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Type name .....Christie Goodchild.....

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Comparing Stalking, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault: The Impact on Attitudes Towards Men and Intimacy in Female Victims

Overview

Stalking

In 2018, 21.3% of women aged 16 to 59 and 14.6% of women aged between 60 and 74 reported being stalked at some point in their lives since the age of 16 (Office of National Statistics, 2018). For men, however, the prevalence of stalking is far lower, as 9.2% of males aged 16 to 59 and 6.1% of males aged 60 to 74 reported being stalked from the age of 16 years old (Office of National Statistics, 2018). As stalking is a relatively new offence, it has proven difficult to both define and measure stalking among the general population. Despite no one universal definition of stalking, it is generally considered to be "*an intentional pattern of repeated behaviours towards a person or persons that are unwanted, and result in fear, or that a reasonable person (or jury) would view as fearful or threatening*" (Spitzberg & Cupach, 2007, p.66). This definition is supported by the newest additions to the Stalking Legislation by the Crown Prosecution Service in 2012, which highlighted stalking as involving 'fear of violence' or causing 'serious alarm or distress'. Despite this, there is still ambiguity in terms of what behaviours are considered stalking, and this has therefore resulted in difficulties in terms of researching the prevalence of stalking, and the impact that it has on the victim. Research thus far has attempted to understand the psychological impact of being a female victim of stalking, and has found a range of negative psychological effects that occur as a result. Findings suggest that women who have been stalked suffer from high levels of post-traumatic stress disorder, depressive symptoms and anxiety, particularly when they blamed themselves for the incident of stalking or ruminated about the event (Kraaij et

al., 2007). Earlier research has also found an association between being stalked and high levels of obsessive compulsive and interpersonal sensitivity symptoms (Westrup et al., 1999). In addition to this, research has shown that after experiencing stalking, 38% of women took extra precautions, 20% changed their routine, 13% changed their phone numbers and 3% moved away to a new city as a result (Amar, 2006). Research has also found significant psychosocial impacts of being stalked, including the presence of maladaptive beliefs relating to trust, alienation, isolation and self-blame (Kamphuis et al., 2003). It is clear that current research predominantly focuses on the psychological impact that stalking can have on a victim, meaning that the interpersonal consequences are far less understood. The current research shows a clear gap in understanding when it comes to the impact that stalking can have on attitudes towards men, intimacy and future relationships, hence why this study is aiming to fill this gap.

Domestic Violence

According to the 2016/2017 Crime Survey for England and Wales, 26% of women aged 16 to 59 had experienced some form of domestic abuse since age 16 (Office of National Statistics, 2017). The survey also found that women were five times more likely than men to have experienced sexual assault by a partner (Office of National Statistics, 2017). Domestic violence is defined as "*any incident of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of their gender or sexuality*" (Crown Prosecution Service, 2018). Due to the nature of the offence, domestic violence is also often vastly underreported, making it difficult to estimate the exact number of victims. Research suggests that being a victim of intimate partner violence is detrimental to aspects of both physical and mental health, and that this negative association

was strongest when the abuse experienced by the victim was psychological abuse (Coker et al., 2002). Similarly to stalking, research concerning the aftermath of domestic violence has heavily focussed on the long-term psychological impacts of being a victim, rather than the interpersonal impact. When considering the long-term implications of domestic violence, findings have shown that depression and post-traumatic stress disorder are among a variety of negative psychological outcomes that result from being a victim of domestic violence (Evans, 2007). Alongside post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms, another common psychological consequence for victims of domestic violence is self-blame (Spruin et al., 2017). Another area of popular research in domestic violence is attempting to understand the factors that contribute to women returning to abusive relationships. Research indicates that many women who suffer abuse will return to the abusive relationship, for reasons such as emotional attachment (Griffing et al., 2002) and financial dependence (Strube and Barbour, 1983). Despite many women choosing to leave abusive relationships, there is little research concerning how women manage in future, non-abusive relationships, or how these experiences have impacted their general attitudes towards men and intimacy.

Sexual Assault

It is estimated that 20% of women have been victims of some type of sexual assault since the age of 16, in comparison to 4% of men (CSEW, 2018). The Crime Survey for England and Wales also concluded that around 83% of victims do not report this assault to police (CSEW, 2018), suggesting that sexual assault is vastly underreported. According to the London Metropolitan Police, sexual assault is described as "*an act of physical, psychological and emotion violation in the form of a sexual act, inflicted on someone without their consent*" and can

include "*forcing or manipulating someone to witness or participate in any sexual acts*" (London Metropolitan Police, 2018). Research has shown that, similarly to victims of stalking and domestic violence, there are a range of psychological consequences that come with being a victim of sexual abuse, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (Ullman et al., 2007). Further research into post-traumatic stress disorder in victims of sexual assault suggests that negative social reactions to the event led to a higher severity of PTSD symptoms (Ullman & Peter-Hagene, 2016). Findings have also suggested that the way a victim perceives the experience can impact their emotional reactions, meaning that if a victim labels the experience as 'rape', they are more likely to have a stronger negative emotional response (Kahn et al., 2003). Another social reaction that is common in victims of sexual assault is self-blame, with findings suggesting that almost a third of victims blame their character for their assault, and over half blame their behaviour for their assault (Ullman, 1996). Although research has suggested that the psychological distress associated with experiences of sexual assault can result in issues with interpersonal functioning (Weaver & Clum, 1995), other findings has suggested that fear of intimacy is not directly related to being a victim of sexual assault, and is instead mediated by other factors (Harris & Valentiner, 2002). This therefore makes it difficult to be conclusive in terms of the impact that sexual assault can have on attitudes towards intimacy and future relationships.

Comparing Stalking, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

The umbrella term of 'intimate violence' has been used by the Crime Survey for England and Wales to describe any partner abuse, partner sexual assault (both attempts and completed actions) and partner stalking, and suggests that these experiences occur far more commonly in women than in men (Office of National

Statistics, 2018). However, the survey emphasises that stalking and sexual assault occur frequently outside of domestic abuse also. These three crimes share many factors with each other, and the victims affected by these actions are often similar also. The present study will allow for comparisons to be made between victims of stalking, domestic violence and sexual assault, in terms of how these experiences affect attitudes towards men and intimacy. Early research has found that those who are battered wives, rape victims, feminists and lesbians are often more likely to exhibit negative attitudes towards men than other groups of individuals (Iazzo, 1983). Despite this research mentioning only domestic violence and sexual assault victims, due to other similarities in terms of the aftermath of these experiences (such as post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms), it is possibly that stalking may also lead to these negative attitudes. In terms of attitudes towards intimacy, there is little evidence in the current available literature that links stalking, domestic violence or sexual assault directly with positive or negative attitudes towards intimacy. Despite this, research has found significant links between high levels of self-blame and fears of intimacy (Lutwak, Panish & Ferrari, 2003). This therefore suggests a potential link between poor attitudes towards intimacy in victims of stalking, domestic violence and sexual assault, as a common consequence of experiencing these behaviours is resultant self-blame (Kamphuis et al., 2003; Spruin et al., 2017; Ullman, 1996). This is an extremely important area to study, as having a more comprehensive understanding of the interpersonal consequences of these experiences can allow for better support after the event, and therefore allow for better recovery in the future.

Research Questions

1. Does being a female victim of stalking, sexual assault, and/or domestic violence by a male perpetrator affect a woman's attitudes towards men?
2. Does being a female victim of stalking, sexual assault, and/or domestic violence by a male perpetrator affect a woman's attitudes towards intimacy?
3. Which of the three behaviours has the biggest impact on attitudes towards men and intimacy?
4. Does severity of stalking experience directly correlate with women's attitudes towards men and intimacy?

Proposed Methods

Participants

The participants of this study will be female only; due to studying the impact of being a female victim of stalking, domestic violence and sexual assault has on attitudes towards men and intimacy. Participation will be voluntary, as questionnaires will be posted on social media and in various forums that specialise in support for women. A minimum of 108 participants aged 18 years old and above will be included in this research. This number was calculated using G-Power, whereby the statistical test is a MANOVA (repeated measures, within factors), with an alpha value of 0.05, power of 0.95 and effect size of 0.25. In cases of withdrawal or incomplete responses, more participants will be recruited in order to reach the desired amount of participants. The decision to use women's support forums allows the data to be broad in terms of having access to people who may have been stalked, suffered domestic violence, and/or are a victim of sexual assault.

Procedure

The study will take approximately 6 months to complete, including data collection, analysis and write-up. The present study will collect data via an online questionnaire using the JISC Online Survey tool, and will therefore be a quantitative, between-groups design. The online questionnaires will be advertised on various social media platforms, and in women's support groups/discussion forums on Facebook and Reddit. As the online questionnaire will be posted in public websites, there is the potential that it will be re-posted in other places online. The first section of the online questionnaire will contain the information and consent form (see Appendix A), whereby participants are provided with all of the information concerning what their participation in the study will involve and the study aims. There will be a consent statement at the end of the information and consent form whereby they will confirm that they understand all of the information given and are consenting to participating in the study, allowing them to give full and informed consent. Participants will not be able to continue to the first questionnaire without confirming their consent. Participants will then complete the first questionnaire, which will assess demographic information and a variety of behaviours that they may have experienced including stalking, domestic violence and sexual assault (see Appendix B). Participants will then complete the Ambivalence Towards Men Inventory (Glick & Fiske, 1999) (see Appendix C), which measures attitudes towards men in relation to two areas: hostility and benevolence. After the completion of the AMI, participants will complete the Intimacy Attitudes Scale (Amidon, Treadwell & Kumar, 1985) (see Appendix D), which measures attitudes towards intimacy and relationships. In all questionnaires, participants will not be able to continue on to the next page until all questions have been answered.

Finally, participants will be presented with debrief form (see Appendix E), explaining fully the aims and hypotheses of the study. Participants will be given their final opportunity to withdraw from the study at this point before submitting their data. It is not currently possible to randomise the order of the surveys presented in JISC, therefore despite this being a limitation, there is little possibility that answering the questions in a particular order will impact the way in which participants perceive and answer the questions.

Materials

The first material used in the study will be the information and consent form. This will contain a brief outline of the study, including its aims and what is expected of the participants. It will also contain a consent statement, whereby participants are required to confirm that they fit the criteria to participate in the study (for example being aged 18 to 65 years old and being female) and confirm that they understand what their participation will involve and are willing to take part. The information and consent form will explain that participation is completely voluntary and participants are able to withdraw at any point before selecting 'complete study' on the final page of the online questionnaire, and can do so simply by exiting the survey screen at any time. It is also explained that due to anonymity, participants are not able to withdraw after this point, as it would not be possible to track their responses. The first questionnaire that participants will complete will assess demographic information and measure any experiences of stalking, domestic abuse/violence, sexual assault and a variety of other attitudes that may affect a person's attitudes towards men and intimacy. This questionnaire has been created for the purpose of this study and includes definitions for the 3 main behaviours being assessed. Definitions for domestic abuse/violence and sexual assault were formulated using criteria from the Crown

Prosecution Service and London Metropolitan Police. Due to the ambiguity of stalking as a behaviour, definitions and examples of stalking behaviour were extracted from current available research, including the widely used definition of stalking by Spitzberg and Cupach (2007) and the 26 stalking behaviours identified by Sheridan, Davies and Boon (2001). Alongside answering 'yes or 'no' to the question 'Do you believe that you have been a victim of stalking by a male perpetrator?', participants will also be required to select the number of those 26 stalking behaviours that they have experienced by a male perpetrator. These actions were taken to ensure that the most accurate definitions were given for the behaviours being studied, in order to be as clear as possible for the participants. Also, as stalking is the least well-studied area of the three, this extra analysis will allow for a more comprehensive understanding of stalking and its relationship with attitudes towards men and intimacy. The second questionnaire that participants will complete is the Ambivalence Towards Men Inventory (Glick & Fiske, 1999). This inventory measure attitudes towards men in terms of hostility and benevolence across a 20-item scale, whereby each statement is rated from 0 to 5 ranging from 'disagree strongly' to 'agree strongly'. The scale has shown good validity in terms of predicting both positive and negative attitudes towards men (Glick & Fiske, 1999). In the present study, analysis will focus on the hostility section of the scale, as the study is predominantly concerned with negative attitudes towards men that result from past experiences. The third and final questionnaire that participant's will complete is the Intimacy Attitudes Scale (Amidon, Treadwell & Kumar, 1985). This inventory measures attitudes towards intimacy and intimate relationships across 50 items, whereby items are marked using a 5-point scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree. The measure has been described as being 'a

highly reliable instrument with good construct validity' (Ghalami, Safferinia & Shaghaghi, 2013). After completing the required questionnaires, participants will be presented with a debrief form, which will explain what the present study hypothesises and what each questionnaire measured. A selection of contacts (including websites and telephone numbers) for relevant support services will be provided. The researchers email will also be provided for any questions they may have on the study that they have participated in. This will be participant's final chance to withdraw their information from the study, as once data is submitted it will not be possible to extract their answers due to complete anonymity of participants.

Proposed Analysis

The present study will require the use of a Factorial MANOVA analysis, in order to measure the effect of four categorical predictor variables (experienced stalking, experienced domestic violence, experienced sexual assault, and no experience of any) on two continuous outcome variables (scores on the Ambivalence Towards Men Scale and scores on the Intimacy Attitudes Scale). Two further linear regression analyses will be conducted to assess the relationship between the number of stalking behaviour that each person has experienced and their scores on each of the two attitudes scales. This will enable the researchers to assess whether there is a positive linear relationship between severity of stalking symptoms and attitudes towards both men and intimacy. These tests will be conducted on SPSS Statistic Software.

Estimated Timescale

Once approved by the Ethics Committee, data collection is expected to last approximately 1 to 2 months. Following data collection, up to one month will be used to conduct all data analyses. Once the data is analysed, the remainder of

the research time will be used for writing up the study (approximately 1 to 2 months).

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Appendices

Appendix A: Information and Consent Form

Centre for Forensic and Family Psychology
Division of Psychiatry and Applied Psychology
School of Medicine
YANG Fujia Building
Jubilee Campus
Wollaton Road
Nottingham
NG8 1BB

Comparing Stalking, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault: The Impact on Attitudes Towards Men and Intimacy in Female Victims

[Insert name of REC] Research Ethics Ref:

General Information

Thank you for your interest in taking part in this questionnaire/online survey. You have been invited to participate as you are aged 18 to 65 years old and are FEMALE. Please read through this information before agreeing to participate by ticking the 'yes' box below.

This study is being conducted by Christie Goodchild (Forensic and Criminological Psychology MSc Student), Simon Duff and Lydia Bullock from the University of Nottingham. We are investigating the impact of being a victim of stalking, domestic violence or sexual assault has on a woman's attitudes towards men and intimacy, in comparison to those who have not been victims to any of the above experiences.

