

La superposició entre víctima i victimari: una recerca socialment necessària

Noemí Pereda
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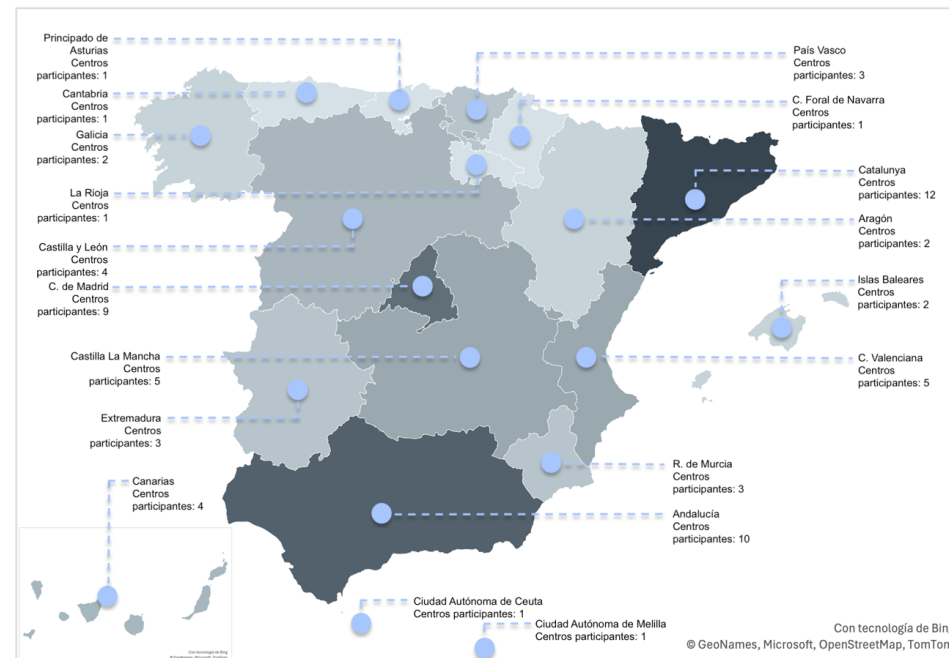
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Annual Review of Criminology

The Meaning of the Victim–Offender Overlap for Criminological Theory and Crime Prevention Policy

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Keywords

victimization, offending, criminological theory, crime policy

Abstract

Criminological theory developed without an expectation of a victim–offender overlap. Among most crime theorists and policymakers, to solve crime it is necessary to solve the criminal offender. Modern choice theories took a different view by evolving from victim data, treating target vulnerability as essential to the criminal act and with full awareness of the overlap. Here, we discuss the emphasis on offenders in criminology as being inconsistent with the facts of the overlap. The evidence shows that the victim–offender overlap is consistently found, implying that offending and victimization arise for similar substantive reasons and that offenders act principally in response to targets. This conclusion has important implications. First, any theory of crime that cannot logically predict the overlap as a fact may be subject to falsification. Second, the choice perspective suggests a theory of precautionary behavior, which urges a policy agenda that encourages actions against crime by potential targets.

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Unraveling Victim-Offender Overlap: Exploring Profiles and Constellations of Risk

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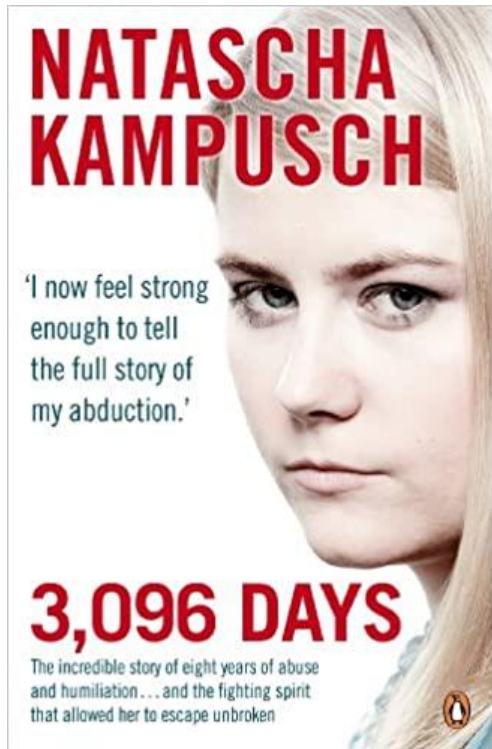
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Abstract: Victim-offenders are generally considered a distinct group with one or more shared characteristics; however, some have suggested possible victim-offender subgroups with varied victimization-offending patterns. The potential for victim-offender subgroups was assessed within a nationally representative sample of 1,000 youth using latent class analysis. Regression of relevant covariates on analytically derived subgroups allowed for further identification of the nature of these groups. Three victim-offender types emerged: the *general victim-offender* class linked extensive victimization and offending by acutely angry and anxious youth from extremely strained families; the *bullied-combative* class linked being bullied with peer assault by younger, emotionally vulnerable youth; and the *abused-substance use* class linked child maltreatment and sexual violence with substantial substance use by poorly supervised, angry, and anxious youth.

