in a group. So far, the training has had over 20,200 users from all parts of Sweden and different sectors, including university and college students. User satisfaction is high (4.6/5) and training positively impacts knowledge. For example, 55% of the users rate that their theoretical knowledge has improved to a high or very high degree. Similarly, the training improves understanding of why suspected exposure to violence should be reported to child welfare services (67% rate to a high or very high degree), competence to consider a child's perspective and rights (61%), and professional confidence (63%). Conclusions: Given the high number of users, Basprogram Barnafrid is an important strategic tool. It is a cost-effective and scalable solution to disseminate evidence-based knowledge about violence against children and best practices among professionals and students in Sweden. Implementation and further development continue. For example, the development of pedagogical models that combine e-training and interactive workshops as well as material for trainers is underway.

### Understanding Intimate Partner Violence: Why Coercive Control Requires an Entrapment Framework

Author: Julia Tolmie

Institute: The University of Auckland

How intimate partner violence (IPV) is conceptualised affects what we see when we look at situations involving IPV and what we think the solutions to the problem of IPV are – either in individual cases or in the development of broader legal and policy responses. It is suggested that whilst conceptualising IPV as coercive control is an improvement on previous understandings, it does not go far enough. Coercive control must be located within a broader conceptualisation of IPV as a form of social and systemic entrapment if it is not to operate in a harmful manner for victim/survivors, and particularly for Indigenous or racialised victim/survivors in conditions of precarity. This thesis is supported by using examples from individual cases in the criminal justice space, as well as more general reforms to the family violence safety response.

### Exploring intimate partner violence and coercive control in contemporary youth relationships in Sri Lanka: A Participatory Ethnographic Evaluation and Research (PEER) study among young women

Author: Sharli Paphitis

Institute: King's College London

Co-authors: Alexis Palfreyman, Safiya Riyaz

Background: Research on intimate partnerships before marriage, including perceptions and experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV) among young and unmarried women, remains

scant across South Asia. This study generated an understanding of IPV experienced within contemporary intimate partnerships across Sri Lanka from the perspective of young unmarried women, by exploring (1) their perceptions of violence in pre-marital relationships; (2) forms and use of controlling behaviours in youth intimate partnerships; (3) the extent to which these are viewed as IPV; and, (4) rationalisations for coercive control and IPV. Methods: Eight young women (18-29) from three provinces were recruited to co-lead this research as part of a larger multi-method Participatory Ethnographic Evaluation and Research (PEER) project. Each PEER researcher conducted three rounds of in-depth interviews with three socially connected female peers (18-29) (n=24), complemented by a creative writing exercise. Framework analysis was applied across the dataset. Findings: Young women defined modern intimate relationships as love affairs, boyfriend/girlfriend arrangements, marriage, or recurring sexual relationships between people (excluding sex work). IPV was most commonly perceived to begin through acts of controlling behaviour, including regulating dress and social contacts, expecting declarations and approved 'gestures' of love and commitment, and being subject to check-ins or surveillance by the male partner and/or his trusted social contacts. Acts of coercive control were perceived to be viewed as a 'less serious' form of abuse among young women and/or rationalised as culturally normative gestures of love and attention. Conclusions and Implications: Understanding modern (pre-marital) intimate relationships and the role and emergence of coercive control within them from the perspective of young and unmarried women is a crucial foundation for developing interventions to prevent IPV and promote healthy relationships. Further research exploring evolving pre-marital courtship practices and culturally appropriate interventions to address normalisation and rationalisations of coercive control are required.

### Contraceptive interference and gender-based power relations: preliminary qualitative findings with Canadian women and non-binary people

Author: Catherine Rousseau

Institute: University of Ottawa

Co-authors: Sylvie Lévesque, Simon Lapierre

Introduction. Reproductive coercion (RC) refers to behaviors aimed at forcing or preventing pregnancy. Contraceptive interference (CI), unlike RC, refers to any behavior that prevents the proper use of contraceptive methods, without deliberate intent to induce a pregnancy. This presentation is informed by the following research questions: 1) What are the manifestations of CI? 2) How are gender-based power relations articulated in CI? Methods. The qualitative data are from two Canadian research projects: one on RC with 15 women aged 26 to 40, and the other on CI with youth aged 16 to 25 (data collection starting February 2023). Semi-structured interviews are conducted in both projects. To be included in this subsample, participants had to have experienced CI with a male partner. A comparative analysis based on age will contrast the results of these two studies. Thematic analysis will allow exploration of CI across the life. Findings. Preliminary results indicate that, in both subsamples, participants distinguish CI from RC based on the perceived intention to (not) make them pregnant. Participants says that their partners wanted to increase his sexual pleasure, without concern for their sexual and reproductive health or their consent to safe sex. Non-consensual condom removal and non-compliance with withdrawal before

ejaculation are the most reported manifestations. Another distinction concerns control. Participants who have experienced both RC and CI report that the former is about controlling family planning, while the latter is about controlling the sexual relationship. For them, it is about the inequality of power in the sexual relationship: although they mentioned wanting to have safe sex, their partner had the final say. Conclusion. CI is an important health and social issue impacting women and non-binary individuals by limiting their sexual and reproductive integrity. Future research should focus on CI to better understand its implications and develop prevention strategies.

### The challenges of tackling digital violence against women in police work, the criminal procedure, and support services

Author: Sonja Tihveräinen

Institute: Tampere University

Co-authors: Marita Husso, Sisko Piippo

"The challenges of tackling digital violence against women in police work, the criminal procedure, and support services" The digitalization and the development of communication technologies have changed the forms and consequences of violence against women. For example, intimate partner violence and post-separation stalking are increasingly happening through technology, as is harassment, threats and hate speech against women in politics. The seriousness and significance of the change is reflected in GREVIO's recent recommendations on the "digital dimension" of violence against women. In the public debate, it has been pointed out that the handling of many crimes related to digital violence and the sentences obtained for the crimes seem like a lottery. The same crime can lead to a conviction in one place, while in another the investigation is not even started. The study is a part of the Finnish Government funded project "The challenges of tackling digital violence against women in police work, the criminal procedure, and support services". The study investigates the characteristics and prevalence of digital violence against women and the progression of cases in the criminal procedure in Finland. The data consists of crime reports recorded in the Police Affairs information system and investigation memos from years 2018 and 2019, as well as interviews conducted in 2022-2023 with police students, police officers, prosecutors, and representatives of support services. In the study we examine how digital violence is recorded in crime reports and handled by the police. We also analyze the actions, decisions, and justifications of the authorities at different stages of the criminal procedure. The information produced in the research can be used in police degree and in-service training, and in the in-service training of prosecutors to identify, record and investigate digital violence more efficiently and more fairly.