You will be presented with a variety of questionnaires which will require either 'yes or no' answers or 'strongly agree to strongly disagree' answers. There will also be a questionnaire that requires you to select as many boxes as you have experienced. It should take around 20 minutes to complete with a total of 74 questions. No background knowledge is required and definitions will be given for any ambiguous terms. This data will then be used to assess the potentially links between behaviours, attitudes and experiences. The data will be confidential and responses will not be linked to names or any other identifiable information.

How will your data be used?

Your answers will be completely anonymous and we will use all reasonable endeavours to keep them confidential. Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You can withdraw at any point during the questionnaire for any reason, before submitting your answers by clicking the Exit button/closing the browser. The data will only be uploaded on completion of the questionnaire by clicking the SUBMIT button. You must provide an answer for every question. Your data will be stored in a password-protected file and may be used in academic publications. Your IP address will not be stored. All questions are compulsory; therefore if you do not wish to answer a question you are free to withdraw yourself from the online survey by simply exiting the page.

Who will have access to your data?

The University of Nottingham is the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection. Your data may be shared with Simon Duff and Lydia Bullock.

We believe there are no known risks associated with this research study; however, the study will include discussion of potentially difficult and sensitive topics. For this reason, a number of contacts have been provided at the end of the study for helplines associated with stalking, domestic violence and sexual

assault. As with any online related activity the risk of a breach is always possible. We will do everything possible to ensure your answers in this study will remain anonymous. We will minimize any risks by keeping data securely on a laptop and destroying raw data after the study is complete.

The results of the study may be published in scientific journals and presented at scientific conferences. The data will be reported anonymously, with any identifying information removed.

If you have any questions about this project, you may contact the Lead Researcher Christie Goodchild or if you have any concerns about any aspect of this study please contact the Research Supervisor: Dr Simon Duff. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you should then contact the FMHS Research Ethics Committee Administrator, c/o The University of Nottingham, Faculty PVC Office, B Floor, Medical School, Queen's Medical Centre Campus, Nottingham University Hospitals, Nottingham, NG7 2UH. E-mail: FMHS-ResearchEthics@nottingham.ac.uk

This study has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion by the University of Nottingham, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee (insert FMHS REC ref no here].

I have read and understood the above information and consent form, I confirm that I am 18 years old or older and by clicking the NEXT button to begin the online questionnaire, I indicate my willingness to voluntarily take part in the study.

NEXT – I consent to take part EXIT - I do not give consent

Consent form (on a separate page) including Title, names of researchers, School and division address + Ethics ref no

Thank you for participating!

Please, tick each box to continue:

- ○ I confirm that I have read and understood the information on the previous page
- ○ I am 18 years old and/or older
- ○ I am female
- ○ I understand that my participation is voluntary and I can end the study at any time and withdraw my data by clicking the EXIT button.
- ○ I understand that my answers will be anonymous.
- ○ I understand that once clicking 'SUBMIT' at the end of the study, it will not be possible to withdraw my data
- ○ I understand the overall anonymized data from this study may be used in the future for research (with research ethics approval) and teaching purposes.

  NEXT – to be taken to the survey.

Appendix B: Demographic Information and Measurement of Stalking, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Please tick the box below to confirm that you are female, as this study includes females only (if you are not female, please exit the study at this point)

Female

Age (Please select the age range that you are part of):

18-20

21-29

30-39

40-49

50-59

60 or older

Current Status:

Undergraduate Student

Postgraduate Student

Non-Student

Definition of Stalking:

Stalking can be described as *"an intentional pattern of repeated behaviours toward a person or persons that are unwanted, and result in fear, or that a reasonable person (or jury) would view as fearful or threatening"* (Spitzberg & Cupach, 2007, p. 66)

Do you believe that you have been a victim of stalking by a MALE perpetrator?

Yes / No

Below are 26 behaviours that can be considered as stalking (Sheridan, Davies & Boon, 2001), please select the behaviours that you have experienced by a MALE perpetrator:

1. Making obscene, threatening, or mysterious telephone calls while remaining unknown
2. Following the target
3. Making excessive unwanted telephone calls- regardless of content
4. Refusing to accept that a prior relationship with the target is over
5. Often purposefully visiting places he knows that the target frequents
6. Coming around to visit, uninvited, on a regular basis
7. Using obscene and/or threatening language when such is entirely inappropriate, e.g. not during an argument
8. Repeatedly approaching target personally, remaining a stranger
9. Often loitering in the targets neighbourhood
10. Continuously acting in an uncontrolled, aggressive, or insulting manner on seeing the target out with other men (friends or partners)
11. Threatening suicide if the target refuses to go out with him
12. Constantly watching or spying on the target
13. Sending the target excessive, unwanted notes or letters
14. Persistently driving past the target, her house, workplace etc.
15. Constantly sending the target unwanted gifts
16. Hanging around or telephoning the targets workplace continuously after being expressly told not to do so
17. Confining the target against her will
18. Standing and staring regularly at the targets home and/or workplace

19. Causing criminal damage/vandalism to the targets property
20. Behaving threateningly towards the targets family and/or friends
21. Sending bizarre or sinister items to the targets home or workplace
22. Making death threats
23. Intercepting mail or deliveries
24. Sending inappropriate sexually explicit letters to the target
25. Furtively taking photographs of the target without her knowledge
26. Although not involved with the target, moving house closer to where she loves or places she frequents- just to be nearer to her

Definition of Sexual Assault:

Sexual Assault can be described as *"an act of physical, psychological and emotional violation in the form of a sexual act, inflicted on someone without their consent. It can involve forcing or manipulating someone to witness or participate in any sexual acts"* (London Metropolitan Police)

Do you believe that you have been a victim of sexual assault by a MALE perpetrator?

Yes / No

Definition of Domestic Abuse:

Domestic Abuse/Violence can be described as "*any incident of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimacy partners or family members, regardless of their gender or sexuality"* (Crown Prosecution Service)

Domestic Abuse/Violence can include (but is not limited to):

- Physical Abuse
- Psychological Abuse

- Sexual Abuse
- Financial Abuse
- Emotional Abuse

Do you believe that you have been a victim of domestic abuse/violence by a MALE perpetrator?

Yes / No

Appendix C: Ambivalence Towards Men Inventory

Below are a series of statements concerning men and women and their relationships in contemporary society. Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with each statement using the scale below:

0. Disagree Strongly
1. Disagree Somewhat
2. Disagree Slightly
3. Agree Slightly
4. Agree Somewhat
5. Agree Strongly

B (M) 1. Even if both members of a couple work, the woman ought to be more attentive to taking care of her man at home

H (S) 2. A man who is sexually attracted to a woman typically has no morals about doing whatever it takes to get her in bed

B (G) 3. Men are less likely to fall apart in emergencies than women are

H (S) 4. When men act to 'help' women, they are often trying to prove they are better than women

B (S) 5. Every woman needs a male partner who will cherish her

H (G) 6. Men would be lost in the world if women weren't there to guide them

B (S) 7. A woman will never be truly fulfilled in life if she doesn't have a committed, long-term relationship with a man

H (G) 8. Men act like babies when they are sick

H (P) 9. Men will always fight to have greater control in society than women

B (M) 10. Men are mainly useful to provide financial security to women

H (P) 11. Even men who claim to be sensitive to women's rights really want a traditional relationship at home, with the woman performing most of the housekeeping and childcare

B (S) 12. Every woman ought to have a man she adores

B (G) 13. Men are more willing to put themselves in danger to protect others

H (S) 14. Men usually try to dominate conversations when talking to women

H (P) 15. Most men pay lip service to equality for women, but can't handle having a woman as an equal

B (S) 16. Women are incomplete without men

H (G) 17. When it comes down to it, most men are really like children

B (G) 18. Men are more willing to take risks than women

H (S) 19. Most men sexually harass women, even if only in subtle ways, once they are in a position of power over them

B (M) 20. Women ought to take care of their men at home, because men would tall apart if they had to fend for themselves

NOTE: The HM subscales are indicated by the following notation: H(P) resentment of paternalism, H(G) compensatory gender differentiation, H(S) heterosexual hostility. The BM subscales are indicated by the following notation: B(M) maternalism, B(G) complementary gender differentiation, B(S) heterosexual intimacy

Scoring Instructions:

Hostility towards Men (HM) score = average of the following items: 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 17, 19

Benevolence towards Men (BM) score = average of the following items: 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 13, 16, 18, 20 Overall AMI score = average of all items

Appendix D: Intimacy Attitude Scale – Revised

The following items reflect feelings and attitudes that people have toward others and relationships with others. Specifically the items are concerned with attitudes of closeness, intimacy, and trust.

If you strongly disagree with an item, fill in the space with a letter A. Mark the space with the letter B if you mildly disagree with an item. That is, mark the letter B if you think the item is generally more untrue than true according to your beliefs. Fill in the space with the letter C if you feel the item is about equally true as untrue. Fill in the space with the letter D if you mildly agree with the item. That is, mark with the letter D if you feel the item is more true than untrue. If you strongly agree with an item, fill in the space with a letter E.

A. Strongly disagree
B. Mildly disagree
C. Agree and disagree equally
D. Mildly agree
E. Strongly agree

1. I like to share my feelings with others.
2. I like to feel close to other people.
3. I like to listen to other people talk about their feelings.
4. I am concerned with rejection in my expression of feelings to others.
5. I'm concerned with being dominated in a close relationship with another.
6. I'm often anxious about my own acceptance in a close relationship.

7. I'm concerned that I trust other people too much.
8. Expression of emotion makes me feel close to another person.
9. I do not want to express my feelings that would hurt another person.
10. I am overly critical of people in a close relationship.
11. I want to feel close to people to whom I am attracted.
12. I tend to reveal my deepest feelings to other people.
13. I'm afraid to talk about my sexual feelings with a person to whom I'm very interested.
14. I want to be close to a person who is attracted to me.
15. I would not become to close because it involves conflict.
16. I seek out close relationships with people to whom I am attracted.
17. When other people become close they tend not to listen to each other.
18. Intimate relationships bring me great satisfaction.
19. I search for close intimate relationships.
20. It is important to me to form close relationships.
21. I do not need to share my feelings and thoughts with others.
22. When I become very close to another, I am likely to see things that are hard for me to accept.
23. I tend to accept most things about people with whom I share a close relationship.
24. I defend my personal space so others do not come too close.
25. I tend to distrust people who are concerned with closeness and intimacy.
26. I have concerns about losing my individuality in close relationships.
27. I have concerns about giving up control if I enter into a really intimate relationship.

28. Being honest and open with another person makes me feel closer to that person.
29. If I were another person I would be interested in getting to know me.
30. I only become close to people with whom I share common interests.
31. Revealing secrets about my sex life makes me feel close to others.
32. Generally, I can feel just as close to a woman as I can to a man.
33. When another person is physically attracted to me I usually want to become more intimate.
34. I have difficulty being intimate with more than one person.
35. Being open and intimate with another person usually makes me feel good.
36. I usually can see another person's point of view.
37. I want to be sure that I am in good control of myself before I attempt to become intimate with another person.
38. I resist intimacy.
39. Stories of interpersonal relationships tend to affect me.
40. Undressing with members of a group increases my feelings of intimacy.
41. I try to trust and be close to others.
42. I think that people who want to become intimate have hidden reasons for wanting closeness.
43. When I become intimate with another person the possibility of my being manipulated is increased.
44. I am generally a secretive person.
45. I feel that sex and intimacy are the same and one cannot exist without the other.
46. I can only be intimate in a physical sexual relationship.

47. The demands placed on me by those with whom I have intimate relationships often inhibit my own need satisfaction.
48. I would compromise to maintain an intimate relationship.
49. When I am physically attracted to another I usually want to become intimate with the person.
50. I understand and accept that intimacy leads to bad feelings as well as good feelings.

The following items are negatively marked: 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 17, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 34, 37, 38, 40, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47. (26 in total)

Appendix E: Debrief Form: Comparing Stalking, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault: Attitudes Towards Men and Intimacy in Female Victims

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this study. The general purpose of this research is to examine the impact of being a female victim of stalking, domestic violence and sexual assault by a male perpetrator has on a woman's attitudes towards men and intimacy. A further aim of this study was to assess whether the severity of stalking experienced was associated with a higher number of negative attitudes towards men and intimacy.

If any of the topics in this study have made you feel uncomfortable, or if you wish to seek help or advice for anything that you have experienced then listed below are a range of free services available to contact with any queries or worries. Please remember that experiencing stalking, domestic violence or sexual assault is never the fault of the victim, and is always considered a crime. If you believe that you have been a victim of any of these behaviours then ensure that you contact the police to report it.

Thank you for your participation in the study. If you have any questions about the study, please contact christie.goodchild@nottingham.ac.uk.

Rape Crisis:

Helpline: 0808 802 9999 (12-2:30pm and 7-9:30pm)

Website: rapecrisis.org.uk

National organisation offering support and counselling for those affected by rape and sexual abuse

Victim Support:

Helpline: 0808 168 9111

Confidential, free service for anyone who has been sexually assaulted, stalked, or suffered domestic violence recently or in the past

Women's Aid Federation

Helpline: 0808 2000 247

Website: womensaid.org.uk

A domestic violence charity with 24 hour operating helpline

Suzy Lamplugh Trust Stalking Helpline

Helpline: 0808 802 0300

A national stalking helpline run by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust

Ethics Application form

Application for approval of all studies involving **Healthy Human Participants only conducted by Staff and Students of the University of Nottingham which don't involve an invasive procedure**

1 Title of Project: Comparing Stalking, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault: The Impact on Attitudes Towards Men and Intimacy in Female Victims

Short title for use in footers of documents (ie Dynamic study): Female Victims Attitudes to Men and Intimacy

2 Names, Qualifications ,Job Title, School/Divisional/Unit/Address, email of all Researchers:

Chief Academic/Supervisor: Simon Duff and Lydia Bullock

Other key researchers/collaborators:

Students name and course: *Christie Goodchild, Forensic and Criminological Psychology MSc*

3 Type of Project: (Please select one or more from list below and delete as appropriate)

Masters Student project (Forensic and Criminological Psychology MSc)

Questionnaire-based study

4 Location of study: Online
Start date: January 2019
End date: March 2019
Length of study: 3 months

5 Description and number of participants to be studied: A minimum of 108 participants will be used in the study, as calculated by G-Power, using MANOVA (repeated measures, within factors) with an alpha value of 0.05, power of 0.95 and effect size of 0.25. All participants will be female and aged 18 and above, as the study is primarily looking at females attitudes towards men and intimacy, based on their previous experiences.

6 Summary of Experimental Protocol - Please give details below (no longer than this side of A4) under the following headings: - 1. Background. 2. Aims (to include hypothesis to be tested Primary and secondary endpoints), 3. Research protocol and methods, 4. Measurable end points/statistical power of the study. 5. Key references. This section must be completed. This is in addition to a more detailed project proposal/protocol which should be attached to this application. Please use 10pt typeface.

