

CURRENT ISSUES IN VICTIMOLOGY RESEARCH

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THIRD EDITION

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*In memory of all my loved ones who left this world way
too early for me. May you rest in peace until we meet again.
With loving memory of Mom, Aunt Mary, and Aunt Helen. —LJM*

*To my family and special friends — your support makes
everything possible. —RAJ*

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PREFACE

Current Issues in Victimization Research focuses on topics of concern for those who study victims of crime, or what we refer to as victimology. There is a myriad of topics that we could have included in this third edition, and thus it was tough narrowing the scope of the book. Ultimately, we focused on manuscripts that either summarized existing literature on the topic, giving the reader an update on where we are on the issue, or on manuscripts that contributed because of the uniqueness of the topic. An interesting coincidence with this edition is the synergy of the work presented with authors citing each other's work independent of them knowing who the other contributors were to this edition.

We are pleased to have seven chapters updated for this edition. Likewise, we are pleased to have seven new chapters written for the book. One chapter is a reprint of an excellent article on campus rape adjudication. The compilation of these fifteen chapters provides the reader with an understanding of some of the most current issues in victimology research.

The reader begins with an overview of victim services, where Kurst-Swanger reminds us that “Since the early 1970s the crime victims’ movement has truly come of age, emerging as an influential political and social agent of change.” She presents the past, present and future of victim services in the United States, providing a cursory review of some of the historical perspectives guiding the evolution of victim assistance programs, illustrating the types of issues that have confronted crime victims and explaining how such services help to minimize the impact of crime, and exploring some of the challenges and opportunities that victims will face in the future. In her update of the chapter, Kurst-Swanger incorporates future challenges and promising approaches of crime victim services. As she states, “[a]lthough tremendous gains have been made in the development of victim services and policies which support victims’ rights, challenges do lie ahead for the future. Those challenges, however, can pave the way to innovation and promising new approaches to the delivery of victim services.” She then continues

explaining these trends with an emphasis on trauma-informed care and technology.

The next chapter examines batterer intervention programs—what some refer to as BIPs—to determine how well these programs are succeeding in reducing domestic violence recidivism. As Gordon and her colleagues point out, after reviewing the literature and reporting what others have found when conducting meta-analyses, it may very well be that researchers are not asking the right questions when they evaluate BIPs. In the original chapter, the authors noted that methodological issues had severely limited the strength of the evaluations, and they suggested that the focus should shift to other program variables when conducting program evaluations. They specifically mentioned that all the goals of a program should be evaluated and that treatment fidelity should be one major component of any evaluation. In their update, a decade later, they note that “research has improved . . . [with the] focus on more than just the cessation of violent behavior via the examination of official reports.” They pose this question: “Has the literature shifted to identify the impact of violence as seen through the lens of the victim, define domestic violence differently or examine or assess offender responsibility?” and conclude overall that the current literature still finds mixed results.

Chapter 3 is a new contribution examining whether electronic monitoring of domestic violence offenders is working. Moriarty and McDermott provide an overview of electronic monitoring highlighting the pros and cons of these devices in relationship to cost, effectiveness, and victim satisfaction with the devices. They find general support for using the devices, especially GPS, when used in concert with a larger coordinate response to domestic violence, especially at the pretrial phase.

Likewise, Chapter 4 is a new contribution focusing on domestic violence with emphasis on improving police records of repeat domestic violence. As Marie Mele states, “[T]he chapter reports on a collaborative effort between researchers and police officials, generated by a common interest in assessing the nature and extent of repeat domestic violence in one U.S. city. This collaboration was informed by the understanding that because domestic violence is repetitive by nature, greater understanding and prevention of this crime can be achieved by studying the pattern of repeat victimization. Research on repeat victimization has fostered better understanding and prevention of crimes such as burglary, robbery, and vehicle theft. Research on repeat domestic violence similarly suggests that the analysis of repeat victimization may enhance our efforts to prevent domestic violence.”

In Chapter 5, Elizabeth Quinn updates her chapter on repeat victimization and problem-oriented policing. It is positioned in the book after Mele’s

work to facilitate understanding regarding repeat victimization — a topic not well understood. Quinn specifically looks at repeat victimization and problem-orientated policing. Using the same approach that is used with putting resources where needed based on “problem-oriented” policing, Quinn argues that repeat victimization should be viewed as analogous to “problem-oriented” policing, meaning that resources and services should be more focused or directed at victims who are more likely to be victimized again.

The next chapter addresses the issue of black women victimized by the police, a very important, and timely, topic given the public awareness generated by “Black Lives Matter.” Breea Willingham forces us to critically examine gender in this regard as the purpose of her chapter is to “critically examine Black women’s experiences with state-sanctioned violence and to find out why they are often neglected.” She explicitly asks: “Why do the cases of Black women and state-sanctioned violence go unnoticed? . . . And . . . argues that what is happening with Black women and police violence is significantly more than simply ignoring these women’s stories.” Her powerful chapter reports on oppression of black women and commonplace victimization by the police. She concludes with this finding: “The details of Black women’s encounters with police that I have provided further illustrate the ways in which Black women are marginalized, thus contributing to their invisibility, and address how impossible it is for them to survive in a criminal justice system that not only victimizes them, but was not designed to protect them.”

