

Victimization, Fear of Crime, and Perception of Risk in the Workplace:
Testing Rival Theories with a Sample of Greek and Greek-Cypriot Journalists

A DISSERTATION

Submitted to the Graduate School of the University of Cincinnati
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

In the School of Criminal Justice
of the College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services

by

Spyridon Kodellas

M.A., National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, 2005
B.A.(Hons), National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, 2003

Committee: Bonnie Sue Fisher, Ph.D., Chair
Francis T. Cullen, Ph.D.
Pamela Wilcox, Ph.D.
Giannis Panousis, Ph.D.

Cincinnati, Ohio

2012

Abstract

The study at hand assessed the relative importance of situational and dispositional factors in predicting victimization, perceived risk, and fear of crime at work as a first step to developing practices and procedures that minimize employees' experiences of workplace victimization. The theoretical approach to the matter in question took into consideration the situational tenets of lifestyle/routine activity theory and the individual tenets of negative affectivity and low self-control theories. The domain-specific empirical assessment was based on data from a survey administered to a representative sample of professional journalists working in two southern European countries: Greece and Cyprus. The multivariate statistical techniques of correspondence analysis, multiple regression, and logistic regression were employed for the analysis of the data.

The results indicated a relatively high prevalence of physical victimization among professional journalists, an exceptionally high prevalence of psychological victimization and an average prevalence of property victimization. Male journalists were found to be significantly more likely to be victims of both physical violence and property victimization. Older journalists were found to suffer significantly more property offenses and younger journalists significantly more psychological abuse. Compared to married journalists, single ones were found to be victimized significantly more by psychological abuse. Furthermore, it was found that journalists have low-to-moderate levels of perceived risk and relatively low levels of fear of crime. The perception of risk among journalists was invariant across sociodemographic characteristics. However, female journalists and younger respondents expressed higher levels of fear of being

verbally threatened. Male journalists and those less educated expressed higher levels of fear of being physically attacked. Moreover, the gender-age categories who suffered more from physical victimization were also the ones who had higher levels of fear of physical victimization.

The results also clarified the role of victimization experiences on the perception of risk and fear of crime. Although previous research found that victimization has positive effects on both the perception of risk and fear of crime, the results of this study showed that those associations are to a large extent spurious, accounted for by the situational characteristics of the occupation and the dispositional characteristics of employees. Finally, the results extended previous research by showing that the likelihood of victimization, perceived risk, and fear of crime at work were determined not only by the situational characteristics of the task performed but also by the dispositional characteristics of the person in the occupational role. Negative affectivity and the situational tenets of lifestyle/routine activity theory were consistently related to the likelihood of victimization, perceived risk, and fear of crime at work. Low self-control was significantly related only to the perception of risk of criminal victimization.

The findings of this study indicate a number of attributes of the journalistic occupation that could be modified to reduce the risk of criminal victimization, perceived risk, and fear of crime. They also suggest that journalists can reduce their chances of being victimized by taking into consideration the way in which their behaviors and attitudes enhance their vulnerability to victimization.

Author: Spyridon Kodellas

Advisor: Bonnie Sue Fisher, Ph.D.

Date: August 23, 2012

Department: School of Criminal Justice

Degree: Doctor of Philosophy

Table of Contents

List of Tables	xiii
List of Figures	xvi
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Statement of the Problem	2
1.1.1 The Extent of Victimization in the Workplace	2
1.1.2 The Extent of Fear of Crime and Perceived Risk in the Workplace	9
1.1.3 The Impact of Workplace Victimization and Fear of Crime	11
1.2 Research Questions	16
1.3 Significance of the Study	19
1.4 Structure of the Study	21
2 Definitional Issues	23
2.1 Conceptualizing Workplace Victimization	24
2.1.1 The Workplace	26
2.1.2 Victimization: Physical Violence and Psychological Abuse	27
2.1.3 Typologies of Workplace Violence	28
2.2 Conceptualizing Fear of Crime and Perceived Risk	32
2.2.1 Fear of Crime	35
2.2.2 Perceived Risk of Victimization	39
2.3 Conceptualizing the Journalistic Profession	41
2.4 Definitions in the Current Study	46
3 Review of Previous Research	47
3.1 Measurement Issues and Data Limitations	48
3.2 Workplace Victimization	51
3.2.1 Risk Factors and Vulnerable Occupations	52

3.2.1.1	For External/Intrusive Violence	52
3.2.1.2	For Customer/Client Violence	54
3.2.1.3	For Worker-on-worker Violence	56
3.2.1.4	For Personal Relationship Violence	57
3.2.1.5	For Organizational Violence	58
3.2.1.6	For Terrorism Violence	60
3.2.1.7	Summary of Risk Factor and Vulnerable Occupations	61
3.2.2	Demographic Characteristics and Workplace Victimization . .	62
3.2.3	Personality Characteristics and Workplace Victimization . . .	70
3.3	Fear of Crime and Perception of Risk in the Workplace	72
3.4	Putting It All Together: Journalists' Vulnerability to Victimization, Fear of Crime, and Perceived Risk in the Workplace	75
4	Theoretical Framework	79
4.1	Lifestyle/Routine Activity Theory	80
4.1.1	Workplace Victimization and Lifestyle/Routine Activities . .	84
4.2	Negative Affectivity	88
4.2.1	Workplace Victimization and Negative Affectivity	90
4.3	Self-Control Theory	92
4.3.1	Workplace Victimization and Low Self-Control	94
4.4	The Focus of the Current Study	97
4.4.1	Predicting Workplace Victimization	97
4.4.2	Predicting Perceived Risk and Fear of Crime in the Workplace	100
4.5	A Note on Victim Precipitation	101
5	Research Methodology	104
5.1	Research Design and Method	105
5.2	Population	106
5.3	Participants	108
5.3.1	Sampling Method	109
5.3.1.1	Sample Size Considerations	111
5.3.2	Data Collection Process	113
5.3.3	Response Rate	115
5.3.3.1	Nonresponse Bias Tests	117
5.3.4	Missing Data Treatment	119

