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NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD SOCIETY OF VICTIMOLOGY

The Criminal Victimization of Ethnic Minorities in Britain and the Influence of Demographic and Socio-Economic Factors: Where Do We Stand?

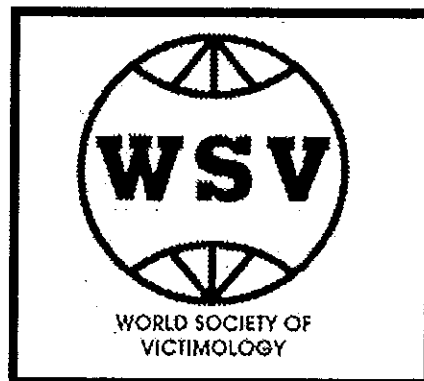
Georgios A. Antonopoulos

The relationship between ethnic (and racial) minorities, crime and the criminal justice system has been one of the most widely researched themes in the criminological enterprise. However, there has been comparatively very little interest in the victimisation of ethnic minorities and the factors influencing it, and research has focused on the issues of criminality or policing and control of ethnic minorities. The purpose of this article, which is based on the available literature, is to provide an account of the rates of criminal victimisation of ethnic minorities in Britain, and the effect of the minorities' demographic and socio-economic factors on them.

Ethnic Minorities' Rates of Criminal Victimization.

The research on the criminal victimization of ethnic minorities in Britain has been a trend that established itself in the last 20-25 years, although there has been

much more intense research on the relationship between these minorities and criminality or/and policing. A study which was carried out in the early 1980s with samples of Afro-Caribbean and white people in an area of Manchester found that there was no significant difference in the



criminal victimisation rates between the two ethnic groups (Tuck and Southgate, 1981). In contrast the Islington Crime survey, a small but very frequently cited study carried out in 1985, showed that the rate of criminal victimisation was significantly higher for Afro-Caribbeans, whereas it was similar

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A new electronic review: *LE JOURNAL INTERNATIONAL DE VICTIMOLOGIE*

Christophe Herbert

The *Journal International De Victimologie (International Journal of Victimology)* was launched in October 2002. This one is an electronic review in the field of victimology available on the Internet at <http://www.jidv.com>. The Journal, in French only at the outset, is available free of charge and will be published four times a year.

The purpose of the *Journal International De Victimologie* is to facilitate communication between all professionals working with victims. The aim of the Journal is to create a place where professionals of any country and discipline can talk together, think, debate and exchange their knowledge about how they help victims in their own countries. Exchange and debate on our practices may teach us about new possibilities in helping victims.

Numerous international

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for whites and Asians (Jones *et al.*, 1986). The first piece of empirical research, however, to put abundant light on the differential criminal victimisation rates between the ethnic groups was the 1988 British Crime Survey (BCS), which showed that for several personal or household crimes, both Afro-Caribbean and Asian people were at a much higher risk of victimisation than white people (Mayhew *et al.*, 1989). Specifically, although 9.4 % of white people were victims of personal offences, the percentage for black and Asian people was 16.1 and 14.8, respectively. Similarly, 29.8 per cent of white people had been victims of household offences as opposed to 32.7 per cent of Afro-Caribbeans and 35.5 per cent of Asians. In respect of specific offences, and compared to white people, Afro-Caribbean were more likely to become victims of burglary, vehicle theft, assault, and robbery, and Asians more

likely to become victims of household vandalism, vehicle vandalism and theft, burglary, threat, and robbery/theft from a person. These high victimization rates experienced by Asians were also backed up by another study, which was conducted during the same year as the 1988 BCS, on crime in Asian-run small shops (Ekblom and Simon, 1988) and showed that four-fifths of the shop-owners had experienced some form of crime.

