

**Violence:
Do We Know It
When We See It?**

**Violence:
Do We Know It
When We See It?**
A Reader

Edited by
**Dee Wood Harper
Lydia Voigt
William E. Thornton**

CAROLINA ACADEMIC PRESS
Durham, North Carolina

Copyright © 2012
Dee Wood Harper, Lydia Voigt, William E. Thornton
All Rights Reserved

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Harper, Dee Wood.

Violence : do we know it when we see it?: a reader / Dee Wood Harper, Lydia Voigt, and William E. Thornton.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-59460-881-0 (alk. paper)

1. Violence. 2. Violence--Social aspects. I. Voigt, Lydia. II. Thornton, William E., 1946- III. Title.

HM1116.H377 2012

303.6--dc23

2011045299

CAROLINA ACADEMIC PRESS
700 Kent Street
Durham, North Carolina 27701
Telephone (919) 489-7486
Fax (919) 493-5668
www.cap-press.com

Printed in the United States of America

To Daniele, Miriam and William:

You are the best!

—D.W.H.

To our family:

*Elizabeth, Tatyana & Robin,
and Karl & Marisa & sweet baby James*

—Thank you.

You are the sunshine in our lives!

—W.E.T.

Contents

List of Figures	xvii
List of Tables	xix
Foreword	xxi
Preface	xxiii

Part I

Violence: Do We Know It When We See It?

Introduction	1
Chapter 1 • Violence: Definition, Spheres, and Principles	
<i>Peter Iadicola</i>	7
Definition of Violence	7
Spheres of Violence	12
Ten Principles of Violence	16
Conclusion	24
References	25
Chapter 2 • Violence against Women: Colliding “Realities”	
<i>Patricia Easta</i>	27
Introduction	27
Conflicting Constructions of Domestic Violence	28
Same as Assault in the Public Sphere?	28
Easily Disclosed or Screened?	31
Conflicting Constructions of Battered Women Who Kill and Self-Defence	33
Conflicting Constructions of (Partner) Rape	36
Who, Then, Is the “Real” Victim?	37
Reporting Immediately?	38
Conclusion	39
References	40

Chapter 3 • Intimate Partner Homicide Followed by Suicide: A Case of Gendered Violence

<i>Dee Wood Harper and Lydia Voigt</i>	45
Introduction	45
An Integrated Model for Explaining Intimate Partner Homicide-Suicides	48
A Look at Male-perpetrated Intimate Partner Homicide-Suicide Events	52
Male Selfhood and Violence	57
Male-perpetrated Mercy Killing-Suicide	58
Male-perpetrated Familicide-Suicide	60
Male-perpetrated Intimate Partner Lethal Violence-Suicide	61
Conclusions and Implications	63
References	65

Chapter 4 • Predicting the Risk of Violence in Offenders with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

<i>William R. Lindsay</i>	71
Introduction	71
Risk Factors and Offenders with Intellectual Disability	73
Investigations into Risk Variables	75
Research on Static Risk Assessment	77
Risk Assessment Studies	78
Clinical and Dynamic Prediction of Future Incidents	79
Conclusion	84
References	84

Part II

Violence: Where Do We Look for It?

Introduction	89
--------------	----

Chapter 5 • Disasters, the Emergence of Corrosive Communities and Violence

<i>Kelly Frailing</i>	93
Introduction	93
Defining Disaster	93
Disaster Types	95
Disaster Phases	98
Violence during Disasters	99
The Great Kanto Earthquake	100

The Tangshan Earthquake	100
The Boxing Day Tsunami	101
Hurricane Katrina	101
Haiti Earthquake	103
The <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> Oil Spill	103
Emergence of Corrosive Communities	104
Summary	107
References	108
Chapter 6 • Southern Violence: A Contemporary Overview	
<i>Matthew R. Lee and Graham C. Ousey</i>	115
Introduction	115
Theoretical Variations of the Southern Subculture of Violence	116
The “Values Model”	116
The “Culture in Action” Model	116
What Are the Origins or Sources of Southern Subculture of Violence Values?	117
Potential Ethnic Origins	118
Potential Religious Origins	118
Are Southern Subculture Effects on Homicide Rates General or Type-Specific?	120
Subculture of Violence and Overall Homicide Rates	120
Subculture of Violence and Expressive Homicide Rates	121
Are Southern Subculture of Violence Effects Limited to Specific Racial Groups?	122
Is the Influence of the Southern Subculture of Violence Decreasing over Time?	124
Conclusion	124
References	125
Chapter 7 • “You Can’t Do Crack on Credit”: Drug and Retaliatory Murder	
<i>Jana J. Levitov and Dee Wood Harper</i>	129
Introduction	129
The Problem of Social Control	130
Drug Killing	131
Revenge Killing	132
Informal Social Control Applied to Murders	133
Racial Isolation	135
New Orleans Murders	136

