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**Exploring the victim-offender overlap at
the intra-individual level:
Reimagining justice for crimes of
interpersonal violence**

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Outline

Victim-Offender Overlap

Research Literature

Our Study

Implications

Reimagining Justice





VICTIM- OFFENDER OVERLAP



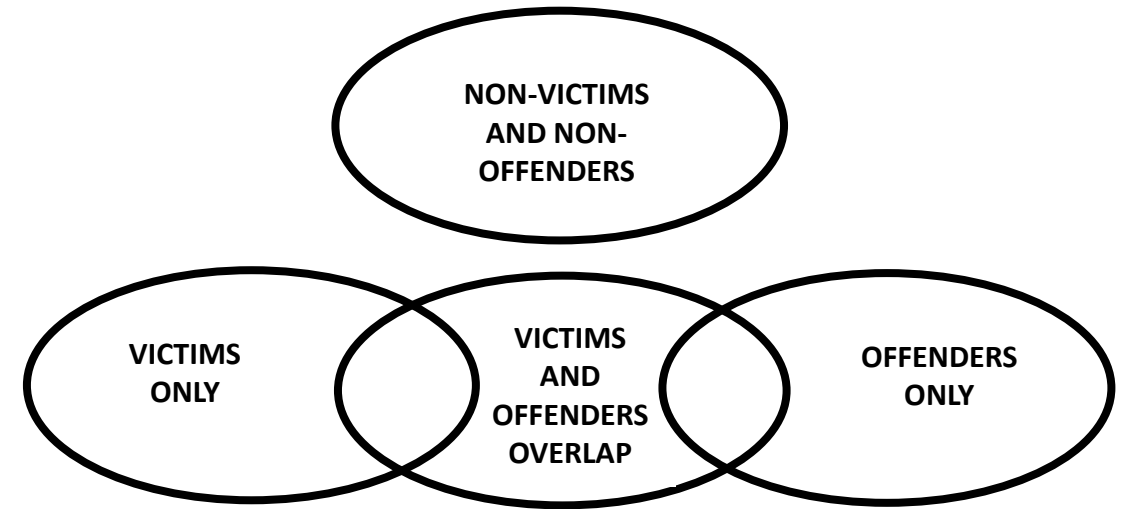
What
descriptors
would you use
for this picture?



What descriptors
would you now use
for this picture?

BACKGROUND

- The victim-offender overlap has been discussed since the 1940s (von Hentig, 1948) with recognition of the “doer-sufferer” yielding the contentious term of “victim precipitation” (Wolfgang, 1967)
- Of course, there is recognition of differentiated groupings (victims only, offenders only, both, and neither) so it should not be seen as deterministic or absolute (Jennings et al., 2012)
- Yet the discourse – public, political, and scholarly – maintains the bifurcation which can influence public attitudes generally and justice processes specifically (Kearon & Godfrey, 2007)



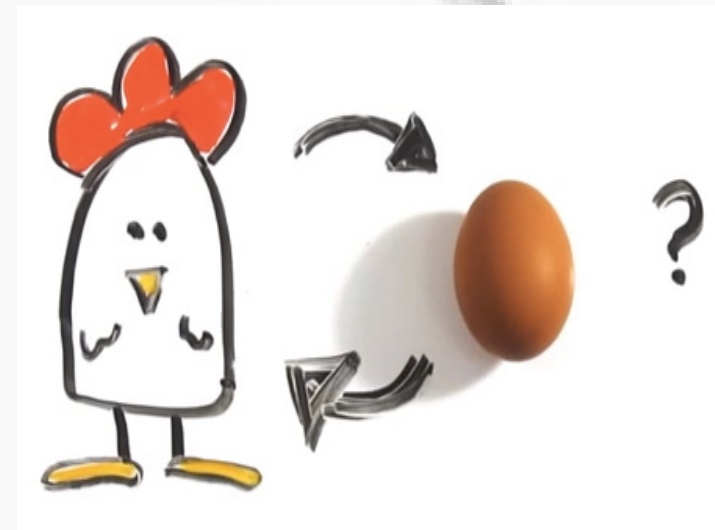
Source: Jennings, Piquero, & Reingle (2012)



