

THE VICTIMOLOGIST

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NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD SOCIETY OF VICTIMOLOGY

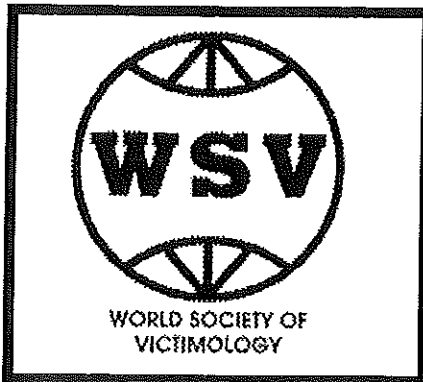
New Horizons in Victimology
XITH International Symposium on Victimology
13-18 July 2003, Stellenbosch, South Africa
Organised by the World Society of Victimology and Technicon SA

Kris Vanspauwen
Catholic University of Leuven

From the outset the right tone was set for the 11th Victimology symposium in Stellenbosch as the HRH The Princess Royal officially opened the conference with an enthusiastic and inspiring speech. This world symposium is a three yearly event which is intended to bring together organisations and individuals from around the world who work in supporting victims through either scientific research, policy development, professional and volunteer work, activism, etc. This blend of people makes this symposium always a meeting place where interesting debates and discussions can take place at the crossroads of theory, policy, and practice. Approximately 250 participants were welcomed in Stellenbosch, a beautiful South African university town. Besides the large group of South Africans, the symposium hosted people from more than 30 other countries from all corners of the world. Among them were people from New Zealand, Japan, Columbia, Israel, China, Serbia,

Burundi, Finland, and Italy, to mention but a few countries. The content of the various presentations and workshops reflected this diversity. The attention, however, was quite often focused on (South) African practices, and policy developments.

Content-wise the 5-day gathering was built up around on



four broad themes: (1) the scope and nature of victimisation, (2) victim rights and compensation, (3) victim services, and (4) victims of trans-national crimes. Starting with plenary sessions every morning the symposium offered more than 36 panel sessions, and 15 workshops. In the middle of the week a variety

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TRIBUTE TO RAY WHITROD

Gerd Ferdinann Kirchhoff
John Dussich
Chris Sumner
Michael O'Connell

The Executive Committee of the World Society of Victimology (WSV) and participants at the opening of the XIth International Symposium paid tribute to the work of Ray Whitrod in advancing the rights of victims of crime and abuse of power and developing the academic study of victimology. Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal, President of Victim Support in the United Kingdom and other distinguished South African and overseas delegates observed a minute of silence in Ray's memory.

Ray Whitrod's involvement with victims of crime and the study of victimology at the international level began in 1979, at the International Symposium in Munster, Germany, where he became a founding member of the WSV. He was a member of the Executive Committee from 1982 - 1988.

He was active in promoting interest by the Government of South Australia in a United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Victims of Crime. He participated in international preparatory

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Tribute to Ray Withrod
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meetings on the UN Declaration, at the WSV Symposium in 1985 in Zagreb, Croatia and was active, on behalf of the WSV, in Milan in 1985 when the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power was

adopted at the UN Congress on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders. The Declaration was formally adopted by the UN Assembly in late 1985 and provides benchmarks on the treatment of victims.

Ray also participated on a number

of occasions in Dubrovnik at the WSV post-graduate course on victimology.

In 1994 at the 8th International Symposium on Victimology, which was held in Adelaide, Ray was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the WSV.

New Books

Introduction à la Victimologie

Jo-Anne Wemmers

Les Presses de
l'Université de Montréal

Suchen und Entdecken

Beiträge zu Ehren von
Gerhard Kleining
Herausgegeben von
Otmar Hagemann und
Friedrich Krotz

RHOMBOS

From the Editor's Desk

Following the request for new members to the Editorial Board, I am pleased to introduce three new Board members: Georgios Antonopoulos, Marisol Casanova Guzman and Otmar Hagemann.

Georgios Antonopoulos is a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Durham (UK). His research focuses on the relationship between migrants, crime and policing in Greece.

Marisol Casanova Guzman works at the Victim and Witness Assistance Office in the San

Juan District Attorney's Office in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Dr. Otmar Hagemann is a sociologist and a researcher. He is currently working at the University of Greifswald in Germany. His topics of interest are: restorative justice, prisons, victims and qualitative methodology.

The new Editorial Board will work together to improve the newsletter. To this end, we encourage all WSV members to submit for publication:

- brief articles,
- research briefs,
- conferences and events,
- new publications by members,
- book reviews,
- victimological services and institutions,
- position announcements,
- Executive Committee news et cetera

Jo-Anne Wemmers
Managing Editor

Hans von Hentig Award

World Society of Victimology

Stellenbosch, July 18, 2003

Irvin Waller

At each Symposium the Executive Committee of the World Society of Victimology bestows the Hans von Hentig award on one victimologist to recognize their prestigious contributions to the field.

