



Violence against Women

Classic Papers

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This book is dedicated to the memory of Susan Schechter, one of the authors represented here and a pioneer in services to battered women and their children. One of the last pieces Susan wrote before she died in 2004 was the reflection piece that appears in this volume.

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P R E F A C E

As with every book, *Violence against Women: Classic Papers* has been an adventure. This adventure began one day with an e-mail from Jeff Edleson with the brilliant idea of collaborating for a second time on a book. Our first collaborative effort, *The Sourcebook on Violence against Women* (2001), had been such a rewarding experience that we were eager for a second project. This new project was inspired by two existing books. One was M. Patricia Golden's (1976) *The Research Experience*, in which she reprinted a wide variety of research papers that were accompanied by reflections from the original authors. Although Golden's book is now out of print, it was a model on which we based this work. The second book was the much more recent *Classic Papers in Child Abuse* (2000), edited by Anne Cohn Donnelly and Kim Oates. Here the editors brought together the key papers in the field of child abuse from 1946 to 1989. Our goal with *Violence against Women* was to assemble some of the classic works in the field of violence against women so that new generations of students, practitioners, and researchers would have a collective understanding of the work that has shaped the field. Our aim was also to include commentaries from the original authors reflecting on why they authored the work when they did and the influence of their work on the field. We believed that such a collection would be useful given how much the field has grown in the past three decades.

Contemporary efforts to end violence against women are entering a fourth decade. From meager beginnings in the early 1970s, a grassroots network that focused on assisting battered women and rape victims has expanded exponentially to encompass policy and practice at all levels of society. The disparate areas of adult domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and the like, have increasingly been referred to as violence against women. Examples of developments in the field of violence against women can be seen everywhere. In 2000, the U.S. government renewed the Violence against Women Act and doubled funding to \$3 billion over five years to support intervention efforts. Where once small refuges housed battered women and their children in converted apartments, now newly-built facilities extend their services to include second stage housing, therapeutic services, advocacy and economic justice initiatives, child education, primary prevention, and collaboration with a wide array of other social institutions including police, courts, hospitals, and schools. Services are not just for women but also for their children and their abusive partners.

The proliferation of rape crisis centers also began in the 1970s, largely through the grassroots efforts of survivors who organized hotlines to provide emotional support to other women who had been victimized. Today, there are more than 1,200 programs in the United States offering medical and legal advocacy and mental health services to survivors of many forms of sexual violence. Over the years, the definition of violence against women has expanded to include a variety of forms of sexual and physical violence as well as emotional abuse, sex trafficking, and pornography.

There is also extensive evidence that the practices developed within the battered women's shelters and rape crisis centers over the past decades have expanded well beyond

these particular services. Many hospitals, schools, police departments, courts, and places of worship and work now have prevention and intervention programs aimed at violence against women.

The publication of scholarly papers on the subject of violence against women has also grown tremendously over the years. Hundreds of books and a number of major journals are now devoted to examining violence against women in all its aspects. The field of violence against women has now matured to the point where many current publications commonly give reference to a series of papers that initially established a topical domain or sub-area. However, in teaching about violence against women, we have found that many of those new to the field (and some not so new to the field) have never read some of the classic statements on violence against women. Consequently, the goal of this anthology is to assemble into one edited volume many of the classic, groundbreaking pieces that have shaped the field of violence against women. A critical aspect of achieving this goal was to identify which pieces of work constituted “classic papers.”

