



Edited by
Carlos A. Cuevas and Callie Marie Rennison

THE WILEY HANDBOOK ON
*the Psychology
of Violence*



WILEY Blackwell

The Wiley Handbook on the Psychology of Violence

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**Carlos A. Cuevas
and Callie Marie Rennison**

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The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 8SQ, UK

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The Wiley Handbook on the Psychology of Violence

To Joana, my wife who is a great source of support and a great lady to spend my life with. To Carter and Alani, I love you both very much; this is why Papo looks so tired. – CAC

I dedicate this book, and all of the research I do, to my best friend, fearless companion, and husband Dave Vaughan. Without you, none of this has any meaning. – CMR

Contributors

Andia Azimi

Department of Criminal Justice
and Criminology
Georgia State University
Atlanta, GA
aazimi2@student.gsu.edu

Gia Elise Barboza

Department of African American Studies
School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Northeastern University
Boston, MA
g.barboza@neu.edu

Cynthia Barnett-Ryan

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Clarksburg, WV
cynthia.barnett-ryan@ic.fbi.gov

Veronica R. Barrios

Family and Child Studies Department
College of Education and Human Services
Montclair State University
Montclair, NJ
barriosv2@mail.montclair.edu

Joanne Belknap

Department of Ethnic Studies
University of Colorado
Boulder, CO
joanne.belknap@colorado.edu

Mark T. Berg

University of Iowa
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Sociology Department
Iowa City, IA
mark-berg@uiowa.edu

Mindy Bernhardt

Georgia State University
Department of Criminal Justice
Atlanta, GA
mbernhardt2@gsu.edu

Joel Best

University of Delaware
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
Newark, DE
joelbest@udel.edu

Adam M. Bossler

Georgia Southern University
Department of Criminal Justice
and Criminology
Statesboro, GA
abossler@georgiasouthern.edu

Molly Bowers (Independent contributor)

Boulder, CO
bowersmo@icloud.com

Kristin Carbone-Lopez

University of Missouri–St. Louis
Department of Criminology and
Criminal Justice
St. Louis, MO
carbonelopezk@umsl.edu

Jonathan Caspi

Family and Child Studies Department
College of Education and Human Services
Montclair State University
Montclair, NJ
caspij@mail.montclair.edu

Michelle Chino (retired)

University of Nevada–Las Vegas
School of Community Health Sciences
Las Vegas, NV
michelle.chino@unlv.nevada.edu

Trevor Cole

Department of Psychology
Idaho State University
Pocatello, ID
coletre2@isu.edu

Carlos A. Cuevas

School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Northeastern University
Boston, MA
c.cuevas@neu.edu

Leah E. Daigle

Georgia State University
Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
Atlanta, GA
ldaigle@gsu.edu

Dana D. DeHart

College of Social Work
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC
dana.dehart@sc.edu

Walter S. DeKeseredy

West Virginia University
Department of Anthropology and Sociology
Morgantown, WV
walter.dekeseredy@mail.wvu.edu

Emily M. Douglas

School of Social Work
Bridgewater State University
Bridgewater, MA
Emily.Douglas@bridgew.edu

Molly Dragiewicz

School of Justice
Faculty of Law
Queensland University of Technology
Brisbane
QLD, Australia
molly.dragiewicz@qut.edu.au

Dara C. Drawbridge

School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Northeastern University
Boston, MA
Drawbridge.d@husky.neu.edu

Stephanie Fahy

Officer, Research,
Public Safety Performance Project
The Pew Charitable Trust
Washington, DC
sfahy@pewtrust.org

Amy Farrell

School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Northeastern University
Boston, MA
am.farrell@neu.edu

Richard B. Felson

Pennsylvania State University
Department of Sociology and Criminology
University Park, PA
rbf7@psu.edu

David Finkelhor

Crimes against Children Research Center
Family Research Laboratory
Department of Sociology
University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH
david.finkelhor@unh.edu

Bonnie S. Fisher

School of Criminal Justice
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, OH
Bonnie.Fisher@uc.edu

Kathleen A. Fox

Arizona State University
School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Phoenix, AZ
katefox@asu.edu

Christine A. Gidycz

Ohio University
Department of Psychology
Athens, OH
gidycz@ohio.edu

Emily H. Griffith

Department of Statistics
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, NC
emily_griffith@ncsu.edu

John Grych

Department of Psychology
Marquette University
Milwaukee, WI
john.grych@marquette.edu

Sherry Hamby

Appalachian Center for Resilience Research
(ACRR) and
The University of the South, Sewanee, TN
sherry.hamby@acrr.us

Timothy C. Hart

School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Griffith University
Southport, Queensland
Australia
t.hart@griffith.edu.au

Billy Henson

Department of Criminal Justice
Shippensburg University
Shippensburg, PA
bwhenson@ship.edu

Todd I. Herrenkohl

School of Social Work
University of Washington
Seattle, WA
tih@u.washington.edu

Denise A. Hines

Department of Psychology
Clark University
Worcester, MA
dhines@clarku.edu

Melissa K. Holt

School of Education
Boston University
Boston, MA
holtm@bu.edu

Thomas J. Holt

School of Criminal Justice
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI
holtt@msu.edu

