

***LIFE STORIES OF MEN WHO HAVE
COMMITTED FEMICIDE IN BUENOS
AIRES, ARGENTINA***

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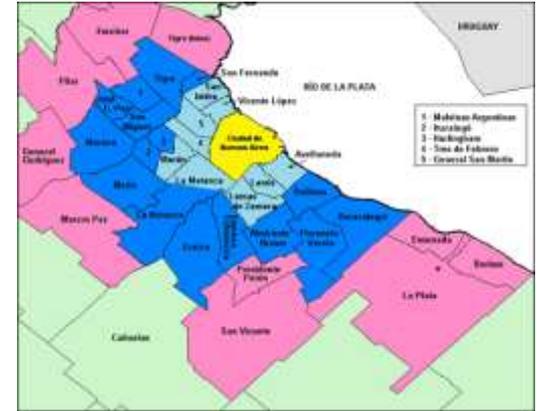
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EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SCENARIO IN ARGENTINA - FEMICIDE



National Femicide Rate in 2017: 1.1

- + Of the total number of homicides, **13.5% were femicides.**
- + **64%** of female victims of intentional homicide were victims of femicide.
- + 44% of the femicides were of women aged- 24-44
- + **83%** of the cases had a previous relationship with perpetrators.
- + **66%** of the cases occur in the home of the victim.



All crude rates are expressed per 100.000 inhabitants using judicial data from 2017.



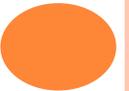
BACKGROUND LITERATURE

- ❧ Social and Health Sciences focused on violence have traditionally emphasised the analysis of victims.
- ❧ More attention has been given to quantitative approaches (contextual aspects or individual-level variables).
- ❧ Riche's paradox: the meanings attributed by the performers of violence are rarely studied directly, despite the fact that this is central to understand the phenomenon.



OBJECTIVES

1. Analyse from a hermeneutic approach the life stories of men who have intentionally killed women in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
2. (*Underlying methodological purpose*) Explore usefulness of biographical approach in the analysis of perpetrators of violence.



METHODOLOGICAL STRATEGY

🔗 Biographical hermeneutic approach

🔗 Data collection:

- + Population: men 20-32 years-old from marginalised areas who have been charged with femicide
- + In-depth narrative interviews
- + Purposeful sample strategy
- + 12 cases were re-constructed (29 interviews)

🔗 Data analysis:

- + Identification of indexes and turning-points
- + Storyline construction
- + Thematic analysis



BIOGRAPHICAL INDEXES

- ❧ Common childhood or teenage experiences with different forms of violence.
- ❧ Early-age learning process in which male-chauvinist values were socialised.
- ❧ Learning processes of violence, either among peers or within the family.
- ❧ Biographical turning-points where death and/or physical, psychological or institutional abuse was present.



THEMES IN THE NARRATIVES

- ❧ Common belief that there was “no other option, but violence”.
- ❧ A link in their narratives between moral definitions of manhood, strength, honour and possession of women.
- ❧ Decision-making process as a core aspect disputed during confrontations with women.
- ❧ A simultaneous absence and avoidance of public and private institutions (hospitals, social programs, education establishments, etc.) that could mediate the conflicts.



TRAJECTORIES AND NARRATIVES

Typology of trajectories/narratives of femicide perpetrators according to IPV in relationships and narrative explanations*

	IPV as a constant	IPV as extraordinary
Contextual explanations (ex. «it's how we were raised»; «Responsibilities were overwhelming me»)	<i>Victim narrative</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>No agency</i>• <i>Women have a secondary role in life stories</i>	<i>Exceptionality narrative</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>No agency</i>• <i>Major responsibility located in external factor (work, relatives, finances, etc.)</i>
Individual explanations (ex. «I have a temper problem»; «I have an aggressive and possessive personality»)	<i>Redemption narrative</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Decontextualisation</i>• <i>Constant reference to gender-violence programmes</i>	<i>Outburst narrative</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Exceptionality of the act</i>• <i>No identification as aggressor</i>

*This typology is based on narratives in which the locus of explanations are positioned on the men, and not on women.

BIOGRAPHICAL TURNING-POINTS – KEY ASPECT

- 🔗 Femicide is present in the narratives as major turning-points.
 - + However, the attributed meaning is more related to incarceration and feeling judged by peers than the actual crime.
 - + Incarceration is sometimes associated with a “positive turning-point” as the beginning of a new life.



METHODOLOGICAL REMARKS

- ❧ Life histories and stories of perpetrators provide “emic” insight into the complex phenomenon.
- ❧ Special attention must be paid to mainstream discourses that condition the narratives.
- ❧ Prevention programs must consider how the specific gender representations influence violent actions and conflicts in each cultural context.



EMPIRICAL REMARKS

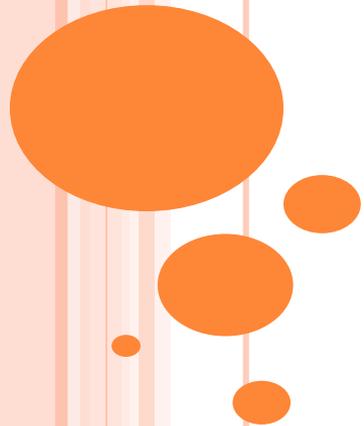
- ❧ Underlying moral pattern that explains gender-based violence.
- ❧ Violence, women and masculinity are not homogeneously defined by perpetrators, yet similar moral understandings can be observed.
- ❧ Femicide could be further understood by the analysis of how socialisation processes, turning-points and early-age abuse intertwine.



RECOMMENDATIONS – KEY POINTS (MEN'S PERSPECTIVE)

1. Address acceptability of violence (in general)
 - High threshold of violence is endemic in male culture.
2. Contact with schools is key
 - First possible contact with prevention programmes
3. Social movements and public problematisation are major preventive aspects
 - Gender perspective triggers awareness
4. Interventions should not be focused exclusively on individuals, but also on groups of peers





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**

¡Gracias por la atención!