

Abstracts

Brottsoffermyndighetens viktinologiska forskarkonferens

Hotel Sheraton, Stockholm 2011-11-11



Tema: Mäns våld mot kvinnor

Workshop A 11.00 – 12.30

Anna Sonander *Projekt Karin*

Susanne Holst & Stephanie Hendrick *The role of the Internet as a surrogate social network in situations of domestic violence in Swedish context*

Projekt Karin

Anna Sonander, PhD, Sociology of Law, Lund University

There is a low prosecution frequency of reported domestic violence against women, which among other things can be explained by an insufficient quality of the crime investigation. The investigation's quality partly depends on technical equipment but also of the woman's will and ability to contribute in the investigation. In order to improve both the prosecution frequency and the psychosocial support to abused women the Swedish Government in 2008 assigned the National Police Board to develop a physical environment adapted to the needs of female victims of domestic violence and abuse.

The assignment is called Projekt Karin. The name is inspired by the name of the block where the newly developed physical environment is situated in Malmö. The premises are technically well equipped and designed and furnished in order to positively stimulate human senses. The aim was to create a calm and pleasant atmosphere. In the premises reside representatives for the police and the social services. Other authorities and organizations are present when needed. The investigations and the psychosocial support are performed by multidisciplinary teams which are multi-functional and organized horizontally. In the multidisciplinary teams the police authority, the social services, the medical service, the correctional care and NGO's in the domestic violence program, coordinate and co-plan the investigation and activities to give the women psychosocial support.

Projekt Karin has been evaluated. We have conducted a survey and interviews among women who have reported domestic violence during 2008-2009 in order to study the victim's experience of the premises, the crime investigation and psychosocial support. The victims experience has been compared with the experiences of women who have been investigated in an ordinary environment by non-cooperating authorities.

The results of the evaluation suggest that an appropriate technical equipment and designed environment lead to a greater satisfaction and that the multidisciplinary team has contributed to an improved psychosocial support. The results also indicate that there is a further development potential to fulfill the women's expectations and needs.

The women call for a further improvement of the investigation and cooperation between the authorities. They also call for support from authorities that currently are not included in the multidisciplinary teams. Women that have children or for other reasons cannot terminate the relationship with the culprit, call for professional help in order to be able to continue the relationship in a non violent and destructive way.

The role of the Internet as a surrogate social network in situations of domestic violence in Swedish context

Susanne Holst, PhD, Department of Culture and Media Studies, Umeå University

Stephanie Hendrick, PhD Candidate, Humlab, Umeå University

Women's shelters and girl's clubs in Sweden have a sincere desire to have a strong and active web presence, but there is also a pervasive feeling that they lack the time and skill set to create such a site. Facebook is, by default, becoming the public face for most of these shelters. This is due partly to Facebook being understood as 'where people are' in the contemporary moment, but also because creating, hosting and updating a page there is relatively easy. Facebook is also

understood by these places as something of a double-edged sword, especially when the site is a persona rather than a group. This presentation will discuss Facebook usage in women's shelters and girls clubs in Sweden from a close reading of these sites and interviews with 6 women's shelters in southern Sweden.

Tema: Barn

Workshop A 11.00 – 12.30

Anna Georgsson *How children with experiences of intimate partner violence against mother understand father and their relationship*

Ole Hultmann *Routinely asking about occurrence of family violence at a child and adolescent psychiatric clinic – a qualitative study*

Åsa K. Cater & Karin Grip *Support to children who have witnessed violence against their mothers – Results from a national evaluation study*

How children with experiences of intimate partner violence against mother understand father and their relationship

Anna Georgsson, Doktorand, Psykologiska institutionen, Göteborgs universitet

Att uppleva våld mot mamma är en skrämmande upplevelse som påverkar barns utveckling och fungerande. Även om föräldrarna separerar är det vanligt att barnen har fortsatt kontakt med sin pappa. Syftet med denna studie var att beskriva hur barn förstår pappa och relationen till honom efter att föräldrarna har separerat. Samtliga barn i studien hade upplevt att pappa utövat våld mot mamman. Fyra flickor och fyra pojkar, samtliga 8-12 år gamla, intervjuades vid två tillfällen om våldet de upplevt, sina reaktioner på det samt olika aspekter av deras relation till föräldrarna. De 16 intervjuerna transkriberades och de utskrivna intervjuerna analyserades utifrån en tolkande fenomenologisk ansats. IPA (Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis) används för att undersöka hur individen förstår sig själv och sitt sammanhang.

Analysarbetet ledde till att två huvudteman identifierades: den motsägelsefulla bilden av pappa och att vara insnärjd i en konflikt. Barnens förståelse av pappan och relationen till honom baserades på olika versioner: egna upplevelser och andras beskrivningar av pappa och pappans beteende, och pappans egna beskrivningar. Den kontext som omgav den förmedlade berättelsen påverkade vilken bild av pappa som kom i förgrunden. Barnen beskrev också hur olika känslor kunde hindra eller frammana olika känslor gentemot pappan. Barnens berättelser förmedlade en upplevelse av att vara fångad eller insnärjd i en konflikt. Att berätta om egna behov och önskemål kunde vara komplicerat bland annat för att det fanns en osäkerhet kring hur informationen kunde användas. Flera barn förmedlade också en känsla av ansvar för att själva hantera kontakten med pappan. I samband med presentationen kommer de upplevelser som barnen förmedlade presenteras och belysas utifrån olika psykologiska perspektiv.

Arbetet ingår som en del i ett större forskningsprojekt om mammor som utsatts för våld och deras barn. Ansvariga är professor Anders Broberg och professor Kjerstin Almqvist. Projektet har genomförts med stöd från Brottsoffermyndigheten och Allmänna Barnhuset.

