

Department of Politics

DISSERTATION PROPOSAL FORM

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Name:

E-mail address:

MSc or MRes programme: MRes Social Research and Law and Legal Studies

Full-time or part-time? Part-Time

Title of proposed dissertation: A critical examination on the ineffectiveness of sexual crime prevention in England and Wales.

Description of subject area:

The paper will be focused on an analysis of the prevention of sexual crime within England and Wales, specifically focused on singular attacks on adults. For this reason, the dissertation will not be discussing the issues of sex trafficking or of child sex abuse. The dissertation aims to focus on understanding the underlying meaning and social impacts of the prevention methods and techniques employed by the legal system and other organisations, and what they mean for potential victims of sexual assault.

I am intending to split the paper into the following sections. Firstly, a look at the current legislation, which is in place to prevent sexual crime, including any upcoming measures looking to be put into place, and the potential impact these have, and on whom the burden is placed to reduce the number of sexual crimes taking place. There will also be a focus here on how much some of these techniques and strategies miss the point and could in fact end up being more dangerous. Specific areas of research which will be analysed here will include how the pressure is placed on the individual not to become a victim as opposed to not becoming an assaulter, the dangerous nature of the media and other outlets portrayal of who the assaulter actually is, and an analysis into the ineffectiveness of the SHPO's within England and Wales.

Secondly the paper will shift focus to an intersectional approach to sexual crime prevention, specifically looking at the advice given to people to avoid becoming a victim of sexual assault and the potentially dangerous implications of these from an intersectional analysis. This section will also look at the lack of prevention in place for those outside of the 'traditional view' of what a sexual assault victim is, specifically on the trans-gender community, whereby there is overwhelming evidence sexual assault occurs to trans-gender individuals disproportionately, but there is little emphasis on prevention techniques for this community.

The final portion of the dissertation will involve an analysis of scholarly literature on sexual crime prevention and aims to propose alternatives to the current prevention laws and strategies which are in place.

What scholarly literature will you be examining?

Bhattacharyya, R. (2021) 'Sarah Everard & Nirbhaya: Comparisons and Commonalities', *Space and Culture, India*,

Kingston, S. & Thomas, T. (2018) 'The sexual risk order and the sexual harm prevention order: the first two years', *Probation Journal*, 65(1), 77-88. Available at: <https://journals-sagepub-com.ezproxy.lib.bbk.ac.uk/doi/pdf/10.1177/0264550517748359>

Probat, J. (2019) 'Sexual harm: SHPO's – ongoing duty to protect', *Westlaw UK Journal Articles*, 66(4), 482-483. Available at: <https://journals-sagepub-com.ezproxy.lib.bbk.ac.uk/doi/pdf/10.1177/0264550519876745a>

Stone, N. (2019) 'Sexual harm: persistent grooming and history of breaching prevention orders – SHPO issues', *Westlaw UK Journal Articles*, 66(3), 387-388. Available at: <https://spaceandculture.in/index.php/spaceandculture/article/view/1175/447>

Rape and Sexual Abuse – Chapter 14: Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPO's) – CPS. Available at: <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/rape-and-sexual-abuse-chapter-14-sexual-harm-prevention-orders-shpos>

Proven Re-Offending Statistics, GOV.UK. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/proven-reoffending-statistics-october-to-december-2019>

Lievesley, R. et al (2018) 'Sexual Crime and Prevention', *Palgrave Macmillan*

What primary research material might you use?

The primary research materials will be the use of critical discussion of contemporary literature, review of current UK legislation, current Government and other organisational issued campaigns involving sexual crime prevention and case studies.

For each of these material types a different type of analysis may also be taken. For the legislation and campaigns a content and discourse analysis will be employed to review and comment on potential underlying meanings of the wording and advice given.

Specific discourse analysis will be used employing an intersectional approach regarding the advice for the prevention of sexual crime given in the wake of the Sarah Everard case, specifically surrounding some of ableist and classist intersectional approaches which can be taken from the advice given.

Have you identified or spoken with a potential supervisor? If so, who?

Dr Sarah Lamble