Lisa M. Jones

Research Associate Professor of Psychology
Crimes against Children Research Center
University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH
lisa.jones@unh.edu

Erika L. Kelley

Ohio University
Department of Psychology
Athens, OH
ek315309@gmail.com

Max Kilger

Department of Information Technology and
Cyber Security
University of Texas at San Antonio
San Antonio, TX
max.kilger@utsa.edu

J. Bart Klika

University of Montana
School of Social Work
Missoula, MT
bart.klika@mso.umt.edu

Caroline Lippy

Division of Violence Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, GA
calippy@gmail.com

Shannon M. Lynch

Department of Psychology
Idaho State University
Pocatello, ID
lynchshan@isu.edu

Sean McCandless

University of Colorado Denver
School of Public Affairs
Denver, CO
Sean.mccandless@ucdenver.edu

Terance D. Miethe

University of Nevada–Las Vegas
Department of Criminal Justice
Las Vegas, NV
miethe@unlv.nevada.edu

Kimberly J. Mitchell

Crimes against Children Research Center
Family Research Lab
University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH
Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu

W. Ben Packard

University of Washington
School of Social Work
Seattle, WA
bpackard@uw.edu

Jane E. Palmer

School of Public Affairs
Department of Public Administration &
Policy
Washington, DC
jane.palmer@american.edu

MiRang Park

Department of Police Administration,
Hannam University
Daejeon, Republic of Korea
mrpark@hnu.kr

Brian K. Payne

Old Dominion University
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
Norfolk, VA
bpayne@odu.edu

Rebecca Pfeffer

Department of Criminal Justice
University of Houston - Downtown
Houston, TX
PfefferR@uhd.edu

Christina Policastro

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Department of Criminal Justice
Chattanooga, TN
Christina-policastro@utc.edu

Mary Ann Priester

College of Social Work
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC
maryp@email.sc.edu

Lesleigh E. Pullman

University of Ottawa
School of Psychology
Ottawa, ON
lespullman@hotmail.com

David C. Pyrooz

Department of Sociology
University of Colorado Boulder,
Boulder, CO
David.Pyrooz@Colorado.edu

Wendy C. Regoeczi

Director of the Criminology Research Center
Cleveland State University
Department of Sociology
Cleveland, OH
w.regoeczi@csuohio.edu

Gerald Reid

School of Education
Boston University
Boston, MA
Gerald@bu.edu

Callie Marie Rennison

University of Colorado Denver,
School of Public Affairs,
Denver, CO
callie.rennison@ucdenver.edu

Bradford W. Reynolds

Department of Criminal Justice
Weber State University
Ogden, UT
breyns@weber.edu

Chiara Sabina

School of Behavioral Sciences and Education
Penn State Harrisburg
Middletown, PA
sabina@psu.edu

Heidi Scherer

Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
Kennesaw State University
Kennesaw, GA
hscherer@kennesaw.edu

Michael C. Seto

Royal Ottawa Health Care Group
Integrated Forensic Program
Brockville, ON
michael.seto@theroyal.ca

Cindy Sousa

Bryn Mawr College
Graduate School of Social Work and
Social Research
Bryn Mawr, PA
csousa@brynmawr.edu

Skye Stephens

Ryerson University
Department of Clinical Psychology
Toronto, ON
skye.stephens@psych.ryerson.ca

Murray A. Straus

Family Research Laboratory
University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH
murray.straus@unh.edu

Terrance J. Taylor

University of Missouri–St. Louis
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
St. Louis, MO
taylortj@umsl.edu

Volkan Topalli

Georgia State University
Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
Atlanta, GA
vtopalli@gsa.edu

Emily I. Troshynski

University of Nevada – Las Vegas
Department of Criminal Justice
Las Vegas, NV
Emily.troshynski@unlv.edu

Jennifer L. Truman

Bureau of Justice Statistics
US Department of Justice
Washington, DC
jennifer.truman@usdoj.gov

Heather Turner

Department of Sociology
University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH
heather.turner@unh.edu

Wendy Walsh

Crimes against Children Research Center
University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH
wendy.walsh@unh.edu

Mikel L. Walters

Division of Violence Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, GA
wai6@cdc.gov

Carolyn M. West

University of Washington
Department of Psychology
Tacoma, WA
carwest@uw.edu

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This handbook would not have been possible without the contributors who volunteered their time and extensive expertise to put together a great collection of works that inform the field of violence. Contributions in this handbook are authored by a diverse group of well known scholars in the field of violence and victimization from the United States and abroad. We are delighted to present the insights of so many experts on a variety of interrelated topics in one place. Their valuable expertise will benefit researchers, teachers, students, practitioners, and other interested professionals. We especially appreciate their patience when things were bogged down, and we are excited to see everyone's hard work come to fruition. It was a pleasure and an honor to work and collaborate with each of them.