Routinely asking about occurrence of family violence at a child and adolescent psychiatric clinic – a qualitative study

Ole Hultmann, Doktorand, BUP-Gamlestaden/Psykologiska institutionen, Göteborgs universitet

Children exposed to family violence are at risk of developing mental health problems, and many will be referred to treatment. Findings from earlier studies indicate that the rate of children and youth exposed to violence in child and adolescent psychiatric clinics, range from 25-60 %, but it is unclear to what extent the violence is disclosed. Several researchers recommend routinely asking for family violence at intake as an important part of securing adequate diagnosis and treatment. In spite of this, many therapists are reluctant to ask about domestic violence. According to earlier studies professionals report that obstacles to ask routinely about Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) are the belief that you will do more harm than good, that you have too little time, that patients will be unresponsive or offended, that asking about violence is not part of

your job because it is not a medical problem or the belief that IPV does not occur among the patients. Further, perceived comfort and confidence in working with IPV influence how professionals tackle the problem.

In this study 14 therapists were interviewed about their experiences with routinely asking about family violence in an outpatient psychiatric unit. The study was conducted within an outpatient Child and Adolescent Mental health care unit in Sweden serving approximately 20 000 children in a low income area. Therapists were asked to administer two questionnaires - Partner Violence Screening (PVS) and Life Inventory of Traumatic Events (LITE) assessing potential traumatic experiences for children.

Interviews with the therapists were analyzed qualitatively in order to capture experiences of the participants. Three main themes appeared. Routinely asking about the occurrence of violence with the use of structured instruments was either perceived as creating a constraint on the development of a good relationship with the clients, or as a structuring and helpful tool. Also an ambivalent stance, addressing personal or situational limitations were found. Administrative support and control seemed to eliminate some known difficulties asking about violence, while some remains. The dilemma between administrative support and control, and therapists' wish to perform the survey in their own way is discussed. Suggestions to overcome obstacles for routinely asking about violence are presented.

Support to children who have witnessed violence against their mothers – Results from a national evaluation study

Åsa K. Cater, Fil.dr, Akademin för Juridik, Psykologi och Socialt arbete, Örebro universitet

Karin Grip, Doktorand, Psykologiska institutionen, Göteborgs universitet

Anders Broberg, Professor, Psykologiska institutionen, Göteborgs universitet

Linnéa Almqvist, Projektkoordinator, Psykologiska institutionen, Göteborgs universitet

Kjerstin Almqvist, Professor, Akademin för psykologi, Karlstads universitet

Ulrika Sharafi, Biträdande forskare och leg. psykolog, Landstinget i Värmland

Anna Forssell, Doktorand, Akademin för Juridik, Psykologi och Socialt arbete, Örebro universitet

Maria Eriksson, Docent, Sociologiska institutionen, Uppsala universitet

Clara Iversen, Doktorand, Sociologiska institutionen, Uppsala universitet

Witnessing violence against a primary caregiver as a child entails a heightened risk of the child developing problems such as post-traumatic stress, depression, behavioural problems, or difficulties with social relationships. Knowledge about the effectiveness of methods developed to support children who have witnessed violence against their mothers is needed. This presentation reports the results from a national evaluation with the aim to study changes in the health and wellbeing of children after participating in support interventions.

Eight group-based or individual support interventions directed at children who had witnessed violence against their mother from her partner were compared to: child and adolescent psychiatry, women's shelters, and the social services, including the individual and family services,

and family law. This report is based on mothers' ratings of 295 children between 3 and 13 years of age, and self-ratings from 64 of these children, aged 9 to 13 years.

The study is based on measurements at three times; before or in connection with the start of the intervention (pre-test), when the child had finished the intervention 4 to 6 months later (post-test), and one year after the child started the intervention (one-year follow-up). The mothers, and any 9 to 13-year-old children who agreed to participate, were interviewed and filled out questionnaires about psychological health and wellbeing. Measures included the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire, the Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSCC), and measures of emotion regulation and general psychological well-being.

The agencies offering support aimed directly at children tended to have better effect than agencies not providing support aimed at children. Generally, children with a high degree of psychological illness at pre-test improved more than children with fewer difficulties. However, the effect sizes were small, and at the one-year follow-up the mothers still rated their children's psychological illness considerably higher compared to "children in general". Further, children whose mothers had been subjected to physical violence during the last six months tended to have a more negative development in psychological health, younger children's psychological health tended to improve more compared to older children's, and longer interventions had better effect than shorter ones.

According to the 9 to 13-year-old children's own ratings, their symptoms regarding post traumatic stress and general anxiety symptom decreased considerably. The proportion of children with scores within the clinical range decreased from 43% at pre-test to 30% at the one-year follow-up. However, many children continued to have high degrees of symptoms at the one-year follow-up.

The mothers whose children had been in contact with agencies offering interventions directly aimed at the children were significantly more satisfied with the interventions than other mothers. The mothers who had been in contact with agencies with group interventions for both children and mothers were the most satisfied. The children aged 9 to 13 years, of whom most had participated in groups for children who have witnessed violence, were generally satisfied or very satisfied with the interventions they had received.

The implications of these results for practice are discussed.

Tema: Prostitution och människohandel

Workshop A 11.00 – 12.30

Anna Hulusjö *The multiplicities of prostitution experience*

Märta C. Johansson *Uppsåts- och oaktsambetsbedömningar vid underårighet i fall av människohandel, koppleri och sexköp*

Johanna Lindholm *Human trafficking for sexual purposes and procurement with children in Sweden - what can we learn from the legal system and the crime victims' experiences?*

The multiplicities of prostitution experience

Anna Hulusjö, PhD Candidate, Faculty of Health and Society, Malmö University

The study is part of the project *Prostitutionens skilda villkor* that is funded by the Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority. The overall aim of the project is to generate a deeper understanding of women's experiences of heterosexual prostitution and to shed light on the differentiated prostitution market's different contexts and settings.

The aim of my project is to study the multiplicities of prostitution experience in relation to the contexts in which these experiences are lived and told.

The study is qualitative and is situated in the field of feminist narrative studies. The data consist of narrative interviews with 25 women.

