

CRIM 491-492 HONORS SEMINAR

Domestic Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, and Teen Dating Violence in the US: Patterns, Risks, Needs, and Responses

Dr. Yasemin Irvin-Erickson - Fall 2023 and Spring 2024

Millions of people in the US become victims of domestic violence and dating violence in the US every year. **Domestic violence (DV)**, which might be also referred to as family violence, includes physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, or economic actions or threats to control an individual by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction. **Intimate partner violence (IPV)**, sometimes used synonymously as DV, includes DV cases between current and former partners and in turn excludes violence towards family members or other residents living within the household who would fall under the broader term of DV. **Teen dating violence (TDV)** is a subcategory of IPV and includes IPV among any person ages 12 to 18 in the context of a past or present romantic or consensual relationship.

While both men and women can be victims of IPV and IPV can occur between heterosexual and same sex-couples, the majority of IPV cases are perpetrated against women by male partners (Fulu et al., 2013) and women and sexual minorities are more likely to become IPV victims because of their sexual orientation and gender identity (Adames & Campbell, 2005; Ahrens et al., 2010; Benuto & Bennett, 2015; Goncalves & Matos, 2016). According to CDC's 2015 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), about 43 million adult women and 37 million adult men in the US experienced IPV in their lifetime (Smith et al., 2018). The lifetime economic cost associated with medical services for IPV-related injuries, lost productivity from paid work, criminal justice and other costs, was \$3.6 trillion (Peterson et al., 2018). The cost of IPV over a victim's lifetime was \$103,767 for women and \$23,414 for men (Peterson et al., 2018). DV victims also have a high likelihood of becoming repeat victims. Repeat victimization has major lifetime emotional, physical, and economic consequences. While survivors from all backgrounds face these consequences, in the US, African American and Black, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and multiracial women face intersecting challenges that exacerbate these consequences and hamper their help-seeking behavior (Crossland et al., 2013; Lauritsen & Heimer, 2009; Miller et al., 2009; Orchowsky, 2010; Postmus, 2015). Reports indicate that immigrant survivors of DV are at risk, because many of them work in frontline jobs or in hard-hit industries and have little to no access to any safety net benefits (Rai et al., 2020). DV, IPV, and TDV can pose significant risks to victims/survivors and societies during and following pandemics, epidemics, disasters, and humanitarian crises.

Students enrolling in this seminar over two semesters will gain fundamental knowledge about DV, IPV, and TDV in the US and conduct research on prevalence and risk/protective factors of and responses to DV, IPV, and TDV and survivor and service provider needs. In the process, students will build upon their knowledge on research methods and learn about the fundamentals of qualitative and quantitative data analysis.

Course Activities

In the Fall 2023 semester, students will learn about DV, IPV, and TDV trends in the US, experiences of DV, IPV, and TDV victims/survivors, responses to DV, IPV, and TDV including services for victims/survivors, and research methodology in the social sciences. Specifically, this seminar will cover the following topics:

- Theoretical perspectives on violence
- Definitional and measurement issues of DV, IPV, and TDV
- Types of DV, IPV, and TDV
- Patterns and trends of DV, IPV, and TDV in the US
- Individual, relationship, community, and society-level risk factors of DV, IPV, and TDV
- Technology-facilitated DV, IPV, and TDV
- Protective factors against DV, IPV, and TDV
- Consequences of DV, IPV, and TDV
- Needs of survivors and underserved populations
- Responses to DV, IPV, and TDV
- Needs of and challenges faced by victim service providers
- Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on DV, IPV, and TDV
- Fundamentals of research methods in social sciences
- Fundamentals of qualitative and quantitative data analysis

In the Spring 2024 Semester, students will design and conduct their own (or group) studies using methods that best address their research questions. Depending on the research question, students may collect their own primary data and/or compile and use secondary data (with the assistance of Dr. Irvin-Erickson) from existing data sources. At the conclusion of the course, students will present their work to the Criminology, Law and Society faculty. Students will be encouraged to present their work at the 2023 OSCAR Celebration of Student Scholarship and Impact. Students will also be encouraged to present their work to criminal justice professionals and researchers and to publish their findings.

Course Enrollment

The Criminology, Law and Society Honors Program is open to Criminology, Law and Society majors who show the ability and drive to benefit from intensive study in the honors seminars. There are no formal course or GPA requirements, although the most promising candidates will be students who have taken challenging courses at Mason and who have earned at least a 3.3 overall/cumulative GPA (a B+ and above grade from CRIM315—Research Methods and Analysis in Criminology is strongly recommended). Students must have permission to participate in this course and are expected to make a one-year commitment to participate in both CRIM 491 and CRIM 492. Students who successfully complete CRIM 491 and 492 with a GPA of 3.5 or above will receive the honors designation in Criminology, Law and Society when they graduate and the letters “RS” will appear on their academic transcripts indicating they have participated in a Research and Scholarship Intensive course. The six credits from these two courses can be 3 applied towards the CRIM electives section of the major and can count toward the criminal justice concentration. This seminar will meet on the Fairfax campus one day a week during the

Fall semester (day/time for the Spring semester to be confirmed). There will also be opportunities for meetings outside the classroom. General information on the Honors program is available at <http://cls.gmu.edu/undergraduate/honors-research>. If you are interested in registering for this course, please email Dr. Irvin-Erickson at YIrviner@gmu.edu.

About the Instructor



Dr. Yasemin Irvin-Erickson is Assistant Professor of Criminology, Law and Society. She researches primarily in the area of victimization, technology, and the economic empowerment of vulnerable populations. Prior to joining Mason, Dr. Irvin-Erickson was a senior researcher at the Urban Institute's Justice Policy Center (2014-2018) where she managed an externally funded research portfolio over \$3 million on a variety of social justice issues including violence and victimization. Her most recent work includes a nationwide mixed-methods research study on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on victimization risk and service needs of victims/survivors of domestic violence and two research studies on patterns and harms of identity theft victimization. In 2016, Dr. Irvin-Erickson was selected to serve among 13 researchers and practitioners in the Rutgers Violence Against Women Research Consortium funded by the National Institute of Justice. In 2017, Dr. Irvin-Erickson and her team were selected among 10 teams worldwide to receive a Development Marketplace Innovation Award from the World Bank Group and Sexual Violence Research Initiative in response to gender-based violence with a mobile survey application they developed to crowdsource real-time data on transit users' experiences and fear of violence in public transportation. Between 2016 and 2018, Dr. Irvin-Erickson served as a key project member for the Center for Victim Research funded by the Office for Victims of Crime. At Mason, Dr. Irvin-Erickson has taught undergraduate courses on research methods, crime victims and victimization, and crime and place and graduate courses on criminological theories.