Keywords: victimization, offending, taxonomy

The data used in this journal article were made available by the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, and have been used by permission. Data from the Developmental Victimization Survey 2002–3 were originally collected by Heather A. Turner and David Finkelhor at the University of New Hampshire. Neither the collector of the original data, the funder, the National Data Archive, Cornell University, or its agents or employees bear any responsibility for the analyses or interpretations presented here.

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Res és tot blanc o negre. I ningú és totalment bo o totalment dolent. Aquestes són paraules que a la gent no li agrada escoltar d'una víctima de segrest. Perquè el concepte clarament definit del bé i el mal s'inverteix. Un concepte que la gent està massa disposada a acceptar per a no perdre el rumb en un món ple de matisos de gris.

(Kampusch, 2010)

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Articles

The Cycle of Violence

CATHY SPATZ WIDOM

Despite widespread belief that violence begets violence, methodological problems substantially restrict knowledge of the long-term consequences of childhood victimization. Empirical evidence for this cycle of violence has been examined. Findings from a cohort study show that being abused or neglected as a child increases one's risk for delinquency, adult criminal behavior, and violent criminal behavior. However, the majority of abused and neglected children do not become delinquent, criminal, or violent. Caveats in interpreting these findings and their implications are discussed in this article.

THE SCHOLARLY LITERATURE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE HAS grown enormously during the last 20 years. One of the most pervasive claims that appears in both academic and popular writings refers to the cycle of violence: abused children become abusers and victims of violence become violent offenders. Over 25 years ago, in a brief clinical note entitled "Violence breeds violence—perhaps?" Curtis expressed the concern that abused and neglected children would "become tomorrow's murderers and perpetrators of other crimes of violence, if they survive" (1, p. 286). Indeed, the notion of an intergenerational transmission of violence has become the premier developmental hypothesis in the field of abuse and neglect. In this article I review the current empirical status of this hypothesis, drawing on data from different disciplines—psychology, sociology, psychiatry, social work, and nursing; comment on methodological problems; and describe new research developments in the field. Although people maintain strong feelings about this topic, they ought to be aware of those aspects of the cycle of violence hypothesis that have received support and of areas where unresolved questions remain.

Literature Review

Researchers and professionals have used the phrases "cycle of violence" and "intergenerational transmission of violence" loosely to refer to assumptions or hypotheses about the consequences of abuse and neglect in relation to a number of different outcomes. Some writers refer exclusively to the hypothesized relation between abuse as a child and abuse as a parent (2). Others focus on the relations between child abuse and neglect and later delinquent, adult criminal, or violent behaviors.

Because there are difficult methodological problems confronting social science research, most investigations of child abuse have been criticized as methodologically flawed and limited in how the results can be generalized, their scientific validity, and ultimately their

policy relevance (3-5). There remains considerable debate about the definition of child abuse (6) and, consequently, much uncertainty about its prevalence. Even less is known about its effects. For children who have been abused or neglected, the immediate consequences may involve physical injuries or psychological trauma. In addition, the emotional and developmental scars of these children and those who witness severe family violence may persist. Furthermore, because many other events in the child's life may mediate the effects of child abuse or neglect, the long-term consequences of such childhood victimization are difficult to determine.