A narrative approach to research provide a theoretical and methodological framework with a critical perspective on how personal experience stories are told, structured and interpreted and it provides insights into how lives, images, and stories are intertwined in different and complex ways. Prostitution is a difficult and contested area overloaded and invested by a series of antagonistic discourses, practices and ideologies. In my study I explore narratives in terms of what women narrate about themselves and their prostitution experience, how they make connections and sometimes create oppositions within the prevailing discourses.

I am concerned with how women make sense of their experiences of prostitution and I am thereby interested in their own definitions and understandings. In my analysis I aim to make visible the multiple layers of meanings in narratives. In treating narratives as multiplicities of meanings, and by creating maps of how different stories connect with other stories, discourses and practices I aim to discuss how meanings are formed and how they constitute the real, and ultimately, the subject herself.

In the presentation I will focus on how the narratives of my research participants both are entangled with discourses on prostitution and refusing stereotypical representations of 'the prostitute' within those same discourses. I will also discuss some of the methodological and ethical challenges of doing research with a stigmatized population.

Uppsåts- och oaktsamhetsbedömningar vid underårighet i fall av människohandel, koppleri och sexköp

Märta C. Johansson, Fil.dr, Akademin för Juridik, Psykologi och Socialt arbete, Örebro universitet

Många som utsätts för människohandel och människohandelsliknande utnyttjande är under 18 år och människohandelsbrottet har utformats så att ansvar lättare kan påvisas när offret är yngre än 18 år. Särskild reglering gäller även vid sexköp av säljare som ännu inte fyllt 18. I fall där en åklagare kan visa att en köpare borde ha insett att säljaren var under 18 år så kan gärningsmannen dömas till strängare straff än vid sexköp av vuxna säljare, och anspråk på skadestånd för köparens kränkning av barnet kan även beviljas. Lagföring av sexköpare och därmed minskning av sexmarknaden har ansetts vara en viktig del i bekämpande av människohandel, och flera utredningar har poängterat att sexköpare bör åtalas för brottet *köp av sexuell handling av barn* i människohandelsmål som rör unga (t.ex. SOU 2008:41, RättsPM 2008:11). I människohandelsmål åtalas dock inte köpare för det brott som gäller underåriga (*köp av sexuell handling av barn*), utan de

åtalas och prövas istället för det sexköpsbrott som omfattar vuxna säljare (*köp av sexuell tjänst*). Detta brott har lägre straffskala och har inte ansetts utgöra grund för kränkning och därmed skadestånd.

Varför tillämpas regleringen som utformats för köp av sexuella handlingar av barn så sällan, och varför tillämpas den inte i de människohandelsmål där sexköpare också lagförs? För att studera möjliga orsaker till detta har en granskning gjorts av domstolarnas bedömningar av ansvar för människohandel och för sexköp av barn som människohandlats. 56 fall (mål i tingsrätt som även prövats i hovrätt) mellan 2004-2011 har analyserats. I 32 av dessa fall fanns underåriga målsägande eller underåriga personer som åklagaren bedömde hade utsatts för brott. Domstolarnas oaktsamhetsbedömningar rörande sexköpares kunskap om ålder verkar vara centrala för att besvara frågan om tillämpningen av köp av sexuell handling av barn i människohandelsmål. Studien granskar därför hur domstolarna bedömer människohandlars, sutenörers och sexköpares insikt om säljares ålder och vad de *borde* ha insett. *Hur bedömer man ett främmande barns eller en tonårings ålder? När bedöms människohandlare, sutenörer och sexköpare haft anledning att misstänka låg ålder?* Granskningen visar att domstolarna ofta tar hänsyn till den särskilda människohandelskontexten när bedömningar görs av ansvar för människohandlare som utnyttjat barn. När det gäller bedömningar av sexköpares oaktsamhet rörande låg ålder tas dock inte hänsyn till den särskilda sexköpskontexten. Tillämpningen är problematisk eftersom den erbjuder svagt skydd för tonåringar som har normal pubertetsutveckling, och i de fall då sexköpare och säljare haft begränsad förhandskontakt anses köpare i regel inte fått tillräckligt med indikationer för att misstänka låg ålder. Då utländska ungdomar som utnyttjas i människohandel för sexuella syften oftast är över 13 år och i regel haft lite förhandskontakt med sexköpare innebär domstolarnas oaktsamhetsbedömningar att åtal för köp av sexuell handling av barn har liten utsikt att leda till ansvar för sexköpare i människohandelsmål.

Studien utgör en del av större forskningsstudien *Att skilja mellan offer: Ett brottsofferperspektiv på människohandel och människohandelsliknande brottslighet* som finansieras av Brottsoffermyndigheten.

Human trafficking for sexual purposes and procurement with children in Sweden - what can we learn from the legal system and the crime victims' experiences?

Johanna Lindholm, Doktorand, Barn- och ungdomsvetenskapliga institutionen, Stockholms universitet

Since June 2010, a research project on human trafficking for sexual purposes and procurement with children in Sweden is under way at the Child- and Youth department at Stockholm University.

The project and the analyses carried out within it are briefly described below. In my presentation I will evolve the matters further and go into more detail about various aspects of the project, with focus on the aim and purpose, the data we are working with and the analysis carried out.

Overall description of the project

The purpose of the project is to map and analyse all known cases, i.e. matters that have been taken to Swedish court, regarding human trafficking for sexual purposes and procurement with children in Sweden.

The project aims to analyse what emerges about the children's childhoods. What and how do the children tell about their experiences and themselves during the investigative interviews? But also

how the children were recruited, who they are, possible reasons for why they were made the victims of child trafficking/procurement, what they were subjected to and how they handled their vulnerability.

Data

The crime on human trafficking was introduced in the Swedish penal code 1 July 2002. With the help from contacts on the National Police Board, we have collected all announced court cases since the law was put into force, and then sorted out all cases involving a child (defined as a person below the age of 18). As a next step, and with an approved ethics application, we have contacted the police authorities concerned, asking to take part of the entire preliminary investigation. As such, our study is a systematic and complete analysis of all known cases in the Swedish judicial system.

The collection of data will carry on through spring 2012.

