CRIME AND FEAR
IN PUBLIC PLACES

A CONFERENCE ON THE INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHT TO SAFE PUBLIC PLACES

17-18 October 2018

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Contents

Introduction

This interdisciplinary forum offered 2 days of discussions about the individual's right to safe public places in national and international contexts (18 sessions, 6 plenary and 12 parallel sessions). The aim of the conference was first to promote a discussion on the need for more comprehensive and contextualized knowledge about violence in public places: its nature, trends and patterns. And secondly, to offer an opportunity for reflection about our current practices in promoting safety for different groups of society, by both academics and practitioners.

The event appealed to both academics and practitioners from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds. The conference offered examples of state-of-the-art research and crime prevention practices from Europe, the UK, the USA, Africa, South America and Australia.

Together we addressed complex and difficult issues. We heard the testimony not just of leading scholars but also of people whose lives have been torn apart by violence in public places. We were reminded that success or failure in shaping urban places matters to real people going about their everyday lives. People like you. And me.

It was a joy to spend time and learn from all of you!

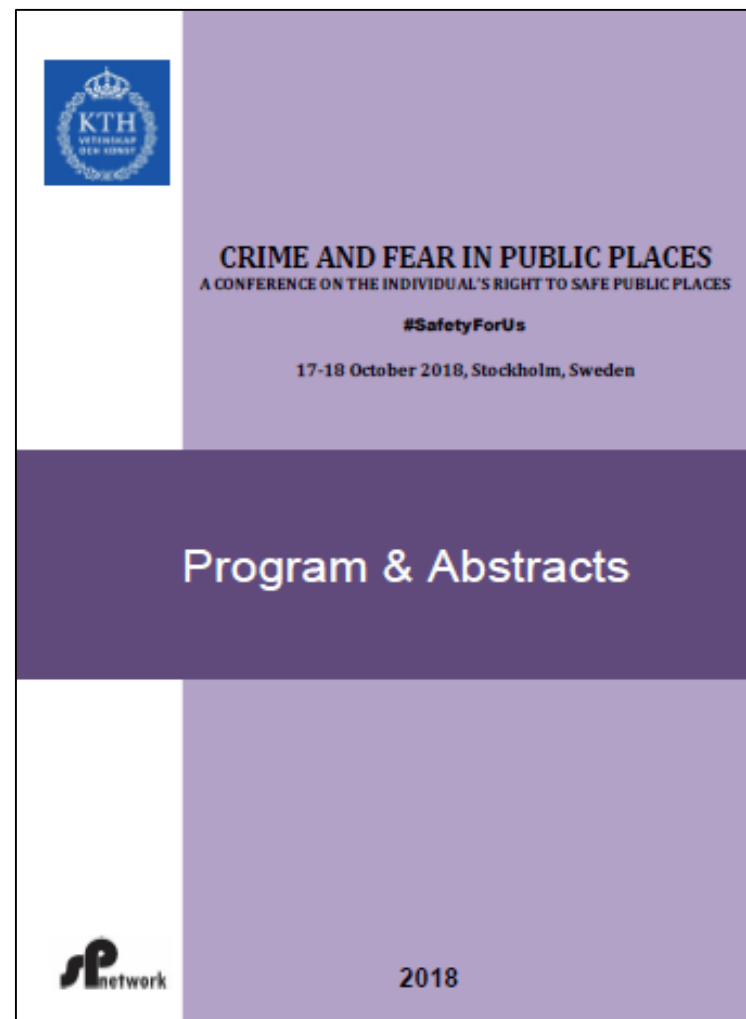**Vania Ceccato**, samordnare för nätverket Säkraplatser

Keynote speakers
1. Liz Kelly, London Metropolitan University, UK
2. Juma Assiago, The Safer Cities Programme at UN-Habitat
3. Supreet Karanjit Singh, SafeCity Initiative, India
4. Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, University of California Los Angeles, USA
5. Katja Grillner, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden
6. Jenny Westerstrand, The National Organisation for Women's Shelters, Sweden
7. Fiona Vera-Gray, Durham University, UK
8. Mahesh K. Nalla, Michigan State University, USA
9. .Elisabeth Löfgren, The National Committee For UN Women, Sweden
10. Mahesh Nalla, Michigan State University, USA

This booklet provides a flavor of the main topics discussed in the conference, it does not cover all subject areas and/or presentations. For a detailed list of the conference contents, please check the conference detailed program.

