

Summer Honors Research Fellowship Proposal

Intimate Partner Violence During the Troubles:
Investigation of the correlation between the rates of IPV in Northern Ireland and
the period of conflict of The Troubles

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The Project Summarized:

My research project is borne of the desire to understand how different types of violence relate to one another, and more specifically in my study, how the constant phenomenon of domestic violence correlates to the violence of civil conflict at a state level. Domestic violence, now commonly referred to as Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among professionals and in academia, is not a widely researched phenomenon, especially in Northern Ireland, the state my study specifically engages with.

IPV is difficult to measure, vastly underreported, and has dangerously widespread ramifications. For the purposes of this study, I will narrow the scope of Intimate Personal Violence to heterosexual relationships perpetrating violence against women specifically, due to the time period and low levels of cultural openness towards LGBTQIA+ individuals and couples during The Northern Ireland Conflict, known colloquially as “The Troubles.”

My thesis aims to minimize the gap of research in understanding the relationship between the underlying violence of IPV and a state conflict, specifically the ethno-nationalist conflict in Northern Ireland from 1968 to 1998, with implications that can be extended into other nations in a state of ongoing conflict. As this is an intricate conglomeration of topics, I further focus in on the impact on rates of violence against women in combination with IPV in relation to the changes which take place in the police service and practices in Northern Ireland before, during, and after The Troubles.

I predict that the amount of IPV demonstrates no positive causal relationship with the conflict in Northern Ireland but will correlate with a greater rate of reported cases of IPV after the conflict ended as a result of available resources, confidence in police service, and the higher levels of safety in Northern Irish communities.

I first will provide a review of the definition of violence, the characteristics of IPV against women, and historical accounts of The Troubles. In order to investigate this relationship, I will employ a diachronic crucial case research design sourced by both pre-existing and primary (conducted by me) interviews and surveys with Northern Irish civilians, combatants, self-identified republicans and loyalists, police, and centers for Women’s resources personnel, as well as draw from government crime, police, and VAW reports; police department reports on crime, domestic violence incidents, organizational and policy reform, and reports on police mismanagement of IPV cases; and Non-profits and Women’s Shelters’ reports, testimonies, and organizational reform.

This summer will be spent polishing the literature review and methodology sections of my thesis, and then identifying and setting up interviews to be conducted at a later stage of the study while creating the specific interview design and details to be presented to the IRB. The very end of the summer and throughout the early weeks of the Fall semester of 2021 will be spent conducting the official and approved interviews.

What is already known of IPV in Northern Ireland:

In general, data recorded on IPV in Northern Ireland is anything but comprehensive. Particularly during a period of conflict, victims are highly reluctant to report their abuse, as IPV is not deemed as important as political violence. Moreover, in the post-conflict period, prisoners are being reintegrated and many combatants return home from extensive experiences of violence

to all of the sudden being contained in a “normal” life alongside their partner, which triggers an increase in IPV.¹ Still, many academics lament the absence of regular large-scale data during and after the Northern Ireland conflict, as it complicates attempts to identify patterns or fluctuations in rates of IPV,² especially when the limitations to reporting IPV keep much of the abuse invisible.³ Additionally, amidst The Troubles, the vast amount of civilians, security forces, politicians, business people, members of the judiciary, and paramilitary members carried (mostly legally) firearms for the sake of personal protection, which correlated to a marked increase of IPV.⁴ In 1995, the number of reported IPV incidents was at 5,903, but this has greatly increased over the years, with the highest year being 2016/2017 with 29,166 incidents of IPV recorded.⁵ The following graph in Figure 4 demonstrates the increase in reported IPV in post-conflict Northern Ireland. IPV is believed to account for one in four murders, manslaughters, and attempted murders in Northern Ireland, and is more frequently recorded than burglaries or drug offenses by the PSNI.⁶ Overall, data from conflict and post-conflict states on a grander level have demonstrated that IPV risk factors are magnified alongside the increases in poverty, gender inequality, and staunchly traditional gender roles for women.⁷

Table I. Reports of Incidents of Domestic Violence for Northern Ireland 2004-2017.

