

**Celebrating 100 years of
Social Work at Edinburgh
University**



FemAnVi Research Collective Conference

Looking back to look forward: the evolution of research
on domestic violence – reflections on the contributions
from Europe and North America

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“Sometimes it takes looking at the past to really be able to move forward and learn from it.”

Danica Patrick



HISTORY AND MEMORIES OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MOVEMENT

*We've Come Further
Than You Think*

GILL HAGUE



VOLLMER AWARD ADDRESS

ASSESSING DANGEROUSNESS IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES: HISTORY, CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES*

JACQUELYN C. CAMPBELL
Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing

I am awed that my colleagues in criminal justice would think my work deserving of the Vollmer Award. I confess to not knowing very much about him before now and having to do a bit of online sleuthing to find out more. I read that he was called "the father of modern policing" and among other accolades "a great innovator." In reading, I found myself hoping that what I have been working on in the field of domestic violence would make him proud. From what I read, I did not find domestic violence very high on his list of priorities (not unusual in his era!), but it was clear that he had a keen sense of what justice should be and a strong commitment to obtaining justice for victims of crime. I will use this space to briefly describe some of the issues in assessment of dangerousness in the field of intimate partner violence, trace the history of how a nurse researcher came to do what is generally thought of as criminology, and conclude with needed directions for further studies in this particular area of intimate partner violence research.

HISTORY: PERSONAL AND KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT

The victims of crime to whom I have committed my research, practice, and advocacy are the victims of domestic violence. My program of research has encompassed documenting women's physical and mental health effects as well as behavioral responses to intimate partner violence, including the marital or partner rape that is so often a component, and abuse during pregnancy. With wonderful interdisciplinary teams of researchers, I have also studied ways to improve the health-care system response to abused women and have developed and tested an arts-based dating violence prevention program for middle-school students. But my start and continuing enterprise has been in identifying risk factors for intimate partner homicide and using that knowledge to develop and test a

* Parts of this article are adapted from Campbell, O'Sullivan, Roehl, and Webster (2005).

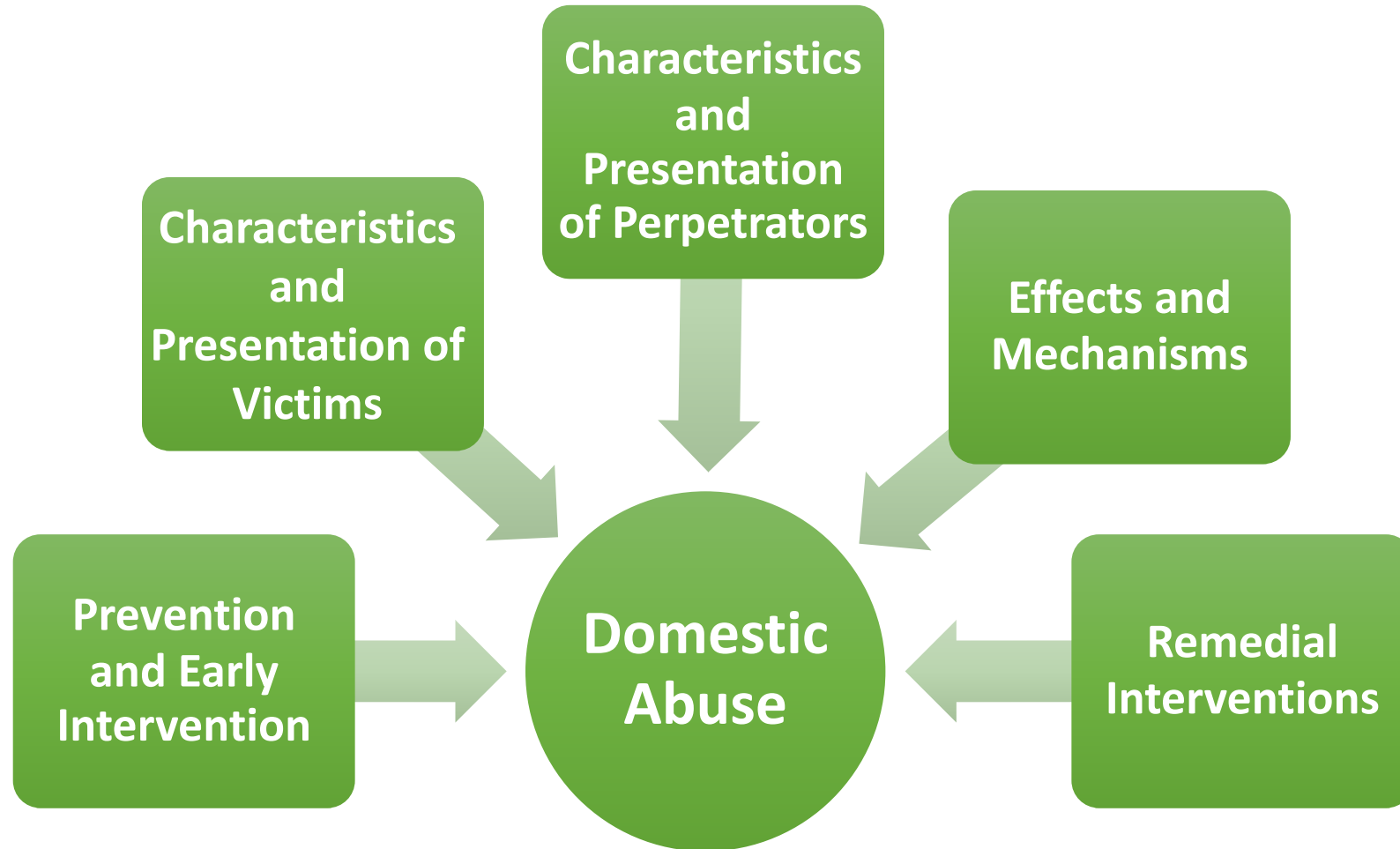
Diversity, whether in terms of research methodologies or reference disciplines, enriches and benefits a field of research. If, on the other hand, this diversity inhibits the sharing of research and knowledge between communities with different intellectual heritages, the end result is a loss of synergy and research opportunities for each community.