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CRIME AND FEAR IN PUBLIC PLACES
A CONFERENCE ON THE INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHT TO SAFE PUBLIC PLACES

#SafetyForUs

17-18 October 2018, Stockholm, Sweden

Program & Abstracts

2018

Conference videos: https://youtu.be/rRqS5LeXzA0

Opening session

From upper-left corner:
Maria Håkansson, KTH's and school's representative in the opening ceremony with Karin Svanberg from the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (BRÅ) and Alice Marshall and Charlotte Folkesson from KTH's Gender equality office.

A woman's place: feminist work on women's safety in public space-looking back to move forwards

Liz Kelly is Professor of Sexualized Violence at London Metropolitan University, where she is also Director of the Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit (CWASU). She is also the author of Surviving Sexual Violence (1988).

Liz Kelly presented a historical context about women in public spaces which is focused on the general patterns and structures underlying women's insecurity. She uncovered the experiences and perceptions of women over time, but also the struggles women have faced to reclaim their rights in society. She concluded with that public space is "gendered" and has been shaped with the male norm in mind. Liz Kelly combined a wide mix of literature studies, previous surveys and media debates in support of her speech and placed emphasis on historical events.

She emphasized the idea of gender-segregated public spaces in a recent past:

"*Even though women were in public spaces there were expectations of their behaviours and there were particular spaces that they were expected to occupy. Women were expected to behave in a way that was modest, to not to be fully present in public spaces.*"

According to her, women's behaviour in public space is deeply rooted in historic cultural and normative expectations of women and their place in society. A solution according to her is to incorporate gender relations into planning and politics on all levels.

The right amount of panic: how women manage being in public space

Fiona Vera-Gray
is a Research Fellow based at Durham Law School. She researches violence against women and is an expert in public sexual harassment. Her book "The Right Amount of Panic: How women trade freedom for safety" draws on original research from the UK to explore the habitual strategies women and girls employ to maintain a sense of safety in public spaces.

Fiona Vera-Gray presented the general findings of her book "The Right Amount of Panic: How women trade freedom for safety" and talked about women's behavior in public space. She stated that the behaviour of women has been shaped due to fear of harassment and harassment itself has been absorbed into policies.

Vera-Gray discussed how trivialisation and normalisation processes are part of the reason for the silence around sexual harassment and the limits of language.

Vera-Gray suggested a fundamental shift in society to enable women to "unlearn" fear through the changing of gender norms, increasing women's access to space, and making safety work invisible and visible.

About women's pre-conceptions in society, she emphasised that:

"This is change from the idea of self-defence has just been a response to discrete event, to way of helping women defend the self from the way that they are thought to be in society. Women are thought to be doubtful with themselves, about their abilities. It is learning to unlearn ….. how to be fully present in yourself in public spaces."

The main conclusion of her presentation was that "women need to have the right amount of panic" to ensure that they do not accept the normalisation of sexual harassment as part of their day-to-day lives.

Safety as a human right: UN-Habitat, Safer Cities Programme

Juma Assiago is an Urbanist and Social Scientist and the Global Coordinator of the Safer Cities Programme at UN-Habitat. He has accumulated 18-year international working experience providing technical support to both national and local governments on the development and implementation of city crime prevention and urban safety strategies.

Juma Assiago presented the United Nations, Safer Cities Programme, an initiative by UN Habitat which is influenced by the Sustainable Development Goals, but also theories of globalization such as those by Saskia Sassen and her concept of the 'global city'.

Assiago talked about cities as a source of development and mentioned the benefits of urbanization's positive opportunities for residents.

From Assiago's perspective, successful cities are those that promote sustainable compact living and allow land mixed uses and functions.

According to him, the main objective is to improve the quality of life of residents and to enable them to become main actors, so that efforts in an area are based on their conditions and local work.

Assiago believes that intrinsic creative forces in cities can be utilized to contribute to social integration and transform problems, such as crime through improved social cohesion in the community. Assiago also highlights the role of urban design and maintenance of public places as key in this process.

The security work in cities must follow both short-term and long-term security and social sustainability goals, constantly in relation to a relative level of crime in a city or area.

Finally, Assiago believes that improved urban governance, together with successful crime prevention cases are desirable, as well as multisectoral prevention measures should be made available at the most local level of governance.