Year	No. of reported incidents
2016-2017	29,166
2015-2016	28,392
2014-2015	28,287
2013-2014	27,628
2012-2013	27,190
2011-2012	25,196
2010-2011	22,685
2009-2010	24,482
2008-2009	23,591
2007-2008	23,076
2006-2007	23,456
2005-2006	23,059
2004-2005	20,959

Source. Police Service of Northern Ireland (2017).

¹ Doyle and McWilliams, “Intimate Partner Violence in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies.”

² Doyle and McWilliams.

³ Swaine, “Beyond Strategic Rape and Between the Public and Private,” 774.

⁴ Doyle and McWilliams, “Intimate Partner Violence in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies.”

⁵ Police Service of Northern Ireland, “Trends in Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2004/05 to 2016/17.”

⁶ Doyle and McWilliams, “Intimate Partner Violence in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies.”

⁷ Doyle and McWilliams, “What Difference Does Peace Make?” 141.

Figure 4: Reported IPV in Northern Ireland.⁸

The existing research which examines intimate partner violence in Northern Ireland is largely surrounding the impacts of paramilitaries and the police. While it was hidden for the majority of the conflict, due to sexual violence during the conflict not being sectarian or systematic in nature, more isolated abuses and rapes by paramilitary groups against women have come to light, as well as the fact that many of these women also attempted to approach paramilitary powers for help with the victimization.⁹ This also stems from the idea that The Troubles was an intensely gendered conflict, posited by feminist theorists, with Irish nationalism and Ulster unionism being highlighted for utilizing symbolic hegemonic conceptualization of femininity and motherhood to encourage masculine self-sacrifice.¹⁰ Additionally, men's affiliation to armed groups with gained access to guns served as a source of power and domination over intimate partners. Swaine purports that paramilitary members were able to commit acts of IPV because of the small communities they were embedded within.¹¹ After the conflict officially ended, paramilitary group members continued as offenders of IPV through drawing from the power and influence of their affiliation manifested in threats and controlling mechanisms.¹² Nevertheless, two positive outcomes have emerged since the Good Friday Agreement with respect to paramilitary groups. First, some paramilitary groups have begun to act in a policing role, offering protection to IPV victims in their communities, usually violently threatening the perpetrators. There are more than 4,000 instances of this phenomenon recorded as casualties since the beginning of the conflict even through today.¹³ The second is that through the reconciliation process, the emphasis on demobilization and disarmament of paramilitaries has limited their power and subsequently increased confidence, trust, and access to the police.¹⁴

The relationship between IPV and the police of Northern Ireland has a complicated past. While there was actually a functioning judicial and policing system during The Troubles, the access to these services was quite limited. With any "ordinary crime," such as IPV, most individuals were unable to seek the help of the police, as they were already very occupied and stretched thin trying to handle both political violence and the pressures from British influences.¹⁵ Catholic and Nationalist citizens had a particularly restricted access to the police and for many of these women, calling for help from the police was unfeasible. After the conflict had officially come to an end, the Historical Enquires Team (HET) was established as a truth recovery process regarding contested aspects of the past, even those related to the police service. The HET is a separate unit of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and was designed to try and bolster public confidence in the police system.¹⁶ Nongovernmental organizations and other actors have since brought forth concerns over the PSNI essentially investigating their own abuses.¹⁷ With the cessation of political conflict, access to the police has indeed increased for the public,

⁸ Doyle and McWilliams, "What Difference Does Peace Make?" 144.

⁹ Swaine, "Beyond Strategic Rape and Between the Public and Private."

¹⁰ Edwards and McGrattan, *The Northern Ireland Conflict*.

¹¹ Swaine, "Beyond Strategic Rape and Between the Public and Private," 767.

¹² Doyle and McWilliams, "Transforming Responses to Domestic Violence in a Politically Contested Environment: The Case of Northern Ireland."

¹³ Doyle and McWilliams, "What Difference Does Peace Make?" 152.

¹⁴ Doyle and McWilliams, "What Difference Does Peace Make?"

¹⁵ Swaine, "Beyond Strategic Rape and Between the Public and Private," 771.