Location, Location, Location	136
Data and Methodology	138
Analysis	139
Retaliatory Murders from 2003–2005 (pre-Katrina)	139
Narcotic Murders from 2003–2005 (pre-Katrina)	139
Discussion	144
References	145
Chapter 8 • As Terrifying as Terror Is . . . Are We Safer? A Survey of the State of “Homeland Security”	
<i>Bethany L. Brown</i>	147
Introduction	147
Emergency Management pre-Homeland Security in the United States	149
Homeland Security: The Progress	150
Security: The Reaction(s)	152
Security: Lack of Conceptual Clarity	154
The Answer(s)?	157
References	159
Part III	
Violence: What Do We Know?	
Introduction	161
Chapter 9 • News Constructions of Urban Violence: Fear and the Making of the Prototypical Criminal	
<i>Stephen F. Ostertag</i>	165
Introduction	165
Violence and Perceptions Of	166
Constructing Perceptions of Violence	167
News-Making as Social Construction	167
The News as Social Realities: Agenda-Setting, Framing, and Schema	169
Constructing the Violent Criminal	170
Fear of Crime and Violence and Its Consequences	171
Fear of Crime and Criminals and Its Implications for Social Control	172
Fear and Risk as Diffuse	174
Conclusion	175
References	176

Chapter 10 • Victim-Blame and the Media: The Portrayal of Femicide in Newspaper Stories

<i>Rae Taylor</i>	181
Introduction	181
The Construction of Crime News	182
The Role of Victim-Blame	182
The Context of Domestic Violence	183
Sources for Crime News	183
Why Study the Media?	184
Research Questions	185
Data Sources and Procedures	185
Data Analysis	187
The Dichotomy of Victim Blame	188
The Language of Blame	189
The Victim's Response to Violence	190
Sources for Establishing a History of Domestic Violence	191
The Jealousy and Extramarital Relationship Motive	193
Indirect Tactics in Blaming	194
The Ailing Victim	195
Context in the Analysis of Domestic Homicide	196
References	199

Chapter 11 • The Social Construction of Suicide, Suicide Rates, and the Suicidal Act

<i>Hugh P. Whitt, Jay Corzine and Lin Huff-Corzine</i>	205
Introduction	205
Historical Constructions of Suicide in the West	206
A Corpse Is a Corpse, or Is It? The Social Construction of Suicide Rates	209
The Meaning of Suicide for Victims	214
Conclusion	218
References	218

Chapter 12 • Rap and the Glorification of Guns and Violence in Inner City Youth Culture

<i>Ashish Patel and James D. Wright</i>	223
Introduction	223
Unfavorable Economics	224
Get Tough on Crime and Drugs	226

The Police	229
Incarceration	232
Guns	236
Political Disenfranchisement	241
The Code of the Street	243
References	245
Chapter 13 • Getting Away with Murder: A Review of Arrest Clearances	
<i>Marc Riedel</i>	249
Introduction	249
The Absence of Public Attention	250
The Importance of Homicide Arrest Clearances	252
The Definition and Measure of Arrest Clearances	252
Differences Between Cleared and Uncleared Homicides	254
Discretionary and Nondiscretionary Perspectives	254
Discretionary Factors	257
Nondiscretionary Factors	260
Production-Function Perspective	261
Types of Clearances	265
The Phoenix Homicide Clearance Project	266
Conclusion	267
References	268
Part IV	
Violence: Whom Do We Believe?	
Introduction	273
Chapter 14 • War: Taxonomy, Mythology, Reality	
<i>John Mosier</i>	277
Introduction	277
References	287
Chapter 15 • Guantánamo Continued	
<i>Johanna Kalb</i>	289
Introduction	289
Transfer as Violence	290
Recognizing Violence: Transfer in Its Legal Context	295
Conclusion	300
References	301

