

***Immigrant women's experiences of Employment based (EBV) and Intimate partner (IPV) violence (IWEV): On theory and practice in an Icelandic context***

**Conference:**

***Gender and Justice – Theory and Practice across Contexts***  
Atlantic Initiative – Center for Security and Justice Research  
October 28–31, 2019  
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Marie Carlson (presenter, University of Gothenburg, Sweden), Randi W. Stebbins,  
Brynja Halldorsdóttir, Jón Ingvar Kjarran, and Susan Gollifer

**University of Iceland, Faculty of Education and Diversity**  
**University of Gothenburg (Sweden), Dept. of Sociology and Work Science**

**Abstract**

In the wake of the 2018 #metoo revelations from immigrant women in Iceland, understanding the depth and prevalence of physical, racial, and psychological violence towards this vulnerable population is critical. Violence and discrimination against women through physical and verbal abuse in the workplace, intimate partner violence and sexual violence are major public health problems and direct violations of women's human rights. This project will give a more nuanced analysis regarding the experiences of these vulnerable women – both their experiences and the provisions available to them. The aim of the project is to explore the prevalence of work-place harassment and violence (EBV) and intimate partner violence (IPV) among immigrant women. While these two aspects of violence against women are significantly different, the stories shared indicate that both are commonplace in Iceland. Data has so far been collected through an online survey in several languages, anonymous narratives. This contribution will present a preliminary analysis of the narratives; some themes in the women's stories and how they describe service providers' understanding of being immigrant women victims of violence. Also a critical discourse analysis of mass media and legal proceedings is ongoing in the project – the initial data from the discourse and legal analysis, will be presented as well. A legal analysis of how the laws relate to immigrants in the context of perceptions of the Nordic identity and how the immigrant status is impacted by the law and live in a liminal status due to immigration laws. Interviews with immigrant women and key stakeholders who provide services for women will take place later on in the project. As EBV and IPV are unstudied aspects of the immigrant experience in Iceland, it is imperative to describe and analyze hidden factors that reproduce and maintain values that legitimize use of power and control.