



Birkbeck
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Masterclass in Social Research

Dissertation Fair

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27th June 2024



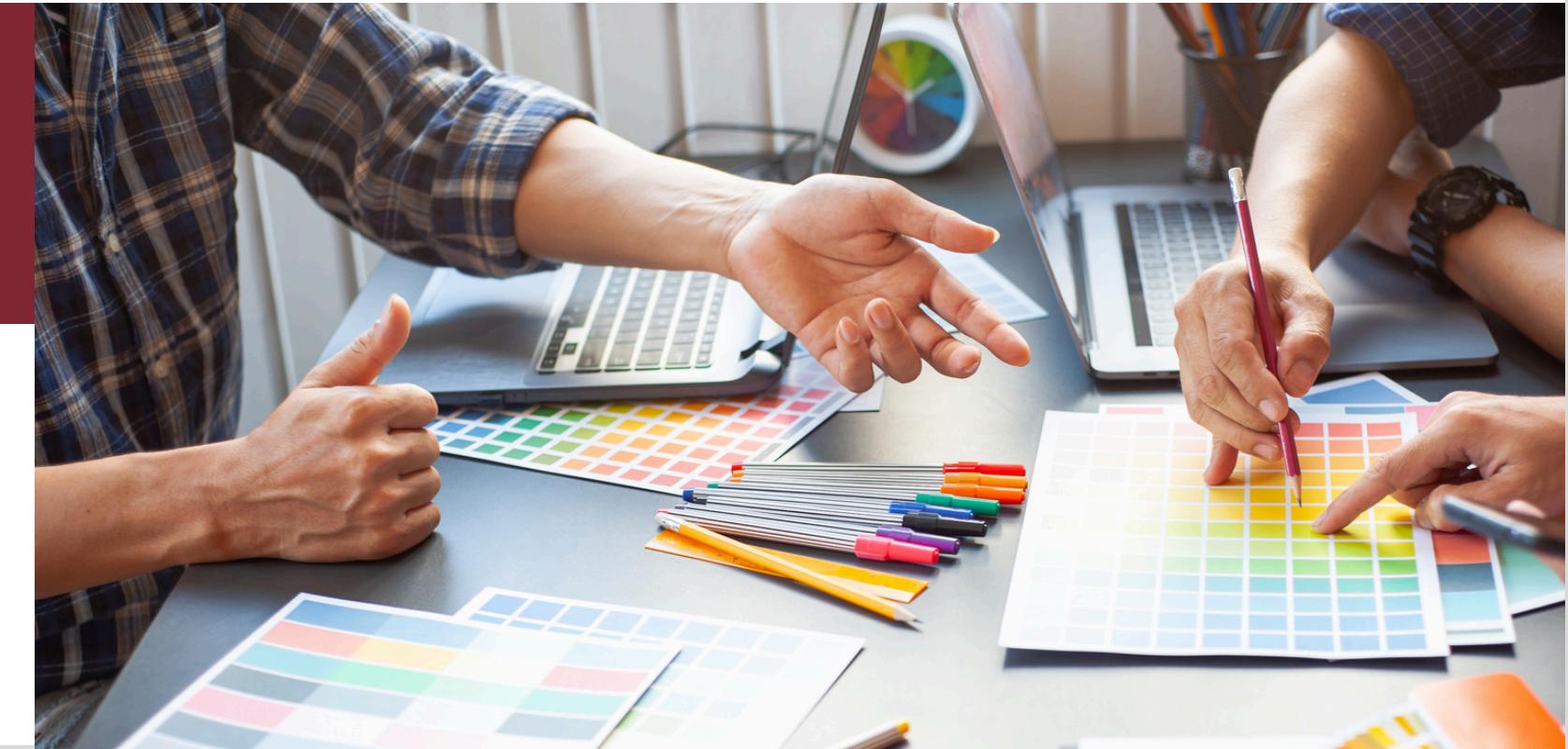
MSc Public Policy and Management

Dissertation Title

The Politics of Domestic Abuse for Immigrant
Victims in the UK after COVID-19



MSc Public Policy and Management



Argument – What does the study intend to answer?

This study analyses **political pressures over Domestic Abuse (DA) policies in the UK before and after COVID-19**. It will mainly focus on how **minoritised and immigrant victims with insecure immigration status were under-represented** within Domestic Abuse policymaking.

The study will investigate whether **COVID-19 failed to decisively shift the obstacles** and sunk costs around the current Domestic Violence policy **and how key institutions resisted radical change** despite long-term pressure and campaigns and the seeming shifting context of COVID-19.

DA policy landscape in the UK

BEFORE COVID-19



Lack of legislation

VAWG coalitions emerged in 2018 to request a response to the pandemic but failed to consider pre-existing inequalities, particularly for minoritised women, due to lack of DA legislation.

As the example of the Istanbul Convention adopted by European countries.

Austerity & Under Investment against VAWG* sector

The impacts of austerity and systematic VAWG sector underinvestment were already evident a few years before the pandemic.

*Violence Against Women and Girls

DA policy landscape in the UK

AFTER COVID-19



Domestic Abuse Act 2021

New DA policies and political coalitions have arisen since 2020 due to COVID-19, including the Act 21 Bill.

Minoritised and immigrant victims with insecure immigration status were under-represented in the ACT 21 Bill despite VAWG organisations' long-term campaigns implemented before COVID-19.

Hostility against minoritised and immigrant victimis of DA

The study will further analyse whether the legacy of colonialism within institutional behaviour influences the exclusion of immigrant victims from Domestic Abuse policymaking.