The reports on the BCS in 1988 and 1992 described and analysed the main findings in relation to the criminal victimisation of ethnic minorities in Britain, however, they had a serious drawback, as by distinguishing in whites, Afro-Caribbean and Asians, they aggregated Indian, Pakistani and (to a significantly smaller extent) Bangladeshi people into the wider category 'Asians'. FitzGerald and Hale (1996), after undertaking a more integrated analysis, which combined the 1988 and 1992 BCS, produced a sample that allowed for a disaggregation of

the Asian group into Indian and Pakistani. Their conclusions, however, were similar. In particular, the percentage of the victimised once or more (as found in the 1988 and 1992 BCS combined) was for household offences 30.8, 34.8, 35.9, and 39.5 for whites, Afro-Caribbeans, Indians, and Pakistanis, respectively. For personal offences, the percentages of victimised once or more were 9.7 for white, 13.9 for Afro-Caribbean, 11.8 for Indian, and 14.7 for Pakistani. Again, in respect of specific offences and compared to white people, Afro-Caribbeans were running a significant risk of being victims of burglary, vehicle theft, bicycle theft, assault, and robbery/theft from person. Indians were running a significant risk of becoming victims of household vandalism, burglary, and robbery/theft from person. Finally, Pakistanis were significantly at risk of household vandalism, vehicle vandalism and threat. The above is supported by more recent

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From the Editor's Desk

2003 will undoubtedly be a very important year for the Society. In July of this year the 11th International Symposium on Victimology will take place. The members of the Editorial Board encourage all our readers to attend the symposium and we look forward to meeting you there.

Leading up to the symposium, the World Society has a number of important events coming up.

These include the WSV Student Paper Competition and the WSV Post-Graduate Course in Dubrovnik. You can read more about these events in this issue of *The Victimologist*.

Besides WSV affairs, this issue of *The Victimologist* includes a research article on the victimisation of minorities in England as well as an announcement for the

new French-language victimology journal, *Journal international de victimologie*.

The members of the Editorial Board would like to wish all of the members of the World Society of Victimology a very happy and prosperous new year.

Jo-Anne Wemmers,
Managing Editor

XIX. POST GRADUATE COURSE OF VICTIMOLOGY, VICTIM ASSISTANCE, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

12 - 23 MAY 2003

INTER UNIVERSITY CENTRE DUBROVNIK, CROATIA

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The 19th Post Graduate Course "Victimology, Victim Assistance and Criminal Justice" in the Inter University Center Dubrovnik will bring together around 40 students from all over the world and approximately 20 internationally renowned experts in the field of victimology. The course covers areas like crisis intervention, crisis management, victim assistance, victim compensation, restorative justice, women as victims of violence, theoretical concepts of victimology, newest developments in victim assistance, economic victimization, international victim surveys, victim impact statements, etc. Experience in victimology and/or victim assistance is welcome but not necessary since this course is geared to a theoretical brush up. The course will be taught in English.

In Dubrovnik, participants live in private quarters (room without board is about 20 to 25 EURO per night) or in one of the hotels close to the Inter University Center (IUC). The administration of the IUC is very helpful in providing a list of hotels (if you book please indicate that you are a participant in the IUC activities in order to get a

special rate!) and you may check their website for a list of those: <http://www.tel.fer.hr/iuc>. For information on private accommodation please contact also the Tourist Information Center: phone: +385-20-426-354; Fax: +385-20-426-355; E-mail: tic-stradun@du-jinet.hr. The IUC is located 3 minutes walking distance away from the world famous old city. However, the participants are responsible to find and book their own accommodation

Lectures begin at 9:00 a.m and last until 1:00 p.m. Between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. is a siesta break and classes resume at 5:00 p.m. until 8: p.m. The last three days of the course are devoted to paper presentations by the students. Short presentations by the students of about 15 minutes in English language qualify for graduation from the course and lead to the highly desired certificate. The tuition fee for the course is 120 U.S. Dollars per participant and has to be paid at the beginning of the course to the course directors.

It is not necessary to pre-register for the course at the Inter University Center in Dubrovnik. However,

please inform one of the course directors about your participation and, if appropriate, the bringing of the number of students in order to allow us to plan accordingly. Faculty and Resource persons stay often in:

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P. Cringrije 7

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E-mail: hotel-lero@du.tel.hr

www.hotel-lero.hr

*For further information,
please contact one of the
course directors*

research that produced similar results (see for example Percy, 1998; Kershaw *et al.*, 2000).

Regarding of homicide, studies conducted by the Home Office (1998, 1999, 2000) have shown that ethnic minorities are in a much higher risk of being victimised. For example, in the year 2000, 10 per cent of the homicide victims were Afro-Caribbean, 6 per cent Asian, and 3 per cent 'other' (Home Office, 2000).