¹⁶ Lundy, "Paradoxes and Challenges of Transitional Justice at the 'Local' Level."

¹⁷ Lundy.

even the Nationalist community,¹⁸ and subsequently the instances of IPV reported to the police increased by over 400% since 1992 (the first year statistics are available) and 43% since 2004/2005.¹⁹ Finally, in 2016, IPV incidents recorded by police were at an all-time high, all the while knowing that only around one third of incidents were being reported, with the number equaling 29,166 reports.²⁰ The current literature on the PSNI, IPV, and the Northern Ireland conflict necessitate further research into their interactions and the causal dimensions between them in order to both better understand the historical role of the PSNI in addressing intimate partner violence and to develop a more effective policing service in light of gaps in the system illuminated through such further study.

Intimate Partner Violence more broadly:

I choose to name the focus of my research *Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)* and define such as:

Physical, sexual, verbal, or psychological violence threatened or committed against women by romantic partners of the opposite sex, ranging from boyfriends, to husbands, to former partners. This includes behaviors such as coercion, social and economic isolation, and deprivation of freedoms.

The how and why of choosing this particular identifier and definition can only be understood after considering the many opinions of defining IPV. For the purposes of this study, I am limiting the scope of IPV to heterosexual relationships wherein the woman is the subject of abuse and the man is the perpetrator of such abuse. Nevertheless, this limitation by no means claims that IPV only occurs in heterosexual relationships or that only women are victims. There are two broad sources of discord among definitions. The first divide over how to define IPV lies within the decision of whether or not to impose the limitation of including only acts that were carried out, and leaving out all those that were threatened, intended, or even those that were committed, but invisible. The second controversy revolves around the limitation of IPV to those who are married or living together, while leaving out people who are dating, live separately, or are a former couple.²¹ The dominating definition used by North American professionals is operational in nature and includes physical abuse or sexual assault, while neglecting the psychological, economic, spiritual, and verbal abuse for the purposes of clearly identifying IPV.²² Contrastingly, Allen provides a more inclusive definition, but approaches the definition more from the standpoint of studying violence against women. His definition encompasses any act of gender-based violence with the potential to or reality of causing physical, sexual, or psychological harm to women, even tacking on coercion and deprivation in both public and/or private life as well.²³ Berry has a similar definition but expands upon it to add the specification of acts that are threatened, attempted, or completed by spouses, current or former boyfriends, or

¹⁸ Daly, Dolan, and Brennan, "Northern Ireland Returning to Violence as a Result of a Hard Border Due to Brexit or a Rushed Border Poll: Risks for Youth."

¹⁹ Doyle and McWilliams, "Transforming Responses to Domestic Violence in a Politically Contested Environment: The Case of Northern Ireland," 14.

²⁰ Daly, Dolan, and Brennan, "Northern Ireland Returning to Violence as a Result of a Hard Border Due to Brexit or a Rushed Border Poll: Risks for Youth," 101.

²¹ Tjaden, *Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence*.

²² DeKeseredy, "Current Controversies on Defining Nonlethal Violence Against Women in Intimate Heterosexual Relationships."

²³ Allen, *Social Work and Intimate Partner Violence*, 3.

a dating partner.²⁴ These three definitions vary from narrow to wide scopes of violence and each have their strengths and weaknesses. The first definition, highlighting physical and sexual assault, is the narrowest definition and is endorsed by a line of reasoning dictating that the inclusion of too many behaviors under IPV causes a breakdown of social exchanges and confounds the “actual” rates of abuse.²⁵ Conversely, the narrow definition is claimed to create a better understanding of the psychology of IPV to criminal justice policies, thereby helping to reduce the likelihood of further offenses.²⁶ Dutton goes so far as to claim that wide definition allow for simply placing your hands on someone’s body to technically and legally be assault and states such imprecision confounds the less serious forms with more severe actions, especially in the criminal justice system.²⁷ Narrow definitions cannot be the sole basis for finding justice for victims, they not only neglect to acknowledge the experiences of many women who experience abuse, but they also trivialize these women’s subjective experiences, labeling the experiences as either worthy of the term violence or as not severe or visible enough to be so. Furthermore, narrow definitions also create greater constraints for such women to seek social support and therefore exacerbate the already prevalent issue of underreporting cases of IPV.²⁸

