

Female Homicide Victimization in Poland

Summary

The homicides of females are a problem that by far has not been studied by criminologists in Poland. In western countries lethal violence against women, particularly intimate partner homicide/femicide is a growing body of research from criminological, public health and psychological perspective.

The main research objective of my proposal is to examine the qualitative and quantitative dimension of female homicide victimisation in Poland. Since by far there are not any reliable statistics, estimations and studies on female homicide victimisation, I would like to try to find the real incidence of female homicide victimisation in Poland, as well as the number of intimate partner homicide. My second objective is to examine the differences in the victimisation of homicides between males and females (e.g. the circumstances and other criminological factors) by studying the court case files and the differences in sentencing.

My key working hypothesis is a general statement that female homicide victimisation in Poland have similar dynamics and trends like other European countries in the region, albeit a different from male homicides. The second hypothesis regards criminal justice responses to female homicides; namely, the reaction of criminal justice may be different than regarding male homicides and biased by gender stereotypes that may have impact on the severity of the punishments.

The research project is aimed to be both theoretical and empirical. Firstly, I plan to discuss the state of current research worldwide on female homicide victimisation, particularly the theoretical perspectives in analysing the problem. Secondly, I intend to discover the dimension and incidence of female homicides victims in Poland. Thirdly, and the most important I would like to get the criminological picture of the phenomenon, i.e. examine the circumstances of the crimes, the profile of perpetrators and victims, their relationship, and identify the risk factors. Fourthly, I plan to study the criminal justice system reaction on the problem, especially the sentencing process.

The project is not only the original research, but is aimed to examine the phenomenon by far unexplored in Poland. Finding out the occurrence of female homicide victimisation, will surely have a great practical application, since it will be the pioneer research on the lethal violence against women in Poland.