### Online trainings on honour related and digital violence improve professionals' capacity of recognizing and preventing violence

Author: Mimmi Koukkula

Institute: Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare

Co-authors: Anu Karhinen-Soppi

Background: Professionals in the fields of social and healthcare, education and police encounter victims of digital and honour related violence. Honour related violence draws from cultural views on communal morality, dignity and honour in patriarchal communities. In particular, females and LGBTQ people may fall victim to negative social control. Digital violence is violence where another person is hurt, controlled, monitored or harmed through information and communication technologies. Honour conflicts and digital violence are difficult to identify and professionals lack the skills and knowledge to intervene. A summary of the main points: The Finnish National Action Plan for Combating Violence against Women for 2020–2023 includes a measure to increase the skills of professionals on honour related and digital violence. In order to achieve this objective, Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) has published two online trainings in 2022; honour related violence and digital violence, as a part of Stop the violence -online training course. Online trainings help to recognize the complexity of violence and increase the capacity of professionals to tackle violence. Trainings provide up-to-date information on the different manifestations of digital and honour related violence, how to meet and help the different parties involved and the criminal justice process. The online trainings are published also in Swedish and are open to all. Trainings are suitable for vocational training, employee orientation and further training and can also be completed independently. The aim of the poster is to present the objectives and contents of the online trainings, user data and lessons learned. Conclusions: Bringing up honour related and digital violence should be better addressed in vocational training. Online trainings are a quick and cost-effective way to provide professionals with sufficient knowledge on the phenomena. More emphasis on training for professionals can also improve access to help for victims.

### Defining the effectiveness of perpetrator programs from a practice-based perspective

Author: Pietro Demurtas

Institute: CNR-IRPPS

Co-authors: Caterina Peroni

As evidenced by international research, the effectiveness of Perpetrator Programs (PPs) has been questioned with respect to their ability to truly change men's behavior and ensure victims' safety. Gondolf (2011; 2015) points out that these criticisms are based on a limited amount of biased evaluative research and rather proposes adopting a participatory perspective that involves practitioners in the evaluation process. On the other hand, Westmarland & Kelly (2013) argue that defining and evaluating the "success" of programs must include the perspective of victims. Finally, international research emphasizes the importance of adopting evidence- and practice-based tools and procedures (Hester and Lilley, 2014). Thus, "what works" depends on the definition of success adopted, who and how operationalize it, and the methods for evaluating it. The study conducted by the CNR on the anti-violence system in Italy sheds light on the practices and procedures adopted by PPs practitioners to evaluate the effectiveness of their intervention (in terms of men's behavioral change and victims' safety). The results showed that: the use of standardized evaluation protocols is neither widespread nor well-established, and these tools are often loosely applied; much more often the indicators of change taken into account by the practitioners interviewed are derived from their daily practice; the exchange of information with operators of other territorial services occurs unsystematically; and partner contact is a

procedure considered problematic in the Italian context, especially by anti-violence centers. In conclusion, the question "what works" can only be answered in relation to the conceptualization and operationalization of success, as well as to the tools available in different contexts. In addition, we will discuss future research activities aimed at identifying tools and working practices to measure the effectiveness of interventions, taking into account scientific evidence and professional practices.

### Surviving Violence Everyday resilience and gender justice in rural-urban India

Author: Shazia Choudhry

Institute: University of Oxford

This paper is an overview of research findings from a British Academy funded multi disciplinary research project titled Surviving Violence: everyday resilience and gender justice in rural-urban India. It brings together insights from 3 states in India, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. 17 years after the of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA) came into force in India, this report offers an insight into how women survivors of domestic violence experience violence, where they turn to for help, what their experiences are of informal and formal support, and how they build resilience, cope and survive in the context of everyday practices of violence. Based on qualitative research carried out in 3 states in India; Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal between July 2021 and April 2022 we focused on 3 contrasting sites rural, semi urban and urban. Methodology 181 semi-structured interviews with survivors of domestic violence which explored contextual experiences of domestic violence, informal-formal practices of help seeking and awareness of legal rights and provisions. 180 semi-structured interviews with stakeholders: lawyers, NGO workers, police and protection officers. These interviews explored socio-cultural norms and understanding concerning domestic violence, legal rights and service provisions for survivors of domestic violence, processes and practices concerning the implementation of PWDVA and related legal procedures. 90 semi-structured interviews with community members which provided an important insight into socio-cultural norms and understandings concerning domestic violence, as well as awareness of legal and service provisions available to victims of domestic violence. Findings Given the time limit the paper will focus on two themes arising from the findings. 1. The experience of survivors of informal and formal support services particularly, the blurring of boundaries between the two. 2. The emotional labour and resilience required to navigate multiple forms of routes towards justice.

### The nature of and responses to online and technology facilitated VAWG: findings from a scoping review

Author: Megan Hermolle

Institute: University of Suffolk

Co-authors: Dr. Katherine Allen

Background: 36% of women in the United Kingdom have experienced online abuse, with figures rising to 62% for younger women aged 18-34 (Refuge, 2021). Smart devices, the Internet of Things, and online spaces play a prevalent and detrimental role in harassment,



abuse, and Tech-Facilitated Violence Against Women and Girls (TF-VAWG), and women often feel unheard. Objective: The purpose of this scoping review was to explore the literature on online and TF-VAWG, focusing on the types of online harms that are addressed in the literature, patterns of offline and online abuse, responses to online harms, and gaps in the literature, and to make recommendations for online and tech-based solutions to online (and offline) harms. Design: The scoping review used Arksey and O'Malley's (2005) framework, and Peters' (2015) update. Searches were conducted on five different databases for grey and published literature. Abstracts were reviewed by both authors, before full-text review and data charting. Results: 50 sources from grey and published literature were identified and fit into six themes: nature of online harms; impacts and prevalence; online tech solutions; definitional issues; the Internet of Things; and rurality. Several additional themes which cut across the literature were identified: perpetrator omnipresence; lack of training and expertise; and patterns of online and offline abuse. Conclusions: Recommendations based on the findings included survivor-led co-design of online tools, more comprehensive education of VAWG sector workers to assist with TF-VAWG, and an emphasis on inclusivity and intersectionality for online platforms developing solutions.