Identifying instances of IPV is no easy feat, there is a wide range of indicators in both victims and perpetrators that even then are not comprehensive to all experiences of IPV. One factor that makes identification rather difficult is that IPV is almost always violence that goes through situational buildups overtime,²⁹ so early detection has few clear signs to examine. For instance, warning signs in victims can be injuries, withdrawal, absences, excuses, personality changes, fear of conflict, low self-esteem, and more.³⁰ These different injuries are not easily separated from one another, in fact they often coexist. IPV that is highly physical is frequently paired with sexual and emotional abuse as well,³¹ and “women who were both beaten and sexually attacked by their partners were at a particular risk of the most severe psychological consequences.”³²

What we know about intimate partner violence today arose out of a grassroots effort of women that brought attention to the problem. And even before then, it was existing social movements pushing for justice which laid the foundations for making IPV known to the world. Of course, IPV can and has been traced historically all the way to the beginning when gender roles and male-dominated power structures emerged on a societal level and at the domestic level within marriages. Dobash and Dobash follow the roots of IPV to Roman times and through the Middle Ages, finding that such violence against women was used as an extension of domination and control of husbands over wives and that the institution of marriage led to a total deprivation of women’s rights because they were considered property, not people.³³ In the 1960s is one of the first times in which IPV was unknowingly studied, the focus was on “sodomasochistic

²⁴ Berry, *Domestic Violence Sourcebook*.

²⁵ DeKeseredy, “Current Controversies on Defining Nonlethal Violence Against Women in Intimate Heterosexual Relationships.”

²⁶ Dutton, *Rethinking Domestic Violence*.

²⁷ Dutton.

²⁸ DeKeseredy, “Current Controversies on Defining Nonlethal Violence Against Women in Intimate Heterosexual Relationships.”

²⁹ Collins, “Attacking the Weak.”

³⁰ Berry, *Domestic Violence Sourcebook*.

³¹ World Health Organization, “Intimate Partner Violence.”

³² Crowell, Burgess, and National Research Council (U.S), *Understanding Violence Against Women*.

³³ Dobash, *Violence Against Wives*.

marriages,” and perceived as caused by male immaturity and female acceptance or enjoyment of violence.³⁴ This changed however, as early as 1972, when safehouses and shelters began to emerge in the United States and in 1975 when the National Organization for Women (NOW) developed a task force to take on the issue.³⁵ Finally, in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act became the most important piece of legislation in the United States which aimed to provide funding to victims programs and the prosecution of offenders.³⁶ Despite that crucial milestone, IPV is intrinsic to the social systems of society even now, with women’s status a property perpetuated throughout the development of law around rape.³⁷

To put it simply, “battering happens when on person believes that they are entitled to control the other.”³⁸ Of course, causal factors of IPV are far more complex than just this one statement, they can involve the societal privatization of the family,³⁹ economic stress, power balances within relationship, unhealthy family interactions, poverty, social class, confidence in law enforcement, traditional gender norms, and marital instability.⁴⁰ Marital instability specifically derives from oppositional interests inherent to family structure.⁴¹

Why this research is important:

The obvious actor affected is the direct victim of IPV. As mentioned before, I choose to focus on heterosexual relationships where women are the victims of abuse for my research not because women in these types of relationships are the only ones who experience IPV, but because both the context of Northern Ireland and the dominating literature provides the reasoning to do so. There are many types of people in many types of relationships who can experience IPV; nevertheless, the data collected through self-reporting surveys does signify the IPV is a very gendered phenomenon. Worldwide research has demonstrated that 90-97% of cases of IPV are perpetrated by men against women.⁴² It is generally accepted that women experience IPV more than men do. While it should be noted that due to cultural norms, women are also more likely to report their victimization of IPV than men in either hetero- or homo-sexual relationships, yet it cannot be denied that IPV, and specifically against women, is pervasive in society, even if it goes unnoticed.⁴³ Furthermore, most instances of IPV are not even reported to the police by women, but still, each year in the US there are an estimated 1,200 deaths and 2,000,000 injuries among women from men.⁴⁴ Pregnant women especially are at risk for IPV, 70% of women who are abused before pregnancy are also abused while pregnant and pregnant woman who experience IPV are at a greater risk for drug and alcohol misuse, depression, and

³⁴ Kelly, *Surviving Sexual Violence*.