Studies within the project

Descriptive study

Descriptive information is set up in each case as the material is being received. This information provides, for example, details on the victims' age, gender and ethnical origin as well as time period during when the child was subjected to criminal activities. In addition, we look at some basic facts regarding the perpetrators, such as their gender and ethnicity as well as the recruitment process.

Analysis of narratives about childhood

In this analysis, the girls are made visible primarily by looking at what they tell in the investigative interviews, but also based on other types of information about the girls that can be found in the preliminary investigation (for example, formal reports from psychiatrist). What can we learn about these children, their background and living conditions?

We are also aiming at analysing, with the help of discourse analysis, how the girls create and represent themselves when being interviewed by the Police on their experiences. What do they tell about themselves and how?

Investigative interviews

This study examines the quality of questions asked by police officers and responses elicited from the youths during the investigative interview. Are the children being given the prerequisite to tell their version of the events, without interjection?

Tema: Hjälpökande – varierande behov

Workshop A 11.00-12.30

Mariana Dufort *Battered women and help-seeking behaviour - a study of women who seek and do not seek help from society*

Christina Scheffel Birath *Male violence against Swedish women with substance abuse problems - women with housing in treatment and homeless women*

Lotta Jägervi *The role of Victim Support in crime victims' stories*

Battered women and help-seeking behaviour - a study of women who seek and do not seek help from society

Mariana Dufort, Doktorand, Institutionen för klinisk neurovetenskap/Forum, Forskningscentrum för psykosocial hälsa, CPF; Centrum för psykiatriforskning, Karolinska Institutet

Marlene Stenbacka, Docent, Institutionen för folkhälsovetenskap, Karolinska Institutet/Beroendecentrum, Stockholms läns landsting

Annika Eriksson, Enhetschef, Enheten för forskning och utveckling, Brottsförebyggande rådet

Anders Tengström, Med.dr, Institutionen för klinisk neurovetenskap/Forum, Forskningscentrum för psykosocial hälsa, CPF; Centrum för psykiatriforskning, Karolinska Institutet/ Beroendecentrum, Stockholms läns landsting

Våld mot kvinnor i nära relationer har under de senaste 30 åren gått från att vara en dold samhällsföreteelse till att ha lyfts upp på den politiska agendan. Tidigare studier har visat att psykosociala belastningsfaktorer förekommer oftare bland kvinnor som utsatts för våld i nära relationer än bland kvinnor som inte utsatts för denna typ av våld.

Syftet med studien är att jämföra kvinnor som varit utsatta för våld i nära relationer som fått respektive inte fått behandling eller stöd av socialtjänsten eller en kvinnojour avseende förekomst av våld, hälsa, psykosocial funktion samt socioekonomiska förutsättningar.

Metod: Kvinnor i studiegruppen, som inte varit aktuella hos socialtjänst eller kvinnojour på grund av våld rekryterades via annonser i dagspress på riks och regional nivå samt nätsidor som antogs frekventeras av denna målgrupp. Totalt inkluderades 206 kvinnor i studiegruppen.

Deltagare till en jämförelsegrupp rekryterades från fyra olika kommunbaserade verksamheter samt tjugo ideella kvinnojourer runt om i landet. Kvinnor som sökte hjälp tillfrågades om de ville delta i studien. Totalt ingår 353 kvinnor i jämförelsegruppen.

Information samlades in med hjälp av enkäter där frågor om demografiska faktorer, utsatthet för våld, upplevd hälsa samt psykosocial situation ingick.

Resultat: Preliminära resultat visar att flertalet av kvinnorna i både gruppen med och utan intervention hade varit utsatta för omfattande och grovt våld. Kvinnorna i båda grupperna hade i genomsnitt sämre psykosocial hälsa än individer i allmänbefolkningen.

Konklusion: Resultatet visar sammantaget att våldsutsatta kvinnor som inte sökt eller fått hjälp från samhället har stort behov av vård och stöd. Det är därför angeläget att från samhällets sida även nå de kvinnorna med stöd och insatser.

Male violence against Swedish women with substance abuse problems - women with housing in treatment and homeless women

Christina Scheffel Birath, Med.dr, Institutionen för kvinnors och barns hälsa, Karolinska Institutet/Beroendecentrum, Stockholms läns landsting

Ulla Beijer, Med.dr, Institutionen för Kvinnors och barns hälsa, Karolinska Institutet

Marlene Stenbacka, Docent, Institutionen för folkhälsovetenskap, Karolinska Institutet/Beroendecentrum, Stockholms läns landsting

Britt af Klinteberg, Professor, Institutionen för kvinnors och barns hälsa, Karolinska Institutet/CHES, Centre for Health Equity Studies, Stockholms universitet – Karolinska Institutet/Psykologiska institutionen, Stockholms universitet

Bakgrund: Kunskapen inom området missbrukande kvinnors erfarenhet av mäns våld är fortfarande relativt bristfällig både nationellt och internationellt.

Frågeställningar och metod: Föreliggande studie består av två delar: (1) en kartläggning, där kvinnorna intervjuats om sina erfarenheter av mäns våld, missbruk, familj- och livssituation, karaktärsdrag, hälsa, inkl posttraumatisk stressymtom, samt (2) en fördjupad intervju av ett slumpvis urval av 8 kvinnor i syfte att analysera om det egna missbruket kan ha påverkats negativt av våldshändelserna. Totalt inkluderades 79 missbrukande kvinnor i studien, varav (1) 35 kvinnor med bostad som deltar i öppenvårdsbehandling för missbruksproblem och (2) 44 hemlösa kvinnor som har missbruksproblem som går eller inte går i behandling. Studien pågår 2010-2011 och är godkänd av Etikprövningsnämnd (EPN Dnr 2009/2144-31/5).

