



GENDERING SEXUAL VIOLENCE(S): ELISIONS, SILENCES, GAPS.

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Criminology and violence against women

Criminology, second wave feminism, and the concepts of:

- Continuum of sexual violence (Kelly, 1988)
- Continuum of violence (Cockburn, 2013)
- Patriarchy

One place to start?

- 1993 United Nations Declaration on Eliminating Violence against Women

Article 2 states:

- Violence against women shall be understood to encompass, but not be limited to, the following:
 - (a) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;
 - (b) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution;
 - (c) Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs.

(United Nations A/RES/48/104, December 20th 1993)

Implications of UN definition for criminology and victimology

- Blurs the boundaries between peace-time, war-time, and post-conflict situations

So, what happens when the violence(s) of peace-time and the violence(s) of war and post war are all put in the same critical plane? (Barbarett, 2014; Cockburn 2013; Kelly, 1988; Brownmiller, 1975; Frances Power-Cobbe 1878)

ADDITIONALLY

Much of this violence is not only gendered it is also sexual





Elisions

Peace-time, war-time, post-conflict situations

Sex, gender, sexuality

The problem of conflation

The problem of measurement

The problem of explanation

Silences

(Sexual) violence is ordinary (1993 Declaration).

- It is folded into everyday life (Das, 2007).
- It is just part of life (Genn, 1988).
- People are rarely victims or perpetrators but are and can be both, in war-time and in peace-time (see Flanagan 2014).
- Everyday violence is neither peace-time nor war-time it is both. War makes violence commonplace 'not only in those who take part in it, but in the whole population' (Bonger, 1916: 518).
- It is gendered (Kruttschnitt, 2016) though women can be perpetrators and men can be victims.

Gaps: whose gaze counts?

Who to count, what to count, when to count, what to do having counted? (Walklate, 2014)

- Incidence, prevalence, culture?

few surveys] ask about the everyday intrusions in which women's personal space and being with their self is intruded upon: what is measured counts, and not counting means that the everydayness of violence is again hidden, minimised and trivialised. (Kelly 2011)

- The problem of harmonisation (Walby et. al. 2017)

Gaps: contesting the gaze

- The disease model (Scully 1990)
- Victim precipitation (Amir 1971)
- Cycle of violence (Gelles 1987 for an overview)
- The problem with men (Brownmiller, 1975)
- Masculinities and 'doing gender' (from Connell to Messerschmidt back to Connell)

Not just a power-oriented masculinity but also a cultivated callousness is involved in organizing abductions of girls, suicide bombings, femicide, beheadings, and mass addiction. It seems close to the callousness involved in drone strikes, mass sackings, structural adjustment programmes, nuclear armaments, and the relentless destruction of our common environment. (Connell 2016: 15)



More gaps?

Making better sense of the interpersonal?

The closed doors of institutions?

In the interests of the state?

A Case Study

In February 2014 43-year-old Kelly Thompson was killed by her former partner, Wayne Wood. At the time of her death, Thompson had an intervention order taken out against Wood, a 'jealous and possessive man', which had been breached on at least two occasions (Coronial Inquest 2016: 77). In the months prior to her death, Wood made repeated threats of violence, strangled Thompson and stalked her (Spooner 2015). In the three weeks prior to her death, Thompson called the police on at least 35 occasions, disclosed the violence she was experiencing to friends, neighbours and work colleagues, and made contact with a family violence outreach service (Percy 2015, Coronial Inquest 2016). Three hours before she was killed, Thompson's neighbour called the police to report that she had seen Wood at the house acting strangely (Davey 2016). Despite the intervention order in place, a police response was not sent to the house (Coroner Inquest 2016). Three hours later Kelly Thompson had been stabbed to death by her former partner, Wayne Wood, who then committed suicide.

(Fitz-Gibbon 2016: 7)

Concluding thoughts

- Where are the elisions, silences, gaps?
- Is violence ordinary, everyday?
- What are the problems for transforming lives scarred by sexual violence(s)?
- What is actually actionable and doable?
- And what about the geo-politics of the gaze?

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