

Call for Papers
Researching Intimate Partner Violence: Gender, intersectionality and policymaking

Special issue: Dutch Journal for Gender Studies
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The recent COVID-19 pandemic (covid-19) has dramatically revealed how Intimate Partner violence (IPV) remains a major societal and health problem (Brooks et al., 2020; Fraser, 2020; Zhang, Wang, Rauch, & Wei, 2020). Disturbing reports from around the globe have demonstrated how women in particular are affected by violence in the home, as the confinement and unavailability of services exacerbates the gender inequalities underlying IPV. While in 'normal' times, 1 in 3 women experience physical or sexual violence during their lifetime, mostly by their intimate partners, emergencies and epidemics serve as catalysators for violence against women, resulting in two- or even threefold increases in the number of reported cases. Moreover, factors like age, ability, displacement and immigrant status induce additional risks and vulnerabilities for victims of violence (UN Women Headquarters, 2020). The crisis thus deepens and reproduces already existing power relations based on gender and its intersections with other factors of differentiation.

Although IPV is internationally considered as a form of gender-based violence, research has also reported tendencies that present partner violence as non-gendered and a result of individual and interactional problems in the family (Römkens, 2016; Withaecx, 2013). However, the recent Group of experts (GREVIO) evaluation report on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the Netherlands (Council of Europe, 2020), highlighted that such individualized approaches fail to recognize the gendered power dynamics and inequalities maintained and enhanced by this type of violence. Furthermore, while an intersectional approach to IPV could enable more inclusive policies, studies also indicate that, in respect to domestic violence, an intersectional awareness in EU-policymaking is mainly absent (Lombardo & Rolandsen Agustín, 2016).

This special issue aims to bring together current research on experiences with IPV by victims, perpetrators, involved actors (social workers, health care workers, general practitioners, lawyers...). We welcome contributions that explore if and how insights from feminist and intersectional perspectives have impacted on policymaking and how they interact with other theoretical frameworks addressing IPV. We particularly focus on research and policymaking in and about Belgium and the Netherlands, but submissions may also discuss developments at international or European level that impact on the regional level. Articles may be written in Dutch or English.

We are particularly interested in contributions that:

- analyse current policies and practices on intimate partner violence from a gender and intersectional perspective;
- discuss and compare different perspectives and frameworks to understand IPV, like gender-neutrality, individualisation, culturalisation, family violence perspective, ...;
- critically reflect upon the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Belgium and the Netherlands;
- examine the role of media (written or visual media, public campaigns...) in the representation of IPV and in shaping societal attitudes and understandings;
- discuss new forms of IPV, notably online and on social media (e.g. 'revenge-porn', image-based abuse...);
- inquire into the experiences of victims and perpetrators with IPV, with particular attention for groups who often remain marginal in dominant research and policymaking (e.g. LGBTQI-communities, undocumented immigrants...);

- provide historical analyses of changes and evolutions in research, legislation, policy-making , and/or in societal attitudes towards IPV;
- engage with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and/or other health or humanitarian crises on experiences with IPV.

Timeframe

- Abstracts of approximately 450 words should be sent to eva.vergaert@vub.be by 30 September 2020 at latest.
- Deadline first drafts (max. 6000 words incl. references and bibliography): 8 January 2021
- Deadline final version: 26 March 2021
- Publication date: 21 June 2021

More information about the Tijdschrift voor Genderstudies, as well as author instructions can be found on <https://www.aup.nl/nl/journal/tijdschrift-voor-genderstudies>.

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