

feminists who wish to tease it out — seems particularly perverse. [p.6]

Naffine argues that despite the undisputed maleness of crime, the gender question remains an afterthought, with criminologists failing to see the sex of their subjects, a myopia which extends beyond criminology.

The situation is not quite that bleak. Recently there has been a move by some mainstream criminologists to consider the 'man question'. For example, in *Masculinities and Crime* (1993), Messerschmidt explicitly relies on feminist theories in order to formulate his ideas. Apart from these recent moves, Naffine's argument that there is a lack of engagement with feminist theories in mainstream criminology is generally accurate.

The exposition of major shifts in approaches to criminological knowledge in the first half of *Feminism and Criminology* establishes Naffine's ability to work within mainstream frameworks, a skill she argues is necessary in order for a feminist criminologist to have any authority or recognition. This section is not intended to be exhaustive, and students would need to read other criminology texts to supplement their knowledge in this area. Naffine's exposition of criminological theories has the advantage of being enjoyable and readable, whilst providing tools for critical evaluation.

However, Naffine succeeds almost too well in her quest to establish a connection between mainstream criminology and feminist responses, despite stating that criminology '... simply begins to reflect the shifts in thought which are occurring in the broader culture of ideas' (p.39). The first half of the book comes dangerously close to suggesting that feminist critiques demonstrating the inadequacies of theories were the catalyst for shifts in mainstream criminological thought.

Although the first half of the book is not particularly new, it is well written and provides a useful foundation for the second half. Naffine doesn't discard earlier feminist theory but explicitly relies on combinations of feminisms, recognising that these have contributed to current practices. It is in the application of these theories that Naffine is most exciting and controversial. The second half of the book is entitled 'Effecting Change' and Naffine considers the potential for relocating and reinterpreting the sexes. Her consideration of crime fiction provides weighty

justification for reliance on literature when theorising.

Of particular interest is Naffine's critique of the characterisation of sexual relations in the crime of rape. Naffine counterpoints orthodox male understandings of their own and women's sexuality, with courtesans. She argues that:

the form of sexuality expressed in the crime of rape, and notionally prohibited by rape laws, is an extension of dominant (masculine) understandings of acceptable sexuality. [p.99]

The crime of rape casts men in a specific relation to women, with men as the initiator, proposing sex to another, who either accepts or does not. According to this conception, sexual relations are unidirectional, with strong seducers and the woman who wishes to be seduced.

Naffine introduces a woman's viewpoint as a way of demonstrating that the male perspective is a perspective and not the world. The viewpoint that she relies upon is that of courtesans in India, arguing that they self-consciously 'do gender', using feminine wiles to manipulate men. Naffine is careful to argue that their ironic use of feminine wiles are weapons of the weak, within the context of the superior economic power of their customers.

I found this chapter the most intriguing and challenging. In a book focusing predominantly on British and American criminologists, the reliance on the experiences of courtesans in India was quite surprising. Further, Naffine's arguments in this chapter seemed incomplete, with the result that I felt Naffine had not justified her reliance on this example. It was not until the final chapter that I realised what Naffine was doing.

Feminism and Criminology is almost two books in one, with a split between an exposition and critique of mainstream criminological thought, and the application of current theories. It is possible to read chapters on their own, but Naffine expressly builds on ideas which she has discussed earlier. *Feminism and Criminology* is an enjoyable and thought-provoking text. I read the book quickly, but have continued to discuss the second half of the book with friends. Students who have read the book have stated that it has changed their perspective of mainstream criminology. Great read.

PENELOPE CROFTS

Penelope Crofts teaches law at the University of Technology, Sydney.

Gender, 'Race' and International Relations

Violence against Filipino women in Australia

Chris Cunneen and Julie Stubbs; The Institute of Criminology Monograph Series, The Institute of Criminology, Sydney, 1997; 150 pp; softcover.

In the past two decades there has been anecdotal evidence that young Filipino women brought to Australia as fiancées or spouses of, usually much older, Australian men, are being exploited as 'sex slaves' and suffering from high rates of domestic violence. This monograph is the first study to investigate how such violence culminates in the homicide of Filipino women and children. It reveals that Filipino born women aged between 20 and 39 are 5.6 times more likely than other Australian women in the same age group to be victims of domestic homicide. In their analysis of the known 27 deaths or 'disappearances' of Filipino born women and/or their children between 1980 and 1994, the authors also examine the gendered, racialised and international relations character of the homicides. Although they were hampered by insufficient information and data about the homicides to be able to generalise their findings, the authors have nevertheless made an important contribution to domestic violence research not only in Australia but also in the other western countries which legitimate the 'mail order bride' practices from third world Asian countries.

