WHEN MEN MURDER WOMEN

Rebecca Emerson Dobash & Russell P. Dobash
Professors Emeriti, Criminology, School of Law, University of Manchester, UK

Femicide Across Europe

COST ACTION - 1\textsuperscript{st} Training School
Scuola Superiore \textit{di Polizia di Stato}
ROMA, Italy
June 20-24, 2015
WHEN MEN MURDER WOMEN

R. EMERSON DOBASH
RUSSELL P. DOBASH

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS 2015

CONTENTS

PART I - Intimate partner murder
PART II - Sexual murder
PART III - Murder of older women

Each part contains three chapters:
The knowledge
The murder event - relationships, contexts and circumstances
Perpetrators - lifecourse, orientations and cognitions
Explanations

Murder Study

When Men Murder Women – 3 types

1. Intimate Partner Murder (IPM)
2. Sexual Murder (SexM)
3. Murder of Older Women (OWoM)

Compared with Male-Male Murders:
Relationships, Murder Event,
Life course of perpetrators – childhood/adulthood

Conclusions & Implications
EXPLANATIONS

History – violence against women/wives

Socio-demographic - age, employment, disadvantage

Socio-cultural - beliefs, male entitlement, media

Contexts and Situations - conflict, relationships

Cognition - thinking, emotions & action

Psychological attributes - personality & life course

Feminist - gender, power, control, jealousy, possessiveness

Dobash & Dobash
Objectives

- all types of murder
- pathways to murder
- contexts, situations, circumstances & murder event
- relationships between perpetrators & victims
- perpetrators life-course - child to adulthood to murder

3 Sources of Data: (quantitative & qualitative)

1. Homicide Index [official database for UK]
2. 866 Casefiles of offenders: (786 men, 80 women)
   - Sample - all murderers currently serving life in prison:
     - England/Wales (n=3,000 men, 115 women)
     - Scotland (n=500 men, 10 women)
3. 200 Interviews with offenders: (Men=180, Women=20)
CASEFILE & INTERVIEW DATA

Murder Event
  Relationships of victims and offenders
  Violence, Circumstances, & Situations

Childhood
  Family - School - Social & Legal Services

Adult Life and Circumstances
  Employment, Relationships, Problems/alcohol, Social Services

Previous Violence & Offending
  Previous Violence Against Women & Convictions

Prison
  Adjustment, Empathy, Remorse & Future Danger
All murders by Men of Adult Men & Women, n=695

Male - Male Murder
n=424, 61%

Male - Female Murder
n=271, 39%
WOMEN MURDERED BY MEN – 3 Types
Intimate partner, Sexual Murder, Older Women, (n=243) [\*other=28]

- Intimate Partner
  - n=105, 39%
- Sexual Murder
  - n=98, 36%
- Older Women (age 65+)
  - n=40, 15%
INTIMATE PARTNER MURDER (IPM) &
MALE-MALE MURDER (MM)
CONTEXT - WOMEN/WIVES
CONTROL, PUNISHMENT & VIOLENCE

BRANKS FOR –
‘NAGGING’ WOMEN 16-18C

FOOT ON HER NECK.
MEN’S SHOE ADVERT, 2013
MURDER EVENT
INTIMATE PARTNER MURDER & MALE-MALE MURDER


IPM n=105 MxM n=424

Dobash & Dobash
CHILDHOOD (pre16) –
IPMURDER & M-M MURDER

Parent Broken Rel
3+ Carers
Alco Abuse <16
Early offending pre13
Sch Probs

IPMurder n=105
MxM n=424

Dobash & Dobash
ADULTHOOD –

IPMURDER & M-M MURDER

Dobash & Dobash
INTIMATE PARTNER MURDER

Offenders:

¾ previous convictions

¼ no previous convictions

-specialize in violence to women

-‘change the project’ from trying to keep woman partner to decision to destroy her for leaving

-fixed intention to kill

-collateral murders - children, protectors & new partners (n=62)

Relationships, Situations & Contexts:

-Relationships:
  - tenuous
  - prolonged conflict
  - previous violence to victim

-Possessiveness & jealousy

-Separation/ attempts to leave

- Forced sex

- Choke/strangle

- Use instruments/knives, etc.
SEXUAL MURDER (SEXM)
&
MALE-MALE MURDER (M-M)
CONTEXT – SEXUAL ASSAULT & RAPE Normalized in Adverts for Men … 2013

DOLCE & GABBANA

GANG RAPE

DRINKS ADVERT & RAPE

UNLIKE SOME PEOPLE

BELVEDERE ALWAYS GOES DOWN SMOOTHLY.
Sex Murder, n= 98
Relationship between Perpetrator & Victim

Stranger, n=36
37%

Acquaintance, n=62, 63%
MURDER EVENT –
SEX MURDER & M-M MURDER


SexM n=98  M-M n=424

Dobash & Dobash
ADULTHOOD –
SEX MURDER & M-M MURDER

- Unemp.
- Convicted
- Usual VicWo.
- Sex.assault
- Prob-Wo.
- PrevPrison

SexMurder n=98
M-M n=424
MURDER OF OLDER WOMEN (OWoM) & MALE-MALE MURDER (M-M)
OLDER WOMEN – 16C English Law Against Witches, Power of Women = Trouble

Burning Witches

13C Inquisition

3 Witches = Darkness, Chaos & Conflict

Shakespeare - Macbeth
Murder of Older Women
Relationship - perpetrator & victim,

Acquaintance, 
n=24, 60%
Stranger, 
n=16, 40%
MURDER EVENT
MURDER OF OLDER WOMEN & M-M MURDER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O.Wo n=40</td>
<td>M-M n=424</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dobash & Dobash
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>OlderWomen (n=40)</th>
<th>M-M (n=424)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unemp.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convicted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usual VicWo.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex. assault</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prob-Wo.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prev Prison</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dobash & Dobash
OVERALL - RELEVANT FACTORS

Offenders - lifecourse

Child & Adult Problems:

- Caretaking, school, early offending
- Under educated, unemployed
- Alcohol abuse
- Previous convictions
- Violent offences (physical &/or sexual)
- Problems with women include:
  - Orientations to women
  - Relations with women,
  - Specialize in violence to women
  - Male entitlement/privilege
  - Self oriented

- Murder Event:
  - Location - home
  - Beat/strangle, clubs/knives
  - Little/no remorse, empathy, responsibility

- Relationships - nature/consequence
  - intimate partners, acquaintance/friend, relative, strangers
  - men’s access/women’s caution

Situations & contexts:

- Conflict [from none to prolonged]
- Alcohol – drinking & drunkenness
- separation, possessive, change project
- seeking sex

London: Sage. Dobash, Dobash, Cavanagh, & Lewis


London: Routledge. Dobash & Dobash

London: BFI. Schlesinger, Dobash, Dobash, & Weaver

(1979) *Violence Against Wives*.
New York: Free Press. Dobash & Dobash
ARTICLES – FROM MURDER STUDY


2011 *What were they thinking? Men who murder an intimate partner.* Violence Against Women, 17:111-132.


Women’s Violence Against an Intimate Male Partner: Working on a Puzzle, British Jr Criminology, Dobash & Dobash, 44:324-349.

‘Remedial work’: men’s strategic responses to their violence against intimate female partners, Sociology, Cavanagh, Dobash, Dobash, & Lewis, 35:695-714.


A research evaluation of British programmes for violent men. Jr. Social Policy, Dobash, Dobash, Cavanagh, & Lewis,