#### Evaluation of Man|Made: A sexual violence prevention program for young men

Author: Aadhiya Vasudeva

Institute: Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children

Co-authors: Katreena Scott

Background: Majority of the extant evidence-informed sexual violence prevention programs include bystander interventions or teaching female audiences how to resist sexual violence. Yet, majority of the perpetrators of sexual violence are men, with a substantial proportion of these perpetrators being young men between the ages of 18 to 30 years old. This study address the present gap in the literature by supporting the evaluation of a sexual violence prevention program for young men in Canada. Methods: A clinical logic model was used to help inform a mixed-method pre- and post-program evaluation for this program. This logic model was developed in collaboration with the community developer of this program, and it matched the program's intended outcomes with six key areas for program evaluation (i.e., consent, gender norms, sex positivity, accountability, and bystander intervention). Qualitative in-depth interviews were also obtained from program participants and facilitators to help enhance evaluation efforts. Findings: Triangulation of survey data (n = 43 pre-program, n = 21 post-program) and qualitative interviews of program participants and facilitators (n = 11) produced promising findings in regard to this program's ability to enhance men's consent knowledge, acknowledgement of past harmful behaviors, and the ways in which they enacted gender role expectations in the context of sexual and romantic relationships. However, little to no differences were noted in measure more commonly used in program evaluation with men, such as their bystander behaviors, rape myth acceptance, and gender role stress. Conclusions and Implications: The preliminary findings of this research highlight both some promise in the ability of such interventions to improve how young men interact in relationship contexts, as well as areas for future improvement and considerations. Moreover, this study provides a model for effective program evaluation practices within the gender-based violence sector.

## Examining Responses to Domestic Violence in Child Protection and General Health Services: Common Barriers to Effective Service

Author: Nicole Loncar

Institute: University of Toronto

Co-authors: Katreena Scott

Women experiencing DV are frequently in contact with general health services and, where children are involved, child protection services (CPS). Both sectors thus play a critical role in identifying and subsequently responding to risk when DV is a concern. Moreover, successfully managing risk often depends on the collaboration and connection of these systems with one another as well as with the survivors, children, and families they purport to support. Given that disparate service sectors have elsewhere been described to exist on different “planets,” the present study aims to shed light on commonalities and differences in the service delivery assumptions underlying the response to DV from these two systems in Canada. The current work involves a secondary data analysis of two separate sets of interviews—one with general health practitioners, discussing their understanding of and response to DV (n = 17), and another with survivors of high-risk DV interfacing with CPS (n = 16). Both sets of interviews were coded, and dominant themes analyzed, via thematic and narrative analysis, respectively. The current work examines and contrasts resulting themes to shed light on DV understanding and practice within and across these sectors. Of note, results reveal discrepancy between what is known about DV survivors’ values, preferences, and needs, and the typical service delivery assumptions of both CPS and generalist health services, wherein both systems neglect to consider the dual victims of child and mother in families in which DV is a concern. Additionally prevalent is a pervasive fear and mistrust of CPS by survivors that transcends CPS service and serves as a prominent barrier to effective response from both service systems. Implications for practice are discussed, highlighting the need for within-system individualized responses that prioritize survivors’ unique needs, input, and agency, as well as the necessity of forging cross-system advocacy relationships.

## Work - an arena for detection of intimate partner violence

Author: Kerstin Kristensen

Institute: Jämställdhetsmyndigheten

Co-authors: Lisa Lindström

The workplace can have a central role in preventing and combating men's violence against women. Intimate partner violence and honor-related violence and oppression affects the health and work ability of employees negatively, and it can lead to sick leave, which can result in lost revenue and increased costs to employers. The workplace must be a safe working environment a place free from violence. Still, it is not unusual for the violence to continue into the workplace by getting threatening e-mail and phone calls even that that the perpetrator shows up at the workplace. It might even be the case that the person who perpetrates violence and the person who is subjected to violence work in the same workplace. It is important to have knowledge about the impact of intimate partner violence on work life, and to raise awareness of the regulations that comes into play when it comes to intimate partner violence and honor-related violence and oppression. Employers need for taking responsibility for employees exposed to violence is emphasized in Article 10 of the

United Nations International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention on Violence and Harassment at Work, 190. The related Recommendation 206 highlights that applicable measures to mitigate the impact of intimate partner violence in the workplace may include leave for victims, flexible working arrangements and protection for victims. During the seminar, tools for how systematic work environment management can include intimate partner violence and honor-related violence and oppression will be presented. Experiences from training of managers will be also presented as well as the results from the Swedish survey "Can the work be safe when the home is not?" (2021).

### The perpetrators' perspectives on what works to reduce the risk for recurrent intimate partner violence: A qualitative study.

Author: Camilla Buch Gudde

Institute: St. Olav's University Hospital

Co-authors: Merete Berg Nesset

**Background** Intimate partner violence is a complex phenomenon and there is sparse research examining the perpetrators' experiences with police and health- and social services. Research indicates that among those perpetrators who recidivate, the majority did so within 1 to 2 months. **Purpose** To explore the perpetrators' experiences and needs immediately after being reported to the police for severe intimate partner violence. **Methods** A qualitative study including 13 semi-structured interviews with alleged perpetrators of intimate partner violence, and assessed as high-risk for re-offending by the police. The data were analysed with systematic text condensation, a descriptive thematic cross-case analysis strategy. **Results** A total of 13 persons between 20-60 years (mean 39 years) participated in the study (11 men and two women). A majority of the participants experienced strong feelings of being left alone in limbo the first weeks/months after the incident. Both physically because of restraining order to their homes, and emotionally with high levels of psychological stress, hopelessness and for some; suicidal thoughts. Lack of information and contact with the police, combined with what was perceived as being prejudged and without an opportunity to tell their version, maintained the feeling of being isolated and in a crisis. Helpful experiences from the police or health- and social care services was characterized by early onset contact, the importance of being met as a human being, provided hope, non-judging attitudes, to be listened to and provided help/anger management. **Conclusion and implications** The police as well as the health- and social services play a vital role reducing the barriers for help-seeking. The findings highlight the necessity of early, cross-sectional interventions in order to prevent recurrent IPV.

### Understanding male violence against women from the perspective of social constructions of patriarchal masculinities

Author: Milica Antić Gaber

Institute: Faculty of Arts University of Ljubljana

Co-authors: Jasna Podreka

The study of the role of men and masculinity in the context of how the patriarchal social culture influences men's daily lives and the formation of masculinity is still not so common,

since men, at least middle class, heterosexual, white men as a social group have generally not been the subject of scientific discussions. The reason for this was and is to a certain extent the prevalent understanding of masculinity as universal and self-evident social norm. Because of this, many issues that men face or issues related to masculinity are ignored in society, we don't question them enough, as they are taken for granted. The same can be observed in the field of research on violence against women. Namely, studies on this issues has been focused primarily on the victims for a long-time, This is of course necessary, right, and just in the first place, while relatively little studies can be found on the questions of how masculinity and violence are connected, what are the characteristics of the perpetrators of violence and how to deal with this concrete problem in everyday life. On the cultural-structural level, multiple connections can be found between men, masculinity, and violence. Violence is on the one hand, related to the issue of men and masculinity, and on the other hand, to the issues of power that men possess in society and the abuse of this power in public and private life. For a deeper understanding of men's violence against women, it is necessarily to place men and masculinities in a social context and/or consider power relations between different groups of men and also between men and women. In this paper, the authors attempt to explain how patriarchal social values generate the rationalities of violent men who understand violence as something intelligible and desirable to male identity. Using the concept of hegemonic masculinity, the authors attempts to show that being violent men means "doing gender" for some men, as on the one hand some men use violence to demonstrate and affirm their masculinity (especially in private realm), but on the other hand male violence against women can also be understood as frustration with not achieving the ideal of hegemonic masculinity.