- Anglo-Saxon normativity of reference points
- Generalising to make the point results in over simplification
- Personal reflections
- Reading history backwards

Our Knowledge Base



The Fifty Year Journey to Here

- Prior to the 1970s research relating to family violence other than child abuse was subject to “selective inattention” (Dexter, 1958 in Gelles, 1980)
- From the early 1970s raising awareness by the women’s movement increased recognition of the *wife battering* through gathering and sharing the experiences of female victims and survivors of domestic abuse
- Quantifying the scale of the issue and the different aspects/dimensions
- Exploring the impact in the immediate and longer term
- Seeking to identify the characteristics of those who use violence and abuse against their current or former intimate partner
- Increasing focus on looking at what difference interventions make
- Broadening the definition of what constitutes domestic violence and how experiences of race and ethnicity, and issues of class and poverty intersect with domestic violence
- Increasing recognition of the experiences of children across the age ranges

The (Re)Discovery of GBV

- The civil rights movement
- The rise of the women's movement
- The challenge to the consensus model of society
- The development of new models of social research

Violence in the Family: A Review of Research in the Seventies

RICHARD J. GELLES*
University of Rhode Island

This paper reviews research on family violence in the seventies. The issue of family violence became increasingly visible as a social and family issue in the decade of the seventies. Whereas research in the sixties tended to view domestic violence as rare and confined to mentally disturbed and/or poor people, research in the seventies revealed family violence as an extensive phenomenon which could not be explained solely as a consequence of psychological factors or income. Students of domestic violence grappled with the problems of defining abuse and violence, sampling problems, and measurement issues as they focused their efforts on measuring the incidence of family violence, the factors related to violence in the family, and the development of causal models to explain family violence. The review concludes by discussing research needs and future issues in the study of violence in the family.

