Dr. Lewis’ research focuses on gender-based violence and feminist activism, and sits at the intersection of Sociology, Criminology, and Gender Studies. Recent studies examine gender-based violence in universities and activism around it, a victimological survey of feminists who experience online abuse, legal responses to domestic violence and a sociological examination of homicide.

New Manifestations and Conceptualizations of Gender-Based Violence

Never before has there been such a loud, public conversation about gender-based violence (GBV). The #MeToo movement—born of feminist responses to numerous high profile cases of abusive men in sport, religion and entertainment—has propelled men’s sexually abusive behaviour into the public realm as never before. At the same time, we are seeing new manifestations of violence such as online misogyny, and digitally manipulated sexualized images, as well as emerging conceptualisations of behaviours that have only recently been recognized as violent expressions of gendered inequalities. Changes in the social, economic and cultural contexts have enabled new manifestations of GBV to emerge, while feminist activism has resulted in a broadening of public constructs of harm through broader conceptualisations of GBV. This talk will examine these recent developments, exploring what these new conceptualisations tell us about the achievements of feminism to date, and about contemporary gender regimes.