³⁵ Gelles, *Intimate Violence in Families*.

³⁶ Gelles.

³⁷ Crowell, Burgess, and National Research Council (U.S), *Understanding Violence Against Women*; Berry, *Domestic Violence Sourcebook*.

³⁸ Berry, *Domestic Violence Sourcebook*, 9.

³⁹ Brinkerhoff and Lupri, “Interspousal Violence.”

⁴⁰ Berry, *Domestic Violence Sourcebook*, 133.

⁴¹ Brinkerhoff and Lupri, “Interspousal Violence.”

⁴² Allen, *Social Work and Intimate Partner Violence*.

⁴³ Tjaden, *Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence*.

⁴⁴ Berry, *Domestic Violence Sourcebook*.

suicide.⁴⁵ Moreover, homicide is the number one cause of death for pregnant women,⁴⁶ as violence often intensifies after the offender learns of the pregnancy.⁴⁷

Victims of IPV can be challenging to determine, as they have commonly learned how to conceal their injuries yet are still more likely to report poor physical or mental health while seeing their doctor,⁴⁸ can have chronic health conditions, may fail to complete their educations,⁴⁹ or may develop a deep distrust towards men and towards people in general.⁵⁰ Many women also experience flashbacks for extensive amounts of time beyond their abuse⁵¹ or they bury their memories with such aggressive suppression that it further harms their mental health. Research indicates that the effects of IPV can be quite long lasting, especially if the violence is consistent and severe,⁵² with some of these effects including permanent physical damage, chronic eating disorders, disabilities, self-neglect, mental health issues, loss of confidence, and greater risk of suicides.⁵³ Despite many of these negative impacts being the direct result of IPV, some also are rooted in women's coping mechanisms to the violence. The most common responses initially when women experience violence in their relationships are shock, desire to forget, and even physically resisting in the beginning.⁵⁴ Coping strategies during and after IPV usually stem from a desire to control how much they are impacted by the violence and a desire to protect themselves from further abuse.

Women who choose to escape situations of IPV take as great of risks as women who do not leave. Attempting to leave is a precarious balance between the hope for a better life and the fear of failure and finding their situation to have worsened because of the attempt. When escape does happen, is a long process of planning and a long process of readjusting to life beyond IPV.⁵⁵ Women who were only able to get out of abusive relationships by killing the offending man speak of the great threats to life they endured in combination with the absence of faith that they could escape or protect themselves successfully from the perpetrator.⁵⁶

Though intimate partner violence can still appear to be a largely private form of violence, the reality is that its effects are far-reaching. Children who grow up witnessing IPV or experiencing the broader version of domestic violence (there is a frequent overlap of around 40-60%) are at a greater risk for behavioral, emotional, physical, cognitive, and developmental challenges,⁵⁷ may cause traumatic stress and anxiety disorders within the children⁵⁸ and may even socialize the children into accepting the use of violence as a means to solve conflict and feel that their victimization is inevitable.⁵⁹ Other family members as well are frequently threatened or forced to experience violence at the hands of an offender, and women who are

⁴⁵ Berry.

⁴⁶ Berry, 58.

⁴⁷ Berry, 57.

⁴⁸ Coker et al., "Physical Health Consequences of Physical and Psychological Intimate Partner Violence."

⁴⁹ Riger, Raja, and Camacho, "The Radiating Impact of Intimate Partner Violence."

⁵⁰ Kelly, *Surviving Sexual Violence*.

⁵¹ Kelly.

⁵² World Health Organization, "Intimate Partner Violence."

⁵³ Anne Lazenbatt, Devaney, and Gildea, "Older Women Living and Coping with Domestic Violence."

⁵⁴ Kelly, *Surviving Sexual Violence*.

⁵⁵ Kelly.

⁵⁶ Kelly.