The Control of Demographic and Socio-economic: factors influencing the Criminal Victimization of Ethnic Minorities in Britain.

The figures presented above are of great value as they can provide a very broad picture regarding the criminal victimization of ethnic minorities in Britain, however, we cannot accept them without further investigation since they largely ignore several factors, which are closely linked to the

risk of victimization such as sex, age, area of residence, routine activities etc. Therefore, we are not in the position to know whether ethnicity per se correlates to criminal victimization.

As it was shown, the 1988 and 1992 BCS found that both Afro-Caribbean and Asians were at a higher criminal victimization risk than whites (Mayhew *et al.* 1989; FitzGerald and Hale, 1996). However, ethnic minority groups are very different from

Table 2 Characteristics of BCS respondents and their households by ethnic group.					
	White %	Afro-Caribbean %	Indian %	Pakistani %	Bangladesh %
Personnal characteristics					
Male	48	46	56	59	64
Age 16-30	25	44	37	47	40
Married	65	47	71	70	80
Unemployed *	8	16	14	34	34
Household Characteristics					
Household head under 30	12	30	13	16	14
Children under 16 in household	30	53	39	24	15
Single mother with dependent children	4	15	3	4	2
Non manual household head	49	39	48	29	36
Owner occupier	68	41	79	76	42
3+ adults in household	19	19	39	42	42
Area of residence					
Inner city	16	69	39	48	67
High risk ACORN area **	11	62	48	68	66
Lived in same area 10 + years	62	38	40	44	36
Defenitely won't move	49	29	38	38	30
People in area help each other	36	29	51	50	60
Unweighted N	19,301	1,776	1,236	591	149

Weighted data, Source: 1998 and 1992 BCS core and booster sample

* 'Unemployment' as percentage of all economically active

** High risk ACORN areas include : G : Concil estates category III H: Mixed inner metropolitan areas
I : High-status non-family areas (for details see Appendix 9, Mayhew *et al.* 1989)

each other and from white in terms of their age distribution, their marital and employment status, their household characteristics, and the area where they are residing (Table 2). For example, the Afro-Caribbean, Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi populations number a much higher percentage of younger people, something that has been found to be correlated to violent victimization (see Kershaw *et al.*, 2000). Moreover, there is a much higher number of Afro-Caribbean women raising their (dependent) children on their own than white, Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi women.

When these factors, which are correlated to the risk of victimization, are taken into account, the overall picture changes. FitzGerald and Hale (1996), after controlling for the demographic and socio-economic variables, found that although Indian households were still at a higher risk of burglary than other ethnic groups, this was not the case any more for black households. Being Indian, therefore, was an (ethnic) variable associated with a higher risk of being burgled, something also found by Budd (1999) when being Asian. Finally, FitzGerald and Hale (1996) found that young Afro-Caribbeans, Indians and Pakistani were less likely to be victims of violent crimes than young whites. Clancy *et al.* (2001), who carried out a series of logistic regression analyses to see the relationship between the demographic and socio-economic factors, and criminal victimization reached to similar

conclusion. This makes them argue that "on the whole where people live and work are the strongest predictors of victimisation risk for all ethnic groups" (Clancy *et al.* 2001: 13).

Conclusion-Summary

The criminal victimisation rate of ethnic and racial minorities, and migrant groups is by far higher than this of the majority populations, or at the best similar to this of the majority population for some groups in Britain. This is probably one of the 'clearest' issues in the ethnicity-'race'-migration-crime and justice nexus, as very few (and old) studies provided evidence for the opposite. This can be attributed partly to demographic and socio-economic factors, although even when these factors are held constant significant differences remain for some groups, e.g. Indians. What can be concluded is that further research into whether ethnicity per se is correlated with criminal victimisation is an imperative.

Note: The author would like to thank Mr. Tierney and Prof. Hobbs for their useful comments.

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Announcement

The World Society of Victimology Triennial Student Paper Competition

The intent of this competition is to encourage individual university level full-time enrolled students of all levels to write original scholarly papers with relevance to victimology. Every year when a symposium is to be held, a student paper competition will be hosted by our Society.

