

## Offenders and Victims in Public Focus: Media Coverage about Crime and Its Consequences

**Authors :** Melanie Verhovnik

**Abstract :** Media shape the image of crime, peoples' believes, attitudes and sometimes also behaviors. Media not only gives the impression that crime is increasing, it also suggest that very violent crime is more common than it actually is. It is also no wonder that humans are more afraid of being involved in a crime committed by strangers than committed by somebody they know - because this is the media construct. With the help of three case studies, the paper analyzes how media frames crime and criminals and gives valuable hints as to what better reporting could look like.

**Keywords :** court reporting, offenders in media, quantitative content analysis, victims in media

**Conference Title :** ICSCACIR 2015 : International Conference on Socio-Cultural, Anthropology, Criminology and International Relations

**Conference Location :** Venice, Italy

**Conference Dates :** November 09-10, 2015