Background: Stalking: Around 12-16% of women are victims of stalking at some point throughout their lives (Sheridan, Blaauw & Davies, 2003). As stalking is a relatively new offence, it is difficult to both define and measure. Despite no one universal definition of stalking, it is generally considered to be "*an intentional pattern of repeated behaviours towards a person or persons that are unwanted, and result in fear, or that a reasonable person (or jury) would view as fearful or threatening*" (Spitzberg & Cupach, 2007, p.66). Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms and high levels of obsessive compulsive, depressive and interpersonal sensitivity have all been associated with being a victim of

stalking (Kraaij et al., 2007; Westrup et al., 1999). Research has also found the presence of maladaptive beliefs relating to trust, alienation, isolation and self-blame are common in those who have been stalked (Kamphuis et al., 2003). There is a clear gap in current research in terms of the impact of stalking on attitudes towards men and intimacy. Domestic Violence: Around 26% of women aged 16 to 59 had experienced some form of domestic abuse since age 16 (CSEW, 2017). Women are also five times more likely than men to have experienced sexual assault by a partner (CSEW, 2017). Domestic violence is defined as "*any incident of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of their gender or sexuality*" (Crown Prosecution Service, 2018). Research suggests that being a victim of intimate partner violence is detrimental to aspects of both physical and mental health (Coker et al., 2002). Similarly to stalking, research focuses on the psychological impact of domestic abuse rather than the interpersonal impact. Findings show that depression and PTSD are among a variety of negative psychological outcomes that result from being a victim of domestic violence (Evans, 2007). Another common psychological consequence for victims of domestic violence is self-blame (Spruin et al., 2017). Sexual Assault: Around 20% of women have been victims of some type of sexual assault since the age of 16 (CSEW, 2018). It has also been found that around 83% of victims do not report this assault to police (CSEW, 2018), suggesting that sexual assault is vastly underreported. According to the London Metropolitan Police, sexual assault is described as "*an act of physical, psychological and emotion violation in the form of a sexual act, inflicted on someone without their consent*" and can include "*forcing or manipulating someone to witness or participate in any sexual acts*" (London Metropolitan Police, 2018). Research has found a range of psychological consequences of sexual abuse, such as PTSD (Ullman et al., 2007). Self-blame is also common among victims, with findings suggesting that almost a third of victims blame their character for their assault, and over half blame their behaviour for their assault (Ullman, 1996). Attitudes Towards Men and Intimacy: Research has found that those who are battered wives, rape victims, feminists and lesbians are often more likely to exhibit negative attitudes towards men than other groups of individuals (Iazzo, 1983). Despite this research mentioning only domestic violence and sexual assault victims, due to other similarities in terms of the aftermath of these experiences (such as PTSD symptoms), it is possibly that stalking may also lead to these negative attitudes. In terms of attitudes towards intimacy, research has found significant links between high levels of self-blame and fears of intimacy (Lutwak, Panish & Ferrari, 2003). This therefore suggests a potential link between poor attitudes towards intimacy in victims of stalking, domestic violence and sexual assault, as a common consequence of experiencing these behaviours is resultant self-blame (Kamphuis et al., 2003; Spruin et al., 2017; Ullman, 1996).

Aims: These three events are increasingly common in young women, and sometimes assessed together under a general term of 'intimate violence'. The aim of this study is to identify the interpersonal impact that stalking, domestic violence and sexual assault have on a woman's attitudes towards intimacy and men, and how this impact differs between the events. Also, the aim is to identify whether the severity of the stalking experienced is linked to the attitudes directly.

Research Protocol and Methods: A minimum of 108 female participants aged 18 years old and above will take part in the study and will be approached using a post on social media. Participation will be completely voluntary and the questionnaire will be online. Participants will complete a questionnaire whereby they will read a detailed definition of stalking, domestic violence and sexual assault and answer yes or no as to whether they have experienced these behaviours. For stalking, a list of 26 stalking behaviours will be given and participants must choose the number in which they have experienced. Participants will then complete questionnaires concerning their attitudes towards men and intimacy. Data will be analysed using a Factorial MANOVA in order to measure the effect of four categorical predictor variables (stalking victims, domestic violence victims, sexual assault victims and control group) on two continuous outcome variables (attitudes towards men and attitudes towards intimacy). Two further linear regression analyses will be used to measure the direct impact that scores on the 26 stalking behaviours question have on attitudes towards men and attitudes towards intimacy.

Measurable End Points/Statistical Power of the Study: Stalking, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault questionnaire, Intimacy Attitudes Scale and Ambivalence Towards Men Inventory. The measurable end point for this study is the increase in negative attitudes towards men and intimacy if participants have experienced any of the three behaviours: stalking, domestic violence or sexual assault.

Key References:

Coker, A. L., Davis, K. E., Arias, I., Desai, S., Sanderson, M., Brandt, H. M., & Smith, P. H. (2002). Physical and mental health effects of intimate partner violence for men and women. *American journal of preventive medicine*, *23*(4), 260-268.

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Evans, I. (2007). *Battle-scars: Long-term effects of prior domestic violence*. Melbourne, Australia: Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Research, Monash University.
Glick, P., & Fiske, S. T. (1999). The Ambivalence toward Men Inventory: Differentiating hostile and benevolent beliefs about men. *Psychology of women quarterly*, *23*(3), 519-536.
Iazzo, A. (1983). The construction and validation of attitudes toward men scale. *The Psychological Record*, *33*(3), 371.
Kamphuis, J. H., Emmelkamp, P. M., & Bartak, A. (2003). Individual differences in post-traumatic stress following post-intimate stalking: Stalking severity and psychosocial variables. *British Journal of Clinical Psychology*, *42*(2), 145-156.
Kraaij, V., Arensman, E., Garnefski, N., & Kremers, I. (2007). The role of cognitive coping in female victims of stalking. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, *22*(12), 1603-1612.

London Metropolitan Police. (2018). *Rape and sexual assault.* Retrieved from https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rsa/rape-and-sexual-assault/
Lutwak, N., Panish, J., & Ferrari, J. (2003). Shame and guilt: Characterological vs. behavioral self-blame and their relationship to fear of intimacy. *Personality and Individual Differences*, *35*(4), 909-916.
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Office of National Statistics. (2018). *Crime in England and Wales: year ending June 2018.* Retrieved from https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingjune2018
Sheridan, L. P., Blaauw, E., & Davies, G. M. (2003). Stalking: Knowns and unknowns. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, *4*(2), 148-162.
Spitzberg, B. H., & Cupach, W. R. (2007). The state of the art of stalking: Taking stock of the emerging literature. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, *12*(1), 64-86.
Spruin, E., Baker, R., Papadaki, I., Franz, A., & Alleyne, E. (2017). Exploring the belief systems of domestic abuse victims: an exploratory study. *Journal of Criminological Research, Policy and Practice*, *3*(1), 17-26.
Ullman, S. E. (1996). Social reactions, coping strategies, and self-blame attributions in adjustment to sexual assault. *Psychology of women quarterly*, *20*(4), 505-526.
Ullman, S. E., Townsend, S. M., Filipas, H. H., & Starzynski, L. L. (2007). Structural models of the relations of assault severity, social support, avoidance coping, self-blame, and PTSD among sexual assault survivors. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, *31*(1), 23-37.
Westrup, D., Fremouw, W. J., Thompson, R. N., & Lewis, S. F. (1999). The psychological impact of stalking on female undergraduates. *Journal of Forensic Science*, *44*(3), 554-557.

7 <u>Lay Summary of project</u> (in lay words):(maximum 200 words) ***Summaries which include language which is too technical for lay members of the Committee will be rejected***.

The study will assess whether being stalked by a male, experiencing domestic abuse by a male, and/or experiencing sexual assault by a male affects a woman's attitudes towards men and intimacy. An online questionnaire will be used to assess whether people have experienced any of the above behaviours, and for stalking, will also include a 26-item checklist where participants will tick the behaviours that they have experienced by a male perpetrator. The measures used to assess attitudes towards men and intimacy will require participants to read statements and rate how much they agree or disagree with them. The study hypothesises that those who have experienced stalking, domestic violence or sexual assault will have more hostile attitudes towards men and more negative attitude towards intimacy than those in the control group (a group of females that have not experienced any of the three events). The study will compare the impact that each of the three experiences has on these attitudes, in order to determine if one event is more impactful than the others. It is

also hypothesised that the higher numbers of behaviours that participants have experienced on the stalking checklist, the more negative their attitudes towards men/intimacy will be.

8 Will written consent be obtained from all volunteers? YES

As the study will be conducted online, participants will be required to read a consent statement after clicking the link to the study but before beginning the actual survey**.** Participants will be required to tick boxes to confirm they understand what their participation involves and give consent for their data to be used. Participants will not be granted access to the next part of the survey without clicking that they give consent.

9 Will an inconvenience allowance be offered **No**

10 FUNDING NO

11 Studies involving NHS Staff, organisations, Services

Does the study involve any premises, services staff who hold a contract with a hospital, Primary Healthcare or Social Care Trust? No

12 How will the subjects be chosen?

Participants will be female only and aged 18 years old and above. Participants will be approached via a post on various social media sites and discussion forums requesting voluntary participation.

Please include a copy (as a separate attachment) of your proposed poster or advert, e-mail/letter of invitation text to be posted on social media sites.

Nb avoid giving out personal mobile phone numbers/e-mail addresses on posters for personal safety reasons – dedicated pay as you go study phone number is strongly recommended.

13 Describe how possible participants will be approached.

Posters will not be used in this study, as all interactions will be via social media. The social media advertisement will be posted on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit. Via the use of these social media websites, support groups will be identified and the social media advertisement will be posted in a variety of groups/pages/forums. Participants will not be coerced to participate in the study, as no incentive will be provided, making participation completely voluntary. Participants will also be able to terminate their participation at any point before clicking 'submit responses' on the final page, by simply exiting the questionnaire website. Create study → create advertisement post for social media, with link to online study → post advertisement to various social media platforms and online forums → participants click on link to study from advertisement → participants read information and consent form and give consent → participants complete questionnaires and submit responses → participants read debrief form, with contacts for any concerns that may have arose during completion of the study

14 What sources of information will be included? i.e, pre-existing research database, student records, visits to other organisation, online resource

Two pre-existing questionnaires will be used in this study: the Ambivalence Towards Men Scale (to measure attitudes towards men in terms of hostility and benevolence) and the Intimacy Attitudes Scale (to measure attitudes towards intimacy and intimate relationships). JISC Online Survey tool will be used to present the information and consent form, collect demographic data, display all questionnaires, and provide a debrief form.

15 Whose permission will be sought to access this information (eg GP, consultant Head of Organisation)?
N/A- All surveys are available online

16 For interview/focus groups:
N/A

17 Data Storage and Data management
Participants will not give any information that will allow them to be associated with their responses, allowing for complete anonymity of any responses given (due to the sensitive nature of the topic this is of great importance). Information will be collected online via Bristol Online Survey and stored in the Bristol Online Survey Database until it is exported for analysis. Data will then be stored on the primary researchers own device until the completion of the research. The primary researcher and two research supervisors will be the only people with access to this data, for analysis purposes. These steps have been taken to ensure all data is completely secure and anonymous. Data will be stored for 7 years as this is the protocol for research data at the University of Nottingham.

18 What ethical problems do you foresee in this project?
Participants will be disclosing potentially sensitive and difficult information during parts of the study, which is why no identifiable information (such as names or email addresses) will be required when taking part in the study. This will mean that there is no way to directly link the individual to the answers that they have given. In order to reduce the impact of the sensitive topics discussed, a variety of help services will be given in the debrief statement, so that participants are able to follow up any concerns that they have following study completion. Participants are also able to withdraw at any point before the final submission check box after the debrief statement, meaning that they have full knowledge of what their participation has included before submitting their responses. The study can be completed online on any device, and will take no longer than 20/25 minutes to complete, meaning there is little inconvenience to the participant.

18. What are the possible limitations of the proposed design of this study?
Due to the nature of the study, it is reliant on self-report, meaning that there is always a possibility that information given is not completely true. However, it is not possible to conduct this study without the use of self-report. The topics being discussed are also quite ambiguous, and what some people consider stalking/domestic violence/sexual assault may differ to what another person considers these to be. To minimise the risk of this, clear definitions and examples have been given for each of the three target behaviours. It is also not possible to randomise the order of the questionnaires on JISC, however, I do not think that the order of the questionnaires will impact the way in which the participants perceive or answer the questions.

DECLARATION: I will inform the Medical School Ethics Committee as soon as I hear the outcome of any application for funding for the proposed project and/or if there are any significant changes to this proposal. I have read the notes to the investigators and clearly understand my obligations as to the rights, welfare and dignity of the subjects to be studied, particularly with regard to the giving of information and the obtaining of consent.

Signature of Lead Investigator: Christie Goodchild
Date:26/01/19

***Nb If you are student your supervisor must sign this form otherwise it will be rejected*

Name and address for correspondence with applicant:

Christie Goodchild
Centre for Forensic and Family Psychology
Division of Psychiatry and Applied Psychology
School of Medicine

Please submit your completed application to:

Administrative Support
Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee
c/o Faculty PVC Office
B Floor, Medical School (nr Bridge)
QMC Campus, Nottingham University Hospitals
Nottingham
NG7 2UH

e-mail: louise.sabir@nottingham.ac.uk

Appendices:

Appendix A: Advertisement for Social Media

I am currently a Forensic and Criminological Psychology Masters student at the University of Nottingham conducting my research project. I am assessing the impact of being a female victim of stalking, sexual assault and/or domestic violence by a male perpetrator, and how this may affect future attitudes in a variety of domains.

If you are female, aged 18 and over, I would appreciate it if you took the time to participate in my online survey. The survey should take no longer than 20/25 minutes to complete and will be completely anonymous. You do not have to have experienced any of the above life events to participate, but if you do believe that you are a victim of any of the above then your participation is especially valuable.

Any questions please feel free to send me a message.

Thank you for your time.

University of Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

Email: FMHS-ResearchEthics@nottingham.ac.uk

Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences
Research Ethics Committee
c/o Faculty PVC Office
School of Medicine Education Centre
B Floor, Medical School
Queen's Medical Centre Campus
Nottingham University Hospitals
Nottingham, NG7 2UH

15 April 2019

Christie Goodchild
MSc Forensic & Criminological Psychology Student
c/o Dr Simon Duff
Director of Stage II Forensic Training
Centre for Forensic & Family Psychology
Room B05 YANG Fujia
Jubilee Campus
Wollaton Road
Nottingham

Dear Ms Goodchild

Ethics Reference No: 243-1902 **– please always quote**	
Study Title: Comparing Stalking, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault: The Impact on Attitudes Towards Men and Intimacy in Female Victims	
Chief Investigator/Supervisor: Dr Simon Duff, Director of Stage II Forensic Training, Centre for Forensic & Family Psychology	
Lead Investigators/student: Christie Goodchild, MSc Forensic and Criminological Psychology.	
Proposed Start Date: 01/04/2019	**Proposed End Date:** 31/07/2019

Thank you for submitting the above application and the following documents were received:

- FMHS REC Application form and supporting documents version 1.0: 28.01.2019
- Minor Revisions dated 11.04.2019.

These have been reviewed and are satisfactory and the study has been given a favourable opinion.

