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'Yeah but, it's funny if she does it to him': comparing ratings of acceptability, humour, and perpetrator and victim blame in female-to-male versus male-to-female domestic violence scenarios

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This is the Presentation of the final output.

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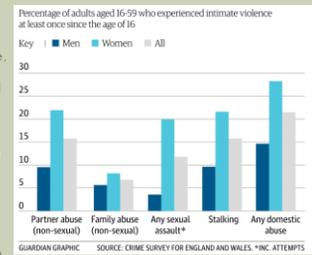
'Yeah but, it's funny if she does it to him':

Comparing ratings of acceptability, humour, perpetrator & victim blame in female-to-male versus male-to-female domestic violence scenarios

Dr Ben Hine

THE PICTURE

- Domestic violence can take a number of forms including physical, emotional, verbal, economic and sexual abuse, which can range from subtle, coercive forms to marital rape and to violent physical abuse that results in disfigurement or death.
- Over the past year, 1.4 million women and 700,000 men have suffered from domestic abuse in the UK
- This is a persistent and pervasive problem – and has not dropped as significantly as other violent crime



THE THEORY

- There are a number of theories explaining domestic violence
 - Reproductive control and neo-Darwinism
 - Cycle of Violence
 - DV as pathology
 - Anger management
 - Feminist theory and dominance over women
 - DV as a reflection of social structure
 - DV as a constructed concept
- However, very few of these theories address female-on-male domestic violence
- Probably due to numbers – bigger issue for male-on-female

THE PROBLEM

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diVHnZX8E50>
- Men are much less likely than women to report domestic violence
 - Threat to masculinity and machismo, threat of ridicule
 - Whilst there is a global issue with male-on-female domestic violence – a silent problem exists in the form of f-m DV
 - Lack of support from social network (Tsui et al, 2010; Tsui, 2014)
 - Police (Buzawa & Thomas, 1993) – Satisfaction with care
 - Criminal Justice System (Lynette & Kris, 2005) – Sentencing

THE QUESTIONS

- Do judgements on Male-on-female and Female-on-male DV differ?
- Do people view one form as more acceptable or humorous than the other? And do they believe that there are varying levels of perpetrator and victim blame?
- Do other attitudes, such as beliefs regarding the relationship of power to sex, have any impact on these judgements?



THE HYPOTHESES

- Participants will judge F-M scenarios as more acceptable and more humorous than M-F scenarios
- Participants will allocate lesser perpetrator blame and greater victim blame in F-M scenarios than in M-F scenarios
- Participants Power-Sex scores will be positively related to their judgement scores

THE METHOD

- Design
 - 2 x 2 between subjects design; Gender (2 levels, male and female) x Vignette type (M-F vs. F-M DV)
- Participants
 - 40 UWL Undergraduates (18-42, M = 21.33, SD = 4.53)
 - 20 Men (M = 21.05, SD = 5.16)
 - 20 Women (M = 21.60, SD = 3.91)
- Materials
 - Vignettes were created that described a DV scenario, names denoting gender were switched to form two scenarios (1 M-F, 1 F-M)
 - Questions asking about acceptability, humour and blame (perpetrator and victim) were presented after the scenario
 - Chapleau & Oswald's (2010) Power-Sex Scale was also presented. Participants answer not at all agree to very much agree to 11 questions such as 'during sex, one person is typically "in charge" of the other'

THE VIGNETTE

- "Scarlett and John have been arguing for the past three days. Scarlett has been getting frustrated that John has been spending a lot of money from their joint bank account. The bills are supposed to be paid in two days and John has asked Scarlett to pay more than his half once again. Scarlett and John start arguing and John pushed Scarlett out of the way to leave the room. Scarlett pulls John back and punches him in the face"

THE RESULTS

- Men and Women judged the vignettes similarly for all questions (i.e., gender was non-significant in all models)
- Broadly, judgements were **higher** in the F-M scenario than in the M-F scenario (aside from Perpetrator Blame)

Vignette	Acceptability*	Humour*	Perpetrator Blame	Victim Blame*
F-M (n = 20)	3.20 (1.19)	3.25 (1.37)	4.45 (0.76)	3.95 (1.05)
M-F (n = 20)	1.40 (1.36)	1.45 (1.47)	4.95 (2.44)	1.95 (1.57)

* = p<0.001

THE IMPLICATIONS

- Even with small sample sizes, there are strong and significant differences in how participants judged M-F vs. F-M DV
- If F-M DV is viewed as more acceptable and humorous, men may feel more embarrassed upon victimisation
- If men do speak out (unlikely) then members of their support network may react negatively, or trivialise the abuse
- A 'cycle of silence'?



THE MESSAGE

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PR5ryhnYtQ>
- If we don't address domestic abuse, in all capacities, then the 'cycle of silence' can't end
 - Both victims and members of support networks need to change attitudes towards F-M DV