**Chapter 16 • Racial Discrimination and the Death Penalty
in the United States**

<i>Robert M. Bohm</i>	305
Introduction	305
The Legacy of Racial Discrimination	306
Racial Discrimination during the Modern Death Penalty Era	308
Sources of Racial Discrimination	311
Theories of Racial Discrimination in the Administration of the Death Penalty	313
References	316

**Chapter 17 • Corporate Violence: The EPA's Criminalization and Control
of Environmental Destruction**

<i>Leo G. Barrile and Neal Slone</i>	323
Introduction	323
Criminalizing Corporate Violence: Defining Environmental Degradation as Crime	325
Constructing a Compliance and Enforcement Apparatus: The Environmental Protection Agency	328
How Does EPA Enforcement Work in Practice?	
Is There a Structural Bias in Punishment?	333
Data on Environmental Prosecutions	333
The Punishment of Corporate Environmental Violence	334
Preventing Corporate Violence: What Can Be Done to Protect the Environment?	338
References	340

**Chapter 18 • Pedophilia and the U.S. Catholic Church:
Victimization and Its Effects**

<i>Brenda K. Vollman</i>	345
Introduction	345
The Contemporary "Crisis" in the Catholic Church	346
Victimology	348
Understanding the Sexual Abuse of Minors	349
What Is Sexual Abuse?	349
Gender and Abuse	351
Event Characteristics	352
Offender Characteristics	353
Effects of Sexual Abuse	355

Reporting of Victimization	358
Surviving and Accountability	360
References	361
Part V	
Is Nonviolence Possible?	
Introduction	369
Chapter 19 • Beyond the Crime Narrative: Communities Build Partnerships to Reduce Violence	
<i>Pamela J. Jenkins</i>	373
Introduction	373
Barriers to Community-Level Violence Prevention Programs	375
Silos of Understanding	375
Not in My Backyard	376
Why?	377
Accountability	377
Factors for Successful Community Programs	378
Integrate Violence Prevention Programming	378
Connect Violence to the Larger Culture	379
Build Partnerships with Other Violence Prevention Programs	379
Understand the Role of the Academy	380
Start Small	381
Find Successful Programs and Adapt Them	382
Champion Peace	382
Conclusion	383
References	384
Chapter 20 • Violence against Women: Repairing Harm through Kith and Kin	
<i>Loraine Gelsthorpe</i>	387
Introduction	387
Law Reform and Criminal Justice Interventions as a Way of Dealing with Violence against Women	388
What Do Women Want in Response to Violence from Their Partners?	390
The Meaning of “Restorative Justice” and How Does It Work?	392
Does RJ “Work”?	396
Does RJ Work in Relation to Family Violence?	397
Objections to Using RJ as a Response to Violence against Women	398

Conclusion	400
References	401
Chapter 21 • Post-Hurricane Katrina Corruption and Human Rights Violations in New Orleans, Louisiana	
<i>Patrick D. Walsh, William E. Thornton and Lydia Voigt</i>	407
Introduction	407
Corruption and Human Rights	409
Research Related to Disasters Corruption Facilitation	411
The Katrina Disaster and Human Rights Violations	412
The Katrina Disaster and Corruption and Human Rights Violations in New Orleans	414
Katrina Fraud	416
FEMA Trailer and Toxic Fume Debacle	418
Housing Authority of New Orleans	419
Police Corruption	421
Facilitation of Wage Thefts from Immigrant Migrant Workers and Government Facilitation of Human Rights Violations of Migrant Workers	424
The Cost of Corruption and Concluding Comments	429
References	431
Chapter 22 • Is Community Peace Possible?	
<i>Reba Parker</i>	439
Introduction	439
How We Told the Story	441
Charleston Peace One Day	443
Make a Commitment Campaign	445
Peace Redefined	446
Metamorphic Evolutionaries	448
An Organic Process	449
Conclusion	451
References	452
List of Contributors	453
Index	463

List of Figures

Figure 1.1.	The Spheres of Violence	16
Figure 1.2.	The Chain of Violence	20
Figure 3.1.	An Integrated Theoretical Model of Homicide Followed by Suicide	50
Figure 13.1.	Percent U.S. Murders Cleared: 1960–2009	249