Theoretical Approches to be Analysed

Historical institutionalism & Path-dependency

Path-dependency and institutional discrimination against policymaking and funding landscape for the third sector

Primary authors: Peters, B. Guy, Jon Pierre, and Desmond S. King

Critical Juncture & COVID-19

- Has COVID-19 represented a Critical Juncture for DA Politics?
- How the critical juncture was caused and what or who stopped a more radical policy from emerging?

Primary authors: Paul Cairney; Giovanni Capoccia; and Daniel Kelemen

Colonialism & Institutional Discrimination

Historical institutionalism and the legacy of Colonialism within Institutional behaviour

- Analysis on Institutional racism and discrimination

Hyphotesis

06

The research will **compare financial distribution five years before and five years after COVID-19 from six grassroots organisations** dedicated to reducing and preventing domestic abuse among immigrant victims.

The idea is to **investigate whether the use of financial provision** by government institutions (such as the Metropolitan Police and the Home Office) to the third sector **can be interpreted as a discrete process** to avoid changes in public policies by creating **path-dependent financial instruments**.



Methodology

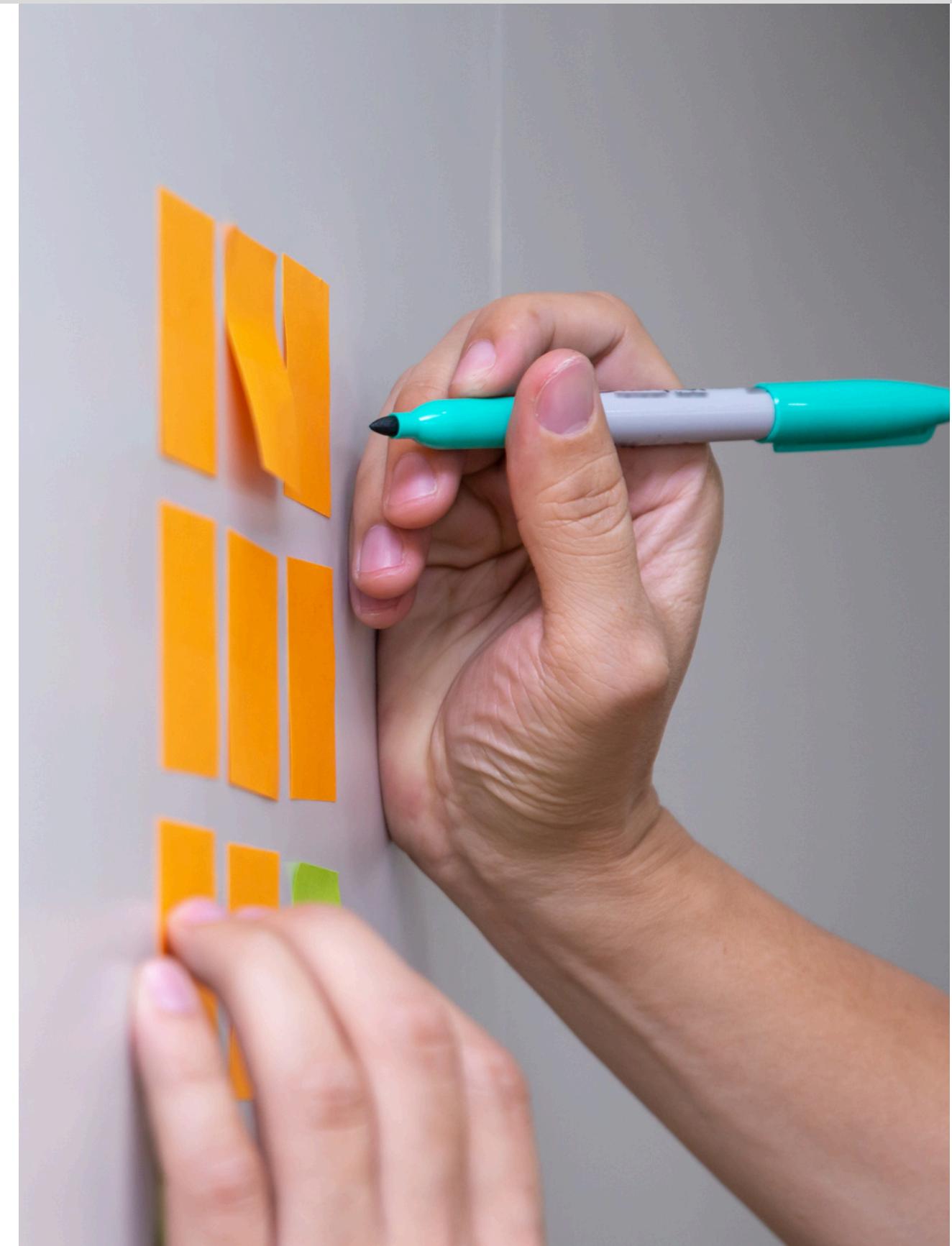
Quantitative Method

- 6 GRASSROOTS VAWG organisations to be analysed
- Annual Turnover analysed 4 years before and 4 years after COVID-19

Source

Charity Commission Website

<https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?regId=1189055&subId=0>



Findings

**Could Covid-19 cut both ways-
it offered to put VAWG higher
on the agenda but having a
conservative effect on policy?**

**Could Covid-19 shift the
obstacles and sunk costs
around the current Domestic
Abuse policy?**

**May the increase of financial
provision to the VAWG sector after
Covid-19 be interpreted as path-
dependent financial instruments?**

Final thoughts

Suggestions for future studies:

How the critical juncture was caused and what or who stopped a more radical policy emerging-was this institutions, path dependency or specific opposition in certain places (and how was it justified).