Individual's agency: Sexual crimes and example of supporting infrastructure

In the morning we discussed trends and patterns of crime in public places. Keeping a close eye on these things is fundamental for research and policy. But it can be easy for us to forget that statistics are about real human beings, with families and friends and jobs and lives they've carefully put together over the years.

People like you and me. People like Ida Johannsson. On an August day in 2015, Ida went out for a run in her local park, here in Stockholm. She never came back. In that public place, Ida was murdered. She was 21 years old.

Her death was reported in the newspapers and the media, but attention was less on her and more on the teenager who murdered her.

And while thousands of people took to tracks across the country to pay tribute to her – and to show defiance in the face of fear - there was little discussion about how places like that park could be made safer, for women like Ida, for all of us.

Ida's mother, Karin, who has been involved in making a film about her daughter told us about her experience in losing her daughter and the life after Ida's murder. She wanted to pay a tribute to her daughter by making reference to the agency shown by many people and organisations here in Sweden that are ready to support individual's in need after such tragedies.

A teaser of the film "Life after Ida" was screened by Johanna Aust/FLICKFILM. She told us a bit more about her experience in working with this film.

Later, we had Jenny Westerstrand who is the president of the national organization of women's shelters and young women's shelter - Roks. She gave us a comprehensive picture of her work at Roks but also a review of her studies in the field of women's violence in Sweden.

Jenny's talk provided a vibrant and concrete picture of the types of support from society ("the infrastructure) that are out there available today in Sweden, expressed by the work done by Women's shelter and Young Women's shelter.

Conference videos: https://youtu.be/rRqS5LeXzA0

Women and violence from a global perspective

The topic of presentation by **Elisabeth Löfgren**, the vice-Chairman of The Swedish national Committee for UN-Women, was Women's safety when migrating and refugee camps. Her presentation addressed the issue of gender-based violence against women refugees and the discrimination and human rights abuses that occur in refugee camps. She ended her talk by highlighting the importance of empowerment of women to make cities more women friendly as well as planning for women in public spaces.

"Empowerment is not telling women what they need. It is asking them what they want and need – they should be able to make their own choices."

The project Safecity was introduced by **Supreet Singh**, the representative of SafeCity Initiative. She demonstrated the potential of technology to instil meaningful changes in the society. Supreet Singh emphasized that the growing information from Safecity can create open discussion, reveal trends, increase awareness, support engagement, and create institutional accountability. According to her, education for men and boys is critical to shift the social system as all perpetrators are fathers, sons, or brothers, and they must recognize that each victim is equal, and a mom, sister, or daughter.
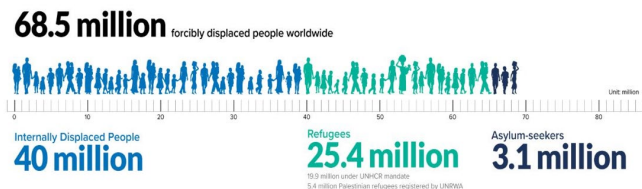
Here is the link to a film Supreet K Singh made on real incidents in India.
https://youtu.be/rRqS5LeXzA0

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

68.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide

Unit million

Internally Displaced People
40 million

Refugees
25.4 million
19.9 million under UNHCR mandate
5.4 million Palestinian refugees registered by UNRWA

Asylum-seekers
3.1 million

44,400 people
a day forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution

- Ensure that women are not forced to share shelter with unknown males

- Ensure gender separation, security and lighting in wash areas

- Increase police presence, including additional policewomen

- Appoint additional staff dedicated to address sexual and gender-based violence

- Enhance awareness-raising activities including with boys and men!

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safecity
www.safecity.in

safecity

RedDot
Foundation Global

MAKING CROWD SOURCED DATA USEFUL

Individuals
- can make better choices regarding their own safety

Communities
- can mobilize themselves around the issue
- demand for better accountability from institutions

Institutions
- new dataset to work with
- better relationship with communities

safecity

RedDot
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Tips for citizens to take action

- If you see something not right, do something about it.
- If you see someone being harassed or abused, please call for help. Ensure you maintain the cleanliness of your neighbourhood.
- Do not be afraid to access public spaces at all times of day and night.
- Speak up and challenge gender stereotypes and inappropriate behaviour.
- Participate in your local urban planning commission. Make sure your voice is heard.
- Use public transport wherever possible or cycle or walk.
- Volunteer some time for community based projects.
- Know your rights.
- Download the **Safecity** app from the Google and Apple playstores. You can audit a place, report sexual harassment anonymously, find resources to help you and access data that can give you insights into location based sexual violence.