A favourable opinion has been given on the understanding that:

1. The protocol agreed is followed and the Committee is informed of any changes using a notice of amendment form (please request a form).
2. The Chair is informed of any serious or unexpected event.
3. An End of Project Progress Report is completed and returned when the study has finished (Please request a form).

Yours sincerely

Professor Ravi Mahajan
Chair, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee

Comparing Stalking, Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault: The Impact on Attitudes Towards Men and Intimacy in Female Victims

Christie Goodchild

Abstract

Despite research concerning the psychological consequences of women's experiences of stalking, sexual assault and intimate partner violence (IPV), little is known about the impact they have on attitudes towards men and intimacy. Data were collected from 196 women who had and had not experienced stalking, sexual assault and/or IPV by a male perpetrator, and analysed with reference to the hostility subscale of the Ambivalence Towards Men Inventory and the Intimacy Attitudes Scale. Data were also collected concerning the number of examples of stalking, sexual assault and IPV that participants had experienced from a list of examples. Findings suggest that, for hostility towards men, experiencing all three offences leads to more hostile attitudes than experiencing none of them and stalking alone. For intimacy, findings suggest that experiencing all three offences and a combination of sexual assault and IPV are associated with a lower capability for intimacy in comparison to experiencing none of the offences and sexual assault alone. Number of experiences of each offence was positively and significantly correlated with hostility, and negatively and significantly correlated with intimacy. This suggests that more experiences of stalking, sexual assault and IPV are associated with more hostile attitudes towards men and lower capabilities for intimacy. Implications and limitations of the study are discussed, and recommendations for further research are outlined.

1. Introduction

1.1. Abuse Towards Women

The umbrella term of 'intimate violence' has been used to describe any partner abuse, partner sexual assault (both attempted and completed) and partner stalking, and research suggests that these experiences occur far more commonly in women than in men (Office of National Statistics, 2018). However, stalking and sexual assaults occur frequently outside of domestic abuse also, for example by strangers or acquaintances (Breiding, 2014). Worldwide research suggests that 35% of women experience sexual and/or physical intimate partner violence (IPV), or sexual violence perpetrated by someone other than their partner at some point during their lives (WHO, 2013). As the definition above fails to mention non-physical types of abuse, including emotional and financial abuse by an intimate partner and a range of stalking behaviours, it suggests that experiences of stalking, sexual assault and IPV may be higher than 35%. For this reason, research concerning the impact of such offences is vital to educate and prevent the consequences that may result from this abuse.

1.2. Stalking

In 2018, 21.3% of women aged 16-59 and 14.6% of women aged 60-74 reported being stalked at some point in their lives (Office of National Statistics, 2018). For men, however, the prevalence of stalking is far lower, as 9.2% of males aged 16-59 and 6.1% of males aged 60-74 reported being stalked (Office of National Statistics, 2018). As stalking is a relatively new offence, it has proven difficult to both define and measure stalking among the general population. Despite no one universal definition of stalking, it is generally considered as "*an intentional pattern of repeated behaviours towards a person or persons that are unwanted, and result in fear, or that a reasonable person (or jury) would view as fearful or threatening*" (Spitzberg & Cupach, 2007, p.66). This definition is supported by the 2012 additions to the Stalking Legislation by the Crown Prosecution Service, which highlighted stalking as

involving ‘fear of violence’ or causing ‘serious alarm or distress’. Despite this, there is still ambiguity in defining stalking, and this has therefore resulted in difficulties in terms of researching the prevalence of stalking, and the impact it has. Research thus far has attempted to understand the psychological impact of stalking, and has found a range of negative psychological consequences. Findings suggest that stalked women suffer from high levels of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depressive symptoms and anxiety, particularly when they blamed themselves for the incident or ruminated about the event (Kraaij et al., 2007).

Earlier research has also found an association between being stalked and high levels of obsessive compulsive and interpersonal sensitivity symptoms (Westrup et al., 1999). In addition, a large sample of 601 women from two universities found that after experiencing stalking, 38% of women took extra precautions, 20% changed their routine, 13% changed their phone numbers and 3% moved away to a new city as a result (Amar, 2006), suggesting the major impact that stalking has on victims lives. Research from 131 Dutch women found significant psychosocial impacts of being stalked, including the presence of maladaptive beliefs relating to trust, alienation, isolation and self-blame (Kamphuis, Emmelkamp & Bartak, 2003). It is clear that current research focuses on the psychological impact of stalking, meaning interpersonal consequences are less understood. Current research shows a clear gap in understanding the impact stalking has on attitudes towards men and intimacy, hence this study aims to fill this gap.

1.3. Intimate Partner Violence

Intimate partner violence is a form of domestic abuse that occurs within intimate relationships. According to the 2017/2018 Crime Survey for England and Wales, 28.9% of women have experienced some form of domestic abuse since age 16, and 7.9% had experienced domestic abuse within the last year. Of that 7.9%, the most common form was non-sexual partner abuse, with 5.6% of women experiencing this and a further 0.4%

experiencing sexual partner abuse (Office of National Statistics, 2018). IPV is defined as "*any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in the relationship*" including "*acts of physical violence, sexual violence, emotional (psychological) abuse, and controlling behaviours"* (World Health Organization, 2012). Due to the nature of IPV, it is vastly underreported, making it difficult to estimate the exact number of victims. Self-report interview data analysed from the National Violence Against Women Survey, a large scale sample of 6,790 women in the US, suggests that being a victim of IPV is detrimental to aspects of both physical and mental health, and that this negative association was strongest when the abuse experienced by the victim was psychological abuse (Coker et al., 2002). Research concerning the aftermath of IPV has focused on the long-term psychological impacts of being a victim, rather than the interpersonal impact. When considering the long-term implications of domestic violence, findings have shown that depression and PTSD are among a variety of negative psychological outcomes that result from such abuse (Evans, 2007).

Alongside PTSD symptoms, research shows that in some cases, victims have developed a belief system whereby they blame themselves for the abuse that occurred to them, believing that they somehow instigated or facilitated the abuse (Spruin et al., 2017). However, with such a small sample of 12 women in Spruin et al.'s study, it is difficult to infer that all victims of this abuse experience the same feelings of self-blame, meaning further research is required to strengthen this finding. Despite some research on reasons why women stay in abusive relationships (Griffing et al., 2002; Strube & Barbour, 1983), little research has been done on women who chose to leave and pursue new relationships, and how these experiences may impact their future intimate relationships with others.

1.4. Sexual Assault

It is estimated that 20% of women have been victims of some type of sexual assault since the age of 16, in comparison to 4% of men (Office of National Statistics, 2018). The Crime Survey for England and Wales also concluded that around 83% of victims do not report this assault to police (Office of National Statistics, 2018), suggesting that sexual assault is vastly underreported. This provides issues in terms of justice and stigma, as if victims do not report the crime, then perpetrators will continue to act in sexually abusive ways without consequence. Alongside this, the stigma associated with sexual assault may also lead to a lack of reporting, as a sample of college students ranked 'shame, guilt and embarrassment', 'confidentiality concerns' and 'fear of not being believed' as the leading barriers to reporting rape (Sable, Danis, Mauzy & Gallagher, 2006). According to the London Metropolitan Police, sexual assault is described as "*an act of physical, psychological and emotion violation in the form of a sexual act, inflicted on someone without their consent*" and can include "*forcing or manipulating someone to witness or participate in any sexual acts*" (London Metropolitan Police, 2018). Research has shown that, similarly to victims of stalking and IPV, there is a range of psychological consequences associated with victims of sexual abuse, such as PTSD (Ullman et al., 2007). Further research into PTSD in a large and diverse sample of female victims of sexual assault suggests that negative social reactions to the event led to a higher severity of PTSD symptoms (Ullman & Peter-Hagene, 2016). Findings have also suggested that the way a victim perceives the experience can impact their emotional reactions, meaning that if a victim labels the experience as 'rape', they are more likely to have a stronger negative emotional response (Kahn et al., 2003).

Another social reaction that is common in victims of sexual assault is self-blame, with research identifying two types of self-blame experienced by victims: behavioural self-blame (blame associated with ones behaviour and actions) and characterological self-blame (blame

associated with ones personal character and traits). Research suggests that almost a third of victims experience characterological self-blame following sexual assault, and over half experience behavioural self-blame (Ullman, 1996). Although research has suggested that the psychological distress associated with sexual assault can result in issues with interpersonal functioning (Weaver & Clum, 1995), other findings has suggested that fear of intimacy is not directly related to being a victim of sexual assault, and is instead mediated by other factors, including self-control, benevolence and depression symptoms (Harris & Valentiner, 2002). This makes it difficult to be conclusive about the impact that sexual assault can have on attitudes towards intimacy and future relationships.

1.5. Comparing Stalking, Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence

The present study will allow for comparisons to be made between victims of stalking, intimate partner violence and sexual assault, in terms of how these experiences affect attitudes towards men and intimacy. Early research has found that those who are 'battered wives', rape victims, feminists and lesbians are often more likely to exhibit negative attitudes towards men than other groups of individuals (Iazzo, 1983). Despite this research mentioning only IPV and sexual assault victims, due to other similarities in terms of the aftermath of these experiences (such as PTSD symptoms), it is possible that stalking may also lead to these negative attitudes. In terms of attitudes towards intimacy, there is little evidence in the current literature that links stalking, IPV or sexual assault directly with attitudes towards intimacy. Despite this, research has found significant links between feelings of self-blame and fear of intimacy (Lutwak, Panish & Ferrari, 2003). This suggests a potential link between poor attitudes towards intimacy in victims of stalking, IPV and sexual assault, as a common consequence of experiencing these behaviours is resultant self-blame (Kamphuis et al., 2003; Spruin et al., 2017; Ullman, 1996). This is a vital area to study, as a more in-depth

understanding of the aftermath of any form of abuse is important for support, aftercare and recovery.

1.6. The Present Study

This study aims to examine the impact that experiences of stalking, sexual assault and intimate partner violence by a male perpetrator have on females' attitudes towards men and intimacy. As research in this area is ambiguous and limited, an inductive approach has been made for the formulation of the following hypotheses. The first hypothesis (H_1) predicts that experiences of stalking, sexual assault, and/or intimate partner violence by a male perpetrator will increase women's hostile attitudes towards men. The second hypothesis (H_2) predicts that experiences of stalking, sexual assault and/or intimate partner violence by a male perpetrator will decrease positive attitudes towards intimacy in female victims. The third hypothesis (H_3) predicts that the number of experiences associated with stalking, sexual assault and/or intimate partner violence will directly correlate with hostility towards men and intimacy attitudes.

2. Method

2.1. Participants

Participants were obtained using opportunity sampling. An advertisement was posted on various social media accounts (Appendix A), including Facebook and Instagram, explaining that all females aged 18 years old and above were eligible to participate in the online questionnaire. Aside from being female and at least 18 years of age, there were no other requirements for participation, and no incentive or reward was provided to those who participated. A G*Power calculation was used with a medium effect size of 0.3, an alpha value of 0.05 and a statistical power of 0.95 (to reduce the risk of making a Type 2 Error), for an ANOVA analysis with eight groups and two measures (Faul, Erdfelder, Lang & Buchner,

2007). The recommended sample size was calculated as 192 participants. In total, 197 women participated in the study, however one participant was removed prior to analysis due to inconsistencies in their responses. Of the 196 women that were included in data analysis, 58% were aged 18-25 years old, and the remaining participants were aged 26 years and older (Appendix B). Of the total sample, 46.9% of participants were non-students, 32.7% of participants were undergraduate students, and 20.4% of participants were postgraduate students (Appendix C). This study was granted ethical approval by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FMHS) Research Ethics Committee University of Nottingham (Appendix D).

2.1. Measures

2.2.1. Demographic Information

The first questionnaire collected demographic information, such as age and whether they were a student or non-student (Appendix E). Due to the sensitivity of the topic, demographic information requested was limited, in an attempt to make participants feel confident that their responses would not be traced back to them. This was particularly important for participants who may be confessing to previous or current abuse, as research suggests that confidentiality concerns are one of the biggest barriers to reporting (Sable, Danis, Mauzy & Gallagher, 2006).

2.2.2. Definitions

This questionnaire was created for the purpose of the present study, and assesses participants' experiences (if any) of stalking, sexual assault and intimate partner violence (Appendix F). Definitions and examples were generated for each of the three behaviours, using criteria from the Crown Prosecution Service, World Health Organisation, London Metropolitan Police, and previous research papers (WHO, 2012; London Metropolitan Police, 2018; Spitzberg & Cupach, 2007). Following the definitions, participants were asked

to select ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to the question ‘Do you believe that you have been a victim of stalking/sexual assault/intimate partner violence by a MALE perpetrator?’ Participants were not able to progress to the next section of the study without answering every question. Once completed, participants were split into groups dependent on their experiences, yielding eight groups in total: NONE (those who had experienced none of the three offences), ST (those who had experienced stalking alone), SA (those who had experienced sexual assault alone), IPV (those who had experienced IPV alone), SA/IPV (those who had experienced sexual assault and IPV alone), IPV/ST (those who had experienced IPV and stalking alone), SA/ST (those who had experienced sexual assault and stalking alone) and ALL (those who had experienced all three offences).

2.2.3. Measuring Attitudes Towards Men

The Ambivalence Towards Men Inventory (AMI) (Glick & Fiske, 1999) was used to measure attitudes towards men (Appendix G). The inventory uses a 20-item scale, whereby ten items refer to hostility, and ten items refer to benevolence. Each item includes a statement, and participants use a six-point scale with answers ranging from ‘disagree strongly’ (scoring zero) to ‘agree strongly’ (scoring five). This scale has shown good validity for predicting positive and negative attitudes to men (Glick & Fiske, 1999). For analysis, only the hostility subscale of the AMI will be used, as the study focuses on negative attitudes towards men, and participants can score between zero and 50.

2.2.4. Measuring Attitudes Towards Intimacy

The next questionnaire was the Intimacy Attitudes Scale (IAS) (Amidon, Treadwell & Kumar, 1985) (Appendix H), which measured attitudes towards intimacy and intimate relationships using 50-items measured on a five-point scale ranging from ‘strongly disagree’ to ‘strongly agree’. The measure has been described as a highly reliable instrument, presenting good construct validity (Ghalami, Safferinia & Shaghaghi, 2013). Total scores on

the IAS range from 50 to 250, whereby a higher score indicates a greater capacity for engaging in intimate relationships. Scores suggesting an average capacity for intimacy range from 172 to 182, meaning that scores below this suggest a below average capacity for intimacy, and scores of 150 suggest significantly below average capacity for intimacy.