The candidates must submit papers that have not been published and that if selected as winners, would permit the WSV to publish their papers in *The Victimologist* newsletter giving the publishing copyright to the WSV.

Papers must be in English, referenced, typewritten, not to exceed 20 pages, double-spaced (font size 10, Times New Roman) and in Microsoft Word. Each paper must be accompanied with official proof of full time enrollment.

Each three years three judges, one selected as the chair, will be announced in *The Victimologist* and in the symposium announcements. Each judge will come from a different region of the world. The papers must be submitted prior to each symposium so as to give adequate time for the judges to read and evaluate them. Each participant will be notified of the receipt of his or her paper.

The winners will be announced at the symposium WSV Awards

Presentation program later that same year.

The first place winner will win \$1,000 (US) and a three year WSV student membership; the second place winner will win \$500 (US) and a three year WSV student membership.



The names of the judges for the 2003 competition are:

*Elmar Weitekamp, of Belgium,
Annette Pearson, of Colombia,
and John Dussich, of Japan.*

This competition will conform to the following rules:

1. All papers must be relevant to the discipline of victimology.
2. The papers must be submitted prior to February 15th 2003;

All papers must be either sent by email attachment to :

dussich@tokiwa.ac.jp or in hard copy to Professor J. Dussich, Tokiwa University, Miwa 1-430-1, Mito-shi, Ibaraki-ken, 310-8585, Japan;

- All papers will be graded according to the following criteria:

- a. total possible points per paper = 20;
- b. scholarship quality = 8 possible points;
- c. adequacy of references = 2 possible points;
- d. adequacy of review of the literature = 4 possible points;
- e. amount of work reflected (original research will be valued highest) = 6 possible points.

- All papers will be judged anonymously and independently by the three judges mentioned above.

- All papers must conform to the text of the Procedures Manual (above) and to these 7 additional rules.

- Submission of a paper implies acceptance to give the publication copyright to the WSV as stated in the Procedures Manual.

organizations and correspondents across the world are involved in this project. In addition to articles of general nature, profiles of institutions, professional experiences of victimologists, each issue of the journal will invite victimologists from a variety of disciplines, schools and countries to present their ideas on a specific theme.

There is, however, little communication between the various disciplines that work to help victims. Moreover, within a discipline, it is not easy to meet a colleague for an exchange of ideas or practices. For example, a psychologist working in the psychological support of firemen and another psychologist working in an association of help with victims may have few chances to meet, although both treat psychological trauma. In the same way, it is difficult to find a common language between the various professions working with victims (lawyers and psychologists for example). How can we help victims to communicate when we do not communicate amongst ourselves? Shouldn't victimology bring together various disciplines, schools of thought, at the both national and international level, so that we can help the victims the best that we can?

Victimology is taught today in few programs and possibilities of communicating and meeting between "victimologists" cannot be reduced to a few conferences per year and a handful of reviews or articles in non-specialized journals. In the same way, an exchange of practices cannot be reduced to what is done in a given country. Victims

exist, unfortunately, in all countries.

The goal of this electronic review is to present the work of victimologists, to help them meet, exchange, to inform each other on practices in progress and new developments. The JIDV addresses all the people working with victims in any country, and various disciplines (criminologists, psychologists, lawyers, sociologists, doctors.).

The Journal's website (www.jidv.com) offers full access to the JIDV. Also, victimologists will be able to give their point of view about articles and to write to the author, they can also consult the database of documents in the field of victimology and links to this kind of documents in other websites. Other applications like forums and debates will be coming soon.

The Internet can be a unifying tool breaking the distance between victimologists. Also, this website will allow the JIDV to be consulted easily, everywhere in the world and, soon, in several languages.

Let us hope that this experiment succeeds and that the *Journal international de victimologie* allows victimologists to meet, to share their practical experiences, knowledge and ideas which will benefit victims.

If you would like to have more information about this journal, contribute an article, be a guest editor for a theme issue, or suggest a theme: please contact Christophe Herbert (c.herbert@jidv.com), founder and editor-in-chief of the *Journal international de*

victimologie The postal address of the Journal is: 21, rue Cardinal; 13100 Aix en Provence, France.