Preliminära resultat: Preliminära resultat från Delstudie 1 visar att nio av tio (91%) av kvinnorna erfarit mäns våld: 84% från nuvarande eller före detta partner, 23% från far eller nära släkting. De flesta hade upplevt psykiskt (90%) och fysiskt våld (82%), drygt hälften sexuellt våld (56%) och materiellt våld (54%). Mindre än hälften (39%) av de våldsutsatta kvinnorna hade gjort polisanmälan. Två tredjedelar (61%) hade missbrukat 15 år eller längre, 66% hade en missbrukande förälder. Många kvinnor hade barn (73%). Två tredjedelar (68%) hade dålig fysisk hälsa. Gruppen hade även problem med sin psykiska hälsa, tre fjärdedelar (77%) upplevde/hade upplevt ångest, 48% hade haft självmordstankar och 67% lider av posttraumatisk stress relaterat till att ha upplevt våld från en man. Fler hemlösa kvinnor än kvinnor med bostad hade erfarit våld från män (98% respektive 83%), hade missbrukande föräldrar (77/51%), hade börjat använda alkohol eller droger vid 14 år eller tidigare (82/34%), hade dålig fysisk hälsa (82/51%), lider av posttraumatisk stress (86/43%). Fler kvinnor med bostad än hemlösa hade erfarit våld från far eller nära släkting (26/21%), upplevt depression (77/57%), ångest (86/71%) och haft självmordstankar (51/46%). Delstudie 2 är under bearbetning.

Konklusion: Resultaten visar på att missbrukande kvinnor är en grupp som i mycket hög grad utsätts för mäns våld och att de har en mycket svår situation vad gäller psykiskt och fysiskt lidande, vilket pekar på att behandlingen av kvinnor med missbruksproblem behöver vidgas så att våldsupplevelser och andra livslidanden kan behandlas parallellt med missbruksproblemen.

The role of Victim Support in crime victims' stories

Lotta Jägervi, PhD Candidate, School of Social Work, Lund University

Crime victims are often talked about as a forgotten group but the last years, they have attracted much attention. Whereas research on the support available for crime victims has mainly concerned symptomology and the efficiency of support and treatment programs, crime victims' personal stories have mainly been an area for the mass media.

My presentation is based on an ongoing study research project, Crime victims' needs and Victim Support means, where Swedish Victim Support is in focus. From the second step in

the project, interviews with crime victims who have been in contact with Victim Support, I will highlight crime victims' stories with from a narrative perspective. In my interviews, the experience of the support was most in focus but looking at the result, the role of Victim Support varies in importance in the stories that are told. Crime victims are far from a homogenous group and taking part of their stories could enhance the understanding for the wide variety of experiences, reactions and needs that victimization and its aftermath can lead to.

Tema: Fysiskt och sexuellt våld

Workshop B 13.30 – 15.00

Anne Kubai & Beth Ahlberg *Captured in flight: experiences of violence among African women immigrants in Sweden*

Leif A. Strömwall *Unjust consequences of just world-beliefs: Victim blaming in rape scenarios*

Captured in flight: experiences of violence among African women immigrants in Sweden

Anne Kubai, Associate professor, Faculty of theology, Uppsala University

Beth Ahlberg, Professor, Skaraborgsinstitutet

This research project focuses on African women immigrants in Sweden and their experiences of violence from men in their lives. In the context of migration many African women, especially the undocumented women immigrants are in extremely precarious situations in a new environment where they rely on their male partners, relatives and friends for material and emotional support. Thus, if they are in violent relationships they cannot easily extricate themselves and they therefore remain trapped in silence, even when they know they can seek help from the Swedish authorities. The study therefore investigates these specific experiences among African women immigrants in Sweden. The field work has just started and needless to say, more field work will be done before data analysis commences. However, it is emerging from the accrued data that African immigrant women have specific experiences of men's violence; and the 'undocumented' African women immigrants have experiences that are particular to their situation of "paperlessness" because this situation is often used by the male partners, friends and relatives to prevent women from seeking help in cases of violence. Apparently, African immigrant communities have specific encounter with the migration context, which also shapes their practices and attitudes that engender violence against women.

It has also emerged during the interviews and participant observation that the situation of some of the women who have been exposed to violence is complicated by the Swedish 'system' (methods of intervention in cases of violence) and thus we have had to include questions that will help us generate data on this aspect. The research questions are:

- 1. Women with permit.** Women may come to Sweden accompanying their husbands or relatives, but in new difficult circumstances of migration, these women rely on their male partners for emotional and material support. What is their experience of violence from male partners and relatives who are responsible for them? How do they define violence? How do they cope or deal with men's violence? How and when do they seek support?
- 2. Undocumented immigrant women.** A significant number of women immigrants who have to wait for at least two years before they can get Swedish resident permits, may attach themselves to men with Swedish nationality to facilitate the process of acquiring resident permits. Do the women immigrants with resident permits and 'paperless' immigrant women have similar experiences of violence? What is the nature of violence experienced by these women? Are working immigrant women who are economically independent equally prone to violence from their male relatives?
- 3. Emasculated men.** Many African men who experience a sense of being emasculated by being reduced to refugee status and the frustration of unemployment also experience a loss of prestige and dignity as men. Do African immigrant women experience more violence in circumstances where male relatives are unemployed than where they are not?

The theoretical point of departure for this study is to illuminate men's violence against women in different contexts and to identify the how this violence intersects with culture, ethnicity and other social constructs.

Unjust consequences of just world-beliefs: Victim blaming in rape scenarios

Leif A. Strömwall, Docent, Psykologiska institutionen, Göteborgs universitet

Of all forms of violence towards women, rape is perhaps the most feared and traumatic. In addition to the primary victimization, there is a tendency to attribute the victim at least some of the blame or responsibility for the assault. This presentation gives an overview of the research conducted in an ongoing research project concerning this secondary victimization of rape victims.

One theoretical explanation of victim blaming is the Belief in a just world-hypothesis (BJW), which in brief states that humans have a need to think of the world as a just and fair place in which people ultimately get what they deserve. If something horrible (such as a rape) has happened to someone, the victim must have done something to deserve it. The general prediction in the project presented here was that high levels of BJW would result in more victim blaming. This has not previously been examined in a Swedish context.