Seven victimologists have already merited this award – Israel Drapkin, Marlene Young, Marvin Wolfgang, Benjamin Mendelsohn, Irene Melup, Luis Rodriguez Manzanera and Paul Separovic.

In 2003 in Stellenbosch, South Africa, we have much pleasure in bestowing our most prestigious award in the name of Hans von Hentig on Jan van Dijk.

Jan was born in The Netherlands shortly after the Second World War. He completed his law degree at the University of Leiden in 1970 and later a Ph. D. from the University of Nijmegen.

In 1970, he joined the Research and Documentation Centre of the Dutch Ministry of Justice. It was here that

he first undertook and analyzed a national victimization survey, which has continued annually to this day.

With his ability to focus on both research and policy, he was quick to rise in the Ministry of Justice. Before reaching the age of 30, he had already become head of the Research and Documentation Centre, which under his leadership established an international reputation for its influential role.

He attracted many young researchers who have gone on to international acclaim in victim support, crime prevention and research in The Netherlands, the European Union and the United Nations.

But he was not content to just do research. In 1984, he founded and chaired the National Organization of Victim Support in The Netherlands, which has flourished into one of the major victim support organizations in Europe.

And he was not content to just help

victims, he also wanted to prevent their victimization. In 1989, he became the founding head of his country's Crime Prevention Directorate. He persuaded the prime minister to provide leadership to this agency, which was quickly internationally known for its combination of action and research.

He launched many experiments to find out what worked in crime prevention and then persuaded the appropriate ministry to put big money into the successes. This was all the result of the Van Dijk rule that 10% of the funds should be devoted to evaluation.

He was even not content to work just in The Netherlands. It was at this time that he launched the International Crime Victim Survey, which enabled researchers and policy makers to compare rates of crime and causes of crime across different countries.

Today, the ICVS has become the major yardstick for measuring rates of crime and victimization in the world. When Oxford University Press published the Global Report on Crime and Justice in 1999 for the United Nations, his chapter not only showed where violence was high or low but demonstrated that more than half of the victims across the world were not reporting their victimization – thus confirming the extent of their disillusionment with the criminal justice process.

There was yet another side to Jan. In 1994, he became Director of Strategic Policy Planning for his Ministry of Justice, where he persuaded his Minister to shift funds

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Hans von Hentig award
(Continued from page 3)

from what does not work to what does. In place of hiring extra police, funds were put into youth programs and situational crime prevention, because it would reduce crime, including the costs of crime to government and taxpayers.

In 1997, he organized the 9th International Symposium on Victimology, which in turn gave birth to the International Victimology Website as a joint project of the Ministry of

Justice, the United Nations and the World Society of Victimology.

In 1999, he turned his talents to the United Nations, where he works as Chief, Crime Reduction and Analysis. As you would expect from Jan, in this role he has had as much to do with action as with analysis. He has succeeded in getting technical assistance funds to help victim support agencies across the world and launched projects to prevent violence in countries such as Brazil.

He is already working to establish a

World Report on Crime and Justice that will focus the attention of the world on solving the problems of crime and violence as a regular UN publication.

Jan – for your contributions to measuring victimization, supporting victims, and preventing victimization as well as using these to reform governmental and intergovernmental policy, the World Society of Victimology is awarding you its most prestigious award – the Hans Von Hentig Award.

WOMEN'S SAFETY AWARDS 2004 CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Following the success of the 1st International Seminar on Women's Safety 'Making the links', Femmes et villes / Women in Cities international invites you to submit your initiatives for the Women's Safety Awards 2004. The aim of the awards is to elicit and disseminate information on good practices relating to women's safety and municipal gender-based policies in crime prevention. The awards also seek to promote local initiatives that include significant elements relating to women's safety, and to build capacity of local groups to develop projects and practices relating to women's safety and the improvement women's sense of safety.

Up to 10 Canadian and 10 international initiatives will be awarded. Winners will participate in traveling seminars which will showcase good practices and policies at conferences and meetings on crime prevention and women's safety. The prize includes travel, accommodation and registration to conferences for a delegation of up to two people for each award-winning good practice or policy.

Winners will also receive extensive publicity. Good practices and policies will be announced at a press

conference, results will be published on the *Femmes et villes / Women in Cities International* website (which is linked to other relevant websites) and information will be disseminated through list-servs and newsletters. A publication documenting results of the competition will also be produced and will be distributed to community groups, municipal governments and other relevant bodies.