**How does the experience of intimate partner abuse victimisation influence men's experience as fathers?**

Author: Carolyn Ball

Institute: University of Worcester

Co-authors: N/A

**Abstract** Background Research into male victimisation has found that male victims similarly to females, experience controlling behaviour, physical, sexual, and psychological abuse. The impact of this abuse can be far reaching. Fathers who experience intimate partner abuse (IPA) can feel helpless to stop the abuse, as fears related to their children keep them within the relationship. **Research Question** How does the experience of intimate partner abuse victimisation influence men's experience as fathers? **Method** The current research uses the social ecological model as an interpretative framework; themes will be organized to illustrate how the micro and macro layers influence the fathering experience when they are a victim of IPA. Below are some of the preliminary themes that have been identified within the first 15 interviews: **Preliminary Findings** **Ontogenic – Personal factors** Lack of awareness of IPA and little recognition of being in an abusive relationship. **Microsystem – Family Dynamics** Being a father is part of their identity as a man. Victims adapting their behaviour to minimise abuse and abuse becoming normalised within family life. **Exo-System – Systems that impact the individual indirectly** A lack of effective professional support available to fathers experiencing IPA. **Macro-System- Social ideologies** Bias given to mother regarding claims of abuse, meaning a loss of voice in court processes and with

professionals. Conclusions and implications Overall, the fathers interviewed felt helpless to speak out about their victimisation, against the systems that are in place. A particularly concerning theme within this study is the overwhelming negative experience reported by fathers when help-seeking not only for themselves but also for their children. The researcher aims to share this with other professionals for training purposes in the hope that habitual working practices are questioned.

### **Needle Spiking and the Legacy of Not Believing Women**

Author: Melanie McCarry

Institute: University of Strathclyde

Co-authors: Nicole Westmarland

At the start of the 2021/22 academic year, many students (almost exclusively female) in the UK started speaking out about their experiences of being spiked. While it is difficult to know the true scale of the problem, it was widely acknowledged that reporting was far higher than in previous years. In addition to the problem of drink spiking an increase in reports of 'needle spikings' was also reported. Although students were not the only group affected, reports included spiking happening on university campuses and at night-time economy venues aimed specifically at students. However, the dominant media narrative was that it wasn't possible to spike with a needle calling into question the legitimacy of the both the claim and the claimants (primarily young women). To investigate this we issued a Freedom of Information request to all UK police forces and conducted interviews with victim/survivors of needle spiking. Through the responses to the Freedom of Information requests and the interviews we posit that, contrary to the dominant narrative, needle spiking was in fact possible and young women the targeted victims. We argue that the underlying problem is the persistence, and legacy, of disbelieving women and their accounts of gender based violence/male violence against women.

### **Spycams and Stalkerware: The Internet of Things, Technology-Based Violence and Women's Safety**

Author: Aislinn O'Connell

Institute: Royal Holloway, University of London

Co-authors: Rachel Maguire

This paper explores the legal regulations (or lack thereof) around the variety of tools and systems available for tracking victim-survivors of domestic violence in the legal system of England and Wales. In the data-driven world of 2023, individuals are encouraged to like and share, post on social media, and geotag themselves as they do so. However, for victims of domestic violence, harassment, and stalking, this constant sharing leaves multiple avenues for abuse. This paper explores the legal and policy structures in place to protect individuals' privacy, and the situations in which they can fail. The paper explores three examples – the Strava running app, geotagged posts on Twitter, and stalkerware – to demonstrate the range of ways in which a determined abuser can gain access to information about their victim. It further explores the limits of legal regulations on data privacy, and demonstrates the dangers of policies which are designed without privacy considerations in mind – particularly

in the context of VAWG and technology-based violence. The paper concludes with some practical guidelines for staying online and calls for a gender-aware policy approach across industries, recognising and tackling the gendered nature of existence online and the digital dimension of violence against women and girls.

### Intimate Partner Violence and Health Outcomes in England: Gender Stratified Analyses of a Probability Sample Survey

Author: Ladan Hashemi

Institute: Violence and Society Centre, City, University of London

Co-authors: Sally McManus

**Background:** The long-term effects of IPV on specific physical health outcomes are underresearched in comparison to effects on general health and mental health. Gender differences in outcomes of different forms of IPV are also understudied. **Methods:** We used data from the 2014-Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey, a cross-sectional survey that covered the household population of England aged 16 years and older, using a stratified, multistage random sampling design. Data were analysed on 4488 women and 3058 men. **Exposure of interest:** Lifetime IPV by types (physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse), any IPV (at least 1 type), and number of IPV types experienced. **Outcome of interest:** 21 chronic health conditions experienced over the past 12-months. **Results:** For women, exposure to any IPV and specific IPV types was significantly associated with increased likelihood of reporting 12 adverse health outcomes. Compared to those unexposed to IPV, women who experienced any IPV were more likely to report migraine, bronchitis, asthma, allergies, stomach ulcer, sight, liver, bowel/colon, bladder, Bone/back/joint/muscle, skin problems, infectious disease. For men, exposure to any IPV was significantly associated with increased likelihood of reporting migraine, bowel/colon, bone/back/joint/muscle problems, infectious disease. Findings suggested a dose-response association for women, as those who experienced multiple IPV types were more likely to report poorer health outcomes. No clear stepwise association was found for men. **Conclusions:** IPV exposure is associated with increased likelihood of experiencing an array of adverse health outcomes among women. Exposure to IPV can also adversely affect men's health but is not consistently a factor in men's poor health at population level. Healthcare systems need to be mobilized to address IPV as a priority health issue for female population but our findings do not warrant routine inquiry for IPV against men in clinical settings, although appropriate care is needed if IPV against men is identified.

