

## **The Image of Victim and Criminal in Love Crimes on Social Media in Egypt: Facebook Discourse Analysis**

**Authors :** Sherehan Hamdalla

**Abstract :** Egypt has experienced a series of terrifying love crimes in the last few months. This 'trend' of love crimes started with a young man caught on video slaughtering his ex-girlfriend in the street in the city of El Mansoura. The crime shocked all Egyptian citizens at all levels; unfortunately, not less than three similar crimes took place in other different Egyptian cities with the same killing trigger. The characteristics and easy access and reach of social media consider the reason why it is one of the most crucial online communication channels; users utilize social media platforms for sharing and exchanging ideas, news, and many other activities; they can freely share posts that reflect their mindset or personal views regarding any issues, these posts are going viral in all social media account by reposting or numbers of shares for these posts to support the content included, or even to attack. The repetition of sharing certain posts could mobilize other supporters with the same point of view, especially when that crowd's online participation is confronting a public opinion case's consequences. The death of that young woman was followed by similar crimes in other cities, such as El Sharkia and Port Said. These love crimes provoked a massive wave of contention among all social classes in Egypt. Strangely, some were supporting the criminal and defending his side for several reasons, which the study will uncover. Facebook, the most popular social media platform for Egyptians, reflects the debate between supporters of the victim and supporters of the criminal. Facebook pages were created specifically to disseminate certain viewpoints online, for example, asking for the maximum penalty to be given to criminals. These pages aimed to mobilize the maximum number of supporters and to affect the outcome of the trials.

**Keywords :** love crimes, victim, criminal, social media

**Conference Title :** ICMMPCC 2023 : International Conference on Mass Media and Political Communication

**Conference Location :** London, United Kingdom

**Conference Dates :** May 15-16, 2023