The *Journal of Marriage and the Family* Decade Review of family research and action in the sixties did not contain a review of research on family violence. This is not surprising in light of O'Brien's (1971) report that the Index of the *Journal*, from its inception in 1939 through 1969, did not include even one article with the word "violence" in the title.¹

RESEARCH IN THE SIXTIES

That there was not any article on family violence in the first 30 years of publication of the JMF does not necessarily mean that there was no research on family violence carried out prior to 1969. There was burgeoning interest in the topic of child abuse, commencing with

the publication of Kempe *et al.*'s seminal article, "The Battered Child Syndrome," which appeared in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in 1962. The majority of published work on child abuse in the decade of the sixties was written by and for medical or mental health professionals.

Scholarly and even popular literature on wife abuse was virtually nonexistent in the sixties. Snell *et al.* (1964) wrote a profile of battered wives, while Schultz (1960) examined wife assaulters. Violence toward husbands, parents, and the elderly was neither recognized nor reported in scholarly or lay literature prior to the seventies.

The knowledge base on family violence (in reality this applies mostly, if not only, to child abuse) in the sixties was characterized by singular and narrow theoretical and methodological approaches to the problem. No reliable statistics on the incidence of family violence existed in the sixties. Estimates of child abuse varied widely, from thousands to tens of thousands (Kempe, 1971; Steele and Pollock, 1968). In 1965, David Gil and the National Opinion Research Council collaborated on a household survey of attitudes,

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¹It is noteworthy that O'Brien's article, containing this quote, was published in a special issue of the *Journal of Marriage and the Family* published under the guest editorship of Felix M. Berardo on the topic of family violence in 1971. This was perhaps the first such special issue published on family violence by a scholarly journal.

Difficulties Confronting Early Research

- Defining abuse and violence
- Operational definitions of abuse and violence
- Lack of funding to undertake such research
- Typically health researchers studying this phenomenon, which had benefits and challenges

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BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL 25 JANUARY 1975

MEDICAL PRACTICE

Contemporary Themes

Wife Battering: a Preliminary Survey of 100 Cases

J. J. GAYFORD

British Medical Journal, 1975, 1, 194-197

Summary

One hundred battered wives were interviewed. All had bruising, often together with other injuries, such as lacerations and fractures. There was a high incidence of violence in the family histories of both partners, and of drunkenness and previous imprisonment among the husbands. Nevertheless, both husbands and wives had a wide range of educational achievements. Most wives were subjected to repeated violence because they had no alternative but to return to the marital home. There was an association between wife battering and child abuse. Places of sanctuary are needed where a woman can take her children when violence is out of control.

Introduction

There has been considerable publicity recently about battered wives. Voluntary hostels of refuge have been established, questions have been tabled in Parliament, and popular magazines have published anecdotal accounts. In addition the Department of Health and Social Security has sought opinions on the problem from various sources.

Literature on family violence occasionally refers to wife abuse. Goode¹ reviewed theoretical factors regulating violence in the family, and Steinmetz and Straus² edited a series of papers on related topics. O'Brien³ discussed violence from husbands who had a family tradition of dominance, but found this challenged; he admitted that outside frustrations may also

contribute. Levinger⁴ showed that 37% of women in the U.S.A. cited violence as grounds for divorce. Straus,⁵ using general systems theory, postulated violence escalating in the home due to positive feed-back mechanisms. Steinmetz and Straus² conjectured how violence passes from generation to generation in the family.

Method

Investigation was by open questionnaire and the personal interview of women claiming serious physical assault by their husbands. Most cases came from the Chiswick Women's Aid Hostel. A total of 148 women were interviewed but 48 questionnaires had to be discarded.

DEFINITION

In this survey a battered wife was defined as a woman who had received deliberate severe and repeated demonstrable physical injury from her husband. Thus, the minimal injury was severe bruising. Without denying its importance, mental cruelty was not taken into account. Where a man and woman lived together for a year as man and wife they were considered married in common law.

Results

Of the 100 women, 85 were married and 15 cohabiting. The nationality of the women, their parents, and husbands, is shown in table I, and table II gives other background data.