The four studies share a general experimental methodology: vignettes describe a crime scenario and the participants – always community members – then rated their views on a number of items, generating ratings of both victim and perpetrator blame as well as each participant's level of BJW. The materials used were pilot tested separately for all studies. Data analyses were primarily analyses of variance (ANOVA). In all studies, gender of participant and participant's level of BJW (low/high) were included as independent variables. As dependent variables, the victim blame scale was used.

In Study 1 we additionally studied the effects of victim age (20 or 46 years) and victim gender. The participants ($N=164$; 80 women, 84 men), especially those high on BJW, attributed most blame to a young, male rape victim. In Study 2 we studied the impact of relationship type (victim and perpetrator was married, dating, acquaintances or strangers). In total 166 persons (85 women, 80 men) participated. The main results were that males and females differed in their blame attributions over relationship levels: female participants high on BJW blamed the victim raped by a stranger the most. Study 3 examined the effects of previous convictions and the age of the offender. The participants' ($N=161$; 86 women, 73 men) attributions indicated a gender difference: Females attributed less and male participants more victim blame when the perpetrator had a previous conviction. Finally, in Study 4 we studied different crimes (rape/online sexual harassment) as well as victim previous behaviour (inviting or not). In total 200 participants (100 men, 100 women) took part. Highest level of victim blame was attributed in the sexual harassment case to non-inviting victim by female participants high on BJW. Least victim blame was found in the rape scenario (inviting) by female participants low on BJW. It is important to note that participants in all studies attributed much more blame to the perpetrator than to the victim.

In three of four studies the belief in a just world was a strong predictor of blame attributions. In three of four studies, the gender of the participant turned out to be important in explaining the variation in blame ratings. Both these findings are in line with most previous research.

Contradicting findings are the effects of different relationship levels and victim previous behaviour. Among the new findings are the effects of perpetrator characteristics on attributions of victim blame. Suggestions for future research will be given.

Tema: Skydd, stöd och erfarenheter av våld

Workshop B 13.30 – 15.00

Jari Kuosmanen & Mikaela Starke *Justice and protection: No obvious issues for people with intellectual disabilities*

Sara Helmersson *Main Tasks and Organisations of Services for Abused Women in Sweden – Differences and Common Traits between three types of Crime Victim Support*

Karin Örmon *The life time experience of abuse, the severity and mental illness among abused women in a general psychiatric context*

Justice and protection: No obvious issues for people with intellectual disabilities

Jari Kuosmanen, Fil.dr, Institutionen för socialt arbete, Göteborgs universitet

Mikaela Starke, Docent, Institutionen för socialt arbete, Göteborgs universitet

Background: In recent years, several cases have been publicized in the Swedish media in which adolescent girls and women with intellectual disabilities (ID) were found to have engaged in prostitution through a pimp. According to the police and the prosecutors, the women and girls in question had been manipulated or forced to sell sex by others. The fact that the victims in these cases were persons with ID might then imply a need for special assistance during the legal process. In Sweden, preliminary investigation and the trial phase proceed largely based on oral statements obtained from the victim and the accused. Especially in situations where the parties present differing views of the circumstances and other evidence is missing, the credibility and coherence of these statements is crucial for the outcome in the case.

Specific Aim: The article examines five court cases to explore how, and to what extent, individuals with ID have their rights secured within the Swedish legal system. In what ways does the judiciary take into account citizens' differing cognitive and communicative abilities? How can due process be secured for people with ID?

Methods: The article is based on an ongoing three-year study conducted in four Swedish municipalities. Transcripts from interviews with fifteen professionals who represented the police, the public prosecutor, and social authorities in five different legal cases are analysed. Also the court's reasoning in each case is examined.

The role and input of these institutional actors in the judicial process is analysed from three different perspectives: a regulatory perspective concerning current laws, rules and regulations; a knowledge perspective examining existing knowledge, tacit assumptions, and institutionalized notions; and a normative perspective focusing on values and moral questions of right or wrong. Different theoretical perspectives on crime victims are also drawn upon.

Findings: The cases in question posed particular difficulties for the judicial system. Several of the interviewed police investigators described having felt uncomfortable about or unprepared for interviewing individuals with ID. They also lacked knowledge about ID in general. Police investigators with experience in interviewing children seemed better prepared for conducting the interviews.

The communicative challenges became even more apparent during the trial phase, which was often experienced as highly intimidating by the individuals with ID. They frequently needed support with their communication skills and help in understanding the legal context. Assistance from outside the legal system, for example by social workers, appeared to be beneficial to them in this respect.

Discussion: The findings indicate that the Swedish legal system fails to adequately take into account the fact that citizens have differing abilities to express themselves verbally and coherently. They also suggest a need for developing alternative methods and procedures to help individuals with ID with their communication needs, and a need for improving knowledge about ID among professionals in the legal system and within the police. The findings also indicate that victims in this kind of cases benefit from support by professionals from outside the legal system, both during and after the judicial process.

Main Tasks and Organisations of Services for Abused Women in Sweden – Differences and Common Traits between three types of Crime Victim Support

Sara Helmersson, PhD Candidate, School of Social Work, Lund University

The purpose of this presentation is to map out services that support abused women in Sweden with special attention on the content of the work as well as how they are organised. The examined services are women's refuges associated to Sveriges Kvinno- och Tjejjourers Riksförbund (SKR) and Riksorganisationen för Kvinnojourer och Tjejjourer i Sverige (ROKS), municipal crisis centres for abused women and crime victim organisations associated to Brottsofferjourernas Riksförbund (BOJ). The presentation is part of the research project "What are the implications of 'empowerment' for victims of domestic violence?", a project that focuses on the outcome and the translation of 'empowerment' within services that support abused women.