### Parental alienation and domestic violence: A feminist critical discourse analysis of key informants' accounts in family court, child protection and domestic violence services in Ontario

Author: Naomi Abrahams

Institute: University of Ottawa

Co-authors: Simon Lapierre

Despite continued critiques regarding its empirical and theoretical foundations, the concept of parental alienation (PA) has seen a rise in usage in family court and child protection

services over the last two decades (Meier, 2009; Neilson, 2018; Sheehy & Boyd, 2020). Research has demonstrated that mothers are disproportionately being deemed as 'engaging in PA' by professionals in these two sectors (Meier, 2009; Zeoli et al., 2013). Researchers also highlight that such accusations often arise when children and mothers disclose experiences of domestic violence (DV) or concerns regarding the fathers' behaviours (Jaffe et al, 2013; Lapierre and Côté, 2016; Mackenzie et al, 2020). This research investigates how professionals in family courts, child protection and DV services in Ontario, Canada, mobilize the concept of PA, and what the implications are for women and children who have experienced DV. Semi-structured interviews with 18 key informants were conducted and analysed, using Fairclough's (1995) three inter-related process of analysis. The findings from the research suggest that PA allegations arise in a context where family court and child protection professionals misname and misunderstand DV as high conflict. Further, there is strong emphasis placed by professionals on maximum contact between children and parents, even in DV cases, which gives way for PA claims when contact is questioned. These findings highlight the need for cohesive and consistent actions which must be taken and incorporated into family justice practices in order to limit the use of PA in family court and child protection services. This can take the shape of different policies and practices implemented, such that render DV education mandatory, as well as incorporating specific DV analyses in custody cases led by DV experts.

The question of the best interests of the child in divorces, with special reference to divorces based on domestic violence

Author: Jasna Podreka

Institute: Faculty of Arts University of Ljubljana

Co-authors: Veronika Tašner

In the article, the authors address the issue of conceptualization and understanding of the concept of the best interests of the child in theory and practice in Slovenia. In the legal provisions on the care and protection of children, one of the most important norms is undoubtedly the issue of ensuring the best interests of the child, which is also stipulated in the third article of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Slovenian legislation is also relatively well regulated in this area, and authors claim that the authorities have numerous instruments to ensure the best interests of the child in court proceedings, divorces and in cases of violence or inadequate living conditions in the family. However, the question arises as to how the legal solutions are implemented and how professional organizations proceed in assessing the best interests of the child. This question is particularly relevant in cases of domestic violence. This paper first presents the theoretical starting points and recommendations in the field of regulation of parental relationship in cases of domestic violence, Slovenian legal framework for child protection and regulation of family relations between parents and children after divorce. Based on an empirical study in which special attention was paid to the issue of the best interests of the child in court proceedings, the authors show how the courts consider the criterion of the best interests of the child in cases of divorce and separation. The study is based on the analysis of 128 divorce cases in which decisions were made on upbringing and protection, contact, and maintenance. Particular attention has been paid to how courts have examined and considered the best interests of the child in divorces based on domestic violence and the extent to which alternative laws,

such as the Family Prevention Act and the Istanbul Convention, which specifically address the issue of contact with parents in cases of domestic violence, have been applied in addition to the Basic Law, which regulates family relationships.

### Intimate Partner Violence Victimization and Survivors' Help-Seeking: Racial/Ethnic Differences

Author: Hyunkag Cho

Institute: Michigan State University, USA

Co-authors: Woojong Kim

**Background:** Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a serious public health problem. Seeking help from various sources (e.g., police, doctor) is critically important. The literature, however, suggests that survivors, especially racial/ethnic minorities, face many barriers to help-seeking. It is not clear how help-seeking is associated with various types of IPV and help sources, especially among racial/ethnic minorities. This study addresses this gap, examining racial/ethnic differences in survivors' help-seeking. **Method:** We used the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey collected in 2010 in the U.S. The sample included 4,764 female survivors who suffered from physical, psychological, or sexual violence by male partners. We first conducted a latent class analysis to classify various IPV victimization experiences. A logistic regression analysis examined racial/ethnic differences in the associations between IPV patterns, which resulted from the latent class analysis, and help-seeking. Included in race/ethnicity were White, Black, Hispanic, and Other. Help-seeking included police, doctor, psychologist, and IPV hotline. **Results:** Various IPV victimization experiences were classified into three subgroups: psychological IPV (62%), physical and psychological IPV (24%), and all types of IPV (14%). Black survivors reporting all types of IPV were less likely to contact police than White counterparts. Hispanic survivors reporting all types of IPV were more likely to talk to psychologists than White counterparts. **Discussion:** Black survivors of the most serious form of IPV contacting police less than White counterparts suggest the barriers to seeking help from law enforcement officers, maybe because historical oppression and racism against Blacks. Hispanic survivors' talking to psychologists more than White counterparts suggest that stigma and bias against mental health and seeking help may be stronger among Whites. Such racial/ethnic variations can inform police and healthcare providers of better ways of meeting IPV survivors' needs. Future research directions include the racial/ethnic differences in help-seeking outcomes and male survivors' experiences.

### Reproductive coercion

Author: Rosalba Castiglione

Institute: University of Bristol (UK)

Reproductive coercion (RC hereafter) is generally understood as 'deliberately interfering in a woman's reproductive autonomy/choices and health, without her consent, regardless of the agent's main aim'. However, there is currently no one singular definition of RC in widespread use. RC intersects with different concepts and phenomena, from coercive control to female genital mutilation, emotional abuse, and economic abuse, which makes it problematic to reach a consistent, universal, and comprehensive definition. It becomes even more



challenging if one considers that RC could be perpetrated by different subjects and at different socio-ecological levels, such as intimate partners, family members, and governments. Lack of conceptual clarity represents a barrier to effective prevention and intervention strategies. In the meantime, recent global reports from the UNFPA suggest that only about 55% of women are fully empowered to decide over health care, contraception, and the ability to say yes or no to sex. RC can have life-long, detrimental consequences on victims, from sexually transmitted illnesses to unwanted pregnancy, mental health issues, and low self-esteem. More research on RC is needed, especially considering the sustainable development goal (SDG) 5.6. The present research will look at women's understanding and experiences of RC and related prevention and intervention strategies in England and Italy, and how they might intersect with different socio-cultural factors. Semi-structured interviews, either in person or via Zoom, will be conducted from January to April/May 2023. The researcher would like to gain insight into women's experiences and understandings of RC, but also into their thoughts about related prevention and support strategies. Cross-national research will allow the researcher to evaluate whether differences in socio-cultural factors (e.g., religion, traditional gendered roles) have an impact on individual experiences of RC. Reflexive thematic analysis will allow the researcher to establish a close relationship with her data, discovering relevant and revealing themes.

**Living in transit - creating an everyday life and a tomorrow while staying at a protected residence due to domestic violence**

Author: Lotta Agevall Gross

Institute: Linneus University

Women living in shelters experience many restrictions in their everyday life. The woman's movement in the in- and outdoor environment is strongly limited by the man's threatening behavior. If there are children, there are also limitations due to custody issues. The main aim of the study is to deepen the knowledge about women's experiences of living in shelters due to being exposed to domestic violence. The data consists of interviews with battered women living in a shelter after leaving a violent man. Data also consists of time-geographic diaries that the women have written while staying at the shelter. Time geography is used in order to analyze: How the boundaries and possibilities look for battered women in the in-and outdoor environment, with focus on identifying what makes certain courses of action possible, and others impossible. The results show that the women's current situation and their possibility to plan for their future are strongly restricted due to the experience of being abused and threatened by a man they have been in a relationship with. They face several restrictions because they fear that their ex – husband/boyfriend will show up. They face restrictions in their living arrangements at the shelter. They face restrictions due to the covid-19 pandemic and they also experience restrictions in the meeting with authorities. The women are encapsulated within patriarchal and racialized structures that enable the abusive party to continue to control the women's everyday life and their ability to plan for a future for themselves and their children.