2.2.5. Measuring Examples of Behaviours Experienced

The final part of the study aimed to assess the breadth of experiences in each of the three domains: stalking, intimate partner violence and sexual assault. The question stated 'from the following list of behaviours, which have you experienced by a MALE perpetrator (you may tick as many or as few as applies to you)' followed by a list of 59 example behaviours comprised from various sources, including previous research and legal definitions and examples (Sheridan, Davies & Boon, 2001; Fitzgerald, Magley, Drasgow & Waldo, 1999; Sexual Offences Act, 2003; Tolman & Rosen, 2001; Johnson, 2006) (Appendix I). Of these 59 examples, 25 referred to behaviour that was considered to be stalking, for example 'making excessive unwanted telephone calls- regardless of content', 19 referred to IPV, for example 'my husband/boyfriend restricts my freedom', and 15 referred to sexual assault, for example 'has a man ever implied faster promotions or better treatment if you were sexually cooperative?'. The list of 59 example behaviours was randomised, meaning that participants did not know which examples corresponded to each offence and therefore reduced the likelihood of demand characteristics. The inclusion of this question allowed for more in depth comparisons to be made between victims of stalking, sexual assault and IPV, to assess individual experiences of each offence and how these may differ between participants in terms of the breadth of their experiences. During the analysis phase of the study, the number of example behaviours that each participant selected was used to calculate total scores for each of the three offences: stalking (EXP-ST), sexual assault (EXP-SA), and IPV (EXP-IPV).

2.3. Procedures

An advertisement was used to recruit participants via social media, including posts to Facebook and Instagram. It was explained that the study was voluntary and included questions concerning experiences of stalking, IPV and sexual assault, however they did not have to have experienced these in order to participate. The advertisement specified that only women aged 18 years and older were eligible to participate, but did not specify that participants must be biologically female, meaning anyone who identified as female was eligible for participation. Specific Facebook groups were also contacted, including Women's Rights Groups and Women's Support Groups, to post the advertisement to members. Participants completed the online questionnaire using the JISC Online Survey Website, whereby they first read the information and consent form (Appendix J), explaining what the study would entail, followed by a consent statement (Appendix K). The consent statement required participants to confirm their gender, alongside their understanding concerning voluntary participation, withdrawal and anonymity. Participants were not able to progress to the study if they did not confirm their consent. Upon completion of the questionnaires, participants were presented with a debrief form (Appendix L), whereby the purpose of the study was outlined and they were thanked for their participation. A list of contact numbers and websites related to support for stalking, sexual assault and IPV were available at the end of the study.

3. Results

3.1. Preliminary Analyses

Two one-way analyses of variance (ANOVAs) were selected for statistical analysis, as mean scores in hostility and intimacy were compared against an independent variable with more than three levels. The dataset for the present study met all assumptions for the use of an

ANOVA, such as normally distributed, independently drawn data and random and independent sampling, and tests were ran where appropriate to ensure that this was the case, for example to assess the homogeneity of variance. For hostility towards men, the Levene's test indicated equal variances (F = 1.267, p = .269) (Appendix M). For attitudes towards intimacy, Levene's test indicated unequal variances (F = 3.010, p =.005), however the Welch and Brown-Forsythe tests indicated that there was an equality in the variances of the means, suggesting that the assumption of equal variances was not violated (F = 7.164, p = .000; F = 7.390, p = .000) (Appendix N & O). All samples were drawn independently from each other, and sampled randomly and independently. This suggests that the data did not violate any assumptions and supports the use of one-way ANOVAs for this analysis.

3.2. Prevalence

Table 1: Prevalence of Stalking, Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence

	N	Percentage of Sample
None	51	26.0%
Stalking (ST, SA/ST, IPV/ST, ALL)	66	33.7%
Sexual Assault (SA, SA/ST, SA/IPV, ALL)	122	62.2%
Intimate Partner Violence (IPV, SA/IPV, IPV/ST, ALL)	94	48.0%
At Least One of the Three Offences	145	74.0%
All	43	21.9%
Total Sample = 196		

The prevalence data for participants' experiences of stalking, sexual assault and intimate partner violence is displayed in Table 1.

3.3. One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation Scores for Hostility and Intimacy Scores

	N	Mean		Standard Deviation	
		Hostility	Intimacy	Hostility	Intimacy
NONE	51	21.88	176.63	8.622	17.16
ST	8	18.38	162.88	6.022	9.48
SA	32	23.56	174.91	7.431	18.88
IPV	11	25.09	176.27	9.934	15.49
SA/IPV	36	27.03	160.06	10.861	20.23
SA/ST	11	26.64	156.18	9.72	16.48
IPV/ST	4	22.25	153.00	7.18	7.17
ALL	43	29.54	157.95	10.71	27.23
TOTAL	196	25.09	167.00	9.80	21.75

3.2.1. Hostility Towards Men

Table 3: ANOVA Interactions for Hostility Towards Men

(A)	(B)	NONE	ST	SA	IPV	SA/IPV	SA/ST	IPV/ST	ALL
NONE	Mean Difference (A-B)		3.51	-1.68	-3.21	-5.15	-4.75	-.37	-7.65*
	Std. Error		3.59	2.13	3.14	2.05	3.14	4.90	1.95
	Sig.		.977	.993	.970	.199	.798	1.000	.003
ST	Mean Difference (A-B)	-3.51		-5.19	-6.72	-8.65	-8.26	-3.88	-11.16*
	Std. Error	3.59		3.73	4.38	3.69	4.38	5.78	3.63
	Sig.	.977		.860	.789	.274	.563	.998	.049
SA	Mean Difference (A-B)	1.68	5.19		-1.53	-3.47	-3.07	1.31	-5.97
	Std. Error	2.13	3.73		3.30	2.29	3.30	5.00	2.20
	Sig.	.993	.860		1.000	.800	.982	1.000	.125
IPV	Mean Difference (A-B)	3.21	6.72	1.53		-1.94	-1.55	2.84	-4.44
	Std. Error	3.14	4.38	3.30		3.25	4.02	5.51	3.19
	Sig.	.970	.789	1.000		.999	1.000	1.000	.859
SA/IPV	Mean Difference (A-B)	5.15	8.65	3.47	1.94		0.39	4.78	-2.507
	Std. Error	2.05	3.69	2.29	3.25		3.25	4.97	2.13
	Sig.	.199	.274	.800	.999		1.000	.979	.938
SA/ST	Mean Difference (A-B)	4.75	8.26	3.07	1.55	-0.39		4.39	-2.90
	Std. Error	3.14	4.38	3.30	4.02	3.25		5.51	3.19
	Sig.	.798	.563	.982	1.000	1.000		.993	.985
IPV/ST	Mean Difference (A-B)	0.37	3.88	-1.31	-2.84	-4.78	-4.39		-7.29
	Std. Error	4.90	5.78	5.00	5.51	4.97	5.51		4.93
	Sig.	1.000	.998	1.000	1.000	.979	.993		.818
ALL	Mean Difference (A-B)	7.65*	11.16*	5.97	4.44	2.51	2.90	7.29	
	Std. Error	1.95	3.63	2.20	3.19	2.13	3.19	4.93	
	Sig.	.003	.049	.125	.859	.938	.985	.818	

* p is significant at the level of 0.05

The mean and standard deviation for each category is displayed in Table 2. A one-way ANOVA was conducted to compare mean scores regarding hostility towards men in each of the eight groups of participants: NONE, ST, SA, IPV, SA/IPV, SA/ST, IPV/ST, and ALL (see Table 3). There was a statistically significant difference between groups (F (7,188) = 3.219, p = .003). A Tukey post-hoc test revealed that hostility scores were significantly lower for participants in the NONE category ($\bar{x}$ = 21.8824, p = .003) and participants in the ST category ($\bar{x}$ =18.3750, p = .049) in comparison to those in the ALL category ($\bar{x}$ = 29.5349). There were no statistically significant differences between any of the other five groups of participants.

3.2.2. Attitudes Towards Intimacy

Table 4: ANOVA Interactions for Intimacy Attitudes

(A)	(B)	NONE	ST	SA	IPV	SA/IPV	SA/ST	IPV/ST	ALL
NONE	Mean Difference (A-B)		13.75	1.72	0.36	16.57*	20.45	23.63	18.67**
	Std. Error		7.70	4.57	6.73	4.41	6.73	10.52	4.19
	Sig.		.631	1.000	1.00	.005	.054	.329	.000
ST	Mean Difference (A-B)	-13.75		-12.03	-13.40	2.82	6.69	9.88	4.92
	Std. Error	7.70		8.01	9.41	7.92	9.41	12.40	7.80
	Sig.	.631		.805	.845	1.000	.997	.993	.998
SA	Mean Difference (A-B)	-1.72	12.03		-1.37	14.85	18.72	21.91	16.95*
	Std. Error	4.57	8.01		7.08	4.92	7.08	10.74	4.73
	Sig.	1.000	.805		1.000	.057	.147	.458	.010
IPV	Mean Difference (A-B)	-0.36	13.40	1.37		16.22	20.09	23.27	18.32
	Std. Error	6.73	9.41	7.08		6.98	8.64	11.83	6.84
	Sig.	1.000	.845	1.00		.286	.285	.506	.136
SA/IPV	Mean Difference (A-B)	-16.57*	-2.82	-14.85	-16.22		3.87	7.06	2.10
	Std. Error	4.41	7.92	4.92	6.98		6.98	10.68	4.58
	Sig.	.005	1.000	.057	.286		.999	.998	1.000
SA/ST	Mean Difference (A-B)	-20.45	-6.69	-18.72	-20.09	-3.87		3.18	-1.77
	Std. Error	6.73	9.41	7.08	8.64	6.98		11.83	6.84
	Sig.	.054	.997	.147	.285	.999		1.000	1.000
IPV/ST	Mean Difference (A-B)	-23.63	-9.88	-21.91	-23.27	-7.06	-3.18		-4.95
	Std. Error	10.52	12.40	10.74	11.83	10.68	11.83		10.59
	Sig.	.329	.993	.458	.506	.998	1.000		1.000
ALL	Mean Difference (A-B)	-18.67**	-4.92	-16.95*	-18.32	-2.10	1.77	4.95	
	Std. Error	4.19	7.80	4.73	6.84	4.58	6.84	10.59	
	Sig.	.000	.998	.010	.136	1.000	1.000	1.000	

* p is significant at the level of 0.05
** p is significant at the level of 0.01

The mean and standard deviation for each category is displayed in Table 2. A one-way ANOVA was conducted to compare mean scores regarding attitudes towards intimacy in each of the eight groups of participants: NONE, ST, SA, IPV, SA/IPV, SA/ST, IPV/ST, and ALL (see Table 4). There was a statistically significant difference between groups (F (7,188) = 5.270, p = .000). A Tukey post-hoc test revealed that intimacy scores were significantly higher for participants in the NONE category ($\bar{x}$ = 176.6275, p = .000) and participant in the SA category ($\bar{x}$ = 174.9063, p = .010) in comparison to participants in the ALL category ($\bar{x}$ = 157.9535). The post-hoc test also revealed intimacy scores were significantly lower for participants in the SA/IPV ($\bar{x}$ = 160.0556, p = .005) category in comparison to the NONE category ($\bar{x}$ = 176.6275). There were no statistically significant differences between any of the other four groups of participants.

3.3. Correlation Analyses

In total, six partial correlations were computed to assess the relationship between EXP-ST, EXP-SA, and EXP-IPV scores and hostility and intimacy scores, whilst controlling for age (summarised in Table 5). The decision was made to control for age in order to eliminate the possibility that number of experiences measured using the EXP-ST, EXP-SA, and EXP-IPV scores were a product of aging.

Table 5: Correlation

	EXP-ST SCORE		EXP-SA SCORE		EXP-IPV SCORE	
	Correlation	*p*	Correlation	*p*	Correlation	*p*
HOSTILITY	.205	.004**	.321	.000**	.305	.000**
INTIMACY	-.301	.000**	-.314	.000**	-.304	.000**

** p is significant at the level of 0.01

The results show that EXP-ST, EXP-SA, and EXP-IPV scores were positively and significantly correlated with scores on the hostility measure, and negatively and significantly correlated with scores on the intimacy measure (see Table 5). For hostility and intimacy, the

strongest correlation is associated with EXP-SA scores: hostility (r(193) = .321, *p*= .000), intimacy (r(193) = -.314, *p*= .000).

4. Discussion

This study aimed to understand the impact of stalking, sexual assault and intimate partner violence, on women's attitudes towards men and intimacy. The study also aimed to assess the relationship between amount of experiences women have of each offence and their attitudes towards men and intimacy.

The first hypothesis (H_1) predicted that experiences of stalking, sexual assault and/or intimate partner violence by a male perpetrator would increase hostile attitudes towards men in female victims, and was partially supported by the research findings. The one-way ANOVA found that those in the NONE and ST categories displayed significantly less hostile attitudes towards men than those in the ALL category. This shows that experiencing all three of the offences, stalking, sexual assault and IPV, leads to significantly more hostile attitudes towards men in comparison to those who have not experienced any of these offences, or have only experienced stalking. Hostility towards men is likely to have increased over time due to experiences of all three offences, as women may become more hostile to all men as a result of their experiences. One reason for participants in the ST group displaying similar hostility attitudes to those in the NONE group may be due to the nature of stalking as an offence. Of the three offences, stalking differs more in terms of characteristics than sexual assault and IPV. Firstly, examples of stalking are less sexual and intimate in nature in comparison to the other offences, and as research suggests that in 16.2% of cases, stalking is perpetrated by a stranger (Breiding, 2014), it may be possible that stalking alone is not sufficient to change females attitudes towards men.

The second hypothesis (H_2) predicted that experiences of stalking, sexual assault and/or intimate partner violence by a male perpetrator would decrease positive attitudes towards intimacy in female victims, and was also partially supported by the research findings. The results of the second one-way ANOVA found that intimacy scores were significantly higher in the NONE and SA categories in comparison to the ALL category, suggesting that experiencing all three offences leads to a lower capacity for intimate relationships, and generally more negative attitudes towards them in comparison to those who have experienced none of the offences, or sexual assault alone. This analysis also found significantly higher intimacy scores in the NONE category than in the SA/IPV category, suggesting that experiencing a combination of sexual assault and IPV leads to more negative attitudes towards intimacy than experiencing none of the offences. Similarly with hostility towards men, those who have experienced all three offences are likely to have poorer attitudes towards intimacy due to a build up of such experiences. Experiencing all three offences would be particularly traumatic, therefore it is expected that these experiences would impact on attitudes towards intimacy and cause the victim to be cautious in future intimate relationships. In terms of low intimacy scores in the SA/IPV category, this is understandable due to the highly intimate and potentially sexual nature of both offences, suggesting why this combination of events has a significant impact on intimacy attitudes in comparison to other combinations. As for those in the SA category showing little issues with intimacy, this may be due to the vast spectrum of sexual assault. As sexual assault can vary from harassment to rape (Fitzgerald, Magley, Drasgow & Waldo, 1999), it is difficult to determine what level of sexual assault each participant has experienced. If those in the sample had experienced less severe sexual assault, this may explain why these experiences had less of an impact, as in previous research assault severity was associated with an increase in negative effects such as PTSD symptoms (Kilpatrick et al., 1989).