Support organisations for victims of domestic violence and other crime victims have historically most often been organised by the voluntary sector in Sweden. There were no services for crime victims organised by the public sector and hence a space to be filled by NGOs (Åkerström, 1990). In recent years local municipalities have started crisis centres for victims of domestic violence. These initiatives came alongside a change in the Social Services Act in 2007 where the responsibility of the social services committee for crime victims was elucidated. My presentation is based on a survey material consisting of 207 representatives from the public and voluntary sector. The survey included questions about what is considered to be 'the core' of the work, if and what kind of perspectives and methods are used, to what extent safe housing and helpline services are offered and how many volunteers and employees are working in the respective organisation and whether it is organised by local municipalities or NGOs. The presentation focuses on questions such as: What is the core task in services that support abused women in Sweden? What is the ratio between paid staff and volunteers? Bearing in mind the split between the two women's refuges organisations in the 90s as well as the potential division between the public sector and the voluntary sector; what differences and similarities can be identified among the actors? Mapping out the organisations shows that volunteers were ranging from zero to one hundred and eighty. Many services had zero employees whereas one had fourteen full-time posts. My results further suggest that all organisations quite agree on the importance of facilitating direct interventions for crime victims; such as shelter, supportive counselling and helpline functions. These tasks are considered to be far more central than the indirect tasks such as influencing on public opinion, networking or developing methodology. There are differences between the services however and my presentation will further explore these.

The life time experience of abuse, the severity and mental illness among abused women in a general psychiatric context

Karin Örmon, PhD Candidate, Faculty of Health and Society, Malmö University

Violence against women is a worldwide problem and research concerning domestic violence and intimate partner violence reports life time prevalence of abuse. Research confirms associations between experiencing violence and mental illness among female psychiatric patients. The aim of the study was to describe abused women's experiences of emotional, physical and sexual abuse during childhood, adulthood and/or during a lifetime, the severity of the abuse and the mental illness experienced by the women in the context of general psychiatric care. Women attending general psychiatric in- and outpatient care in an urban area in south Sweden were asked to

participate by using the Norvold abuse questionnaire (NorAQ). Seventy seven abused women participated and answered questions concerning experience of emotional, physical, sexual abuse and the experienced anxiety, mild depression, thoughts of suicide, suicide attempts, self deliberate harm and the current suffering. Of those women were 58% (n=45) attending an outpatient unit and 42% (n=32) were enrolled in inpatient care. The responses to the questions concerning emotional and physical abuse were defined as mild, moderate and severe. The psychological harm was synonymously with emotional abuse and threats were included in the physical and emotional abuse. Sexual abuse were defined as mild -no genital contact, mild -emotional / sexual humiliation, moderate -genital contact and severe - penetration. The response alternatives were yes or no to one or several of the questions describing the severity and form of abuse.

All of the 77 women in the study had been subjected to abuse sometimes during their lifetime and 53 percent of those women (n=41) had experienced all three forms of abuse, emotional, physical and sexual. Six (n=5) women had endured one kind of abuse during childhood, adulthood and/ or during their lifetime. Physical abuse were the most common form of abuse (93 %, n=72). Seventy nine percent of the women (n=61) were victims of emotional abuse and sexual abuse were endured by 71 % (n=55) of the women. Significant difference was reported among women experiencing severe emotional, mild emotional, sever physical and mild physical abuse and thoughts of suicide, suicide attempts, mild depression and acts of self deliberate harm then among the women not subjected to the abuse.

Tema: Rättigheter på olika nivåer

Workshop B 13.30 – 15.00

Anna Wergens *Victims of crime – a matter of human rights?*

Lena Landström *Objectivity and Professional Behaviour toward Crime Victims*

Karl Dahlstrand *A Sociology of Law Study of Non-Pecuniary Damages to Victims of Crime*

Victims of crime – a matter of human rights?

Anna Wergens, Doktorand, Brottsoffermyndigheten/Tilburg University/Juridiska institutionen, Umeå universitet

The issue of criminal victimisation is currently talked about in terms of human rights. States are called upon to recognise the rights of victims with regard to their human rights and the right to live in freedom from fear of crime is increasingly articulated as a human right. In this presentation, an effort is made to demonstrate why and how this has happened and to put forward some questions that arise in this context.

The traditional view of human rights, denoting a relationship between the state and the individual, would make the questions of this presentation irrelevant. From the standpoint of violence committed between individuals, they become more intricate, given the axiom that human rights should protect the human dignity of all and everyone, irrespective of who the violator is.

Why victims' rights, far from as sacrosanct as the rights of the offenders, in a short time have been reconceptualised to matter of human rights, should be seen from the perspective of the dynamic character of human rights law and the mutual influence between victimological ideas and human rights law.

Three questions, which are very much interrelated, can be put forward with regard to the theme of this presentation:

- Could victims' rights be equated to human rights?
- Are victims a matter of human rights or in other words, can the human rights be applied to the situation of crime victims?
- What is the possible impact of the human rights dimension on crime victims?

The first question compels a comparison between the human rights and the victim standards focused at possible common denominators. It will be argued that the rights to protection and remedies are the nexus which connect these two areas.

The second question must be considered through two different perspectives. The first is the legal obligations stemming from binding human rights treaties which call on states to provide victims with protection and support. This perspective will be illustrated with some examples from case-law. The other aspect is concerned with language of human rights and how it may legitimise the victim issue.

With respect to the third question, the point of departure is the rights-based approach. It will be discussed what the legal entitlements which this approach might involve in terms of protection and justice can bring to bear on victims.

Central to these questions are also the notions of secondary victimisation and vulnerable groups of victims. Secondary victimisation is the hub of the victimological perspective in the field of criminal justice and the objective of many victim standards. From a human rights perspective, it should be examined what it might imply to victims in terms of denial of justice and how it relates to the primary victimisation.

In line with the emphasis on vulnerable groups in victimology as well as in human rights law, crimes directed at certain groups of victims have become recognised as violations of human rights. It has contributed to a general recognition of crime victims as a matter of human rights. In this context, it will be contrasted against a more comprehensive outlook on crime victims.