⁵⁷ Finkelhor and Mitchell, "Risk of Crime Victimization Among Youth Exposed to Domestic Violence."

⁵⁸ Riger, Raja, and Camacho, "The Radiating Impact of Intimate Partner Violence."

⁵⁹ Finkelhor and Mitchell, "Risk of Crime Victimization Among Youth Exposed to Domestic Violence," 945.

victims have reported a visceral fear for their families' safety, not just their own. An IPV perpetrator may even destroy family property while threatening to use violence against them. This inevitable formulates a phenomenon where women seeking shelter from their family endanger their family members and therefore choose to isolate and distance themselves from loved ones as a result.⁶⁰ Not only does IPV logically extend to the children and families of victims and their perpetrators but has negative ripples on a societal level as well. Several studies have been conducted estimating the monetary cost of IPV in the United States and on a grander scale. The data on the US demonstrates that in 1995 the cost of IPV, due to medical and mental healthcare and loss of productivity, amounted to more than \$5.8 million.⁶¹

Intimate partner violence is not contained within one demographic, one country, or one region of the world. It is pervasive in every sense of the word. Women suffering from IPV can be old or young, can be Irish or Tanzanian, can be wealthy or impoverished, can be anyone. Berry even asserts that we can be "almost certain that there are both victims and abusers in every faith community."⁶² Despite having this knowledge that no society escapes from IPV, there have been few studies done which seek to ascertain just how many women are suffering. The WHO for example estimates between 10-69% of women worldwide are victims of IPV, that is a 59% margin with the implications for policies being vastly different if the numbers prove to be 10% versus 69%.⁶³ There is some data of various nations' levels of intimate partner violence, but by far the majority are conducted in the United States, followed by Western Europe. The United Kingdom posits that one in four women will be a victim of IPV in their lifetime,⁶⁴ the EU estimates one in five women will experience abuse by a male partner, and the only two national studies in Ireland found that 18% of respondents had experienced a form of intimate partner violence.⁶⁵ Even with the existence of these findings, there is a need for further European and interventional programming,⁶⁶ this need arises out of the misconception that with the many rights and resources that developed liberal democratic societies offer women, that those experience IPV at this point are actively choosing to stay in that relationship.⁶⁷

Yes, IPV is everywhere, but there are still some factors that can increase the likelihood of a woman experiencing abuse at the hands of her partner. One of the most identified factors is economic conditions. IPV has been demonstrated to occur more often and more severely in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods by a factor of two in comparison to women in more advantaged neighborhoods, and those who actively struggle with money in their relationships have shown to be at greatest risk.⁶⁸ Furthermore, in the United States, as high as 30% of women on welfare report to be experiencing IPV currently.⁶⁹ Another dimension of IPV is that it is relatively unknown what the average amount of years that the abuse persists in a given relationship, but one study found that most women who are victims of IPV experienced abuse from two to eight years, with the severity of that abuse increasing with time.⁷⁰

⁶⁰ Riger, Raja, and Camacho, "The Radiating Impact of Intimate Partner Violence."

⁶¹ Berry, *Domestic Violence Sourcebook*, 136.

⁶² Berry, 447.

⁶³ Allen, *Social Work and Intimate Partner Violence*.

⁶⁴ Allen.

⁶⁵ Allen.

⁶⁶ Allen.

⁶⁷ Stark, *Coercive Control*, 113.

⁶⁸ Berry, *Domestic Violence Sourcebook*, 73.

⁶⁹ Berry, 68.

⁷⁰ Kelly, *Surviving Sexual Violence*.

