

Victim positions and healing

The research interview as a safe space for telling stories

Challenging the vulnerable victim paradigm

Research question: Why do informants participate in research interviews, and what's in it for them?

Data and design: combining qualitative interviews from two research projects

Tentative findings: Motivations and victim positions in the research interviews

- **Healing:** telling to come to terms with their story. The research interview as an opportunity: *'It feels very good because in a way there is no other place to say these things. Just the way I say them now'*
- **Moral duty:** hoping their stories will matter: *'It's almost grotesque to say these details, I do not think I've told anyone, but oh my God, all for the research'*
- **Compliance:** telling because they were asked, no oral motivation

Objective: Exploring the research interview as a setting for telling stories of violence and sexual abuse and different victim positions

Implications, discussion, research ethics

- **Self-reflective informant:** healing through narration. Being a good listener
- **Altruistic informant:** showing agency and meaningmaking. High expectations; can research /researcher deliver? Responsibility to make stories matter.
- **Compliant informant:** low agency, no expectations. Still benefits of being listened to and heard? Responsibility to support unformed stories in the interview and after.

Project 1 Violence in couple relationships, gender, gender equality and power

Responsible: Margunn Bjørnholt
Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies

Funding: Ministry of Justice and Public Security / The Domestic Violence Research Programme

Number of interviews: 40, sample consists of women and men aged 19-70. Recruited via survey and Facebook

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Project 2: Sexual violence in a life course perspective

Responsible: Kari Stefansen
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Funding: Ministry of Justice and Public Security / The Domestic Violence Research Programme

Number of interviews: 40, sample consists of women aged 18-40. Recruited via Facebook.

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