

author had introduced Erving Goffman's classic *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, and shown whether Goffman's work is generalizable to online communities. Other discussions of what has come to be called 'Netiquette' would also have enriched the work.

There are many places in terrestrial space places where I, despite having every right to do so, would not venture, because in doing so I would expose myself to the risk of offensive sights or insulting comments. If I had the time and the inclination to hang around in virtual communities, no doubt there are places there too, that I would avoid. To those who are affronted by unseemly conduct in a chatroom, I would bring to mind the doctrine *volenti non fit injuria*.

The author's contribution lies in his methodology, and in his discussing some of the more interesting psychological processes that characterize behaviour in cyberspace. Whether one is dealing in cyber-fantasyland, or in real cyberspace (such as the intranet of a major corporation or government organization), the technology does appear to lower inhibitions.

That art imitates life and vice versa has been noted for some time. It was interesting to learn that one of the participants in the virtual community who had a penchant for sadomasochistic fantasies, struck up an electronic relationship with another participant of compatible interests. They agreed to meet in the real world, where their fantasy became reality and resulted in homicide.

The author correctly observes that governments, burdened with more real crime (both terrestrial and electronic) than they can handle, are not likely to concern themselves with insults or sadistic fantasies expressed in chatrooms. Jihadist musings may be a different matter, however. For the time being, if I were of the militant persuasion, I would not presume to be anonymous while online.

Reference

Goffman, E. (1959/1990) *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. London: Penguin.

Anne-Marie De Brouwer

Supranational criminal prosecution of sexual violence:

The ICC and the practice of the ICTY and the ICTR, Intersentia:

Mortsel, 2005; 9050955339, 9789050955331, £76.50

Reviewed by: Estelle Zinsstag, LINC, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium

Despite the omnipresence of sexual violence in armed conflicts, victims have generally received little support, have had little access to justice but perpetrators have benefited from widespread impunity. That is, until the set up of the ad hoc international tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda (ICTY and ICTR). The conflicts in these respective countries have provoked, by their sheer horror, an unprecedented drive within the international community for an improved retributive response. Following from that a permanent international criminal court (ICC) has been created, which offers great promise as to its capacity to prosecute and repair this particular type of crime. But what is the place given to victims of sexual violence in these various courts? That is what De

Brouwer's book is about. It is particularly interesting to review this book today since some of her conclusions may be put to the test some years after it was published in light of the current developments within the ICC and for sexual violence at an international level more generally. Her book was timely then, but it could not be timelier now.

The book consists of seven chapters divided in three parts. In the first chapter she assesses the possibility of prosecuting sexual violence as an act of genocide. In doing so she examines cases in the ad hoc tribunals and raises subsequently some important points: for example the failure to recognize the transmission of HIV/AIDS as a means to commit genocide in all of these tribunals, despite the systematic occurrence of such acts against women in most recent conflicts. She also considers the importance for gender to be recognized and therefore included as a group in the definition of genocide. Chapter 2 turns to the possibility of prosecuting sexual violence as a crime against humanity. Here she considers the paradigm of crimes against humanity and how precedents offered by the case-law emerging from the various international tribunals have influenced it. De Brouwer also discusses the interesting new avenues introduced in the ICC statutes such as 'persecution on the grounds of gender'. Chapter 3 examines sexual violence as a war crime. She argues rightly that although these various avenues do not diminish any of the direct consequences for the victims, they clearly allow a first step towards ending the impunity usually accompanying this type of criminality committed during armed conflicts.

In Chapter 4 she deals with the protective and special measures put in place for the victims of sexual violence. De Brouwer explores the extent to which the ad hoc courts and especially the ICC's special measures manage to ensure the victims-witnesses' safety and well-being without going against the rights of the accused. Chapter 5 assesses the participation of the victims in the proceedings in these various tribunals and the aspiration of the ICC to have also a more restorative role. Further she examines some potential problems: sexual violence victims' under-representation in court due to the bias still present, but also their lack of knowledge that such options exist. She then discusses the possibility of introducing special measures that would counter such potential problems, such as financial assistance for victims-witnesses to be able to afford the services of legal representatives and the right to be informed of the progress of a case.

Chapter 6 aims to assess how sentencing has evolved concerning this specific crime, the patterns of sentencing within the ad hoc tribunals and how they may influence future sentencing for sexual violence in the ICC. Finally Chapter 7 considers the most restorative aspect of supranational criminal justice for sexual violence by examining the question of reparations for the victims. The lack of regard for victims-witnesses generally but particularly in the ad hoc tribunals shows the urgent need for improvement on this issue in the ICC. She provides an example which illustrates this acutely: a number of Rwandese rape victims have died before being able to testify due to their infection with the AIDS virus because they had no access to medication, whereas their assailants were receiving treatment in prison while awaiting trials. Basic reparation policies could have averted such a scandal. She considers the ICC's innovative approach, which is to mix restorative and retributive duties through the set up of, for example, a trust fund within that supranational tribunal and to recognize the special needs of victims of sexual violence. She concludes by offering some recommendations for the improvement of the retributive approach to wartime sexual violence at an international level.

There is one point I wish to raise in conclusion: De Brouwer discusses in her book the restorative potential of the ICC and it is true that compared to the ad hoc tribunals some aspects of the ICC's ambitions have some 'restorative tendencies'. Now, are they restorative *per se*? Is there any point in calling an organically retributive mechanism restorative? I do not think that she is wrong in doing so and actually believe that this is the way forward. Although I am uncertain, if not pessimistic, about whether the ICC has the potential to achieve all that it has set out to do, especially concerning victims, I believe that all transitional justice mechanisms in the future will have to take into account these various paradigms of justice in order to respond more adequately to war crimes. De Brouwer in bringing out this aspect has offered a very thorough and original analysis of these mechanisms and their dealings with sexual violence. This book is therefore a valuable addition to the literature on transitional justice, international criminal justice but also criminology and is certainly of utmost importance for the improvement of the dealings with the war crime of sexual violence.

Jan Jordan

Serial survivors: Women's narratives of surviving rape,
Federation Press; 246 pp.: 10:1862876797, 13:978186287, £22.99

Reviewed by: Paula Harry, Swansea University, UK

The book cover poses the question 'What does it mean to survive an experience often described as "every woman's worst nightmare"?' Inside Jan Jordan provides the answer through the exceptional and unique stories of 15 women who are true 'survivors' of their own worst nightmares.

In the 1980s and 1990s Auckland, New Zealand found itself terrorized by two serial rapists, this story involves one of those rapists, who over a period of nine years was proven to have sexually assaulted 25 women; although his first convicted sexual offence was committed in 1974. Following large-scale police enquires, this perpetrator was finally identified and his eventual trial in 1998 was one of the largest New Zealand had seen.

Based on in-depth interviews with 15 of the alleged 27 victims or 'survivors', this book is an account of these women's journeys of survival starting from their attack, through to their involvement with the criminal justice system and finally to their relationships with others and their ability to 'move on'. Using these accounts, the author addresses some of the pre-conceived notions and myths that still surround victims of sexual assault.

The book is divided into chapters designed to introduce the reader to each stage in what was described as a traumatic on-going survival process. The chapters have been contextually written, dealing with the processes that the survivors were faced with, commencing with an introduction to each survivor and a brief account of their own story. Their poignant tales begin in Chapter 2 where the author provides a background to their attacks and then looks at the issues surrounding these assaults through the words of the survivors themselves. This also provided the opportunity to assess previous research and academic thought into the nature and responses, to what the author describes as, acts of sexual terrorism. Such accounts for example, were able to challenge some of the preconceptions surrounding