Objectivity and Professional Behaviour toward Crime Victims

Lena Landström, Jur.dr, Juridiska institutionen, Umeå universitet

När rättsväsendets bemötande av brottsoffer diskuteras uppkommer inte sällan frågan om objektivitet. Det som då diskuteras är i vad mån kravet på objektivitet kan ställa upp gränser för de professionella aktörernas kontakter med brottsoffer. Frågan är vad kravet på objektivitet egentligen innebär, och i vad mån objektivitetskravet kan vara problematiskt för rättsväsendets aktörer i mötet med brottsoffer. Min presentation behandlar dessa frågor med utgångspunkt i det svenska rättssystemet.

I den svenska rättsvetenskapliga litteraturen anges att objektivitetsprincipen omfattar två krav. Den innebär att domare och förvaltningsmyndigheter i sin verksamhet ska vara sakliga och opartiska. Kravet på saklighet innebär att beslut endast får grundas på omständigheter som är rättsligt relevanta enligt gällande författningar. Besluten får inte fattas utifrån godtyckliga grunder eller i syfte att gynna eller missgynna vissa enskilda intressen. Det kravet har också kallats beslutsfattandets inre sida. Kravet på opartiskhet riktar sig mot det yttre, hur beslutsprocessen uppfattas utåt. Det kravet är av betydelse för att ge legitimitet för maktutövningen och för att medborgarna ska ha förtroende för den, bland annat är det ett skäl för att ha regler om jäv. Det ska inte ens kunna misstänkas att exempelvis en domare har varit partisk i sitt beslutsfattande.

Bland de olika aktörerna inom rättsväsendet har frågan om objektivitet särskilt diskuterats i fråga om åklagarens roll. Åklagarens roll har uppfattats som särskilt problematisk eftersom åklagaren har flera uppgifter, som dessutom förändras under processens gång. Diskussionen sker då mot bakgrund av en uttrycklig bestämmelse i rättegångsbalken som föreskriver att åklagaren (och polisen) vid utredning av brott inte bara ska beakta omständigheter som talar mot utan också sådana omständigheter som talar för den misstänkte. Detsamma gäller för bevisningen, där ansvaret också omfattar att säkra bevis till fördel för den misstänkte. Frågeställningen har rört vilket ansvar åklagaren har för utredningens omfattning och vad det ansvaret innebär under rättegången, efter att åklagaren har väckt åtal.

När det gäller bemötande av brottsoffer kan objektivitetskravet få betydelse på olika sätt. Min utgångspunkt är att vad objektivitetskravet egentligen innebär och i vad mån det kan vara problematiskt varierar beroende på vilken situation som är aktuell, där den professionella aktörens roll i processen är av betydelse. Det kan exempelvis vara polisens möte med brottsoffret i samband med polisförhör, åklagarens kontakter med brottsoffret utanför rättegångssalen eller brottsoffrets möte med rättsväsendets aktörer i rättsalen. Min presentation kommer att behandla några sådana situationer, där jag ställer frågan om objektivitetskravet är problematiskt och om det behöver vara så vid brottsoffrets möte med rättsväsendets aktörer.

A Sociology of Law Study of Non-Pecuniary Damages to Victims of Crime

Karl Dahlstrand, Doktorand, Rättssociologiska enheten, Lunds universitet

Mitt forskningsområde behandlar kränkingsersättning till brottsoffer ur ett rättssociologiskt perspektiv. Med ett rättssociologiskt perspektiv avses här att studera rättsliga företeelser med samhällsvetenskaplig metod- och teoriansats där rättens orsaker och konsekvenser studeras. Vad som är utmärkande för kränkingsersättningen är att denna ersättningstyp, enligt förarbetena, ska spegla det omgivande sociala trycket i samhället för att ersättningen ska kunna ge brottsoffret upprättelse. Eftersom det saknas normer för att bedöma och uppskatta graden av den kränkning som ett brottsligt angrepp kan ha medfört, återstår möjligheten att ersättningens storlek grundas på en skönmässig uppskattning av de ”förhärskande etiska och sociala värderingarna” (prop. 2000/01:68). Tanken är således att ersättningens reparativa dimension (åtminstone delvis) grundas i dess överensstämmelse med det förväntanstryck som återfinns hos de som ersättningen

riktar sig mot. Frågan uppkommer då vari detta förväntanstryck består i och om det överhuvudtaget finns några förhärskande värderingar på området. En möjlighet att få kunskap om dessa frågor är att vända sig till de brottsoffer som erhållit kränkingsersättning från Brottsoffermyndigheten. Jag har därför genomfört två enkätstudier, en som riktade sig till ett urval av "allmänheten" och en som riktade sig till ett urval av brottsoffer som erhållit kränkingsersättningen från Brottsoffermyndigheten. Genom att ställa delvis samma frågor till de båda populationerna kan svarsmönster jämföras och styrkan i de värderingar och normer som empirin ger, bedömas. Enkäten innehöll även en vinjettstudie som bestod av autentiska fall hämtade från Brottsoffermyndighetens referatsamling som både allmänheten och brottsoffren fick ta ställning till. Ambitionen har varit att söka de övergripande tendenserna och svarsmönstren och därigenom få kunskap om hur den aktuella ersättningstypen verkar i praktiken. Ett argument för den traditionella återhållsamhet som präglat rättsområdet, har varit den osäkerhet som råder om det överhuvudtaget är möjligt att ersätta den aktuella typen av rent ideella skador som kränkningen utgör. Ibland formuleras frågan som inkommensurabilitetsproblematiken mellan en icke-ekonomisk skada (brottsoffrets lidande eller kränkning) och ett utbetalat penningbelopp. Genom min rättssociologiska undersökning har jag som ambition att bidra till en ökad förståelse kring denna problematik, som alltså har direkt praktisk viktimologisk betydelse, även om den också rymmer teoretiska aspekter. På samma sätt rymmer mitt ämne frågor om gränserna för det rättsliga vetandet överlag och i synnerhet vid rättstillämpningen. För analysen av denna delfråga har jag valt att tillämpa den rättspositivistiska rättsteori som H.L.A. Hart presenterat om rättens beroende av sekundära regler och då främst igenkänningsregeln.