RESEARCH LITERATURE

RESEARCH LITERATURE

- The empirical literature on the victim-offender overlap has grown in sophistication over the last two decades and has utilized large-scale national datasets (Jennings et al., 2012)
- These examinations have been carried out in a range of countries – China (Ren et al., 2017), UK (Sandall et al., 2018), Australia (Baxter, 2019), with most emanating from the USA
- Research studies are often conducted with youth cohorts to endeavor to address the ‘chicken vs egg’ question about directionality (Posick, 2013)



RESEARCH LITERATURE

- It identifies this concordance for a range of crime types from minor offences (Posick, 2017) to serious violence (Tillyer & Wright, 2014)
- Victims and offenders share demographic factors such as gender, age, race, socio-economic background – majority being young unmarried minority males (Muftic & Hunt, 2013)
- The phenomenon appears to possess stability over the life-course, but there remain problems in determining the temporal sequence (Mulford et al., 2016)
- It has shown to be underpinned by theories such as routine activity, self-control and general strain (Hindelang et al., 1978; Holtfreter et al., 2008; Schreck et al., 2008; Turanovic & Pratt, 2014)



RESEARCH LITERATURE

- There are few studies that address the psychological correlates of victimization even though they have long been associated with examinations of offending (TenEyck & Barnes, 2018)
- Some explorations of individual-level factors such as impulsivity and low self-control that could explain risk for both offending and victimization (Johnson et al., 2016)
- This type of inquiry is particularly relevant to crimes of interpersonal violence as this offence type is one where the bifurcation has been most apparent (Tillyer & Wright, 2014)



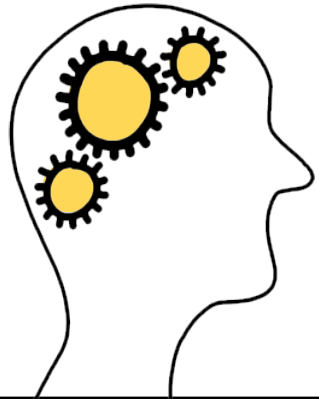


OUR STUDY



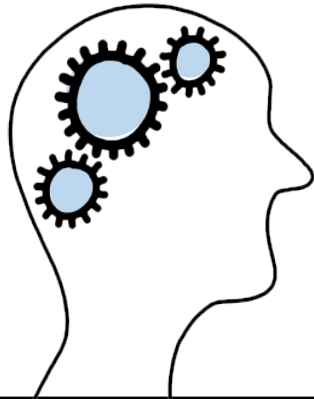
METHODOLOGY

Step 1



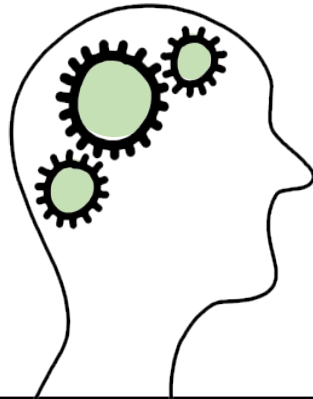
**1 victim &
3 offender
typologies**

Step 2



**24
key
features**

Step 3



**13
behavioural
11
personality
variables**

- online 488-item survey
- 160 self-identified victims in the final sample
- transform the scales
- PCA analysis
- examine factor loadings
- correlate crime types
- chi-square analysis of types
- victim typology (5 types)
- offence category associations

