

December 2021

## Call for Book Chapter Contributors

Abstract Deadline: 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022

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# Tackling Stalking and Coercive Control Amongst Young People

A Book in Partnership with the Alice Ruggles Trust

**Editors: Caroline Flowers, Maria Mellins & Rachael Wheatley**

In recent years, stalking has received significant attention from the criminal justice system, policy writers, support services, charities, researchers, and trainers. While all of them aim to educate others on the catastrophic impact of stalking, it is still a crime that is not identified, is under-reported and misunderstood. In the UK, approximately one in five women, and one in ten men, will be stalked in their lifetime (ONS, 2019). There is no recognised legal definition of stalking, but the College of Policing have released a mnemonic to outline stalking behaviour. If someone's behaviour is Fixated, Obsessive, Unwanted and Repeated (FOUR) and causes fear and distress, it should be identified as stalking.

Whilst stalking affects all age groups, young people are at an even higher-risk of being stalked. During their 'Unfollow Me' campaign, *Vice*, in collaboration with Paladin National Stalking Advocacy Service and the Alice Ruggles Trust, carried out a survey of 12,000 young people aged 13-24, which found that 35 percent of this group had personally been subjected to stalking, whilst 56 percent knew someone who had been a victim (*Vice*, 2019). Fissel, Reynolds and Fisher also found that 'Stalking victimization prevalence rates for college student samples appear to be much larger when compared to those from the nationally representative adult samples' (2020, p.21).

Concerningly, recognition and identification of behaviours associated with stalking, coercive control and domestic abuse is not widespread amongst those of school, college and university age groups. The well-known 'Hidden Marks' study that was conducted by the NUS (National Union of Students) in 2010 found that students are at a higher risk of being subjected to abuse, but that there was little awareness of this amongst 16- to 24-year-olds (NUS, 2010). Over a decade later, the recent Statement of Expectations released by the Office for Students continues to call for the implementation of more 'effective systems, policies and processes to prevent and respond to incidents of harassment and sexual misconduct' (OfS, 2021) Similarly, the Ofsted Review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges found that sexual harassment and online abuse are prevalent and commonplace experiences for children and young people (Ofsted, 2021).

Given the myths and misunderstandings of stalking and the higher risk of this amongst young people, there is an urgent need to address stalking and coercive control for the under 25s. This book seeks to close the gap between academic researchers, education staff, police, and professionals working in frontline stalking and abuse services, so that we can gain a fuller understanding and safeguard young people.

## Readership

We invite chapter contributions to this edited book on the topic of young people, stalking and coercive control in the UK and across the globe, with a particular emphasis on accessible writing for those studying this topic in university. We aim to position this book as essential and recommended reading for modules on degrees including criminology, sociology, law, psychology, education, social justice, policing, and forensic psychology to embed this work within young people's education.

Therefore, the intended readership of this book is primarily students (undergraduate level 6, Post Graduate and Post-Doctorate), as well as a combination of academic researchers, and professionals working within stalking / domestic abuse support and prevention.

## Abstracts

Please submit a 300 - 400 word abstract of your intended chapter to [maria.mellins@stmarys.ac.uk](mailto:maria.mellins@stmarys.ac.uk).

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Suggested topics for discussion include, but are not limited to:

- Stalking in schools
- Bullying versus stalking - considering the relationship
- Stalking on campus
- Night-time economy, young people and safety
- Identification and management of stalking, coercive control and domestic abuse by education staff, police, CJS and other services
- Types of stalking (e.g. ex-partner stalking, stalking by a family member, no previous relationship -- typologies)
- Diversity and Inclusion and stalking research - considering intersectionality, such as race, sexuality, gender, religion, disabilities, neurodiversity
- Support Services for young victim-survivors
- Early interventions and working with perpetrators
- Image-based abuse
- Stalking and technology -- cyber, Internet of things, digitally-enabled stalking
- Police and stalking
- Media representations of stalking and young people

Once we have read and selected abstracts, we will be in touch to provide further details of the chapter submission date and word count. At present, the intended wordcount for chapters is 8,000 words.

## References

VICE (2019). *Unfollow Me*. Available at [unfollowme.vice.com](http://unfollowme.vice.com). Accessed 23rd Nov 2021.

Fissel, E. R., Reyns, B.W. and Fisher, B.S. (2020) Stalking and Cyberstalking Victimization Research: Taking Stock of Key Conceptual, Definitional, Prevalence, and Theoretical Issues. In H. Chan and L. Sheridan (eds.), *Psycho-Criminological Approaches To Stalking Behavior*. London: John Wiley and Sons.

GOV.UK. *Review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges*. (2021) Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges>. Accessed 9<sup>th</sup> Sep. 2021.

Hidden Marks. A study of women students' experiences of harassment, stalking, violence and sexual assault. (2010) . Available at: <https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/hidden-marks-a-study-of-women-students-experiences-of-harassment-stalking-violence-and-sexual-assault> . Accessed 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.

*Statement of Expectations - Office for Students*. (2021) [www.officeforstudents.org.uk](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk). Available at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/student-wellbeing-and-protection/prevent-and-address-harassment-and-sexual-misconduct/statement-of-expectations> Accessed 9<sup>th</sup> Sep. 2021.

Office for National Statistics. (2019/20). Stalking: Findings from the crime survey for England and Wales. London. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/stalkingfindingsfromthecrimesurveyforenglandandwales>. Accessed 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

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