We would also like to acknowledge the colleagues with whom we have collaborated in the past. Each manuscript, grant, and presentation with those who focus on violence and victimization has expanded our knowledge, expertise, and understanding of this topic. Books like this do not come together without the incorporation of the knowledge that we have gained from working with others. Hopefully it will promote the collaboration necessary to move this field forward.

It would be remiss of us if we did not also acknowledge the courage of survivors sharing their stories. Whether it is through a research study or clinical services, the willingness of survivors to talk about what has happened to them and how it has impacted them is the only way we learn how we can address this problem. This includes recognizing those who did not survive their victimization. While they cannot share their stories with researchers, data and information from their tragic experiences are valuable to minimizing and ultimately ending violence. The participation of victims and survivors is the foundation of our understanding of the problem, our prevention efforts, the development of services, and ideas about how to make their lives better and safer.

Finally, we have to acknowledge our families and friends. They are a well of support and help bring balance to our lives. This is particularly important when you dedicate your professional career to a subject matter that can be so challenging and taxing. Having these people in our lives helps us be better professionals in this arena.

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Introduction

Carlos A. Cuevas¹ and Callie Marie Rennison²

¹ *Northeastern University, Boston, MA*

² *University of Colorado Denver, Denver, CO*

Vision and Scope for this Handbook

The Wiley Handbook on the Psychology of Violence is an interdisciplinary exploration of all the major elements in the study of violence and victimization. Our vision for this book was to bring together a group of scholars, covering a variety of disciplines that examine violence in our society, including those in psychology, criminology, social work, and public health. The result of this approach is a comprehensive text that cuts across disciplines, resulting in a cornerstone handbook on this important topic.

Although the book is divided into mainstream silos of violence research, we aimed for a text that addresses the diversity and overlap of victimization and violence experiences, including polyvictimization and revictimization dynamics, methodological and data issues particular to violence research, and a more general evaluation of violence dynamics. Also included in the handbook is valuable information on the social construction of violence, cybercrime, and the role of the Internet and social media in violence (e.g., enticement of minors online, the role of technology in stalking). Another key vision of this text was to focus on populations and areas of violence and victimization that have been understudied, such as ethnic minorities, the LGBTIQ community, and those with disabilities. Our hope is to help bring attention to these populations, fill voids, and promote scholarly work and services for them.

Contributions in this book are authored by a diverse group of well known scholars in the field of violence and victimization from the United States and abroad. The book is organized into seven major parts based on different areas of violence focus: general issues in violence and victimization, general violence, juvenile violence, family violence, partner violence, sexual violence, cybercrime, and underserved/understudied populations.

Finally, we realize that our knowledge in the area of violence is fluid and continually evolving. As such, we felt it was important to provide some ideas about where the field needs to go in these varying arenas of violence. Each part therefore ends with a chapter that discusses some ideas about future directions in the study of violence and victimization.

Choices We Made in Constructing this Book

There were a number of choices we made in the development and construction of this text. First, even though its title included the words “psychology of violence,” we recognized that violence research, services, and policy are an interdisciplinary endeavor, and, as such, we recruited contributors both from psychology and disciplines outside psychology.

Another key decision was to give the contributors significant freedom in how they approached the chapter topic. While we requested that a synthesis of the research be part of the presentation, contributors could choose how they drafted the chapter. As a result, we have a diverse and creative approach to the manuscripts, making this a readable and engaging text.

We recognize that edited books such as these are often a resource for individuals who work in some but not all areas of violence. As a result, our approach was that each chapter could stand on its own. However, there are some connections between the chapters and we encouraged the authors not to discuss issues addressed in other chapters where there was overlap.

The Utility and Importance of the Handbook

This is an important book in its comprehensive and up-to-date coverage of research on the topic of violence. It is also important in that it is written by and designed to be read by individuals across numerous disciplines. As such, it should serve as an important and comprehensive resource for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers, regardless of their field.

There are key components to this text that will appeal to potential readers. The book provides a synthesis of the most up-to-date research in the various areas of violence, making it an excellent source of recent work on the topic. Each of the major parts described above addresses intervention suggestions, policy issues, and research needs, so as to provide readers with suggestions on how to use the text’s information and where the field is headed. It is hoped that this information will act as a road map for future research designed to move our understanding of violence and victimization forward.

How to Use this Text

We envision a variety of audiences benefitting from the material contained in this handbook. The information presented cuts across a range of disciplines including students of psychology, sociology, criminology/criminal justice, public health, law and social work. In addition, the material serves as a resource for researchers, practitioners, advocates, and policy makers as it addresses an array of topics related to violence and victimization.

The book is best viewed as a tool chest. It contains information and material on many topics related to violence and victimization that do not require reading in any particular order. Each chapter stands alone, meaning that the reader can find the topic

of interest. Of course, others may choose to read the book from front to back, and the book lends itself to this approach as well.

Given the flexibility in the structure of this handbook, it is easily utilized at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. At the graduate level, we view it as a primary source for courses focused on violence and victimization, regardless of one's home discipline. Among undergraduates, the book may serve as a secondary reference document for classes on these topics.