In Chapter 7, Manzi and Dunn update their chapter on the legal aspects of hate crime victimization. As they point out, even though we have statutes to augment the penalties when an offender is convicted of a hate crime, there are tremendous obstacles to implementing such penalties, the least of which may be getting prosecutors to actually employ the statutes. In this update, the authors discuss emerging issues in hate crime legislation including sexual orientation and gender identity and anti-Muslim hate crime. They conclude with the observation that “much work remains to be done to combat hate crime in this country. Legislation must expand to encompass still unprotected groups; and an environment must be created that encourages victims to report instances of hate crime, police to investigate those reports, states to prosecute those charged with hate crimes, and courts to punish those convicted of hate crimes.”

Chapter 8 is an update to an original chapter focusing on child fatality with a focus on determining whether the deaths are intentional or unintentional. As McDougle (formerly Diehl Lacks) and Zeppa maintain, child fatality is a major social problem nation-wide. With causes of death including

sudden death syndrome, sudden unexpected death in infancy, abuse, neglect, and homicides, it is evident that the topic of child fatality cannot be ignored. However, the authors also point out that discerning whether a fatality is intentional or unintentional is difficult. Law enforcement needs to be trained and educated in such discernment in order for reporting of such incidents to increase resulting in more accurate statistics.

Chapter 9 is new to the reader, and focuses on child maltreatment investigations and the development of Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC). Bracewell begins with a discussion regarding what is meant by child maltreatment, followed by how it is investigated and how these investigations have changed over the years. She concludes with a lengthy discussion about children's advocacy centers. As described within, "A CAC provides a child-friendly, non-partisan location for children to be interviewed in reference to alleged child maltreatment, specifically child sexual abuse, severe child physical abuse and neglect, and child witnesses to violent crime." Through the use of CACs, we have been able to better understand and detect child maltreatment, and thus have a greater likelihood of preventing such victimization.

Chapter 10 and Chapter 11 are new chapters to the reader focusing on elderly maltreatment and neglect. As the authors all point out, the growth in our aging population will present unique challenges to identifying and responding to elder maltreatment. In Chapter 10, Bellas and his colleagues set the premise that elderly maltreatment is still very much a private matter and as such we have difficulty in defining, measuring and treating it. They argue that we must protect those who cannot protect themselves: in this case, the elderly.

In Chapter 11, Policastro and her colleagues start out by observing that "criminologists neglect elder neglect." In other words, it's a topic that as they say is "glaringly missing from the literature." Moreover, the lack of research on this topic is problematic, as they point out, especially when you consider that the studies on elder mistreatment find elder neglect to be the most common type of elder mistreatment. The authors report on research they conducted comparing elder neglect cases with elder non-neglect cases. A number of significant findings were uncovered with the most important ones having to do with stress and caregiver burden being good predictors of neglect.

The next three chapters shift the focus from elderly maltreatment and neglect to college campus victimization. In Chapter 12, Bromley and Perez update the chapter on college crime victimization and the various approaches used to deal with the challenge. The authors provide a detailed overview of campus crime with the update focusing on administrative responses to campus victimization. Examples of programs and practices to deal with campus

crime and subsequent victimization are detailed from a variety of different universities.

Chapter 13 is a new addition providing an overview of college sexual assault. While Bromley and Perez touch on this topic in Chapter 12, Dolinsky and Gurska provide an extensive overview of it. Their chapter contains rich information on sexual assault legislation directed at institutions of higher education and responses to sexual assault legislation.

Chapter 14 is a reprint of a published article by Kirven where she writes specifically on the campus rape adjudication process. Very timely with the Title IX public discourse, all three chapters add to our understanding about aspects of Title IX with this chapter focusing specifically on the campus rape adjudication process.

Chapter 15 is an updated chapter on youth internet victimization. Since last published, the internet and devices used to access the internet have exploded. Bryce provides an overview of the technologies involved in internet victimization, the statistics related to these types of crime, and strategies for preventing and dealing with such victimization. The chapter concludes with insightful information about internet victimization with specific crime precaution strategies presented.

This reader is a compilation of many varied topics that normally are not found in one collection. Since the field of victimology is emerging and topics of interest within it are wide and diverse, we find the reader to add to the expanding body of literature, and to serve well as a companion to any traditional victimology text book. We hope you enjoy reading the book as much as we have enjoyed collaborating with the authors and compiling it.

Laura J. Moriarty
Robert A. Jerin

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We are indebted to many individuals who have supported us through the completion of this third edition of our reader. First, we thank the authors; truly there would be no third edition without your willingness to work with us and to revise your work to fit our expectations of the book. We are pleased that once again we have been able to publish the work of some of the best known scholars in the field of victimology. Second, we recognize the support of our institutions — Monmouth University and Endicott College. Having recently moved from Virginia Commonwealth University to start a new administrative post as Provost, I am particularly appreciative of the support of my new colleagues in contributing to the book and serving as reviewers, and in providing me with time to get it done. Further, Bob and I would like to acknowledge our past and present colleagues, students, administrators who have been instrumental in providing advice and counsel on how to reach the goal of completing this third edition. Third, we thank the staff at Carolina Academic Press, especially Keith Sipe and Beth Hall. CAP is an excellent publishing company to work with, allowing us the freedom to compile the third edition with very little interference. We appreciate the support. Fourth, we thank our families and friends. Like Bob said above, “your support makes everything possible.” Lastly, but most importantly, we would like to recognize the tremendous courage of the survivors of criminal violence. We hope this book provides greater insight into their fight for understanding and justice. If nothing else, we hope a great awareness results.