**Silenced Women: Can Public Activism Stimulate Reporting of Violence Against Women?**

Author: Abhilasha Sahay

Institute: World Bank

Although violence against women is pervasive and can have severe adverse implications, it is considerably underreported. This paper examines whether public activism against such violence can stimulate disclosure of socially sensitive crimes such as rape and sexual assault. The analysis uses a quasi-experimental setting arising from an infamous gang rape incident that took place on a moving bus in Delhi in 2012. The incident sparked widespread protests demarcating a nationwide 'social shock'. Exploiting regional variation in exposure to the shock, the analysis finds an increase of 27 percent in reported violence against women after the shock but no change in gender-neutral crimes such as murder, robbery and riots. Additional evidence -- generated from self-compiled high frequency crime data -- suggests that the increase can be attributed to a rise in reporting rather than an increase in occurrence.

**Using Artificial Intelligence to identify perpetrators of Technology Facilitated Coercive Control**

Author: Tirion Havard

Institute: London South Bank University

In 2019, the UK government publicly acknowledged that the Criminal Justice System is failing victim/survivors of rape and sexual assault resulting in an erosion of public trust and confidence. Serious sexual offences were taking the longest time on record to go through the Courts with the time from the first Crown Court hearing to the end of a case averaging nine months. The volume of digital data and the length of time it takes to analyse it were recognised as significant factors in the delays undermining police investigations and the prosecution process. Police forces reported over 20,000 digital devices waiting to be processed, Victim/survivors reported feeling digitally strip searched' and waiting up to four and a half years for the police to return their phones This feasibility study was funded by the Home Office's Perpetrator programme 2022. The purpose was to test the viability of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) programme to identify (alleged) perpetrators of Technology Facilitated Coercive Control (TFCC) using digital communications held on mobile phones and to use surveys to examine police and victim/survivor attitudes towards using AI in police investigations. This presentation reports on the findings from both surveys. This is the first time the views of survivor/victims about using AI in police investigations have been sought. Organisations who support victim/survivors of domestic abuse and police officers/those with connections to police services were invited to complete an online questionnaire. These links were also posted on Twitter and LinkedIn. A total of 81 victim/survivors and 28 police staff took part in the survey. Results showed a willingness by police and victims/survivors to use AI to processes digital data despite concerns about the potential bias of AI and its ability to detect coercive control in the wider context. The presentation will conclude with implications for policy and practice.

**Abuse cases at the Child protection service in Reykjavik**

Author: Elísabet Gunnarsdóttir

Institute: Barnavernd Reykjavíkur - Child protection service in Reykjavik

In October 2020 the child protection service in Reykjavik Iceland established a new investigation and treatment team with a special focus on children of foreign origin and abuse cases. The team specializes in working with parents that have been abusive towards their children and helps them finding ways to raise their children, without abuse and with the interest of the children in mind. In the presentation the head of the team will go through the main theme of the cases the teams has handled.

**Agents, advocates, and allies: Amplifying young people's voices in sexual violence and domestic abuse prevention using participatory approaches**

Author: Janelle Rabe

Institute: Durham University

Adolescents, particularly the lesser-heard voices of boys and LGBT+ youth, from ethnic minority communities, lower socio-economic classes, and those with disabilities, seem to have limited involvement in sexual violence and domestic abuse research. Participatory research approaches are being explored as an innovative method to engage these 'hard to reach' populations. A growing body of literature has demonstrated the value of creative and participatory methods in researching sensitive topics with children and young people. Participatory research highlights young people's capacities as co-constructors of knowledge and agents of social change. My study aims to co-produce shared understandings of violence and abuse in adolescent relationships and their proposed solutions. Young people's meaningful engagement and empowerment serve as the core of the study. Following a youth participatory action research design, I am conducting a series of 6-10 participatory workshops with two groups of 10 young people (13-18 years old) in England. The workshops involve a mix of individual and group-based interactive activities such as vignettes, games, and discussions. These seek to explore their views and attitudes on violence and abuse in relationships and its prevention instead of directly asking about their experiences. This approach allows them to maintain an emotional distance and reduce potential ethical risks while providing the space to communicate in their own words. Ongoing feedback from participants revealed their enjoyment of the workshops as safe spaces where they can express themselves freely and learn from one another. The paper will discuss my reflections on co-developing the workshops with young people and engaging them in the process. I will provide an overview of the workshops, ethical and practical considerations, and the benefits of using this approach. My study hopes to contribute to broader discussions on best practices and innovative methods in sexual violence and domestic abuse research with young people.

**A discursive strategy of the divorced fathers' movement: divorce martyrs**

Author: Sueur Gwenola

Institute: Université de Bretagne Occidentale

Family courts are permeable to gender stereotypes and the system can backfire on women after separation. There are several beliefs that promote such situations: violence is seen as a thing of the past and violent men are still considered to be good enough to raise their children. In France members of divorced fathers' support claim that a hostage situation in a

rural area in Cestas, near Bordeaux, was the founding act of their movement in 1969. In a context of domestic violence a divorced father took two of his three children hostage, killed a policeman and then murdered his children before committing suicide when the police stormed the farm. Based on a sample of 260 articles from the national, regional and international press, I shall analyze how this event was covered by the media coverage in order to identify the tactics and strategies used to conceal male violence. The justice system, the police and the mother of the murdered children are presented as entirely responsible, while the criminal father is painted as a martyr of divorce. Then, during the germination period of the divorced fathers' movement, pioneer associations (1969-1977) not only refer to the case of the « Cestas madman », but also mobilize other criminal cases to support their legislative demands. An analysis of the rhetorical strategies used by movements defending the interests of divorced fathers reveals certain features : claiming to be victims, representing women negatively, and exploiting both anecdotal and criminal cases. Legitimizing myths about divorce martyrs are used to minimize, justify or deny abuse. This strategy is based on three anti-feminist tactics: supporting fatherhood as it is, disseminating victimhood discourses, and over-responsibilizing women and the justice system.

