Media reporting of violence against women in Australia

Dr Georgina Sutherland

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Rm 410 Level 4, 207 Bouverie Street, Carlton

There is growing international interest in the portrayal of violence against women in the news and information media, and the impact that reporting may have on community understanding, attitudes and behaviours. Our study aimed to establish a baseline picture of the extent and nature of reporting of violence against women by the Australian media. Media items were collected from newspapers, radio, television and online news outlets in three states in Australia (New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland) between February and June 2015. Content analysis was used to describe how media messages about violence against women are framed in the news and discourse analysis was used to explore the way media articulates and transmits powerful narratives and ideas that perpetuate or challenge public opinion about violence against women. We will discuss the study findings and implications in this presentation.

Georgina Sutherland is a Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for Mental Health. She joined the Centre in 2013 after working in the Law and Public Health research group on a joint project between The University of Melbourne and the Coroners Court of Victoria.

Her current research includes further collaboration with the Coroners Court developing and evaluating a state-wide suicide register, social and health outcomes for women post-prison release and media representations of violence against women.