We began with the understanding that this anthology would focus primarily on feminist scholarship, given the influence of feminist thinking and practice on the field of violence against women and on our own work. Our criteria for selection of classic papers were that the paper was published early in the development of the field (there is only one paper originally published in the 1990s) and that the work was groundbreaking in that it drew attention to a new domain in the field or that it framed the issue in such a way as to subsequently reorient policy, practice, or research. We knew from the outset that not everyone would agree with our choice of what to include as classic. This field has benefited from the work of many people with strong and varied opinions, so we certainly did not expect complete consensus. To ensure that we considered a variety of works from many topical areas in the field of violence against women, we formed an advisory board of practitioners and researchers. We invited people who were diverse in terms of professional and personal backgrounds to comment on a tentative table of contents we had developed and to suggest other classic works that had influenced their own work along with a rationale for why a work should or should not be included. We are grateful to the following ten people for responding and serving as members of the advisory board: David Finkelhor, Anne Flitcraft, David Ford, Ed Gondolf, Peter Jaffe, Mary Koss, Phoebe Morgan, Jody Raphael, Susan Schechter, and Meiko Yoshihama. Their suggestions were much appreciated and carefully considered, and there was a considerable amount of agreement about the most influential works in the field.

The table of contents reflects the suggestions of the advisory board and our own perspectives about the classics that have influenced our work. Importantly, there were many original articles or book chapters that we wanted to include as classics but could not. Part of the adventure of assembling *Violence Against Women* was obtaining permission to reprint works that were published so long ago. Some of the works could not be included because we could not obtain permission from copyright holders or original authors and, in some cases, permission costs were prohibitive. Despite these challenges, we believe that the twenty-three classic papers that are included in this book reflect some of the most important early works in the field of violence against women.

Some of these classics, such as Diana Russell’s *Rape in Marriage* (1982) and Del Martin’s *Battered Wives* (1976) were groundbreaking in identifying women’s experiences

of violence that had been largely ignored. The works of Gail Wyatt in *The Sexual Abuse of Afro-American and White-American Women in Childhood* (1985), Barbara Hart's *Lesbian Battering: An Examination* (1986), and Kimberle Crenshaw's *Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics and Violence against Women of Color* (1994) focused much-needed attention on marginalized groups of women. Importantly, works such as Diana Scully and Joseph Marolla's "*Riding the Bull at Gilley's*": *Convicted Rapists Describe the Rewards of Rape* (1985) and Edward Gondolf's *The Effect of Batterer Counseling on Shelter Outcome* (1988) called our attention to those who perpetrate acts of violence against women. Other works, such as Murray Straus's *Measuring Intrafamily Conflict and Violence: The Conflict Tactics (CT) Scales* (1979) and Lenore Walker's *The Battered Woman* (1979) are important not only for their content but also because these works have sparked productive dialogue and debate within the field. We believe that each classic paper in this book has played a critical role in shaping the work of subsequent generations of researchers and practitioners.

The works in this book are broadly inclusive of the domains that most authorities would consider violence against women. We have divided the classics into three general areas: Sexual Violence against Women; Physical Violence against Women; and Perpetrators of Violence against Women. Following each chapter, we have included commentaries by original authors (whenever possible) about their own work. We invited the authors of these classic papers to write reflections about their work and to specifically address why they decided to study and write about their particular issue at the time and to consider the impact that their work has had on the field of violence against women. We attempted to contact each original author for a reflection; however, several authors either could not be reached or were not able to write a commentary due to time constraints. When this occurred, we invited other experts in the particular sub-field to reflect on the importance of the classic paper and how it has influenced their own work in the field.

The commentaries that are included here are considerably varied. Some authors reflect on the personal reasons that drove them to their research, such as their own victimization or the overwhelming feeling that "something had to be done." Other reflections reveal information about the authors' perceptions of the impact of their work, including how they have influenced other researchers and how their work has often been misunderstood. Many of the commentaries reflect the policy implications of doing work in the field of violence against women and offer reflections on what still needs to change. Taken together, these twenty-three commentaries are empowering—they force us to remember the passion of those who have done this challenging work for decades. They are an amazing group of people! Reading these commentaries is also empowering in that we are reminded of the work that still must be done and the need to continue the struggle against all forms of violence.

Acknowledgments

This adventure would not have been possible without the work and support of so many people. This book would certainly not have been possible without the hard work of those colleagues who authored the classic papers and shaped this field of research and practice. We

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