The coexistence of family violence and teen dating violence in Spanish adolescents: A general population survey of victims and perpetrators

Author: Noemí Pereda

NA

Predictors of Help-Seeking Outcomes among Intimate Partner Violence Survivors

Author: Hyunkag Cho

Institute: Michigan State University, USA

Background: Intimate partner violence (IPV) among college students is a serious public health problem. Seeking help from various sources is critically important to reduce negative consequences. The literature, however, suggests that help-seeking does not always result in positive outcomes. It is not clear how help-seeking outcomes are associated with various types of IPV and help sources. Method: The study sample was drawn from the survey collected from college students in the U.S. and Canada (N=524). Independent variables included gender, sexual orientation, race, types of IPV, and depression. Dependent variables were outcomes of 11 types of help-seeking. We conducted eleven logistic regression analyses, with each source of help as the dependent variable. Results: Among formal help sources, social workers were the most helpful (89%), followed by medical, shelter, lawyer, and police (51%), the least helpful. Among informal help sources, friends were the most helpful (81%), followed by extended family, coworker, immediate family, and religious official (46%), the least helpful. Logistic regression analysis results showed that (1) medical help was less likely to be helpful for those who were male, depressed, or victimized by technological IPV, and (2) friends were less likely to be helpful for those who were sexual minority or depressed. Conclusion: Police and religious officials being the least helpful indicates a need for an in-depth look at how they interact with survivors. Although medical care was mostly helpful, male survivors may not receive a proper, sensitive care; depressed

survivors' needs may not be properly addressed; and consequences of technological violence may not be communicated well. Although friends were mostly helpful, sexual minority and depressed survivors found them less helpful. Raising public awareness of IPV dynamics and potentially less understood needs of sexual minorities and those with depressive symptoms would help IPV survivors receive much needed help from their friends.

### **Caught between colliding planets? Female survivor's experiences of Support from Social Workers during Post-Separation Violence**

Author: Josefin Kjellberg

Institute: Department of Social Work, Uppsala University, Sweden

The aim of the current study is to shed light on how Swedish female survivors of intimate partner violence experience support from social workers during post-separation violence. This is explored through an interview study with sixteen (16) women who has experienced male intimate partner violence. The material is analyzed using Braun & Clarke's (2006) approach to thematic analysis. Hester's (2011) "Three Planet Model" is used as a theoretical framework. The results show that while the women experienced positive support from some social workers (on the "Domestic violence planet"), they felt social workers in the family law system (on the "Child contact planet") enabled post-separation violence, making the women feel betrayed rather than supported. They also expressed that the social workers on the different "planets" did not co-operate with each other, which made the women feel they were caught between very different ways to deal with post-separation violence – and that they were not protected from post-separation violence. Thus, the study contributes with knowledge on survivor experiences of contact with (different) social workers during post-separation violence, knowledge that may assist social workers to better align their services with the needs of female survivors and co-ordinate their interventions to help protect survivors from post-separation violence.

### **Women's right to housing in times of precarity: qualitative fieldwork on the shadow pandemic in Italy and the Netherlands.**

Author: Ludovica Bargellini

Institute: University of Palermo

The present study argues that domestic violence (DV) should be seen as a violation of women's right to adequate housing (RtH). Since DV has intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic, the latter is chosen as a timeframe to analyze the RtH in DV contexts whereas Italy and the Netherlands are selected as two countries with very different approaches on handling both the pandemic and the legislation on DV. The study aims at answering the following questions: is DV a violation of women's RtH? Have lockdown restrictions addressed the precarious housing conditions of DV victims? Have the restrictions been gender-discriminative in ensuring adequate housing? Feminist Grounded Theory Methodology was employed carrying out qualitative fieldwork in both countries. The research was conducted from 2019, shortly before the pandemic outburst, until 2023 with interviewees selected by theoretical sampling based on Glaser and Strauss' method. The only selective criteria for the sample defined before the start of the study was the focus on professionals operating in the

field of housing in a DV context. One of the most unexpected findings was the mistrust in the field towards researchers and the difficulties to access the field, especially in the Dutch territory. Moreover, categorization based on race and status carried out by shelters during the admission procedure and obstacles in accessing safe housing to the detriment of undocumented women were unveiled. Regarding the outcomes, the Dutch gender-neutral legislation on DV and the low enforcement of housing rights in Italy are currently the main obstacles to guarantee women access to adequate housing. Besides the need for more focused studies on the link between RtH and DV, an effective way to ensure women's RtH is adopting comprehensive legislation with a focus on the gender component in DV dynamics and intervening preventively by entailing women's security of tenure.

### **Domestic violence against women in Kuwait: prevalence rates, demographic risk factors, and types of survivor responses**

Author: Malak Al-Rasheed

Institute: Kuwait University

Evidence around the world shows that the family can turn from a sanctuary to a life-threatening place, and the source of the most severe forms of violence against women and girls. Using a descriptive analytical approach, by social survey method on a representative sample of 2176 female citizens whose ages ranged between 18 and 68 years old, the current research aims to explore the reality of the problem of domestic violence against women in Kuwait by determining the prevalence of the different types of DV in the society, the most prominent perpetrators, and the study of the personal demographic characteristics of the victims and their impact as factors in being exposed to violence, and the most common responses to the experience by victims and survivors of domestic violence. The results showed that: 15% of the participants had been exposed to domestic violence, while 19% stated that they knew women close to them who were victims of all kinds of domestic violence; verbal violence was the most prevalent type (58.7%), and sexual violence was the least (7.2%); husbands and fathers were the most prominent perpetrators, and silence came as the most common response by the victims (57.5%). The results also recorded a statistically significant relationship between the social status, economic status, educational level, cultural background, and the status of exposure to violence. The results also contributed by presenting a profile of women who are more likely to be exposed to domestic violence by being separated or divorced women, from urban origins, with low income levels. The findings were interpreted in the light of previous studies and various theoretical foundations, and recommendations were made for the social work profession and for social policy makers.

### **An important task: Midwives' experiences of identifying children at risk of neglect**

Author: Marie Ahlvik

Background and purpose of the study: Neglect is a form of child abuse in which the child's basic needs are not met. Early identification of the risk factors and protective factors is key to intervention strategies when a child is at risk of neglect. Few international studies describe midwives' experiences of identifying children at risk of neglect, and no Swedish

studies have been found. The aim was to describe midwives' experiences of identifying children at risk of neglect. Methods: A qualitative method with a phenomenological reflective lifeworld approach. Interviews with ten midwives from two hospitals and six antenatal clinics in the western part of Sweden, with six from antenatal care and four from postpartum care. Findings: The essential structure of midwives' experiences is described as an important dimension of their profession that is a difficult, complex, ambiguous, and divided task. There is a fear of losing the relationship with the woman and worry about misinterpreting signals. Professional differences may arise when midwives are questioned by colleagues on decisions they have made when identifying children at risk of neglect. Midwives expressed their desire to work in a cohesive maternity healthcare system so that the women experience continuity during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum care. Conclusions and implications: The study shows how midwives, during both antenatal and postpartum care, have an important but difficult task in identifying children at risk of neglect. During pregnancy and postpartum care, midwives in Sweden meet almost all women and therefore have a unique opportunity for early detection and action

