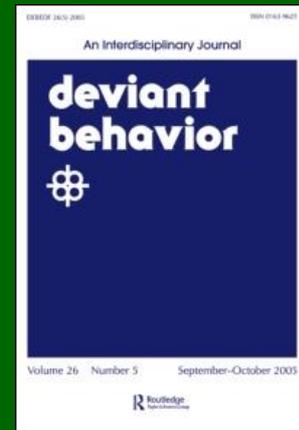


Beyond Typologies: Foregrounding Meaning and Motive in Domestic Violence Perpetration

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From **Boys** to **Men** Project



Overview

Typological approaches seek to overcome the presumption that perpetrators are all the same.

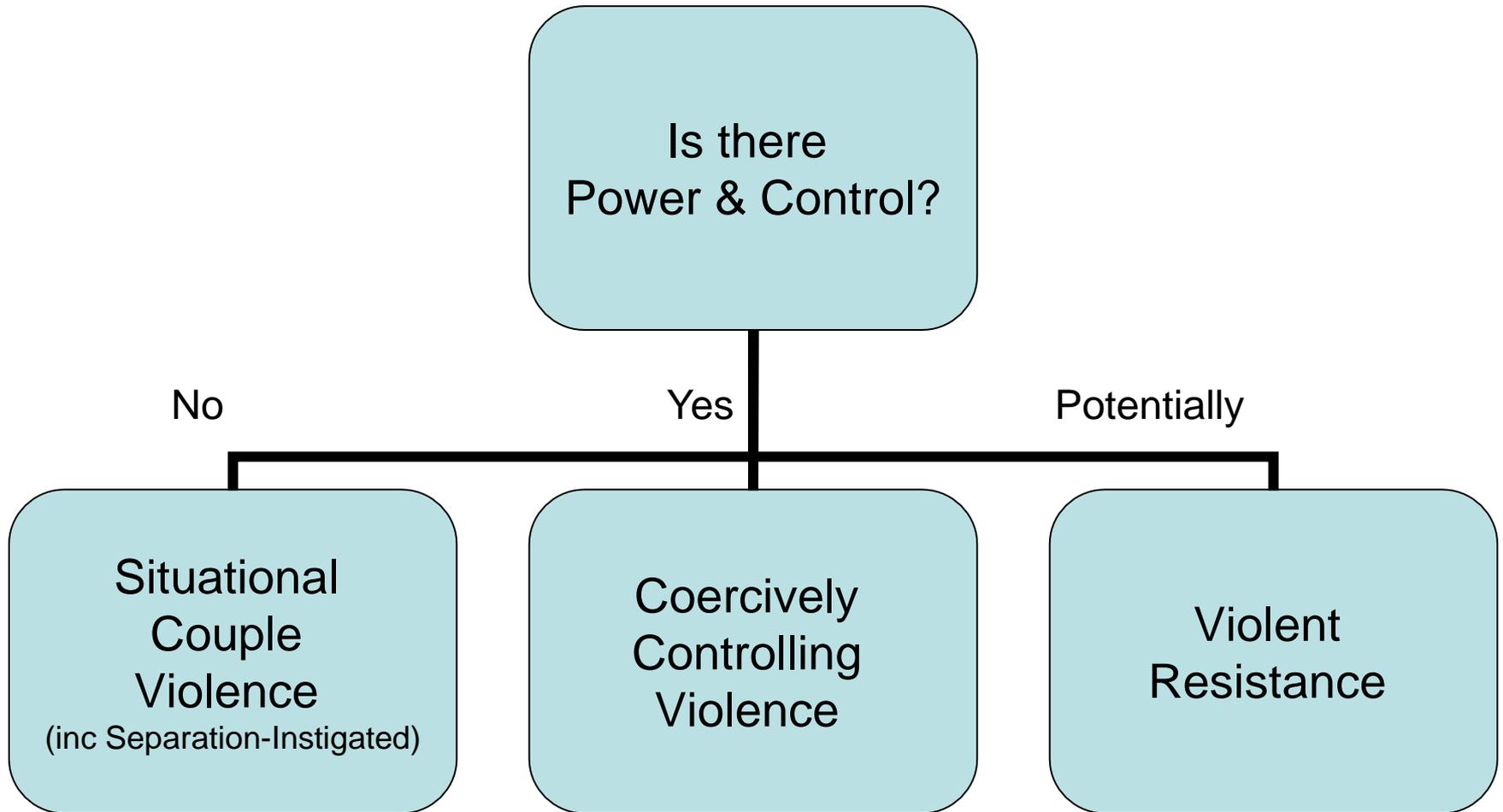
They assume motive and identity are fixed and easily read off from self-reports or official records.