Women, violence and space

In the context of Women and violence, **Jenny Westerstrand**, president of the National Organization for Women's Shelters and Young Women's Shelters, talked about women's shelters, the process for the women coming into the shelter and what kind of challenges they face.

According to her, what they ultimately do is to "carry the voice", to be a platform for women that are not heard and lobby for legislation and policies.

The main purpose of her presentation was to give an idea about how women themselves can be the tools to change their lives, allowing them to "take back the city" and empowering them to claim their space in public places.

The shelter movement

- Associations of women meeting and discussing their experiences of violence and every day lives as women
- Not all associations had (and have) shelters
- Counseling, self-help groups, studying-circles
- Assisting women as women: shared experience
- Separatist – women only: a safe space

Roks

Today – a shift, new demands

- A shift from "ought" to "shall" regarding the municipalities' responsibility for women victims of violence in ther relation
- Social services decides who gets a placement
- → shelters preform social services
- No compensation for women who don't come via the social services

Roks

Violence and the (in)tangible city: buildings, movement and people (1)

The result of "The Stockholm rape study" was presented by **Vania Ceccato**, Professor at the Department of Urban Planning & Environment at KTH. In her study, she took a strong GIS-centric research approach to crime in the city; shifting the focus from the underlying social issues surrounding sexual assault to the physical factors and the location, conditions, and patterns where sexual offenses occur.

The purpose of Vania Ceccato's work was to understand the characteristics of the "places of rape", identify similar factors, and potentially discover connections between the victim and crime place. What can one learn from the nature of these places to better

assess the role of environment in these crime events? Knowing about the nature of these places provides informative and practical support for intervention which may have the power to prevent outdoor rapes to occur.
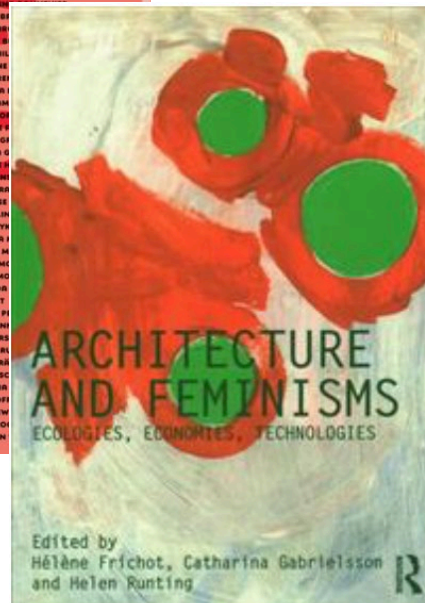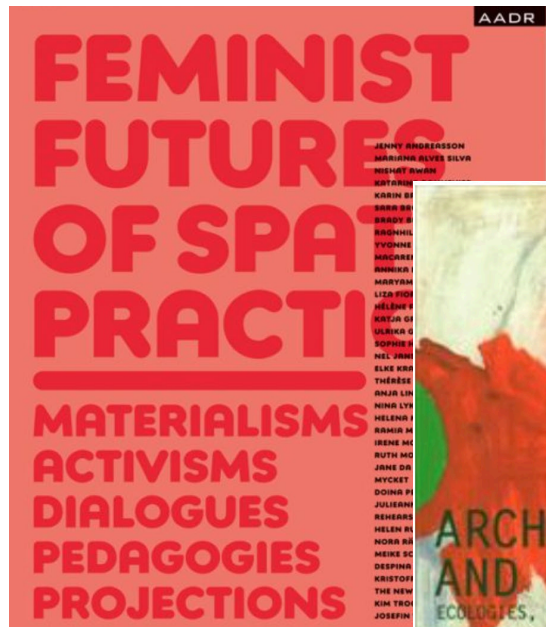
The topic of presentation was Transit crime, the built environment and gender differences, and **Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris**, at UCLA. The main objective of her talk was to present the link between the design of the built environment and transit crime and also the gender perspectives on mobility and how those findings should influence planning. She highlighted that women's concerns and needs are not taken seriously by agencies and even when they initiate some programs for women's need, it is not really what women really need:

"Only one third of US transit operators believe that they should do something specific about women's need. they are afraid that they're going to be accused of reverse discrimination if they focus on women".
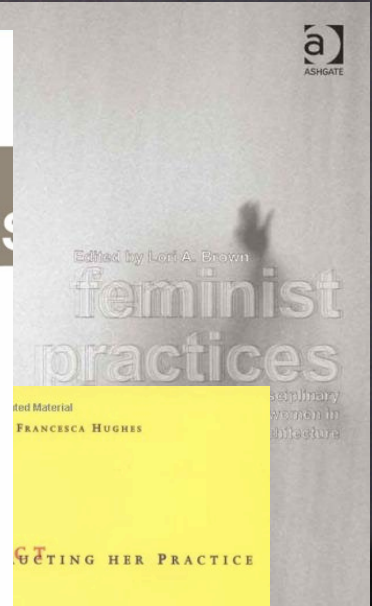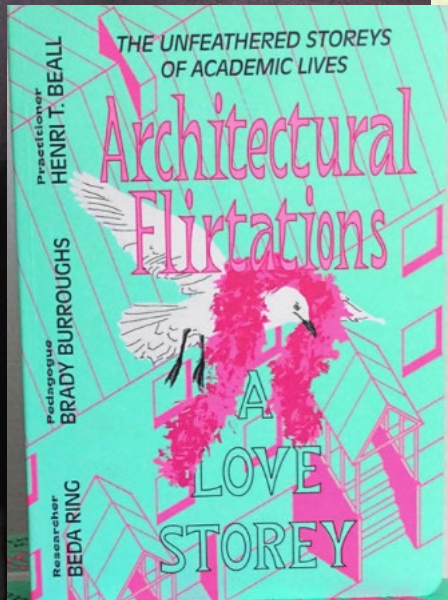
Violence and the (in)tangible city: buildings, movement and people (2)

Katja Grillner is Professor of Critical Studies in Architecture at KTH, Sweden. She currently serves as Dean of Faculty at KTH (2015-). Grillner is the director of Architecture in Effect, a national initiative for a strong research environment and co-founded the feminist architecture teaching and research group FATALE. Her presentation was aimed to provide insights of how the feminist perspective could be implemented in the built environment to increase women's position in society and to increase the perception of safety.

Conference videos: https://youtu.be/rRqS5LeXzA0

Architecture + Feminisms: sample key publications KTH

Slides by Hélène Frichot and Katja Grillner]

Parallell sessions

The result of the study on college students' transit safety in Paris, France was presented by **Hugo d'Arbois de Jubainville.** He described how perceived safety in rail transit (in the transport itself and in stations) varies depending on individual characteristics, transport habits, and victimization.
In addition, his results indicated that perceived safety is associated with gender and victimization, but not with transport habits. Results also showed that students who feel less safe are more likely to take precautions when traveling. In addition, implications for improving students' safety in public transit were eventually discussed.

Rejuvenation of Göteborg first public park, Brunnsparken, was described **by Niels de Bruin** from White arkitekter. He discussed the process and methods of analyzing and redesigning of this public park in the city to make it livelier, safer and more attractive to the users.
Brunnsparken in Gothenburg has long been the subject of criticism. The area is considered to be too poorly equipped for public transport and the city's inhabitants feel insecure there.
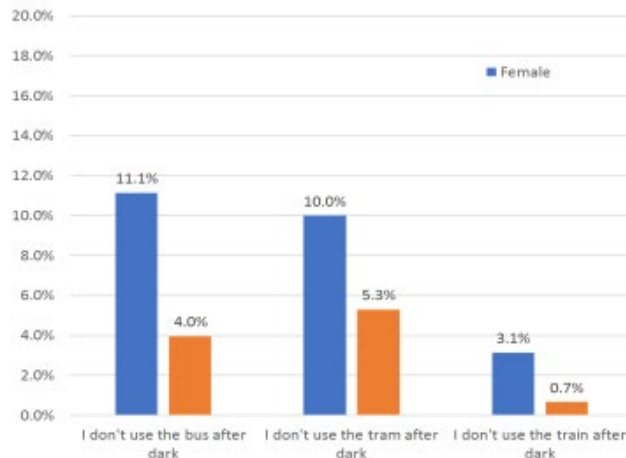White arkitekter used dialogue with people during walk through the park and design thinking to conduct analysis and identify the physical elements which cause a concern of crime and consequently eliminate them.