Promote your initiatives now!!!!
Submit your projects and policies before March 1st, 2004.

For more information on categories, eligibility and selection criteria or to submit an application, visit www.femmesetvilles.org or email: concours@femmesetvilles.org

Now on line : *Proceedings of the 1st International Seminar on Women's Safety "Making the links"*

The proceedings of the 1st International Seminar on Women's Safety, held in Montréal from May 9 to 11, 2002 are now on line. This seminar, called 'Making the links', allowed national and international sharing of information on the vital topic of community safety. Delegates from many countries discussed women's

empowerment in the context of local crime prevention and community safety initiatives, partnerships and political leadership for women and safe communities, safety planning, and the role of research and evaluation.

To access presentations, round table discussions and plenary sessions, visit the SEMINAR 2002 section on our website :
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of field visits to relevant victim-related services and organisations in and around Cape Town were organised. Providing a detailed and complete overview on the symposium will thus be too ambitious of a goal. I therefore refer to the symposium website which offers the complete programme description. Instead, I would like to share with you some thoughts and impressions that I acquired during the week.

Organising the symposium on the African continent appeared to be an excellent choice for many reasons. First of all, it created a good opportunity for a broader group of African scholars and practitioners to participate and become actively involved in the international debate on victimology. It was a chance as well to raise awareness on country-specific issues related to victimology and victimisation. This was represented in sessions on "civil war, and sexual abuse in Burundi", "foreign victims in Japan", "the problem slavery in Niger", "children and war in Croatia", "the victims of crime survey in Uganda", and "community justice systems and victims of genocide in Rwanda", etc. This openness and sincerity to country and culture specific themes of victimisation characterised the sphere of the symposium to great extent. Next, the symposium paid attention to the thousands of victims of violence and war in the numerous ongoing violent conflicts that terrorise African states. It was quite cynic, though, to realise that while attending

sessions on "assisting victims of torture in Rwanda", "experiences of post-apartheid South Africa", or on "victims of sexual abuse in Israel", hundreds of people in central Africa (and elsewhere in Africa and in the world) were being killed in violent conflicts, were dying of deadly illnesses, or were starving to death. This created an environment of acknowledgment of "the South" in its status as the structural victim of social and economic discrimination and exclusion. In this spirit Paul Omaji aptly launched the idea for the installation of a truth commission to deal with Africa's past.

At the end of the week it was Marc Groenhuijsen who took up the challenge to identify the New Horizons in Victimology that arose from the symposium workshops, presentations, and plenary sessions. Not surprisingly he managed to spark the audience's attention by putting forward some critical and straightforward lines of thought of what he recognised as being the new horizons. One of the issues Groenhuijsen raised was the increasing role of restorative justice in the further development of victimology as a science in the 21st century. A century whereby victims of human trafficking, refugees and

displaced people, victims of HIV/Aids, women and children as victims in war crimes, will only be some of the "new" (discovered) forms of victimisation that will receive the needed attention. Restorative justice, in this respect, offers at least some promising ideas to formulate more appropriate answers to deal with these forms of social inequality and discrimination.

Finally, at the closing ceremony special tribute was made to three remarkable figures in the field of victimology. Following scholars were granted a prestigious award: Elias Neuman was rewarded the Honorary Membership to the WSV, Jan Van Dijk received the Hans von Hentig Award, and finally Marc Groenhuijsen received a Certificate of Appreciation.

Be it not the conference that will go down in history as the most ground-breaking in terms of theoretical contribution, it will certainly be reminded as a successful event in bringing together a most diverse group of people that share an equal interest and a common goal, namely to make the world a better place for victims. In this spirit we hope to meet you all in 2006 at the 12th World Symposium of Victimology in the United States!



It should be noted that a lot of the papers that were presented during the conference are available online and can be downloaded at:
<http://www.victimology.co.za>

WINNERS OF THE WSV STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION 2003

John Dussich

In first place was Yoshiko Takahashi, from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, North Carolina, USA with her paper "Balancing Approach: The use of apology in Japanese society;" professor - Paul Friday. The first place winner wins \$1,000 US and a three year WSV student membership. In second place was Jodie Leonard,



from the Southern Cross University at Lismore, New South Wales, Australia with her paper "The Hidden Victims of Domestic Violence;" professor - Sam Garkawe. The second place winner wins \$500 US and a three year WSV student membership.

Congratulations to both winners!

INTERNATIONAL POLICE EXECUTIVE SYMPOSIUM (IPES) Eleventh Annual Meeting May 16-20, 2004 Vancouver, Canada

Theme "Criminal Exploitation of Women and Children"

For more information and details please visit IPES website at:
<http://www.ipes.info>

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www.world-society-victimology.de

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