But overlook those – 1 in 3 – who do not fit.

Use case study to show the importance of interpreting the mesh of sexism, perceptions of entitlement, histories of intra and inter-psychic conflict, suspicion and grievance that can motivate violence.

Expose how prospects for change are missed when meaning is not interrogated.

Kelly and Johnson's (2008) *Scenario Typology*



Situational Violence vs Coercive Control

“Fear of the partner is not characteristic of women or men in Situational Couple Violence.... Unlike the misogynistic attitudes toward women characteristic of men who use Coercive Controlling Violence, men who are involved in Situational Couple Violence do not differ from nonviolent men on measures of misogyny” (Kelly & Johnson 2008: 485).

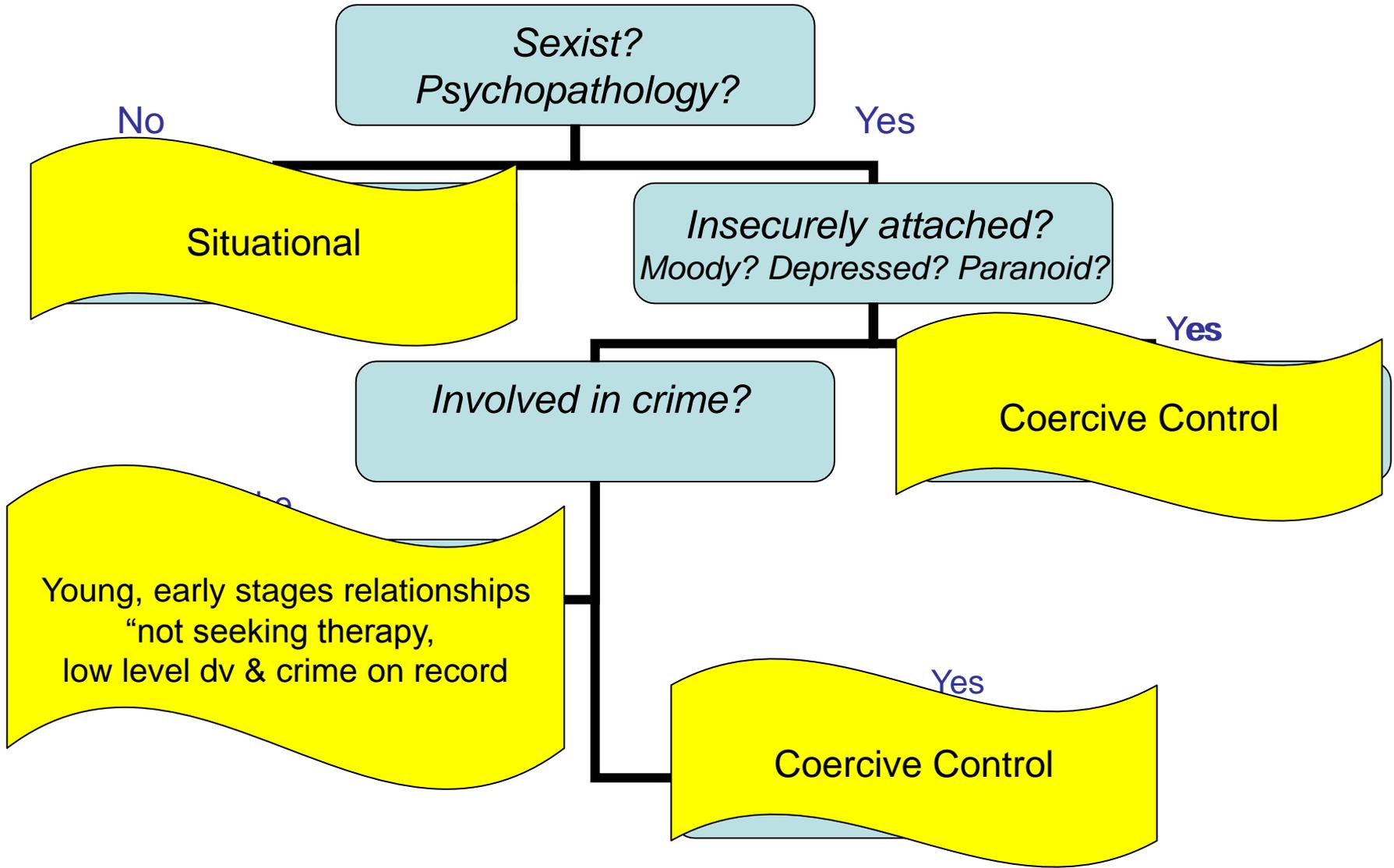
Violence and jealousy “may also exist as a recurrent theme in Situational Couple Violence, with accusations of infidelity expressed in conflicts”. (p486)