The monograph is divided into three sections which cover the theoretical and practical framework for the study, the homicide cases and the effects of sexualised and racialised representations of Filipino women in advertising, 'introduction' agencies and on the Internet. Chapters one to three review the literature which demands that any sound research of violence against Filipino women in first world countries must be done with an 'intersectional' analysis; that is, the violence is not just against women because they are women (gendered) but because they have been constructed as 'Asian' (racialised) and therefore exotic, and because their migration to first world countries as wives and workers is part of the international political economy.

There is also a detailed description of the obstacles faced by Filipino women in Australia which make it difficult for them to report violence, seek protection orders or use services such as refuges. The study is thus very well grounded in the current feminist and criminological debates which deal with family violence.

Section two of the monograph provides those details which are available concerning the 27 cases being studied. The authors acknowledge the inadequacy of these data, collected, as they were, from HREOC files and the Centre for Philippine Concerns. The quantity and quality of information varies considerably and they suspect that there are gaps and omissions for years at a time. Notwithstanding these methodological shortcomings, the cases are stark and disturbing evidence of the authors' contention that some young Filipino women and their children are at grave risk of suffering violence and even death when they are sponsored to migrate by Australian men.

For example, two men had previously had Filipino wives and one other man had made an application for further introductions the day before he killed his present wife (p.89). There are also disparities in how each case was investigated and prosecuted as well as in the sentences meted out where the killer was convicted (p.82) — one man was

acquitted and several had murder charges reduced to manslaughter. One man was not prosecuted because the bodies of mother and child were never found although there was circumstantial evidence and the husband remained the prime suspect (p.63). In their discussion of these cases, the authors successfully link the intersections of gender, race, and class with the violence perpetrated on Filipino 'brides'.

In section three and the appendices, further proof is provided of how Filipino women are racialised in advertising, in publicity for 'introduction' agencies and on the Internet as the 'ideal' women of male fantasy. Finally, the international relations aspect of the research is confirmed as the authors demonstrate how the pressures to earn foreign exchange in third world countries plays into the hands of first world interests willing to exploit women as wives and cheap labour.

However, some questions remain unanswered as a result of deficiencies in the data. Although the study is very well documented and carefully qualified in most areas, I would have liked to know what proportion of these Filipina-Australian marriages are represented in the homicide numbers. When reading the cases, for instance, I wondered if the men who killed their Filipino wives might have killed any wife. Certainly many of them had been

married before with histories of violence, had suffered psychiatric illnesses or been in prison. My question might therefore be: is it the type of man who seeks a Filipino wife which makes these women so vulnerable? Perhaps the question cannot be answered without further research.

In terms of the structure and language of the monograph, I found it to be well written and accessible. It will be useful for legal personnel, social workers, refuges and the staff of outreach services who come into contact with Filipino women. However, it might have been better to have the cases integrated into the analysis. It was a little confusing in chapter five to have to keep referring back to the previous chapter for details and it would have saved some repetition. An index too, would have been welcome.

Nevertheless, this monograph is a significant addition to existing knowledge of domestic violence and its consequences. It is thoroughly researched and its limitations do not detract from its sophisticated analysis. As such, it is like an exploratory study which is not definitive but certainly raises important issues of which we need to be made aware.

JENNY BURLEY

Jenny Burley teaches legal studies at Flinders University of South Australia.



MORE MENTIONS

CAPSICUM SPRAY

All States and Territory police forces in Australia have now introduced or are considering introducing a controversial new chemical weapon called capsicum spray.

Victoria Police are the first police force in Australia to make the spray weapon standard equipment for all operational police.

The Western Suburbs Legal Service has developed a comprehensive resource library of local and overseas material relating to the way capsicum spray has been used, medical, safety and civil liberties concerns. The resources are designed for use and distribution to lawyers acting for people who have been sprayed, community workers, students, activists and those who want to know more about the spray.

The legal service also wants to hear from anybody who has been sprayed by police.

Contact: Jude McCulloch or Marcus Clayton on (03) 9391 2244.

VICTORIA LAW FOUNDATION IDEAS INCENTIVE SCHEME

The Foundation is trialling a new scheme called the Ideas Incentive Scheme. The scheme seeks to channel creative ideas from the community into Foundation projects — by offering organisations a fee for ideas that become Foundation projects. The Scheme in no way diminishes the Foundation's existing Grants Program.

To apply, an organisation must first elect whether it intends to apply for a grant to carry out the project itself or whether it wants to offer an idea for a project to the Foundation. To apply to the Ideas Incentive Scheme a project

outline of approximately two pages, containing a clear description of the project, the need for the project, a general plan for its execution and global estimate of its cost is submitted.

For more information contact Noelene Graton on (03) 9602 2877 or email noelene@viclf.asn.au

Editing/proofreading

For writing, editing or proofreading, contact:
Lynn Buchanan
(03) 9484 4439

Specialising in clear, easy-to-understand law-related information. Many years experience with the Lawyers Practice manual (Vic) as well as project work with Victoria Legal Aid and Victoria Law Foundation.