On another note, an intriguing area of study related to IPV and to my specific research, is one that focuses on how IPV is impacted by natural disasters or state conflict, though the number of studies is still rather small. A confounding element to this body of work is that studies of IPV from before disasters and conflict are frequently under-reported and do not present an accurate baseline for researchers to reference. Nonetheless, there have been some findings to support that IPV increases after disasters. Specifically, a study of the eruption of the Mount Saint Helens Volcano displayed that number of IPV cases reported to the police increased by 46% following the disaster.⁷¹ Additionally, the same study found that IPV affected women's post-disaster mental health by increasing the development of PTSD and major depression relative to women who did not experience intimate abuse.⁷² Lastly, the relationship between conflict and IPV suggests that conflict "can serve as an outlet for negative attitudes and feelings, making further IPV possible and... more intense," with a special emphasis on cumulative conflict escalating instances of physical IPV.⁷³

The context of IPV generally and what is known of IPV during The Troubles since the Good Friday Agreement reveals that IPV in relationship to the Northern Ireland conflict is an under-researched phenomenon. As it appears there is a general lack of data concerning IPV during the conflict itself as a result of access to the police service, my hypothesis concerning an increase in reporting after The Troubles stems from the knowledge that confidence, access to, and the capabilities of the PSNI have increased as political violence has greatly decreased. It follows that, potentially, focusing on the police system specifically will illuminate aspects of IPV in Northern Ireland that are still underdeveloped or undiscovered. Existing literature regarding this relationship largely focuses on the reports of IPV in Northern Ireland according to national mental health surveys and interviews sourced from refuge shelters; furthermore, the literature on the PSNI focuses on the changes in the service themselves, as well as the various changes in reports and arrests related to IPV, but no study has yet to analyze the prevalence of IPV through the lens of how PSNI alterations coincide with fluctuations in IPV, with qualitative interviews of PSNI officers themselves to corroborate the data. Therefore, I expect that amount of IPV, in heterosexual relationships with women as the victims, has neither increased nor decreased currently as opposed to the rates of IPV during the Troubles, but that the resources available and lack of threat of outside violence allows for more women to seek help and/or report their situation as a result of changes and improvements to the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

For this paper I plan on utilizing and compiling existing research and collected data on relevant subjects, especially in the three specific sectors of the concept of violence, the history and context of the Troubles, and the characteristics and significance of Intimate Partner Violence. My methods will include a systematic literature review, the compilation of police reports of IPV before, during, and after the period of conflict, the contacting of shelters and non-profits to record their data on IPV victims seeking help from these organizations before, during, and after the conflict, and the utilization of the Liberal Arts research database to identify existing data and survey results from this topic and reevaluating such data. Perhaps most importantly, I plan to interview officers of the PSNI to use in tandem with interviews of victims and social

⁷¹ Berry, *Domestic Violence Sourcebook*.

⁷² Berry, 64.

⁷³ Brinkerhoff and Lupri, "Interspousal Violence," 425.

service workers to provide a more holistic understanding of the issue of IPV in Northern Ireland with reference to the grander scale public violence existing simultaneously.

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Timeline and Budget:

<p><i>May-June:</i> Finalize Literature Review (Chapter 1 of Thesis) comprised of literature on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - violence theory - intimate partner violence - The Northern Ireland conflict - IPV prevalence in Northern Ireland - Northern Irish police reform 	<p>\$203.49 to purchase access to literature not included with LMU access</p> <p>1-\$32.95 2- \$25.00 3- \$27.50 4- \$20.66 5- \$28.44 6- \$23.46 7- \$5.99 8-\$39.49</p> <p>\$1,800 labor costs- time which could be spent working. This number is based on the LMU standard research assistant wage \$15.00/hr (which is</p>
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	lower than the minimum wage I could receive) on a part-time 15-hour week for the 8 weeks of May and June
<p><i>July-August:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalize methodology section - gather materials for study - communicate with local Northern Irish resources - collect pre-existing data and organize into cohesive data set - identify and conduct preliminary interviews - craft specifics for interview proposal and approval by the IRB 	<p>\$764.75 to conduct phone-call interviews. International rate between US and Northern Ireland through my carrier of AT&T is \$0.99 per minute plus \$0.89 flat rate per call. This is allotted for 25, 30-minute interviews.</p> <p>\$1,800 labor costs- time which could be spent working. This number is based on the LMU standard research assistant wage \$15/hr (which is lower than the minimum wage I could receive) on a part-time 15-hour week for the 8 weeks of July and August</p>
<p><i>This research is my Senior Honors Thesis and will be completed and disseminated before my graduation in December 2021</i></p>	<p>Total Expenses: \$4,568.24</p>