KEY SETS OF VARIABLES

Behavioural elements

risk-taking, aggression, anti-social, rage/revenge, domination, self-efficacy

Personality elements

impulsivity, anger, self-esteem, reassurance needs, empathy, social anxiety

SELECTED ATTRIBUTES IN DETAIL

self-esteem	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relates to reassurance, fear of rejection, feelings of inadequacy, fear of failure• Familiar frame of the passive victim, however the data showed nuances• Reflects tendency to narcissism and includes some evidence of high self-esteem
impulsivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relates to low-level of self-control• Reflects impulsive and present-oriented perspective• Engagement in risky behaviours
anger	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relates to both behavioural characteristics and personality traits• Characteristic of anger manifests as aggressive behaviours• Highly correlated with rage/revenge attributes

TYOLOGY OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

Reassurance-Oriented	Anger-Oriented	Assertive-Oriented	Risk-Taking-Oriented	Self-Preservation-Oriented
Low self-esteem	Anger	Narcissistic	Masochism	Strike-back behaviours
Fear of rejection	Aggression	Use of domination	Sadism	Self-defence behaviours
Fear of failure	Impulsivity	High self-efficacy	Risky behaviours	Financial abuse
Social anxiety	Rage/Revenge	Feeling self-satisfied	Self-harm	
Use of projection	Use of anti-social behaviours	Socially confident	Anti-social behaviours	
Feelings of inadequacy	Risky behaviours	High self-esteem		
Low self-efficacy	Self-defence			
Use of self-harm behaviours	Use of humiliation			
Need for reassurance	Less likely to suffer financial abuse			
Submission	Narcissistic			
Extreme empathy				

SELECTED TYPES IN GENERAL

REASSURANCE-ORIENTED	Submissive, low self-esteem, anxiety, weakness, poor social skills likely to relate to interpersonal conflict scenarios	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Familiar frame of passive victim type• No significant link to an offence type
RISK-TAKING ORIENTED	High risk anti-social and self-harming behaviours, low self-control	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage in property offences, fights, use drugs/alcohol and have anti-social peers• Link with poly-victimisation
ANGER-ORIENTED	Angry, aggressive behaviours, short temper, impulsivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflective of the notion of victim precipitation• Link with physical, sexual assault and poly-victimisation

TYOLOGICAL COMPARISON

OFFENDERS	VICTIMS
Groth, Burgess, & Holmstrom (1977)	Brotto (2018)
(4 types)	(5 types)
Power Reassurance	Reassurance-Oriented
Power Assertive	Assertive-Oriented
Anger Retaliation	Anger-Oriented
Anger Excitation	Risk-Taking-Oriented
	Self-Preservation-Oriented



LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Internal Challenges

- Sample size and recruitment
- Self-identified victims
- Mostly female
- Length of survey
- Few details of victim/offence experience



External Challenges

- Critique of typologies in general
- Causality dilemma
- Temporality question
- Recidivism/repeat victimisation in IPV
- Transactional nature of IPV crime events




IMPLICATIONS



IMPLICATIONS

- Research on the V-O overlap be extended to further consider psychological and biological factors as there are factors that relate more predominantly to one over the other (Webber, 2020)
- Tease out the specific links between the overlap and certain crime sub-types within the interpersonal violence realm (Reid & Sullivan, 2012)
- Re-engagement with the “dangerous” notion of victim precipitation for a critical appreciation of the dynamics of interpersonal violence (Kuijpers et al., 2012)

IMPLICATIONS

- 
- Policy and program reinvention that addresses the assumptions about victims and offenders as well as being reflected in more nuanced public discourse (Posick, 2017)
 - Victim assistance programs to consider the diversity of victim types and their justice needs and that these may change over time (Holder & Daly, 2017)
 - Offender rehabilitation or correctional programs benefit from acknowledging that many clients have experienced victimization (Maldonado-Molina et al., 2010)

REIMAGINING JUSTICE



**ACKNOWLEDGE THE
OVERLAP**

**RE-IMAGINE
VICTIMOLOGY**

**DEMONSTRATE
VICTIM COMPLEXITY**

**REFRAME THE
DISCOURSE**



Questions or
comments
please!



Thank you!