Conference videos: https://youtu.be/rRqS5LeXzA0

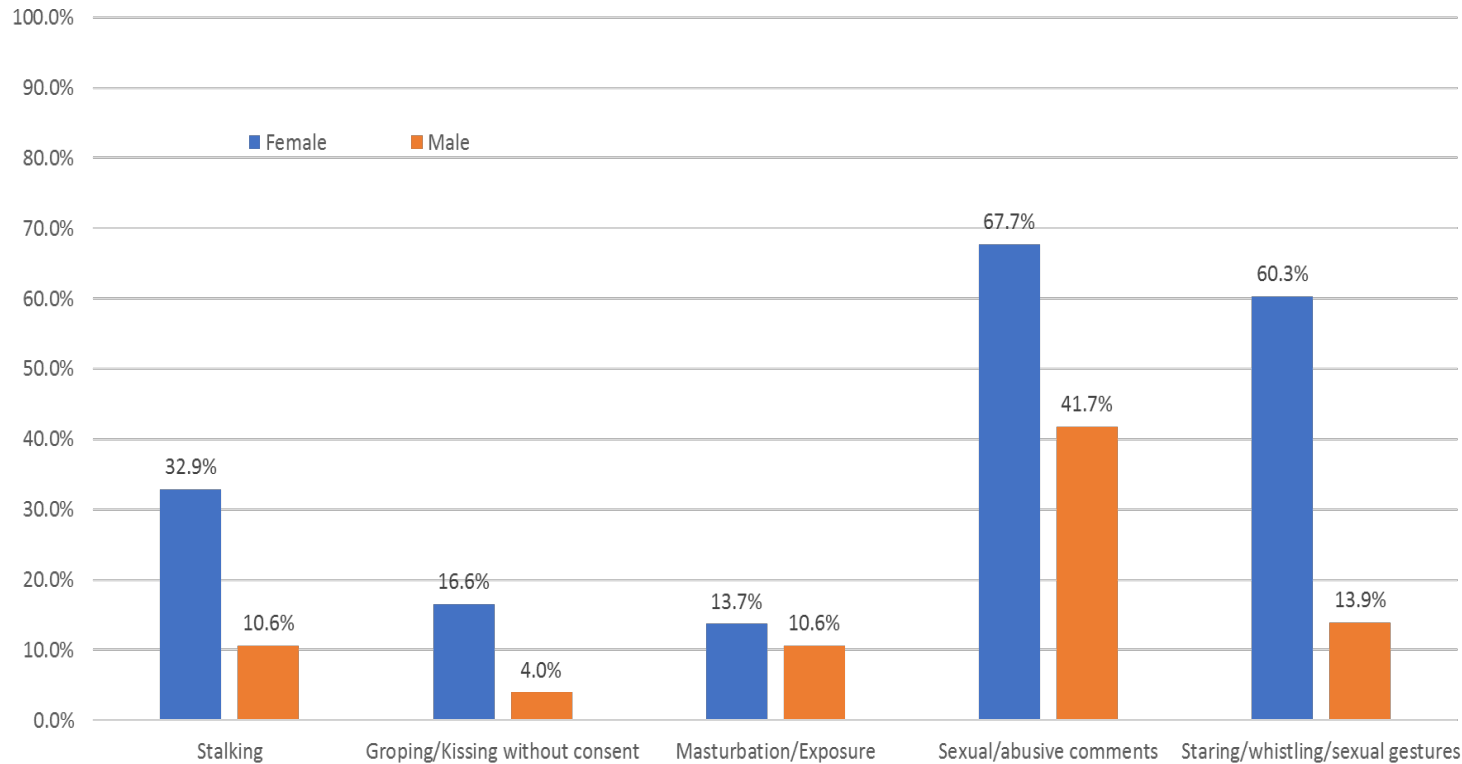# Melbourne: who is responsible for safety in a 'knowledge city'?

Carolyn Whitzman, Professor in Urban Planning, presented her study of Public transport safety of Melbourne tertiary Students.

The main focus with her research is on the prevention of crime against women, where she is interested in how to create inclusive cities for all. Background factors, such as gender, were taken into account for the performance analysis. The result of Melbourne study indicated that it is difficult to get to and from campus in the city.

