Chapter 5

"Because I Was the One to Blame, Right?":
Secondary Victimisation of Migrant Women

Nathália Castro da Silva
University of Porto, Portugal

Rita Faria
iD https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0093-0550
School of Criminology, University of Porto, Portugal

ABSTRACT

Gender and migration status add to the risk of certain people being victims and have been considered, from an intersectionality perspective, added vulnerabilities to some social groups. Likewise, it can negatively affect the experience that victims have with the police when reporting a crime suffered to the authorities, which can generate secondary victimisation and impact people's lives. This chapter presents the results of empirical research about the experiences of victimised migrant women with the criminal police in Portugal, analysed from a narrative victimology approach under the intersectional lens. Data was collected using semi-structured interviews, and by conducting a narrative analysis, it was found that most migrants suffered secondary victimisation, this situation also being influenced by gender and migrant status. Critical methodological issues will also be dealt with, including the recruitment of participants and the reflexivity of the first author, a migrant herself, researching migrant women.

INTRODUCTION

Understood as a cultural construction of the appropriate roles for men and women in society (Scott, 1995), gender is a central and organising category of migration and adaptation processes in the host country. Women and men can experience the migratory journey differently due to gender, with women being significantly impacted by violence and discrimination in this process, which does not end with the immediate arrival in a new country (Boyd & Grieco, 2003; Jerónimo, 2019).

According to the literature, various factors or conditions of people may make them more at risk of becoming victims of certain types of crime. Gender and migration status are often included in the list of acknowledged vulnerabilities, as well as economic status, race and nationality. Any analysis of vulnerabilities must consist of an observation of the broader social conditions that affect potentially vulnerable individuals or social groups (Green, 2012). In this sense, analysing from a single angle can hide other spaces of vulnerability, which is why an intersectional analysis is vital to challenge single understandings that homogenise discourses, as well as to make visible phenomenological experiences where various social structures intersect, without fragmenting such events (Dhamoon, 2011; Carastathis, 2014).

It is also well known that people who were victimised continue to feel the impact of the victimisation event (s) for relatively long periods. This process of persistent suffering can stem from the trauma of the crime, as well as from the fact that society overall and social institutions, in particular, fail to recognise and concede the status of victims to specific individuals or social groups (Condry, 2010). One possible institutional reaction that has been well developed in scientific literature is secondary victimisation, which, according to Manzanares (2014), highlights the process of interaction between victims and the formal systems of state control, particularly the damage and inconvenience it causes and that may increase suffering resulting from primary victimisation or the experience of the criminal event in the first place.

Based on empirical studies and theories explaining the phenomenon, such as *"Belief of a Just World"* (Lerner, 1980) and *"The Ideal Victim"* (Christie, 2018), this chapter is structured as follows: first, a brief literature review on secondary victimisation is presented; next the empirical study conducted about the experiences of migrant women with the police in Portugal will be presented, namely some details about the qualitative methodology adopted; notably the Narrative Analysis carried under the framework of Narrative Victimology (Pemberton & Aarten, 2018), as well as challenges regarding recruitment of participants and positionality of the first author. Participants of the study are Brazilian women who had been victims of crimes in Portugal (primarily gender-based violence) and who reported the crime to Portuguese police authorities.

23 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage: www.igi-global.com/chapter/because-i-was-the-one-to-blame-right/342074

Related Content

Victimology, Theories, and Research: (R)evolution and Changes
Miriam Pinaand Ana Guerreiro (2024). *Modern Insights and Strategies in Victimology (pp. 1-24).*
www.irma-international.org/chapter/victimology-theories-and-research/342793

Machine Learning and Cyber Security: Future Potential of the Research
Vardan Mkrttchian, Sergey Kanarevand Leyla Ayvarovna Gamidullaeva (2020). *Encyclopedia of Criminal Activities and the Deep Web (pp. 1034-1042).*
www.irma-international.org/chapter/machine-learning-and-cyber-security/248102

Violence Against Healthcare Workers
Raleigh Blasdell, Michelle Kilburn, Laura Krieger-Sampleand Rhiannon Oakes (2021). *Invisible Victims and the Pursuit of Justice: Analyzing Frequently Victimized Yet Rarely Discussed Populations (pp. 137-170).*
www.irma-international.org/chapter/violence-against-healthcare-workers/281354

Academic Integrity of Global Digital Masked Bandits Lurking the Deep and Dark Web
David B. Ross, Julie A. Exposito, Melissa T. Sasso, Cortney E. Mattesonand Rande W. Matteson (2020). *Encyclopedia of Criminal Activities and the Deep Web (pp. 177-192).*
www.irma-international.org/chapter/academic-integrity-of-global-digital-masked-bandits-lurking-the-deep-and-dark-web/248040

Human Trafficking and Cyber Laws in Malaysia
Olivia Swee Leng Tan, Rossanne Gale Vergara, Raphael C. W. Phan, Shereen Khanand Nasreen Khan (2020). *Encyclopedia of Criminal Activities and the Deep Web (pp. 518-532).*
www.irma-international.org/chapter/human-trafficking-and-cyber-laws-in-malaysia/248065