5.3.5	Sample Characteristics	124
5.4	Measurement	125
5.4.1	Dependent Variables	125
5.4.1.1	Physical Violence	125
5.4.1.2	Property Victimization	126
5.4.1.3	Psychological Abuse	126
5.4.1.4	Perceived Risk	127
5.4.1.5	Fear of Crime	127
5.4.2	Explanatory Variables	128
5.4.2.1	Lifestyle/Routine Activity	128
5.4.2.2	Low Self-Control	130
5.4.2.3	Negative Affectivity	131
5.4.2.4	Precarious Employment	132
5.4.2.5	Tenure with Employer	133
5.4.2.6	Newsgathering	133
5.4.3	Control Variables	136
5.5	Reliability and Validity	137
5.5.1	Mode of Interviewing	138
5.5.2	Interviewer Performance	138
5.5.3	Wording, Format, and Placement of Questions	139
5.5.4	Temporal Displacement	140
5.5.5	Common Method Variance	140
5.6	Statistical Applications	141
5.6.1	Correspondence Analysis	142
5.6.2	Multiple Regression	143
5.6.3	Logistic Regression	144
6	Research Findings	146
6.1	The Extent of Victimization, Perceived Risk, and Fear of Crime . . .	147
6.1.1	The Extent of Victimization Among Journalists	147
6.1.2	The Extent of Perceived Risk Among Journalists	149
6.1.3	The Extent of Fear of Crime Among Journalists	152
6.1.4	Summary	154
6.2	Visualizing the Relationship Among Selected Variables	156

6.2.1	Correspondence Analysis of Victimization Type with ‘Gender-Age’	156
6.2.2	Correspondence Analysis of Fear of Physical Victimization with ‘Gender-Age’	160
6.2.3	Summary	163
6.3	Bivariate Relationships	163
6.3.1	Correlates of Victimization	164
6.3.1.1	Physical Victimization	165
6.3.1.2	Property Victimization	167
6.3.1.3	Psychological Abuse	167
6.3.1.4	Summary	168
6.3.2	Correlates of Perceived Risk and Fear of Crime	169
6.3.2.1	Perceived Risk	169
6.3.2.2	Fear of Crime	170
6.3.2.3	Summary	172
6.4	Multivariate Relationships	172
6.4.1	Predicting Victimization Among Journalists	173
6.4.1.1	Physical Violence	174
6.4.1.2	Property Victimization	181
6.4.1.3	Psychological Abuse	187
6.4.1.4	Summary	193
6.4.2	Predicting Perceived Risk and Fear of Crime Among Journalists	195
6.4.2.1	Perceived Risk	195
6.4.2.2	Fear of Crime	200
6.4.2.3	Summary	206
7	Discussion of Results	209
7.1	The Prevalence of Workplace Victimization	210
7.2	The Prevalence of Perceived Risk and Fear of Crime	212
7.3	Gender, Age, Victimization and Fear of Crime in the Workplace . . .	216
7.4	Predictors of Workplace Victimization	219
7.4.1	Sociodemographic Characteristics	220
7.4.2	Employment Characteristics	221
7.4.3	Precarious Employment Characteristics	222
7.4.4	Situational Characteristics	223

7.4.5	Dispositional Characteristics	225
7.4.6	Summary	227
7.5	Predictors of Perceived Risk and Fear of Crime	228
7.5.1	Sociodemographic Characteristics	228
7.5.2	Employment Characteristics	229
7.5.3	Precarious Employment Characteristics	229
7.5.4	Victimization Experiences	230
7.5.5	Situational Characteristics	231
7.5.6	Dispositional Characteristics	232
7.5.7	Summary	233
7.6	Implications of Findings for Criminological Theory and Research . . .	233
7.6.1	Effectiveness of Domain-Specific Models	234
7.6.2	Lifestyle/Routine Activity, Negative Affectivity, Low Self-Control	235
7.6.3	Role of Dispositional Characteristics in Victimological Research	237
7.7	Implications of Findings for Journalistic Practice	238
7.8	Study Limitations and Recommendations for Future Research	240
7.9	Concluding Remarks	243
References		244
Appendix A Sources of Workplace Violence Data		291
Appendix B Studies on Fear of Crime and Perceived Risk		297
Appendix C Workplace Victimization and L/RAT Studies		305
Appendix D Study Survey Items		314
Appendix E Intercorrelations Among Study Variables		324
Appendix F Correspondence Analysis Results		327
Biographical Sketch		332

Biographical Sketch

Spyridon Kodellas was born and raised in Arcadia, Greece. He holds a bachelor's degree with honors in Communication and Media Studies and a master's degree in Political Communication and New Technologies from the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Spyridon began his career as a journalist working for online and traditional newspapers and magazines for almost a decade. He is a regular member of the Periodical and Electronic Press Union of Greece. He completed his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Criminal Justice as a Fulbright Scholar and Gabbard Research Associate at the University of Cincinnati, under the supervision of Professor Bonnie Sue Fisher. Interested readers can find more information about the author at his personal website: <http://www.kodellas.gr/>