List of Tables

Table 3.1.	U.S. Homicide-Suicide Characteristics Compared to Homicides and Suicides 2004–2006	53
Table 3.2.	U.S. Intimate Partner Homicide-Suicides Compared to Intimate Partner Homicides 2004–06	54
Table 7.1.	Retaliatory Murders from 2003–2005 (pre-Katrina)	140
Table 7.2.	Variables Entered/Removed (a,b,c,d)	141
Table 7.3.	Classification Results (a)	141
Table 7.4.	Group Statistics	142
Table 7.5.	Variables Entered/Removed (a,b,c,d)	142
Table 7.6.	Narcotic Murder Neighborhoods Predicted	143
Table 7.7.	Percent Distribution of Motive by Levels of Isolation	143
Table 10.1.	Sample Frequencies	187
Table 10.2.	Victim Blame Tactics	189
Table 13.1.	Researchers, Years Studied, Data, Statistic, and Clearance Measure	256
Table 14.1.	Chief Wars Fought Between 1815 and 1914	278
Table 17.1.	Federal Prosecutions of Individuals and Companies for Environmental Crime, 1983–2005	337
Table 17.2.	Occupational Status and Punishment, Differences in Means, t-tests	337

Foreword

The answer to the question posed by editors Dee Harper, Lydia Voigt, and William Thornton, in the title of this volume of readings about various forms of violence is “probably not.” Indeed, as one peruses the table of contents, we see a variety of contributions from a number of noted authors on a rich array of topics that might not be expected in discussions of violence. At the same time, other authors provide chapters on more traditional subjects that push beyond the traditional boundaries of how these topics are typically discussed. Each author makes a case, sometimes passionately so, that the aspect of violence they are discussing is worthy of (re)consideration if we are to fully understand and attempt to respond to violence as a form of human behavior.

In some ways, the metaphor of “not seeing the forest for the trees” comes to mind in contemplating the contribution made by *Violence: Do We Know It When We See It?*. However, the metaphor operates in reverse here—to fully understand the forest, we have to be able to appreciate the diverse forms of trees that comprise it. Those using this book in a classroom setting can provide an interesting introduction to it by asking the class on the first day to list five (or whatever number) acts of violence. Later, following a discussion of the spheres of violence provided in Peter Iadicola’s opening chapter, the students can be asked to categorize their listed acts into each of those categories, an exercise that, for the methodologically inclined, could serve as a mini-introduction to content analysis. Odds are great that the responses will be heavily tilted toward what Iadicola has termed the interpersonal sphere, the kind receiving the most societal attention and ones with which we are most comfortable in labeling as violence. In contrast, it is likely that the other two spheres he describes, structural and institutional, will be only minimally represented. At that point, the challenge posed by this volume has been issued—to broaden our prevailing conceptualizations of violence, as well as to better understand the correlations, causations, and preventions that are necessitated by this expanded view.

The unique intellectual journey offered by *Violence: Do We Know It When We See It?* is not necessarily a straight and linear undertaking. The topics cover a diverse terrain; with most challenging readers to reconsider prevailing notions

of interpersonal violence that so dominate societal views and the public's reactions to violence. But, readers are also exposed to issues as seemingly disconnected as Guantanamo detentions, environmental crimes as acts of violence, institutional and structural crimes associated with natural disasters, and suicide. As well, potential solutions for violence reduction are much farther ranging than would be found in a typical treatment of this topic, ranging from a reconsideration of how violence is portrayed in the media to the role that broad-based community efforts can play in reducing violence of all kinds.

Ultimately, those who complete the journey through the chapters of this volume will emerge with a broader understanding of violence and a rethinking of our responses to it. In doing so, the purpose of this volume will have been achieved. Researchers, policy makers, and politicians take note: you've just been assigned required reading.

Dwayne Smith

University South Florida

Preface

The title of this book, *Violence: Do We Know It When We See It?* suggests that what most of us typically think of with respect to the concept of violence is relatively limited and so this book, which brings together many contributions by well known writers on a broad range of violence –related topics, presents a much more encompassing perspective. This book of selected readings and its companion text, *Why Violence? Leading Questions Regarding the Conceptualization and Reality of Violence in Society*, begins with a consideration of the definition of violence noting that while most of us immediately think of violence in terms of the interpersonal forms of criminal violence (i.e., homicide, rape, robbery, and assaults), there are other spheres of violence that are critical to our understanding of the nature of violence in society.