Although usually limited to “one” or “two” episodes these aggressive acts can leave “partners... stunned and frightened by the unaccustomed violence” (p.479)



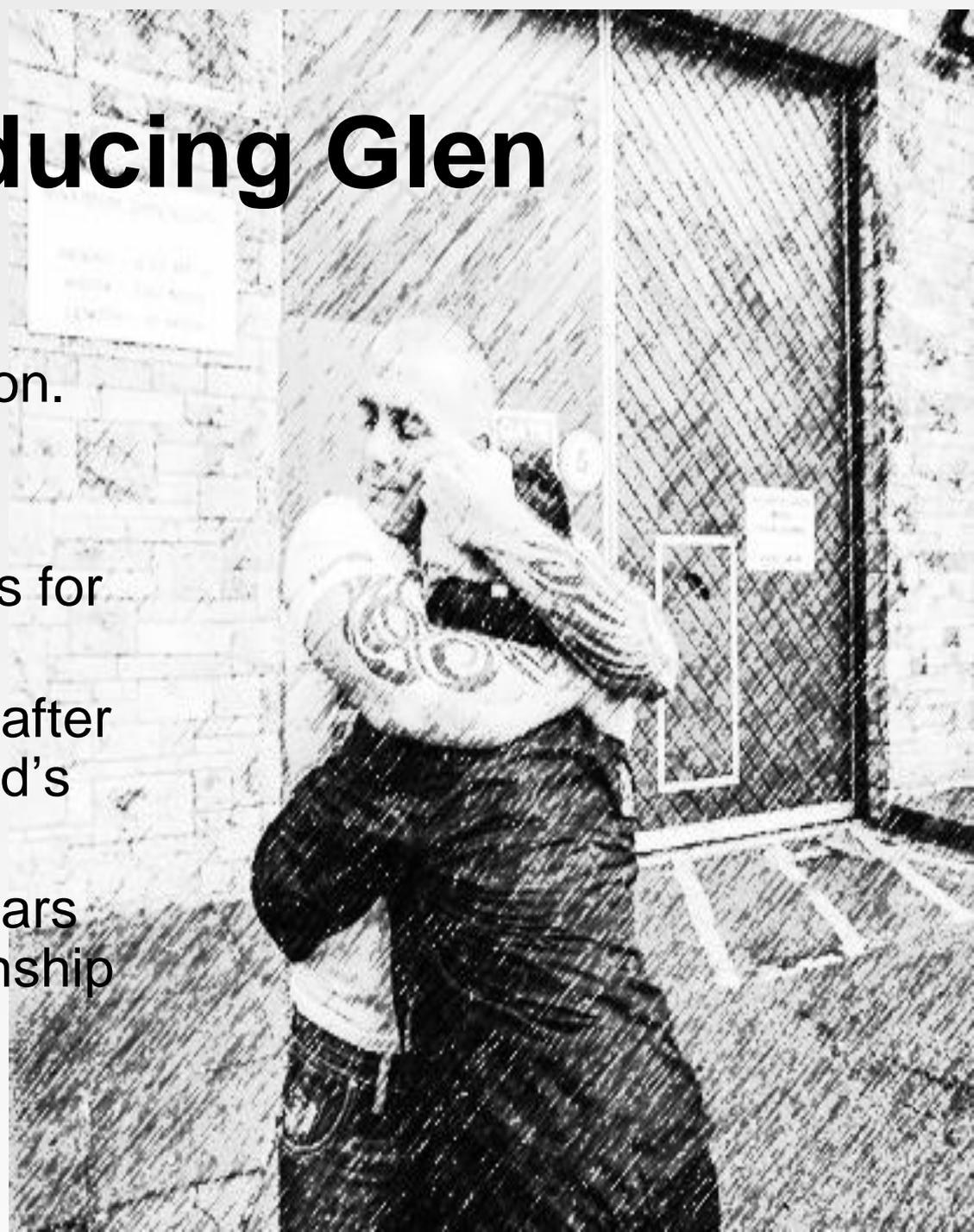
Holtzworth-Munroe et al (2000)