The third hypothesis (H_3) predicted that the number of experiences associated with each offence would correlate with both attitudes towards men and intimacy, and was supported by the research findings. The results of the partial correlations suggest that, although sometimes small, there were significant positive correlations between all three experience groups (EXP-ST, EXP-SA, EXP-IPV) and hostility scores, suggesting that the more experiences that a woman has had of stalking, sexual assault and intimate partner violence, the more hostile her attitudes towards men. Similarly, the results of the partial correlation also shows that, although sometimes small, there were significant negative correlations between all three experience groups and attitudes towards intimacy, suggesting that an increase in females experiences of stalking, sexual assault and intimate partner violence, leads to an decrease in positive attitudes towards intimacy. An explanation for these findings is that simply the more experiences that a female has in each offence, the less likely she is to trust intimate relationships in the future and the more likely she is to believe that all men will act in that way. This is supported by findings suggesting that stalking can result in decreased trust and isolation (Kamphuis, Emmelkamp & Bartak, 2003), suggesting that issues with intimacy may stem from trust and feeling social isolation. Sexual assault was the most strongly correlated with hostility and intimacy, which is in line with previous research suggesting that severity of sexual assault is associated with an increase in negative consequences (Kilpatrick et al., 1989).

The results found in this study have a range of implications. Firstly, it is important to note that the number of participants that have suffered from stalking, sexual assault and IPV in this sample is extremely high (Table 1). The findings state that 74% of women in the present study have experienced at least one of the three offences at some point in their lives. These findings alone are unexpected, particularly in comparison to general lifetime prevalence data for experiencing stalking, sexual assault and intimate partner violence

(Office of National Statistics, 2018). There are several reasons why this may have been the case. Firstly, although it was mentioned in the advertisement that participants need not have experienced any of the three offences to participate, it is possible that those who had experienced them were more likely to be drawn to participating in the study. If participants had experienced these events, they may wish to participate in order to share their experiences in the hope of helping others in some way through the research. Another reason for this increase may be due to the definitions used in the first questionnaire. The definitions were very broad and attempted to include every type of behaviour exhibited in each offence, which may not be the case for other types of prevalence research.

Alongside these initial findings, results from further analyses continued to suggest major interpersonal consequences for these experiences. The findings from this study are somewhat in line with the limited previous research findings. As research suggests that fear of intimacy is highly linked to self-blame (Lutwak, Panish & Ferrari, 2003), and self-blame is a common resultant emotion in all three offences (Kumphuis et al., 2003; Spruin et al., 2017; Ullman, 1996), it is understandable that experiencing a combination of these three offences led to significantly more negative attitudes towards intimacy than those who had not had these experiences. As for hostility towards men, the limited research is partially consistent with findings, as research suggests that battered wives and rape victims are among those who exhibit negative attitudes towards men in comparison to other individuals (Iazzo, 1938). This is somewhat supported by the findings from the present study that experiencing these two offences in conjunction with stalking may lead to poorer, more hostile attitudes towards men. There was a lack of significant differences in hostility scores for individuals who had experienced each offence alone, suggesting that a build up of events may be vital in terms of the formation of hostile attitudes towards men. In relation to the findings of the correlation analyses, they provide weight to the continued argument that experiencing each of these

offences leads to more hostile attitudes towards men, and poorer attitudes towards intimacy, consistent with the above research findings.

There are some limitations to the present study. Firstly, the use of self-report to collect data has a variety of risks, such as over and under-reporting. It is possible that participants may not exactly remember the extent of their abuse, or may over-estimate their abuse due to intense emotional reactions associated with them. Stigma, denial and embarrassment may also act as barriers for reporting. Attempts were made to reduce the impact of this limitation, by providing clear and concise definitions of each offence, to ensure that there was no confusion when disclosing experiences. A further limitation in the present study is the inability to measure the true frequency of participants' experiences of each offence. Although the final section of the study enabled participants to select any examples of experiences they have had, they were not able to select how many times they had experienced each one. Frequency was not included in the questionnaire as, in many cases, abuse occurs frequently and over long periods of time, meaning participants may not know the exact number of times they have experienced each type of abuse. The questionnaire also did not cover whether one man or multiple men perpetrated the abuse. Despite this, the questionnaire allowed for some analysis in terms of participants experiences, meaning comparisons could be made in the absence of frequency data. When making comparisons in future, it is important to note that some participants may have experienced very few examples of abuse, but in high frequency, therefore caution should be taken when interpreting this information. It is also important to consider that the example behaviours varied hugely in terms of intensity, as some were far more extreme and harmful behaviours than others. Alongside this, individual emotional responses to abuse differ greatly; meaning different severities and frequencies of abuse will impact each individual uniquely. A final limitation for this study is the sample. Firstly, groups differed greatly in terms of sample size and due to the nature of

the information being collected, this was not possible to control for. The results suggest that some types of abuse occur infrequently in the absence of others, for example IPV and stalking in the absence of sexual assault (IPV/ST). As with research containing uneven group sizes, caution should be taken when generalising data to other populations. Alongside this, over half of participants in the sample were between 18-25 years old, suggesting again that caution should be taken when generalising to older populations. Despite this limitation, the prevalence rates in the present study are still unexpectedly high, suggesting that many women are experiencing this abuse whilst young adults.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

To conclude, the present study aimed to assess the impact that stalking, sexual assault and intimate partner violence has on females' attitudes towards men and intimacy. It also aimed to assess whether there was a relationship between the numbers of experiences a woman has had in each offence and the severity of her attitudes towards men and intimacy. The study found that, for hostility towards men, participants who have experienced all three offences displayed more hostile attitudes than those who had experienced none of the offences, or stalking alone. The study also found that, in terms of intimacy, participants who had experienced all three offences and a combination of sexual assault and IPV showed more issues in terms of intimacy capabilities than those who had experienced none of the events and sexual assault alone. Finally, the study found that the number of experiences a woman has had in each offence is correlated positively with hostile attitudes towards men, and negatively with capabilities for intimacy.

The present study has provided a range of opportunities for further research. Firstly, assessing whether abuse by one or multiple perpetrators impacts attitudes towards men and intimacy would be an interesting avenue for analysis. Secondly, further research could

attempt to measure the severity of experiences by using a focus group to rate each of the 59 examples used in the present study on a scale of severity. Once each item is rated, a more conclusive 'experience severity score' can be calculated dependent on the number of experiences each person has had. Finally, it is important to remember that, although women are more likely to experience these offences, men are also victims of stalking, sexual assault and IPV, and research concerning the impact of their experiences is extremely valuable. Understanding the impact that these events have on individuals will enable better support for victims of stalking, sexual assault and intimate partner violence.

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7. Appendices

Appendix A: Advertisement for Participants

Hi all, I am a currently a Forensic and Criminological Psychology Masters student at the University of Nottingham conducting my research project. I am assessing the impact of being a FEMALE victim of stalking, sexual assault and/or intimate partner (more commonly referred to as domestic violence) by a MALE perpetrator, and how this may affect future attitudes in a variety of domains. I hope that my research can shed some light on the aftermath of these events and what more can be done to support women going through these experiences.

If you are FEMALE, aged 18 and over, I would really appreciate it if you took the time to participate in my online survey. The survey should take no longer than 20/25 minutes to complete and all answers will be completely anonymous. Although you do not have to have experienced any of the above life events to participate, please understand that if you have been a victim of any of the above then your participation is especially valuable!

Due to the nature of the questions being asked, there is a chance of some trigger warnings as the topic itself is obviously sensitive, but there is no exposure to any damaging material throughout!

Any questions please feel free to send me a message. Thanks so much for your time and I will be extremely grateful for anyone that can participate!!

Appendix B: Descriptive Statistics for Age of Sample

AGE

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-25	113	57.7	57.7	57.7
	26-33	30	15.3	15.3	73.0
	34-41	18	9.2	9.2	82.1
	42-49	17	8.7	8.7	90.8
	50-57	13	6.6	6.6	97.4
	58+	5	2.6	2.6	100.0
	Total	196	100.0	100.0	

Appendix C: Descriptive Statistics for Student Status of Sample

STATUS

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Non-Student	92	46.9	46.9	46.9
	Postgraduate Student	40	20.4	20.4	67.3
	Undergraduate Student	64	32.7	32.7	100.0
	Total	196	100.0	100.0	

Appendix D: Ethical Approval Confirmation

University of Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

Email: FMHS-ResearchEthics@nottingham.ac.uk

Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences
Research Ethics Committee
c/o Faculty PVC Office
School of Medicine Education Centre
B Floor, Medical School
Queen's Medical Centre Campus
Nottingham University Hospitals
Nottingham, NG7 2UH

15 April 2019

Christie Goodchild
MSc Forensic & Criminological Psychology Student
c/o Dr Simon Duff
Director of Stage II Forensic Training
Centre for Forensic & Family Psychology
Room B05 YANG Fujia
Jubilee Campus
Wollaton Road
Nottingham

Dear Ms Goodchild

Ethics Reference No: 243-1902 **– please always quote**	
Study Title: Comparing Stalking, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault: The Impact on Attitudes Towards Men and Intimacy in Female Victims	
Chief Investigator/Supervisor: Dr Simon Duff, Director of Stage II Forensic Training, Centre for Forensic & Family Psychology	
Lead Investigators/student: Christie Goodchild, MSc Forensic and Criminological Psychology.	
Proposed Start Date: 01/04/2019	**Proposed End Date:** 31/07/2019

Thank you for submitting the above application and the following documents were received:

- FMHS REC Application form and supporting documents version 1.0: 28.01.2019
- Minor Revisions dated 11.04.2019.

These have been reviewed and are satisfactory and the study has been given a favourable opinion.

A favourable opinion has been given on the understanding that:

1. The protocol agreed is followed and the Committee is informed of any changes using a notice of amendment form (please request a form).
2. The Chair is informed of any serious or unexpected event.
3. An End of Project Progress Report is completed and returned when the study has finished (Please request a form).

Yours sincerely



Professor Ravi Mahajan
Chair, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee

Appendix E: Demographic Information

Page 3: Demographic Information and Measurement of Stalking, Intimate Partner Violence & Sexual Assault

2. Please tick the box below to confirm that you are female, as this study includes females only (if you are not female, please exit the study at this point) * *Required*

- ○ Female

3. Age (Please select the age range that you are part of): * *Required*

- ○ 18-25
- ○ 26-33
- ○ 34-41
- ○ 42-49
- ○ 50-57
- ○ 58+

4. Current Status: * *Required*

- ○ Undergraduate Student
- ○ Postgraduate Student
- ○ Non-Student

Appendix F: Defining Experiences of Stalking, Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence

Definition of Stalking:

Stalking can be described as '*an intentional pattern of repeated behaviours towards a person or persons that are unwanted, and result in fear, or that a reasonable person (or jury) would view as fearful or threatening*' (Spitzberg & Cupach, 2007, p. 66)

5. Do you believe that you have been a victim of stalking by a MALE perpetrator? * *Required*

- YES
- NO

Definition of Sexual Assault:

Sexual Assault can be described as '*an act of physical, psychological and emotional violation in the form of a sexual act, inflicted on someone without their consent. It can involve forcing or manipulating someone to witness or participate in any sexual acts*' (London Metropolitan Police)

6. Do you believe that you have been a victim of sexual assault by a MALE perpetrator? * *Required*

- YES
- NO

Definition of Intimate Partner Violence:

Intimate Partner Violence is '*any physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and controlling behaviours by an intimate partner*' (WHO; Crown Prosecution Service)

This for of Domestic Violence can include (but is not limited to):

- Physical Abuse
- Psychological Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Financial Abuse
- Emotional Abuse

7. Do you believe that you have been a victim of intimate partner violence by a MALE perpetrator? * *Required*

- YES
- NO

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Appendix G: Ambivalence Towards Men Inventory

Page 4: Ambivalence Towards Men Inventory

Below are a series of statements concerning men and women and their relationships in contemporary society. Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with each statement using the scale below:

- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree Somewhat
- Disagree Slightly
- Agree Slightly
- Agree Somewhat
- Agree Strongly

8. Even if both members of a couple work, the woman ought to be more attentive to taking care of her man at home * *Required*

- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree Somewhat
- Disagree Slightly
- Agree Slightly
- Agree Somewhat
- Agree Strongly

9. A man who is sexually attracted to a woman typically has no morals about doing whatever it takes to get her in bed * *Required*

- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree Somewhat
- Disagree Slightly
- Agree Slightly
- Agree Somewhat
- Agree Strongly

10. Men are less likely to fall apart in emergencies than women are * *Required*

- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree Somewhat
- Disagree Slightly
- Agree Slightly
- Agree Somewhat
- Agree Strongly

11. When men act to 'help' women, they are often trying to prove they are better than women * *Required*

- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree Somewhat
- Disagree Slightly
- Agree Slightly
- Agree Somewhat
- Agree Strongly

12. Every woman needs a male partner who will cherish her * *Required*

- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree Somewhat
- Disagree Slightly
- Agree Slightly
- Agree Somewhat
- Agree Strongly

13. Men would be lost in the world if women weren't there to guide them * *Required*

- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree Somewhat
- Disagree Slightly
- Agree Slightly
- Agree Somewhat
- Agree Strongly

14. A woman will never be truly fulfilled in life if she doesn't have a committed, long-term relationship with a man * *Required*

- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree Somewhat
- Disagree Slightly
- Agree Slightly
- Agree Somewhat
- Agree Strongly

15. Men act like babies when they are sick * *Required*

- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree Somewhat
- Disagree Slightly
- Agree Slightly
- Agree Somewhat
- Agree Strongly

16. Men will always fight to have greater control in society than women * *Required*

- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree Somewhat
- Disagree Slightly
- Agree Slightly
- Agree Somewhat
- Agree Strongly

17. Men are mainly useful to provide financial security to women * *Required*

- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree Somewhat
- Disagree Slightly
- Agree Slightly
- Agree Somewhat
- Agree Strongly

18. Even men who claim to be sensitive to women's rights really want a traditional relationship at home, with the woman performing most of the housekeeping and childcare * *Required*

- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree Somewhat
- Disagree Slightly
- Agree Slightly
- Agree Somewhat
- Agree Strongly

19. Every woman ought to have a man she adores * *Required*

- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree Somewhat
- Disagree Slightly
- Agree Slightly
- Agree Somewhat
- Agree Strongly

20. Men are more willing to put themselves in danger to protect others * *Required*

- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree Somewhat
- Disagree Slightly
- Agree Slightly
- Agree Somewhat
- Agree Strongly

21. Men usually try to dominate conversations when talking to women * *Required*

- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree Somewhat
- Disagree Slightly
- Agree Slightly
- Agree Somewhat
- Agree Strongly

22. Most men pay lip service to equality for women, but can't handle having a woman as an equal * *Required*

- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree Somewhat
- Disagree Slightly
- Agree Slightly
- Agree Somewhat
- Agree Strongly

23. Women are incomplete without men * *Required*

- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree Somewhat
- Disagree Slightly
- Agree Slightly
- Agree Somewhat
- Agree Strongly

24. When it comes down to it, most men are really like children * *Required*

- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree Somewhat
- Disagree Slightly
- Agree Slightly
- Agree Somewhat
- Agree Strongly

25. Men are more willing to take risks than women * *Required*

- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree Somewhat
- Disagree Slightly
- Agree Slightly
- Agree Somewhat
- Agree Strongly

26. Most men sexually harass women, even if only in subtle ways, once they are in a position of power over them * *Required*

- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree Somewhat
- Disagree Slightly
- Agree Slightly
- Agree Somewhat
- Agree Strongly

27. Women ought to take care of their men at home, because men would tall apart if they had to fend for themselves * *Required*

- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree Somewhat
- Disagree Slightly
- Agree Slightly
- Agree Somewhat
- Agree Strongly

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Appendix H: Intimacy Attitudes Scale

Page 5: Intimacy Attitudes Scale

The following items reflect feelings and attitudes that people have towards others and relationships with others. Specifically the items are concerned with attitudes of closeness, intimacy, and trust.