Solutions to the perceived security issues include, according to Carolyn, in addition to practical measures like more security guards and better lighting, public education campaigns in the field of security. In addition, she believed that universities should take their responsibility to maintain the safety of public transport and thus work with the transport companies towards a common goal.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE — **Impacts of Victimisation and Fear**

■ Female

	I don't use the bus after dark	I don't use the tram after dark	I don't use the train after dark
Female (blue)	11.1%	10.0%	3.1%
(orange)	4.0%	5.3%	0.7%

Melbourne: Types of victimization

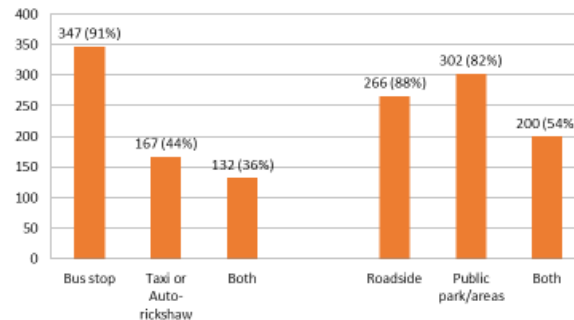Source: Carolyn Whitzman, Professor in Urban Planning, Melbourne, Australia.
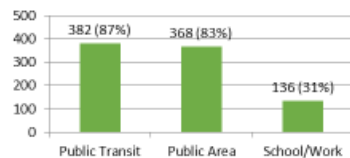
Sexual harrassment in public places in India

Mahesh Nalla, professor in the School of Criminal Justice, talked about the major challenges of preventing sexual harassment and crime in public transport, and this both from a local, Indian, but also from a broader, general perspective. The general focus in the presentation was on the research project: *sexual harassment in public spaces*.

The primary objective was to understand the determinants of sexual harassment by self-reported male offenders, while the secondary objective was to examine gender differences in select issues relating to the sexual harassment, the causes and state responses. Nalla recommend policies and measures such as crowd management, science applications such as apps for early warning/reporting, a change of curriculum in preschools and grade schools and the media's role with sponsorship of Bollywood and Cricket to show how harassing women is wrong.

Victimization in Public Transit (N=382) & Public Spaces (N=368)

Final words

A year on since #MeToo movement went viral, over half of young people say now they are more likely to speak up against sexual harassment and sexual violence. We definitely see this trend among our KTH students when they answered our questionnaire. But this change did not happen 'out of the blue'. About ten years ago we could already notice signs of similar #Metoo movement in other parts of the world showing examples of harassment and sexual violence.

Sexual violence is an entire range of abuse that have particular situational contexts. An empty train in the evening might allow the anonymity necessary for a rape. More commonly, it is the crowded buses or trains during rush hours that just might provide the right opportunity for groping and all sorts of inappropriate sexual behaviors.

Either small or huge, these events affect half of the population around the world. It reduces individual's ability to participate in school, work and public life. Although violence in the private domain is now widely recognized as a human rights violation, violence of this kind in public places still remains a largely neglected issue (UN Women, 2017).

An individual's right to safe public places is also highly dependent on society's norms and structures that either promote or limit one's freedom to move around without hindrance or fear. We have witnessed in this conference examples from research and practice that show that fear and victimisation are not only about age or gender but rather a result of the intersection of a set of individual's characteristics. Being a disabled and poor individual creates 'synergic layers of disadvantage' that affect how one perceives and experiences the world and expresses fear. In this conference we examined victimisation and fear through an intersectional lens, considering issues of gender, age, physical and psychological abilities, socio-economic status, religion, and ethnic belonging.

Given that sexual victimisation *is never justified*, in this conference we discussed examples that characterise women's behaviour in situational contexts in which women become targets. This is of relevance since the identification of these conditions is crucial to create opportunities for crime prevention. Our goal with this conference was to use the current debate to turn to questions about what is needed to promote change in society. We hope that with this conference a step forward has been taken to achieve this goal.

Vania Ceccato, Conference committee representative and samordnare för nätverket Säkraplatser, KTH.

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SafePlaces Network
Safeplaces is an interdisciplinary network that links local needs for knowledge in situational crime prevention to a national and international network of experts and institutions. The network has its basis at **KTH Royal Institute of Technology** in Stockholm, Sweden and, with support from the **National Council of Crime Prevention (BRÅ)**, creates a number of initiatives devoted to improvement of local knowledge and information sharing about the conditions in which crime occur and the best ways to prevent it.