Abuse leads to abuse. In a recent review of empirical studies relevant to the intergenerational transmission of violence hypothesis, Widom (5) noted that there is surprisingly little empirical evidence to support the claim that abuse leads to abuse. Existing studies suggest that there is a higher likelihood of abuse by parents if the parents were themselves abused as children. Among abusing parents, estimates of a history of abuse range from a low of 7% (7) to a high of 70% (8). Among adults who were abused as children, between one-fifth and one-third abuse their own children (9, 10).

Many studies are methodologically weak and limited because of an overdependence on self-report and retrospective data, inadequate documentation of childhood abuse and neglect, and infrequent use of baseline data from control groups. In a comprehensive review of this literature, Kaufman and Zigler (2) concluded that the unqualified acceptance of the intergenerational transmission hypothesis—from abuse as a child to becoming an abusive parent—is unfounded.

Small-scale clinical reports. A number of frequently cited writings describe prior abuse in the family backgrounds of adolescents who attempted or succeeded in killing their parents (11), and of murderers (12), or of those charged with murder (13). These reports, offered as support for the cycle of violence, present provocative clinical accounts by astute observers; yet their own statistical usefulness is limited because of small sample sizes, weak sampling techniques, questionable accuracy of information, and lack of appropriate comparison groups.

As Monahan (14) argued, the most important piece of information researchers can have in the prediction of violence is the base rate of violent behavior in the population with which they are dealing. Particularly in the areas of abuse and neglect, there is a tendency to overemphasize individual case information at the expense of base rates. Appropriate control groups are necessary to assess the independent effects of early childhood victimization because many of the same family and demographic characteristics found in abusive home environments also relate to delinquency and later criminality (15). Without control groups to provide an estimate of such base rates, it is difficult to assess the magnitude of relationships.

In the United States, for example, groups with different demographic characteristics (males/females, blacks/whites, rural/urban) have different base rates of arrest for violent crimes (16). Thus, base rates—from the same general population of people at the same time period—must be taken into account in assessing the cycle of violence.

Delinquency. Another facet of the cycle of violence hypothesis

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Article

Risk Factors of Poly-Victimization and the Impact on Delinquency in Youth: A Systematic Review

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Abstract

There is a link between antisocial behaviors and poly-victimization, showing that poly-victims have a high probability of engaging in delinquency. These victims show difficulties in self-regulation across multiple biopsychosocial domains. This review examined the impact of poly-victimization on delinquent behaviors in youth. B-on, Google Scholar, PubMed, and EBSCO databases were systematically searched to identify relevant studies published, resulting in 16 publications. Results identified the most common risk factors for poly-victimization and how these cumulative risk factors are more predictive of poly-victimization. Also, this phenomenon significantly increases the likelihood of adopting delinquent behavior and the predisposition to develop psychological problems. The results further highlight the psychological impact caused by poly-victimization, and how can influence the adoption of delinquent behaviors.

Keywords

poly-victimization, juvenile delinquency, juvenile justice, impact

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Brown: An Intersectional Approach to Criminological Theory: Incorporating
Ralph Bunche Journal of Public Affairs Spring 2015

An Intersectional Approach to Criminological Theory: Incorporating the Intersectionality of Race and Gender into Agnew's General Strain Theory

Wyatt Brown
South Florida University

Mainstream criminological theories often fail to incorporate demographic characteristics (which are robust predictors of criminal behavior). Also, many scholars suggest that theories of criminality need to move beyond sex or race or class etc. and utilize these dynamic characteristics in tandem. This theoretical perspective is often referred to as intersectionality. There is some criminological literature on the individual effects of these demographic characteristics as they represent social status as such they interact to effect experience, agency, and power. This analysis discusses how studying the intersectionality of gender and race may change explanations of criminal behavior. Specifically, how knowledge of gender and race literatures may interact to inform Agnew's general strain theory.

"Society is composed of individuals, but these individuals collectively create a structure, so that the structure may seem to be beyond them. Persons are born into this structure and, through socialization, they come to be a part of the system, recreate it, perpetuate it. They internalize its values. They may attempt to change it."- Andersen (2005: 438, lecture notes on Mills, 1959)

Introduction
Theories of crime struggle to account for gender and race disparities in offending, and these perspectives do not suggest how the intersectionality of these traits relate to behavior. The

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