For each statement, please indicate how you feel using the following scale:

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

28. I like to share my feelings with others * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

29. I like to feel close to other people * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

30. I like to listen to other people talk about their feelings * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

31. I am concerned with rejection in my expression of feelings to others * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

32. I'm concerned with being dominated in a close relationship with another * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

33. I'm often anxious about my own acceptance in a close relationship * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

34. I'm concerned that I trust other people too much * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

35. Expression of emotion makes me feel close to another person * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

36. I do not want to express my feelings that would hurt another person * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

37. I am overly critical of people in a close relationship * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

38. I want to feel close to people to whom I am attracted * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

39. I tend to reveal my deepest feelings to other people * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

40. I'm afraid to talk about my sexual feelings with a person to whom I'm very interested * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

41. I want to be close to a person who is attracted to me * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

42. I would not become to close because it involves conflict * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

43. I seek out close relationships with people to whom I am attracted * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

44. When other people become close they tend not to listen to each other * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

45. Intimate relationships bring me great satisfaction * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

46. I search for close intimate relationships * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

47. It is important to me to form close relationships * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

48. I do not need to share my feelings and thoughts with others * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

49. When I become very close to another, I am likely to see things that are hard for me to accept * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

50. I tend to accept most things about people with whom I share a close relationship * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

51. I defend my personal space so others do not come too close * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

52. I tend to distrust people who are concerned with closeness and intimacy * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

53. I have concerns about losing my individuality in close relationships * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

54. I have concerns about giving up control if I enter into a really intimate relationship * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

55. Being honest and open with another person makes me feel closer to that person * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

56. If I were another person I would be interested in getting to know me * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

57. I only become close to people with whom I share common interests * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

58. Revealing secrets about my sex life makes me feel close to others * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

59. Generally, I can feel just as close to a woman as I can to a man * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

60. When another person is physically attracted to me I usually want to become more intimate * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

61. I have difficulty being intimate with more than one person * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

62. Being open and intimate with another person usually makes me feel good * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

63. I usually can see another person's point of view * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

64. I want to be sure that I am in good control of myself before I attempt to become intimate with another person * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

65. I resist intimacy * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

66. Stories of interpersonal relationships tend to affect me * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

67. Undressing with members of a group increases my feelings of intimacy * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

68. I try to trust and be close to others * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

69. I think that people who want to become intimate have hidden reasons for wanting closeness * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

70. When I become intimate with another person the possibility of my being manipulated is increased * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

71. I am generally a secretive person * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

72. I feel that sex and intimacy are the same and one cannot exist without the other * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

73. I can only be intimate in a physical sexual relationship * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

74. The demands placed on me by those with whom I have intimate relationships often inhibit my own need satisfaction * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

75. I would compromise to maintain an intimate relationship * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

76. When I am physically attracted to another I usually want to become intimate with the person * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

77. I understand and accept that intimacy leads to bad feelings as well as good feelings * *Required*

- Strongly Disagree
- Mildly Disagree
- Agree and Disagree Equally
- Mildly Agree
- Strongly Agree

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Appendix I: Measuring Examples of Experiences

Page 6: Behaviours You Have Experienced

78. From the following list of behaviours, which have you experienced by a MALE perpetrator (you may tick as many or as few as applies to you): * *Required*

Please select at least 1 answer(s).

- My husband/boyfriend has gotten angry and threatened to use physical force
- Has a man ever made unwanted attempts to establish a romantic sexual relationship with you, despite your efforts to discourage it?
- Had obscene, threatening, or mysterious telephone calls made to you from someone remaining unknown
- Been followed
- Has a man ever attempted to penetrate you with another body part/object without your consent or against your will, but was unsuccessful?
- Received excessive unwanted telephone calls- regardless of content
- My husband/boyfriend has been violent in other ways, e.g. throwing objects
- Has a man ever touched you in a way that made you feel uncomfortable?
- Someone refusing to accept that a prior relationship with you is over
- My husband/boyfriend decides how our money is spent
- Often purposefully visiting places he knows that you frequently visit
- Has a man ever made unwanted attempts to stroke, fondle or kiss you?
- Coming around to visit, uninvited, on a regular basis
- My husband/boyfriend suggests that we do certain things because he is an expert/knows best
- Repeatedly approaching you personally, remaining a stranger
- Has a man ever attempted to have vaginal sex with you without your consent or against your will, but was unsuccessful?
- My husband/boyfriend threatens to leave me
- Continuously acting in an uncontrolled, aggressive, or insulting manner on seeing you out with other men (friends or partners)
- My husband/boyfriend restricts my freedom
- Threatening suicide if you refuse to go out with him
- (If you have children) My husband/boyfriend threatens to use the children against me
- Has a man ever succeeded in having anal sex with you without your consent or against your will?
- Constantly watching or spying on you
- My husband/boyfriend always needs to know where I am when we are not together
- Sending you excessive, unwanted notes or letters
- I don't go to certain places out of worry that my husband/boyfriend wouldn't want me to
- Someone often loitering in your neighbourhood
- Has a man ever succeeded in penetrating you with another body part/object without your consent or against your will?
- Persistently driving past you, your house, workplace etc
- My husband/boyfriend compares me to other women during sex
- Constantly sending you unwanted gifts
- Has a man ever bribed you with some sort of reward or special treatment to engage in sexual behaviour?

- [ ] Hanging around or telephoning your workplace continuously after being expressly told not to do so
- [ ] My husband/boyfriend rarely praises me and/or is affectionate to me
- [ ] Confining you against your will
- [ ] Has a man ever threatened you with some sort of retaliation for not being sexually coercive?
- [ ] Standing and staring regularly at your home and/or workplace
- [ ] Has a man ever treated you badly for refusing sex?
- [ ] Causing criminal damage/vandalism on your property
- [ ] My husband/boyfriend forces me to have sex when I do not want to
- [ ] Behaving threateningly towards your family and/or friends
- [ ] My husband/boyfriend makes me do things sexually that I do not want to do
- [ ] Sending bizarre or sinister items to your home or workplace
- [ ] Has a man ever implied faster promotions or better treatment if you were sexually cooperative?
- [ ] Making death threats
- [ ] My husband/boyfriend has threatened to harm or has harmed my family or friends
- [ ] Has a man ever made you feel afraid you would be treated poorly if you didn't cooperate sexually?
- [ ] My husband/boyfriend has beat me
- [ ] Intercepting mail or deliveries
- [ ] Has a man ever attempted to have anal sex with you without your consent or against your will, but was unsuccessful?
- [ ] My husband/boyfriend has pushed, grabbed or shoved me
- [ ] Sending inappropriate sexually explicit letters to you
- [ ] My husband/boyfriend has slapped, kicked or bit me
- [ ] Has a man ever forced you to perform a sexual act on him?
- [ ] My husband/boyfriend has harassed me at work, training or school, or interfered with attempts to go to work, training or school
- [ ] Furtively taking photographs of you without your knowledge
- [ ] I have stayed at home from work or school because of something my partner did
- [ ] Has a man ever succeeded in having vaginal sex with you without your consent or against your will?
- [ ] Although not involved with you, moving house closer to where you live or places you frequents- just to be nearer to you
- [ ] None of the above

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Finish ✔

Appendix J: Information and Consent Form

Page 1: Information and Consent Form

Centre for Forensic and Family Psychology

Division of Psychiatry and Applied Psychology

School of Medicine

YANG Fujia Building

Jubilee Campus

Wollaton Road

Nottingham

NG8 1BB

Comparing Stalking, Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault: The Impact on Attitudes Towards Men and Intimacy in Female Victims

FMHS Research Ethics Ref: 243-1902

General Information

Thank you for your interest in taking part in this questionnaire/online survey. You have been invited to participate as you are aged 18 or over and are FEMALE. Please read through this information before agreeing to participate by ticking the 'yes' box below.

This study is being conducted by Christie Goodchild (Forensic and Criminological Psychology MSc Student) and Simon Duff from the University of Nottingham. We are investigating the impact of being a victim of stalking, intimate partner violence or sexual assault has on a woman's attitudes towards men and intimacy, in comparison to those who have not been victims to any of the above experiences.

You will be presented with a variety of questionnaires which will require either 'yes or no' answers or 'strongly agree to strongly disagree' answers. There will also be a questionnaire that requires you to select as many boxes as you have experienced. It should take around 20-25 minutes to complete. No background knowledge is required and definitions will be given for any ambiguous terms. This data will then be used to assess the potentially links between behaviours, attitudes and experiences. The data will be confidential and responses will not be linked to names or any other identifiable information.

How will your data be used?

Your answers will be completely anonymous and we will use all reasonable endeavours to keep them confidential. Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You can withdraw at any point during the questionnaire for any reason, before submitting your answers by clicking the Exit button/closing the browser. The data will only be uploaded on completion of the questionnaire by clicking the SUBMIT button. You must provide an answer for every question.

Your data will be stored in a password-protected file and may be used in academic publications. Your IP address will not be stored. All questions are compulsory; therefore if you do not wish to answer a question you are free to withdraw yourself from the online survey by simply exiting the page.

Who will have access to your data?

The University of Nottingham is the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection. Your data may be shared with Simon Duff.

We believe there are no known risks associated with this research study; however, the study will include discussion of potentially difficult and sensitive topics. For this reason, a number of contacts have been provided at the end of the study for helplines associated with stalking, domestic violence and sexual assault. As with any online related activity the risk of a breach is always possible. We will do everything possible to ensure your answers in this study will remain anonymous. We will minimize any risks by keeping data securely on a laptop and destroying raw data after the study is complete.

The results of the study may be published in scientific journals and presented at scientific conferences. The data will be reported anonymously, with any identifying information removed.

The results of the study may be published in scientific journals and presented at scientific conferences. The data will be reported anonymously, with any identifying information removed.

If you have any questions about this project, you may contact the Lead Researcher Christie Goodchild or if you have any concerns about any aspect of this study please contact the Research Supervisor: Dr Simon Duff. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you should then contact the FMHS Research Ethics Committee Administrator, c/o The University of Nottingham, Faculty PVC Office, B Floor, Medical School, Queen's Medical Centre Campus, Nottingham University Hospitals, Nottingham, NG7 2UH. E-mail: FMHS-ResearchEthics@nottingham.ac.uk

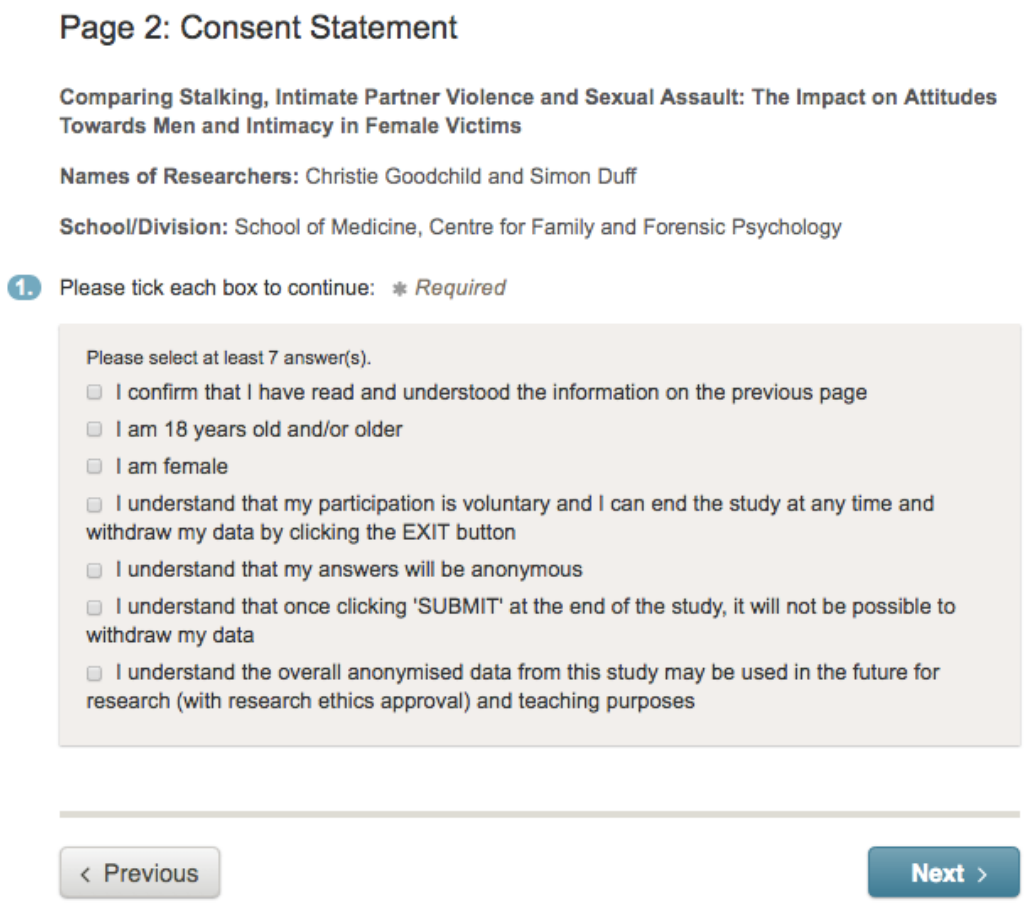
This study has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion by the University of Nottingham, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee (FMHS REC ref no 243-1902).

I have read and understood the above information and consent form, I confirm that I am 18 years old or older and by clicking the NEXT button to begin the online questionnaire, I indicate my willingness to voluntarily take part in the study.

NEXT – I consent to take part EXIT - I do not give consent

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Appendix K: Consent Statement



Page 2: Consent Statement

Comparing Stalking, Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault: The Impact on Attitudes Towards Men and Intimacy in Female Victims

Names of Researchers: Christie Goodchild and Simon Duff

School/Division: School of Medicine, Centre for Family and Forensic Psychology

1. Please tick each box to continue: * *Required*

Please select at least 7 answer(s).