**Assessing and responding to harmful sexual behaviour in youth: a behaviour context model.**

Author: Simon Hackett

Institute: Durham University

Assessing and responding to harmful sexual behaviour in youth: a behaviour context model. Children and young people are responsible for a significant proportion of all sexual abuse both within the family, in peer group contexts and in the wider community (Hackett et al., 2013). Yet policies, practices and interventions designed to identify and respond to such behaviours are under-developed currently. This presentation will describe the development of an initial response tool which helps practitioners to distinguish between sexual behaviours being presented by young people that are developmentally expected, those that are problematic and those that harmful and abusive. Extending Hackett's (2010) 'continuum model of sexual behaviour', the freely available tool offers a new approach to understanding young people's sexual behaviour in context. Simon will describe the development of the new model, its empirical underpinnings, and how it can be used to ensure appropriate and proportionate responses to young people across the continuum of developmentally healthy, harmful and abusive behaviour. References: Hackett, S. (2010). Children, young people and sexual violence. In *Children Behaving Badly: Exploring peer violence between children and young people*. Barter, C. & Berridge, D. London: Blackwell Wiley. Hackett, S. and Phillips, J. and Masson, H. and Balfe, M. (2013) 'Individual, family and abuse characteristics of 700 British child and adolescent sexual abusers.', *Child abuse review.*, 22 (4). pp. 232-245.

**Swedish Regulations and General Advice on Violence in Close Relationships**

Author: Lotta Nybergh

Institute: Socialstyrelsen/The National Board of Health and Welfare in Sweden

Co-authors: Shriti Ladia

The National Board of Health and Welfare in Sweden works to ensure good health and social care through guidance by rules, knowledge and government grants, and through follow-up

and evaluation. Within the area of violence in close relationships, the Board has produced binding regulations and general advice that target the 1) social services, 2) healthcare sector and 3) dental care services. In short, the regulations aim to improve the quality of the work of the social services and care providers in the area of violence in close relationships in Sweden. They also aim to improve the protection and support for adults and children exposed to violence in close relationships. Furthermore, the rules and regulations include children who have witnessed violence in close relationships as well as regulations and general advice that aim to help perpetrators change their behaviors. Examples of areas included in the regulations relate to the social services and care providers' routines and to their asking about violence as well as to their cooperation. The social committee's investigation of victims of violence and children who have witnessed violence, including risk assessment, is also taken into account. Moreover, the regulations and general advice comprise what interventions the social committee should provide and what measures the health and dental care services must take for victims of violence and children who have witnessed violence as well as, when it comes to the social committee, perpetrators of violence. During this presentation, the binding rules and regulations will be presented with regards to their purpose, content and context. We believe that they provide an interesting example from a European country on how government agencies may act to eliminate violence in close relationships.

### Impact of Training on the Domestic Abuse Response Within Sexual Health Services

Author: Jessica Whittock

Institute: Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

**Aim:** This study examined the impact of training on staff response to domestic abuse within sexual health services at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

**Methods:** Questionnaires were sent out post-training, asking staff to comment on their confidence in recognising domestic abuse dynamics and indicators, enquiring about, and responding to domestic abuse disclosures, their knowledge of the Chelsea and Westminster IDVA service and MARAC, and their confidence in managing cases in which patients decline support/intervention. IDVA and MARAC referral data was examined, as was training data over three quarters (Q3 2021/22-Q1 2022/23). **Results:** The results from the staff questionnaire indicated that domestic abuse training has a positive impact on staff confidence, with most staff feeling significantly more confident about managing domestic abuse post-training. Training numbers increased every quarter at various levels, with each quarter seeing an increase in sexual health staff engaging in training. However, both IDVA and MARAC referrals remained stable throughout the three quarters, with sexual health remaining one of the top referring departments. **Conclusion:** Domestic abuse training had a positive impact on staff response to domestic abuse cases, with most respondents feeling significantly more confident post-training; however, IDVA/MARAC referral rates did not increase with training or increased staff confidence. Further research needs to be done on a larger scale to discover the reasons behind this and in general, cultural 'norms' within healthcare and attitudes to domestic abuse as a health issue, need to change.



## Children's desire to end violence in society

Author: Hervör Alma Árnadóttir

Increased emphasis is being placed on developing creative approaches when working with children, especially when sensitive topics are at stake like violence against children in society. Community art is a social form of art that gives artists the opportunity to work in collaboration with children, with the aim of highlighting and addressing specific social issues. This presentation reflects on an art exhibition organized in Iceland called Wishes of Icelandic Children. The project was a collaboration between artists and children. The aim of the exhibition was to put violence that children experience into focus and encourage attendees to reflect on the subject by showing descriptive pictures and texts from the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which defines children's rights. The research question is: Can community art enable professionals to support better the increased participation of children in discussion about abuse and violence? The study is based on a qualitative thematic analysis on the comments written by children after having seen the exhibition. Three students took part in the analysis process as co-researcher. The exhibition was successful in creating a platform where children were able to express themselves on topics concerning abuse and violence. Many of the comments expressed an ardent desire to end violence in society, especially emphasizing bullying, which can limit young people's capacity to feel safe and express themselves.

## Young motherhood and intimate partner violence

Author: Rosie McDermont

Co-authors: This poster will explore the experiences of young women at the crossover of being a mother and being in an intimate relationship where there has been violence and abuse. The experiences of these young women can arguably slip between research and practice

This paper will explore the experiences of young women at the crossover of being a mother and being in an intimate relationship where there has been violence and abuse. The experiences of these young women can arguably slip between research and practice with young people experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) and adult mothers who experience abuse in their intimate relationships. These two research fields, though related, are often different in their focus and approach, and do not necessarily fully understand the needs of young mothers experiencing IPV. Young mothers who have experienced IPV are a particularly vulnerable population. IPV has a significant impact on people of any age, but their developmental stage and limited relationship experiences mean that young people may be particularly negatively affected. Many young mothers have had adverse experiences in their childhood; rates of young mothering are higher in more deprived areas and amongst young people who are in care or have recently left. Young mothers also continue to be subjected to stigma and discrimination within society. This paper is based on current doctoral research. Using a narrative methodology, young women aged 16-21 years are being interviewed about their experiences of motherhood, intimate partner violence and social work involvement due to concerns about their child. A narrative approach that enables the young women to have control within the interview to talk about what is important to them is being used in the interviews. Early findings from the narrative interviews with young

mothers in this research will be presented, as well as reflections on carrying out narrative research with this particularly vulnerable group of young women.