PHYSICAL INJURIES

All subjects had bruising at some time. In 44 cases it was associated with laceration, and in 17 of these it was caused by

Early Theoretical Approaches to Family Violence

- 1) The intra-individual level of analysis or the psychiatric model
- 2) The social-psychological level of analysis
- 3) The sociological or sociocultural level of analysis



Looking Forward in the 1980s Through a North American Lens (Gelles, 1980)

- Theory building and testing
- Longitudinal designs
- More nonclinical samples
- Methodological triangulation

Some Aspects of the North American Contribution

- Intersectionality
- Quantifying the scale and dimensions of domestic violence and abuse
- Use of experimental methods to explore what difference services and interventions make, and for whom
- Improving the knowledge base about those who use violence and abuse within their intimate relationships
- Looking at the intersection between domestic violence and child maltreatment
- The benefit of domestic homicide reviews in aiding learning

- The legacy of Rights from the second World War
- The move from an economic union to a political union
- Supranational institutions, such as the European Union and the Council of Europe





COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Istanbul Convention

Action against violence against women and domestic violence

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10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION



> Joining forces around the 10th anniversary of the Istanbul Convention! Explore the dedicated website.

> Information on the [Conference "Gender equality and the Istanbul Convention: a decade of action"](#) that will take place on **11 May 2021** is already available.

FOCUS

▶ Documentary on the impact of the Convention on the ground in four countries: Albania, France, Italy and Sweden



GREVIO AND EDVAW PLATFORM



The Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on Discrimination and Violence against Women ([EDVAW Platform](#)) gathers seven United Nations and regional independent expert mechanisms on violence against women and women's rights operating at the international and regional levels, including GREVIO.

VIDEO



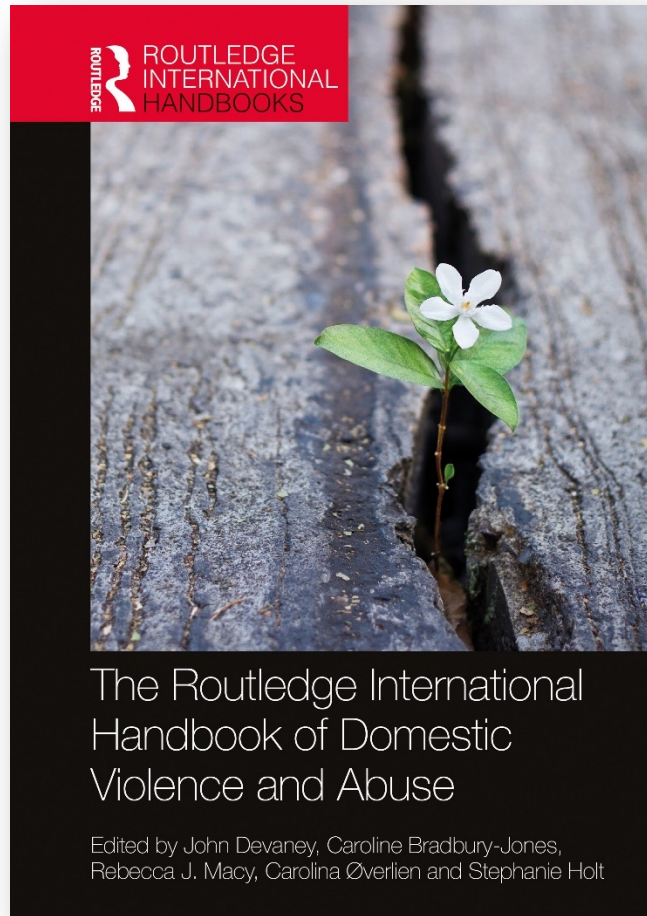
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - MARCELINE NAUDI



Some Aspects of the European Contribution

- Placing domestic abuse within the context of creating a more gender equal society rather than violence prevention
- The development of theory in relation to gender based violence more broadly and domestic violence in particular
- A strong focus on giving voice and representing the lived experience of domestic abuse victims and survivors through qualitative research of various forms
- Seeking to understand the role of context and culture through cross-national comparisons

Looking Forward to the Middle of the Century



- Moving beyond the Anglo-Saxon lens
- The need for standardisation of how we define and measure domestic violence
- Promotion and support for interdisciplinary research to tease out new insights and solutions
- The value (and challenges) of cross-national comparisons
- Longitudinal designs – adult and child victims/survivors *and* those who use violence and abuse in their relationships
- Supporting others to use the growing body of knowledge and learning generated through research