- ☐ I confirm that I have read and understood the information on the previous page
- ☐ I am 18 years old and/or older
- ☐ I am female
- ☐ I understand that my participation is voluntary and I can end the study at any time and withdraw my data by clicking the EXIT button
- ☐ I understand that my answers will be anonymous
- ☐ I understand that once clicking 'SUBMIT' at the end of the study, it will not be possible to withdraw my data
- ☐ I understand the overall anonymised data from this study may be used in the future for research (with research ethics approval) and teaching purposes

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Appendix L: Debrief Form

Debrief Form

Debrief Form: Comparing Stalking, Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault: Attitudes Towards Men and Intimacy in Female Victims

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this study. The general purpose of this research is to examine the impact of being a female victim of stalking, intimate partner violence and sexual assault by a male perpetrator has on a woman's attitudes towards men and intimacy. This study also aims to assess whether the severity of these experiences are associated with a higher number of negative attitudes towards men and intimacy.

If any of the topics in this study have made you feel uncomfortable, or if you wish to seek help or advice for anything that you have experienced then listed below are a range of free services available to contact with any queries or worries. Please remember that experiencing stalking, intimate partner violence or sexual assault is never the fault of the victim, and is always considered a crime. If you believe that you have been a victim of any of these behaviours then ensure that you contact the police to report it.

Thank you for your participation in the study. If you have any questions about the study, please contact christie.goodchild@nottingham.ac.uk.

Helpful Contacts

Rape Crisis:

Helpline: 0808 802 9999 (12-2:30pm and 7-9:30pm)

Website: rapecrisis.org.uk

National organisation offering support and counselling for those affected by rape and sexual abuse

Victim Support:

Helpline: 0808 168 9111

Confidential, free service for anyone who has been sexually assaulted, stalked, or suffered domestic violence recently or in the past

Women's Aid Federation

Helpline: 0808 2000 247

Website: womensaid.org.uk

A domestic violence charity with 24 hour operating helpline

Suzy Lamplugh Trust Stalking Helpline

Helpline: 0808 802 0300

A national stalking helpline run by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust

Appendix M: Hostility Towards Men One-Way ANOVA Levene Statistic

Test of Homogeneity of Variances

HOSTILITY

Levene Statistic	df1	df2	Sig.
1.267	7	188	.269

Appendix N: Intimacy Attitudes One-Way ANOVA Levene Statistic

Test of Homogeneity of Variances

INTIMACY

Levene Statistic	df1	df2	Sig.
3.010	7	188	.005

Appendix O: Intimacy Attitudes One-Way ANOVA Welch and Brown-Forsythe

Robust Tests of Equality of Means

INTIMACY

	Statistic[a]	df1	df2	Sig.
Welch	7.164	7	34.001	.000
Brown-Forsythe	7.390	7	146.764	.000

a. Asymptotically F distributed.

Executive Summary (988 words)

Target Audience: Academics

Background

Stalking, sexual assault and intimate partner violence (IPV) are offences that occur more often in women. These specific forms of violence and abuse can have huge psychological consequences, including depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Other resultant effects include feelings of self-blame in victims, which can be associated with fears of intimacy. Limited research speculates these offences may also be linked to poorer attitudes towards men. Overall, research concerning the interpersonal consequences of this abuse is scarce, as literature tends to focus on the psychological impact. As these offences are increasingly common and traumatic for women, it is important to understand the true impact that these events may have on women's future relationships.

Rationale and Research Aims

As background research suggests that experiencing stalking, sexual assault and IPV have similar psychological consequences, it seemed appropriate to compare them in terms of attitudes towards men and intimacy. This research aimed to assess whether experiencing stalking, sexual assault and IPV by a male perpetrator leads to hostile attitudes towards men and poor attitudes towards intimacy in female participants. The research also aims to assess whether the number of experiences associated with each offence directly correlates with attitudes towards men and intimacy.

Data Collection and Analysis

Data was collected from 196 women aged 18 years and over via opportunity sampling. An advertisement for the online questionnaire was shared publically on social media. The questionnaire firstly collected demographic

information, before asking if participants believed they had suffered from stalking, sexual assault and IPV by a male perpetrator, according to definitions of each offence. According to their answers, participants were divided into one of eight groups: NONE (experienced none of the offences), ST (experienced stalking), SA (experienced sexual assault), IPV (experienced IPV), SA/IPV (experienced sexual assault and IPV), ST/IPV (experienced stalking and IPV), SA/ST (experienced sexual assault and stalking) and ALL (experienced all offences).

Participants then completed the Ambivalence Towards Men Inventory and Intimacy Attitudes Scale to assess their hostility towards men and attitudes towards intimacy. In the final part of the study, participants were presented with 59 example behaviours, whereby 25 referred to behaviour considered as stalking, 19 referred to IPV and 15 referred to sexual assault. Examples were randomised making it unclear what offence the example referred to, and participants selected the examples they had experienced. The number of example behaviours selected was used to calculate total scores for each of the three offences: stalking (TOTAL ST SCORE), sexual assault (TOTAL SA SCORE), and IPV (TOTAL IPV SCORE).

Data was primarily analysed using ANOVAs, one comparing the eight groups in terms of attitudes towards men and one comparing them in terms of attitudes towards intimacy. Data from the final section of the study was analysed using six individual partial correlation analyses. These correlation analyses compared each of the three score groups (ST experience score, SA experience score and IPV experience score) with hostility and intimacy scores, whilst controlling for age, ensuring that experience scores did not simply increase as participants aged.

Key Findings

The study found that 74% of women had experienced at least one of the three offences, which is higher than national prevalence data suggests. Sexual assault was the most commonly experienced, with 62% of participants experiencing this. IPV was the second most common, with 48% of participants admitting to being a victim. Finally, stalking was the most infrequent, but still higher than prevalence data suggests, at 34% in this sample.

For hostility towards men, results found those in the ALL category had significantly more hostile attitudes than those in the NONE and ST categories. No other interactions were found.

For intimacy attitudes, results found those in the ALL category had significantly lower intimacy scores than the NONE and SA categories. The results also found that those in the SA/IPV category had significantly lower intimacy scores than those in the NONE category, meaning those in the ALL and SA/IPV categories showed a lower capability for intimacy in comparison to those in the NONE and SA categories.

For experience scores, hostility scores were positively and significantly correlated with ST, SA and IPV experience scores, suggesting that the more experiences participants had in each offence correlated with more hostile attitudes towards men. Intimacy scores were negatively and significantly correlated with ST, SA and IPV experience scores, suggesting that the more experiences participants had in each offence leads to a lower capability for intimacy.

Implications of Findings

The results of this study have a range of implications in terms of prevalence and aftercare for victims. Firstly, the prevalence rates observed in

this study are far higher than previously reported, showing it is possible that the occurrence of these offences is increasing. This means that there should be a focus on prevention to reduce these offences. Alongside this, evidence from the present study can be helpful in providing aftercare and support for victims of these offences. As this study suggests that negative attitudes towards men and intimacy may be associated with these offences, specifically focused aftercare may be beneficial.

Recommendations for Future Research

A potential avenue for exploration following this study is to assess whether abuse by one or multiple perpetrators impacts the victims response to the abuse. It may also be beneficial to use a focus group to rate the examples of each offence in terms of severity, as examples vary greatly in terms of potential impact they may have on the individual. If each example is rated using a severity scoring system, total severity scores can be calculated for individuals for each offence, allowing for more focused analysis in terms of comparing severity to consequences.

Finally, it is important to consider that although these offences are more commonly experienced by women and perpetrated by men, they can also occur in same-sex scenarios and with women perpetrators and male victims. The impact of such offences in these less common scenarios is equally as important and should not be ignored.

Presentation Slides

Comparing Stalking, Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault: The Impact on Attitudes Towards Men and Intimacy in Female Victims

Christie Goodchild
christie.goodchild@nottingham.ac.uk

Aims and Rationale

- The study aimed to assess the interpersonal impact that stalking, sexual assault and intimate partner violence had on women in terms of their attitudes towards men and intimacy.
- The rationale behind this project was to focus on an area of research that had been neglected, as research currently focuses on the psychological impact of these events, and little research has been done to understand how these events may impact women in terms of their future relationships and attitudes.
- I believe that this is an extremely important area of research as this understanding can affect how victims of these offences are supported to reduce long-term consequences of these types of abuse.

Methods

- The study used a questionnaire design whereby 196 female participants (aged 18 years and older) were recruited via opportunity sampling to complete a selection of questionnaires online.
- Participants confirmed whether they believed that they had been stalked, sexually assaulted and/or a victim of intimate partner violence according to a range of definitions.
- Participants then completed the Ambivalence Towards Men Inventory and the Intimacy Attitudes Scale, to measure attitudes towards men and intimacy.
- Finally, participants completed a purpose-built questionnaire which included a variety of examples of stalking, sexual assault and intimate partner violence; participants were asked to select the number of examples that they had experienced by a male perpetrator.

Results

- The first important finding from this study was that 74% of participants had experienced at least one of the three offences in their lifetime (far higher that lifetime prevalence rates reported in previous statistics).
- In terms of intimacy, the findings suggests that experiencing all three of the events and a combination of sexual assault and intimate partner violence led to more negative attitudes towards intimacy than those who experienced none of the events and sexual assault alone.
- In terms of hostility towards men, the findings suggest that experiencing all three of the events led to more hostile attitudes towards men than experiencing none of the events and stalking alone.
- When assessing the impact that individual experiences had on attitudes towards men and intimacy, the final part of the study found that those who had experienced more examples of each offence had more hostile attitudes towards men and more negative attitudes towards intimacy than those who experienced fewer examples of each offence.

Implications and Suggestions for Future Research

- The results imply that experiences of stalking, sexual assault and intimate partner violence can lead to more hostile attitudes towards men and more negative attitudes towards intimacy, particularly when experienced in combination.
- This is particularly important in terms of providing support and after-care for victims of these offences, especially due to the high prevalence of experiences within the sample.
- Future research can strengthen these findings by using a wider range of participants and focusing more on specific aspects of the abuse, for example whether the abuse was perpetrated by one or multiple perpetrators has an impact on attitudes.
- Future research may also more closely assess the impact that frequency and severity of the abuse has on attitudes, by using focus groups to rate example behaviours in terms of severity and use weighted examples to assess how each persons experiences of the offences differ.

Key References

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Reflective Report (1164 words)

Conceptualisation and Preparation

My initial idea for my research project was to focus on experiences of stalking among women and how this impacted their attitudes towards men and intimacy. Due to stalking being a relatively new offence, and one that is becoming increasingly common, I believed it would be a good topic to research as not only was it interesting to me, but also very current. I was surprised to find that, during the initial reading phase, there was little to no research linking stalking to attitudes towards men and intimacy, or research concerning the impact that stalking had on future relationships.

Early discussions with Simon allowed me to expand on my ideas, and it was decided that I would compare stalking (ST), sexual assault (SA) and intimate partner violence (IPV) by male perpetrators and how these impact women's attitudes towards men and intimacy. Research in this field has linked the three offences in terms of their psychological consequences, such as depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, but had not assessed the interpersonal impact. For me, this was a very important area to study, as understanding how these offences impact women's future relationships could allow for better aftercare and support for victims to reduce this consequence in the future.

I decided to focus solely on abuse by men towards women, as although this abuse does occur in same-sex scenarios and from women to men, men to women is the most common cases in which these three offences are reported. Supervision meetings were extremely beneficial to me at this stage, as it allowed me to discuss various ideas with Simon in order to think about all potential avenues for my research, and decide on the one that I was happy with.

Design and Data Collection

I used an online questionnaire design, as this allowed me to gain as many participants as possible from a variety of backgrounds. It also allowed for me to keep participants' identities completely confidential, as I was aware that this was extremely important due to the nature of my questionnaires and the topic. For this reason, I collected limited demographic information, and did not use any participant identification numbers, to ensure that responses would not be traced back to the individual and participants felt confident to disclose information concerning previous abuse.

Firstly, I determined whether each participant had experienced any of the three offences by a male perpetrator using definitions and examples of each offence formulated from multiple sources. The use of multiple sources allowed for an in-depth definition to ensure there was no confusion concerning each offence. To measure attitudes towards men, I used the Ambivalence Towards Men Inventory, as this included a sub-scale for hostility towards men. As I was assessing negative attitudes towards men, the hostility sub-scale was used alone for analysis. For attitudes towards intimacy, I chose the Intimacy Attitudes Scale, as it was a commonly used measure to assess people's attitudes towards intimacy and romantic relationships. For the final section of my study, I collated a list of 59 example behaviours from various sources, each either an example of ST, SA or IPV. I randomised the list of behaviours so that seeing which offence the behaviour was an example of did not influence participants. This allowed for further analysis, as the number of behaviours experienced by a participant in each offence could be correlated with their attitudes towards men and intimacy. I am extremely pleased with my decision to add this section into my research, as it allowed for another way to measure participants experiences of stalking,

sexual assault and intimate partner violence aside from just answering yes or no to whether they had experienced it or not. Initially, I had created this list using only examples of stalking behaviours, as stalking was considered the most difficult to define and legal definitions did not use examples, making it ambiguous. However, during a meeting on 11/03/19, it was discussed that this list could be utilised for further analysis, and hence examples for sexual assault and intimate partner violence were formulated in a similar way. The list was moved from the definition part of the study to the end of the study to act as a final measure of participants' experiences.

Data was collected via opportunity sampling, and social media was utilised to gain a high numbers of participants. The link to the study was shared on a variety of platforms and shared by others, leading to a wide scope of participants. Despite attempts to gain participants of all ages, due to the majority of people that directly saw the post on social media being the same age as me or similar, this led to my sample being skewed towards those aged 18 to 25 years old.

On reflection, there are some changes I could have made at this stage of the study. In particular, I could have used an extra question to assess whether the abuse was perpetrated by one or multiple men, which would have allowed for extra analysis on whether this made a difference in terms of the impact that the abuse had.

Data Analysis and Write-Up

Initially, I decided to use a Factorial MANOVA to compare attitudes towards men and intimacy in each of the four groups of participants: those who had experienced stalking, sexual assault, intimate partner violence and none of the offences. At this stage, I did not anticipate the level of overlap that my data

would show, and the difficulties I would have in gaining comparable group sizes. In my data set, the overlap meant that it was impossible to simply compare the three offences alone, therefore leading to my analysis changing from four groups to eight uneven groups (NONE, ST alone, SA alone, IPV alone, ST/SA, ST/IPV, SA/IPV, and ALL).

After reconsidering my data analysis during a meeting on 11/03/19, I decided to use two ANOVAs, one for attitudes towards men and one for attitudes towards intimacy. I ran tests to ensure that the uneven group sizes did not impact the ANOVAs. This was one of the biggest challenges I faced in my research, as my initial plans for analysis would no longer work so I had to start again in terms of reconsidering the best way to analyse my data. Supervision meetings at this stage allowed for me to compare the pros and cons of different analyses, and make an informed decision as to which was best for my data.

A final meeting on the 12/06 allowed for Simon and I to discuss further implications of my findings, and potential avenues for future research.

Conclusions

On reflection, I am extremely pleased with my research. I faced some challenges that led to needing to adapt some ideas throughout, but remained as calm as possible and focused on making decisions that would benefit my research the most. I believe that the topic I chose is extremely important and hope that my research can positively benefit victims of these offences in some way.