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Intersectionality and invisible victims: reflections on data challenges and vicarious trauma in femicide, family and intimate partner homicide research

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Figure 1 Researcher descriptions detailing professional roles and experience

Dr Jenna	Visiting Fellow, Australian National University; Columnist, Sydney
Price	Morning Herald and Canberra Times; Administrator, Counting Dead
	Women Australia

I was a university student in 1979 when I wrote my first story about family violence, the campaign to free Violet and Bruce Roberts, in the campus student publication. Violet and Bruce were convicted of the murder of Eric, husband and father, who had abused the family for years. The story of the unrelenting violence wasn't told in the trial. This seemed utterly unjust to me. The case of Violet and Bruce eventually made it possible for victims to reveal the effects of domestic violence but there was more work to do. For decades after, I wrote as many stories as editors would publish about domestic and family violence for mainstream news sites in Australia. In 2014, with other Australian feminist activists, the Counting Dead Women Australia project began, to record every single act of fatal violence against women (Cullen et al., 2019). At that time, I began a late onset PhD, where I explored feminist digital activism in Australia and its account of fatal violence against women using Counting Dead Women as a case study (Price, 2019). It's a tortured trip from student activist to academic activist and practitioner of advocacy journalism.

Mr James
Rowlands
Doctoral Researcher, University of Sussex; Chair, Domestic Homicide
Review

My practice and research interest is DHRs, the model of fatality review in England and Wales. As a practitioner, I have worked in the domestic violence sector for over 15 years and since 2016 have led DHRs. I am also completing a PhD, in which I am investigating the discursive practices of DHRs, in particular how victims are discursively constituted and what this makes possible in terms of knowledge production. The purposes of DHRs are learning, acting on and applying lessons learnt from domestic homicide; preventing domestic violence by improving service responses by intervening earlier; better understanding domestic violence and abuse; and highlighting good practice. DHRs are conducted into deaths linked to a former or current intimate partner, family member(s) or a member of the same household and are commissioned by the local area in which they occurred. They are led by an independent chair who works with a multi-agency panel. As a form of fatality review, DHRs have several particular features, including being a standalone review of each homicide that meets the criteria; an early commencement point, often running alongside the criminal justice process albeit with some safeguards; the central involvement of family; and commonly the publication of an (anonymised) report.

Professor	Professor of Sociology, University of Guelph; Director, Centre for the Study
Myrna	of Social and Legal Responses to Violence; Director, Canadian Femicide
Dawson	Observatory for Justice and Accountability; Co-Director, Canadian
	Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative

For the past 25 years, I have conducted research on violence with an emphasis on violence against women and children and specifically femicide. I have conducted comprehensive primary data collection using a variety of official sources (e.g. coroner/medical examiner data, police and Crown Attorney files) and publicly accessible sources (e.g. court documents, media stories). The main outcomes are two large-scale homicide databases. The first database began as a provincial-level study, documenting women killed in Ontario which was then expanded to all homicide victims in that one province. It is now being rolled out nationally in the *Canadian Geography of Justice Initiative*, documenting all homicides in Canada, and supporting the work of the *Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice & Accountability* (see www.femicideincanada.ca). The second database focuses on domestic violence-related homicides in Canada, representing one component of the

Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations, a national research initiative that aims to enhance risk assessment, risk management and safety planning for those experiencing domestic violence, specifically among four populations: Indigenous, immigrant/refugee, rural/remote/northern, and children killed in the context of domestic violence (see www.cdhpi.ca). Beyond these primary data collection activities, I have conducted secondary data analyses using the Statistics Canada Homicide Survey and the Uniform Crime Reports. I am also a long-time member of Ontario's Domestic Violence Death Review Committee and have used these data as well.

Dr Patricia	Research Fellow, University of New South Wales; Honorary Fellow, The
Cullen	George Institute for Global Health & Ngarruwan Ngadju, University of
	Wollongong

My perspective is informed by my own family and community experiences and as a public health researcher of intimate partner and family violence. I am leading a review of family and intimate partner homicide from the National Coronial Information System to understand the trajectories of violent deaths and opportunities for health system intervention. This expands my previous review of femicide that stemmed from collaborating with researchers from *Counting Dead Women Australia*, which was my first experience of homicide research in 2016. Through my research, I intend to bring a better understanding to the social and structural determinants of violence, as well as strengthening responses to address equity and prevent re-traumatisation.