Part I, which elaborates on the title, *Violence: Do We Know It When We See It?*, deals with the challenges associated with defining violence. Beginning with Peter Iadicola's introductory chapter, "Violence, Spheres, and Principles," which describes the different levels of the expression of violence (i.e., interpersonal, institutional and structural) and discusses ten principles for critically approaching the topic of violence, the other chapters in Part I bring to light some of the challenges related to identifying different expressions of violence, which may not be socially apparent. For example, Patricia Eastal considers the contradictory public and legal constructions of intimate partner violence; Dee Harper and Lydia Voigt discuss gendered violence in the context of intimate partner homicide followed by suicide; and William Lindsay presents the risk factors associated with violent offenders with intellectual disabilities.

Part II, *Violence: Where Do We Look For It?*, offers a selection of chapters that focus on natural events, subculture, and even social policies where violence may or may not be found. Kelly Frailing reviews the patterns of violence in the context of various natural disasters; Mathew Lee and Graham Ousey offer a contemporary overview of the Southern subculture of violence thesis; Jana Levitov and Dee Harper provide a subcultural view of the illicit drug trade and retaliatory murder; and Bethany Brown looks at perceptions of safety and control of violence and the role of Homeland Security.

Part III, *Violence: What Do We Know?*, begins with Stephen Ostertag's treatment of media constructions of urban fear and perceptions of violence; Rea Taylor offers an analysis of victim blame and the media; Hugh Whitt, Jay Corzine and Lin Huff Corzine focus on the social construction of suicide, suicide rates and the suicidal act; Ashish Patel and James Wright use rap and the glorification of guns and violence by inner city youths and the code of the streets to put in context current economic trends, crime policies and the administration of justice; and Marc Riedel considers the role and importance of homicide arrest clearances and the need for greater public attention to clearances.

Part IV, *Violence: Whom Do We Believe?*, starts off with John Mosier's piece on war looking at its associated taxonomy and contrasting mythology versus reality; Johanna Kalh revisits Guantanamo with a special focus on violence in the context of "legal" transfers; Robert Bohm examines the issue of racial discrimination and the death penalty; Leo Barrile and Neal Slone discuss corporate violence in the context of environmental degradation and EPA's ability to control environmental destruction; and Brenda Vollman provides an overview of a study on the sexual abuse crisis in the Catholic Church.

Part V, *Is Nonviolence Possible?*, includes a chapter by Pamela Jenkins noting the barriers to community violence prevention programs and looking beyond the crime narrative to community partnerships for reducing violence; and Loraine Gelsthorpe draws our attention to a consideration of repairing the harm through restorative justice for victims of intimate partner violence; Patrick Walsh, William Thornton and Lydia Voigt raise the issue of Human Rights violations and corruption in the context of post-Hurricane Katrina (including human rights violations by persons in authority and implementation of policies that have operated against certain groups by violating their fundamental rights such as wage theft, detainment, and deportation) and they call for public recognition and affirmation of Human Rights; and finally Reba Parker gives an illustration of a community's attempts to redefine peace.

The contents of the *Violence: Do We Know It When We See It?* includes original works from leading experts on violence from around the world addressing a wide spectrum of interpersonal, institutional and structural forms of violence. These selections explore the many ways in which violence is understood and manifest in contemporary society. The companion book, *Why Violence? Leading Questions Regarding the Conceptualization and Reality of Violence in Society* (Thornton, Harper, and Voigt, forthcoming 2012) provides a comprehensive review of the complexities associated with defining and identifying violent acts and the scientific study of violence including understanding the patterns and causes of violence as well as the controversies surrounding the prevention and control of violence.

We are very grateful to all of the contributors for making this book possible. Due to each author's unique perspective on the topic of violence and the overall strong commitment to broadening understanding of the concept of violence, we have been able to bring a truly distinct collection of writings together. We would also like to thank everyone at Carolina Academic Press, with special thanks to Beth, Karen, and Kelly for their hard work and support of this project.