Christophe Herbert
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c.herbert@jidv.com

Please visit the journal's website at: <http://www.jidv.com>

XIth International Victimology Symposium

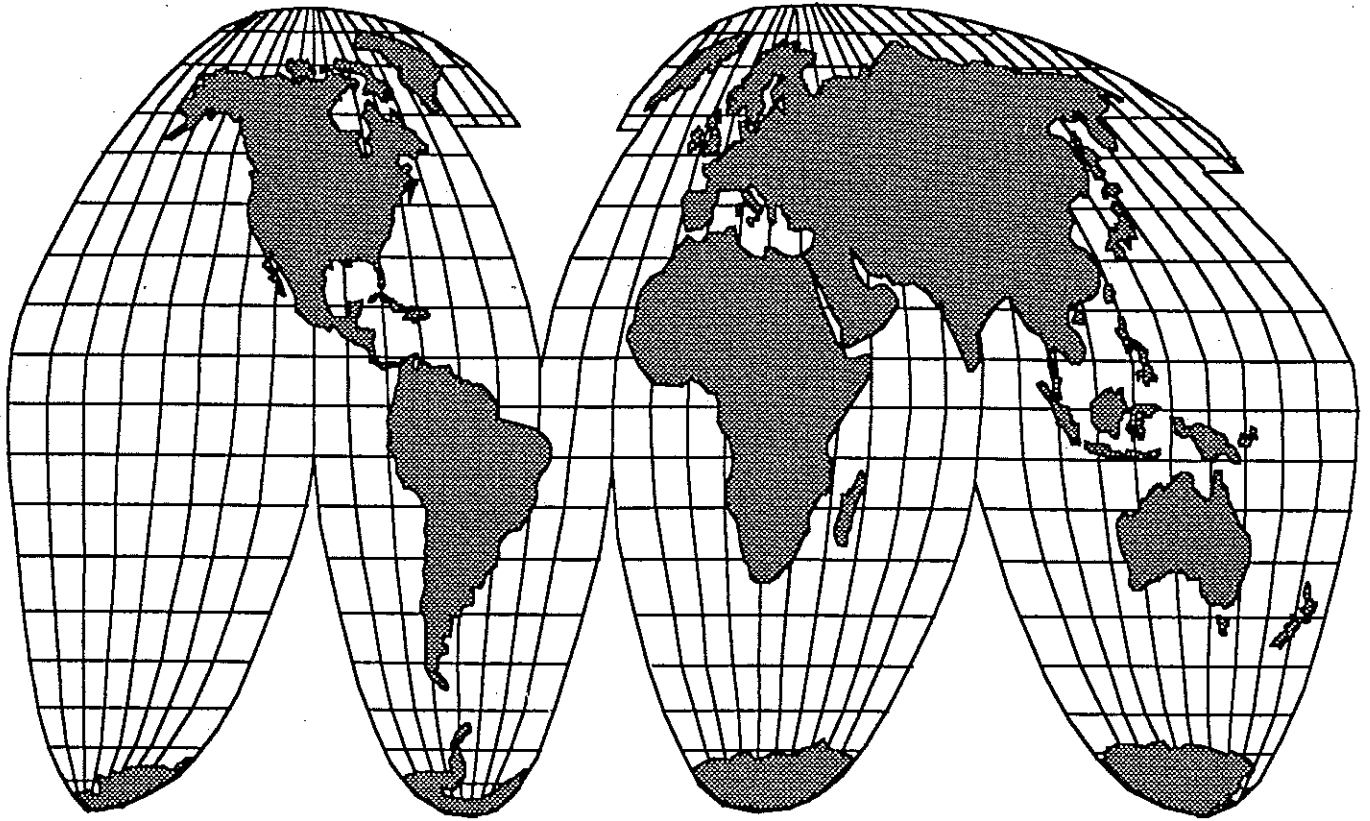
July 13-18th,
2003

Stellenbosh,
South Africa

The theme of this conference is: "*New Horizons in Victimology*"

Papers are solicited. Registration costs and information on accommodations are available on the website; All costs are given in South African Rands.

Full information is available online at:
<http://www.victimology.co.za/>



THE VICTIMOLOGIST
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