Perpetrator Typology



Introducing Glen

- Aged 21, on post-imprisonment probation.
- Served 8 prison sentences since 15.
- Unknown to the courts for DV.
- Self-referred to IDAP after grabbing (3rd) girlfriend's throat 2 weeks ago.
- With Michelle for 3 years "on and off": a relationship "better than any"



“I am rough. Both of us are rough, me and Michelle, we like it. We grab each other by the throat and pull each other by the hair but we like that”



Glen & Michelle: Mutual Combat



“I went mad...It fucked with my head... she had loads of chances to get away ... I don't know if it was a relationship or not”



Paranoia, Dysphoria & Controlling Behaviour

“I’ve got paranoia and I end up thinking things and then if I think they’re true I end up hurting them. Lashing out and stuff like that or when they take the mick out of me”



“Always... be with them, like I wouldn't let them out of my sight cos I used to get paranoid... seeing, thinking what they're fuckin' up to... I think I used to force them to change as well. 'You better flippin' change or I'll change you myself'.”

“I grabbed Karen by the throat, her on to the bed... My cousin a girlfriend was in the room ... told none of them were leaving. The my other cousin to get me some petrol... I'm going to kill them all remember hitting her and stuff. then, because I have anxiety at as well when I get stressed... And I lashed out at the ambulance p

“Michelle tried to leave so I grabbed her by the throat. But obviously I was upset crying when I grabbed her ... so I sat back down and tried speaking to her.”



Anti-Social Personalities, Criminal Histories, Child Abuse

Brother “kept punching me and kicking me ... I felt like all the pain in my stomach ... I got rushed to hospital and they said I was there five minutes before it burst so it nearly killed me.”

Sexual Abuse: No one ‘believed’



“I heard her slagging my girlfriend off so I went down with a metal pole to her, threatened her. And then my brother’s woke up off the settee and started fighting with me. He bit my thumb. I pushed my fingers into his eyes. I was dragging his girlfriend around by the hair. I had him, his girlfriend and my mum on top of me. I bit my mum. And then the police come” but case was “dropped”.



Violence Scenarios

<p>Situational or Common Couple</p>	<p>On-off relationship: both like it 'rough'. He restrains her when she hits him over infidelities. Struggling, like any young couple, to find a place and space of their own. Police regard violence as 'family only', just a domestic.</p>
<p>Coercive Control (with Violent Resistance)</p>	<p>Restraint is by the throat Done the same to previous partners. Headbutting, hostage taking, fantasies of burning. Very vulnerable woman. Hard to imagine how they 'talk things through', given the obvious power imbalance.</p>

Perpetrator Type

Family Only	<p>Most violence is within family. Some is reciprocal. Some is restraining. No 'official' history of domestic violence</p>
Dysphoric/ Borderline	<p>Paranoid/Sensitive/Fears Rejection Sexist double standards around infidelity: possessive Wants his emotional needs attending too Feels and goes mad. Suicidal. He runs off from problems he cannot confront: care, family, girlfriends, the offer of a home from his father. Restrains partners so they cannot run from him.</p>
Anti-Social	<p>Absent criminal father, shoplifting, history of care, violence in home, sexual abuse, heavy drinking, animal abuse. Provides (macho) physical protection to vulnerable women at a price.</p>

Pros and Cons

Seeking help” through probation and prison counselling.

Wants to be with Michelle. Moved in with her mum.

Reflecting “on the better way to go: settling down, having a job and getting a house.

Post 2 weeks on IDAP: When we argue now we talk about it ... don't run off or nothing

“Previously he and M had been “spending 24 hours a day” together. They argued “because” they had “nothing to say to each other”.

Wants to be different to the smackhead who treated Michelle badly.



History of near lethal violence

Frustrated his behaviour – grabbing by throat - is taken ‘wrong way’.

Infidelity

No qualifications

Work history = 4 weeks as a cleaner.

Paranoid, controlling, suicidal.

Persisting family conflict

Unresolved issues with not being believed, disclosure and trust

Conclusions

Typologies useful for querying:
normal/pathological, coercive/reciprocal.

But most cases are more complex than assumed.

Complexity matters: telling girlfriends what to wear reveals
sexism/insecurity, coercive control/paranoia, guilty
conscience/absence of emotional security?

Interpretation reveals prospects of change - recurrence of
violence, maddening doubts about the 'rape', being 'out
of control' not in control – are a window for challenge.

Glen was a young man willing to contemplate to change, if
someone can make meaningful sense of his 'madness'.

Beware the Stereo-Typology
The Sum > The Parts

