



“Who am I to tell?”

Sharing stories of intimate partner violence across gender and sexuality

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Gender and violence

“Obviously, I could have just beaten her up.. But that’s not what it’s about.. who’s the strongest, physically. It’s about breaking that barrier, about hitting the person you’re supposed to love the most in the whole world”

Eric (36)

Project: Studying coping strategies among men and women exposed to violence in intimate relationships

Researchers:

Yngvil Grøvdal (Project leader)

Randi Saur (female informants)

Monika Grønli Rosten (male informants)

The project have been part of the research program “Violence in Close Relationships” at NKVTS (2014-2019), financed by the Norwegian Department of Justice

“I had to lie at work, saying that the cat had scratched my face.. I just made something up like that. I did not dare to tell anyone, it was so shameful, that..that we were..wrestling with each other

(...)

I knew that if I had hit her back, and she reported this to the police, I would be in big trouble. So there was always this voice of reason in my head, saying that I had to control myself”

Hans (64)

“I remember reading in the paper about a police man that had been seriously beaten by his wife. He looked like a strong man judging from the picture, you know, a manly man. And I felt that he...I felt that I could relate to that. I am a strong woman, I am tall. My ex-girlfriend is tiny. To be beaten by someone that, according to society, is supposed to be graceful and sweet.. It’s taboo “

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“As an equal, shouldn't men have been able to talk him out of it, to make the violence stop? (...) For me, the shame of it all was about that, not being able to make him stop”

“I have been communicating to her that inside of this house, in our private sphere, you are allowed to: a) be utterly desperate; and b) to shout and scream, to kick and hit me. [I promise that] it will all remain within our private home, and I am in charge of protecting you from the outside world so that no one will know about it”

Jonas (55)

Conclusion

Experiencing violence as **individuals**,
sharing stories representing
stereotypes

Thank you!

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