

Impact case study (REF3)

Institution: University of Gloucestershire		
Unit of Assessment: UoA 21		
Title of case study: Development of risk assessment policy and practice in domestic homicide		
Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: 2010 - 2019		
Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:		
Name(s):	Role(s) (e.g. job title):	Period(s) employed by submitting HEI:
Jane Monckton Smith	Professor in Public Protection	2008 – to date
Period when the claimed impact occurred: 2014 - 2020		
Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014? N		

1. Summary of the impact

Professor Jane Monckton Smith is one of the UK's most prominent specialists on risk and threat escalation in domestic homicide and coercive control. She has produced research based models showing how and why risk can escalate to serious harm and homicide in the context of domestic abuse or stalking. The impact of her work since 2014 includes: producing practical tools used by police and other professionals in their work; developing risk assessment policy and practice for various organisations; providing training in use of the models for professionals; applying the model to live cases and cold cases for the coronial and criminal justice systems, and influencing legislation change.

2. Underpinning research

The killing of women by their intimate, or former intimate partners is a serious social, criminal justice and public health issue that spans the globe. The UK is currently at a fourteen year high for recorded Intimate Partner Femicide (ONS 2019) with the problems exacerbated by the Covid-19 restrictions. In the UK, responses to disclosures of domestic abuse are dominated by risk assessment processes that have been found to be no better than chance. The body of work produced by Professor Monckton Smith between 2010 and 2020 is set in this context. It comprises peer reviewed research and tools, twelve official statutory Domestic Homicide Reviews, and expert guidance and reports in coronial and criminal justice processes. These outputs have had impact on policy and practice in the area of domestic homicide, its patterns and motivations, and risk escalation. She produced award winning research that identified a dominant and misleading narrative framing responses to domestic homicide affecting risk assessment and sentencing [1]. Further research established a disconnect between professionals and victims of domestic abuse in risk assessment and evidence gathering, and a response model and reference tool was produced, including training that was commissioned by police forces [2]. After working extensively on statutory Domestic Homicide Reviews as author and advisor, and producing many published reports in Home Office processes [6] Professor Monckton Smith conducted related research that produced a new model for risk and threat assessment that is innovative and accessible for professionals [3]. The model used temporal sequencing and sets out clearly how, when and why risk escalates in cases of domestic abuse. Training in use of the model and its outputs has been commissioned by over fifty agencies, a risk assessment unit was built for one police force, using the model to risk assess all their domestic abuse and stalking cases that will be used in other

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areas. It has been applied in cold and live cases for use in coronial and criminal justice processes. The model has become known as the 'Homicide Timeline' and is now a term that has entered into common usage in public protection arenas. Extensive media interest has disseminated the model across the UK and internationally, and it is being used in a practical sense, and being taught in universities across the world. Professor Monckton Smith's research has been used in campaigns to influence legislation change and professional practice. Research commissioned by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust exploring the relationship between stalking and homicide [4] was produced, and was used in a campaign to increase sentencing for high risk stalkers. This was presented at the House of Commons and the campaign was successful resulting in the maximum sentence being doubled. She has presented the research to over 150 academic and professional conferences including, the Royal College of Psychiatrists, The British Society of Criminology, The European Domestic Abuse Conference, Forensic mental health network, the APPG on domestic violence, Portuguese Ministry of Justice.

3. References to the research

- [1] Monckton Smith, J. (2012) *Murder, gender and the Media: narratives of dangerous love* Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan
- [2] Monckton Smith, J. and Williams, A. (2014) *Domestic Abuse, Homicide and Gender: strategies for policy and practice*: Hampshire Palgrave Macmillan
- [3] Monckton Smith, J. (2020) *Using Foucauldian Analysis to Track an Eight Stage Progression to Homicide*: Violence Against Women Sage (REF details)
- [4] Monckton Smith, Haile and Szymanska (2017) *Exploring the relationship between stalking and homicide* Suzy Lamplugh Trust
- [5] Monckton Smith, J. (2010) *Relating Rape and Murder: narratives of sex, death and gender* Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan
- [6] Monckton Smith, J. (2016) DHR 'Susan' Cheltenham Community Safety Partnership
[file:///Users/janems/Downloads/Susan_DHR_report_final_for_publication2%20\(1\).pdf](file:///Users/janems/Downloads/Susan_DHR_report_final_for_publication2%20(1).pdf)

4. Details of the impact

Specific Impact can be evidenced in the following areas:

1. Extensive awareness of the 'Homicide Timeline'.

After publication, summaries of the research were widely broadcast across the globe via news and other media outlets including TV, radio, printed and online articles. Professor Monckton Smith has appeared on news programmes across the UK including: Women's Hour, Panorama and The Today Programme, and the Victoria Derbyshire Programme. She also spoke on news media in France, Germany, Ireland, and Australia. She has presented the research to police and legal experts in Portugal, France and Ireland. There were over one million hits on the BBC article in the first week. The researcher has responded to extensive invitations to present the research at over 150 events including for: The Royal College of Psychiatrists, The Centre for Women's Justice, British Society of Criminology, RESPECT, Police Services, National Probation Services, HMPPS, major charities like Victim Support and many others. A webinar was held with over 500 international attendees from the UK, Ireland, Australia, Istanbul, France, Portugal, New Zealand, Sweden, Germany and Canada. Feedback from professionals across criminal justice, social care, psychology and psychiatry has revealed widespread professional changes in practice. Films and media campaigns were made with Staffordshire Police and Thames Valley Police to raise awareness of the changes they were making to training.

HMPPS took part for German public broadcaster ZDF documenting the use of the research model in practice.

2. Training of risk assessment professionals in the research and its outputs.

Training in how to apply the research in professional practice and use of the tools has been taken by over fifty agencies including police, legal professionals, medical professionals, public protection professionals and victim charities. Some examples of organisations that have commissioned training are: HMPPS, NPS, Staffordshire Police, Thames Valley Police, Dyfed Powys Police, An Garda Siochana, South Wales Police, AAFDA, Victim Support and many others. From 2019 the number of professionals trained in the research model is around 5000. Training in research model and tools [2] between 2014 and 2018 was 3500. There is evidence of application of the model to professional practice.

3. Development of Professional Risk Assessment Policy and Practice.

Professor Monckton Smith was asked to help in the development of a risk assessment unit in Dyfed Powys for the police, in collaboration with an offender psychology service. The research was key in setting up new risk assessment policy and referral processes. Training was given to multi-agency partners and police and documents for use in referral and assessment were designed. Work with national and local charities to train victim advocates has resulted in practice change. Work with HMPPS and NPS has resulted in training events funded by the MoJ and Home Office for all probation officers and feedback is testimony to practice change within the organisations. Training is given to An Garda Siochana in an ongoing way for the last three years. Work was completed for the Sussex PCC using a theory of change for their stalking responses.

4. Use of the research by professionals in investigating and reviewing domestic homicides.

An Garda Siochana approached Professor Monckton Smith to apply the research to a cold case being reviewed as a homicide. This resulted in the arrest of an offender. The model was also used in a suicide case for the coroner, and by police in live high-risk cases.

5. Campaigns to influence legislation and professional practice.

Professor Monckton Smith's work has been used in campaigns to change legislation and practices. One example was work in partnership with Alex Chalk MP and Richard Graham MP. The research was presented to the Minister Amber Rudd at the House of Commons by the researcher and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust and other charities [4]. This campaign was successful and the maximum sentence for the highest risk stalkers was doubled from 5 to 10 years in 2017. The work was also used to inform the Parliamentary Office on Science and Technology report on stalking. Her research was used to campaign for a journalist's code of conduct with Level_up a charity, when reporting on domestic homicide [1]. This was successful and IPSO has published the code on their website in 2020. Work done with charity SUTDA was used in a campaign to make non-fatal strangulation a stand-alone offence in the Domestic Abuse Bill (2021). This campaign was successful [3]. Professor Monckton Smith's work has also resulted in a major investigation with Tortoise Media to improve police investigations in cases of domestic homicide. There was a major podcast series published with support from The Victim's Commissioner and MPs. [3]

5. Sources to corroborate the impact (indicative maximum of 10 references)

1. Letter from HMPPS corroborating impact in their training and professional practice. Includes feedback from attendees.
2. Letter from An Garda Siochana corroborating impact in the training, understanding and influence on professional practice.
3. Letter from Dyfed Powys Police corroborating work done to set up a risk assessment unit, and training of their specialist officers and multi-agency staff.
4. Letter from Staffordshire Police corroborating work done in training their officers and use of a reference tool designed from research
5. Letters from AAFDA corroborating impact of the research in training and professional practice. The research is also used in accredited Home Office training for DHR chairs and panel members through AAFDA.
6. Letter from Alice Ruggles Trust corroborating impact of the Homicide Timeline in their work.
7. Letter from Hollie Gazzard Trust corroborating impact of the Homicide Timeline in their work.
8. Letter from Veritas Justice corroborating impact of the Homicide Timeline in their work.
9. Letter from Suzy Lamplugh Trust corroborating work done on a campaign to increase stalking sentences
10. Letter from Reducing the Risk corroborating impact through the Homicide Timeline in their work