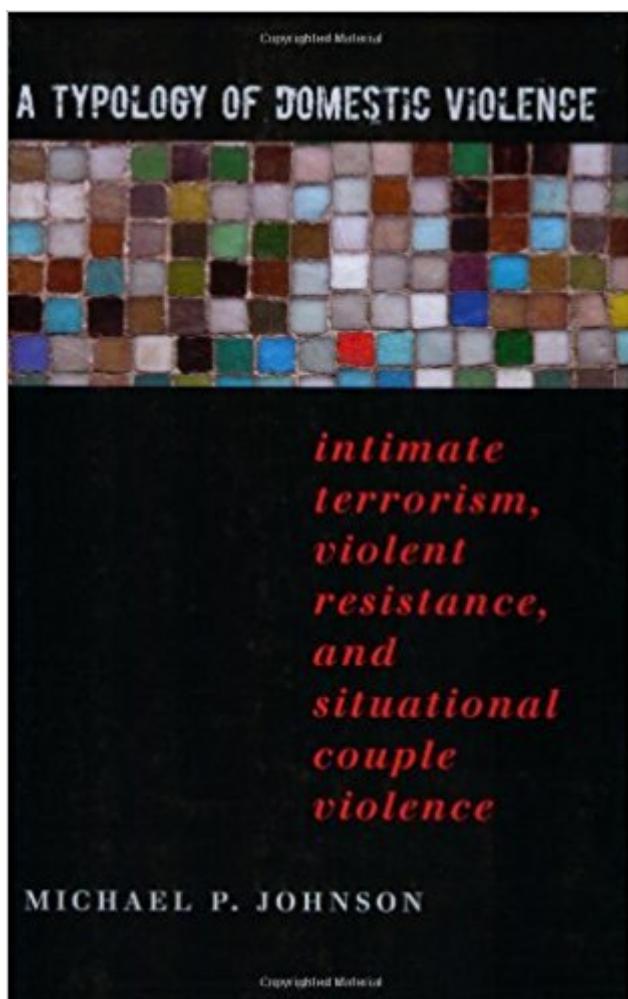


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# A Typology Of Domestic Violence: Intimate Terrorism, Violent Resistance, And Situational Couple Violence (Northeastern Series On Gender, Crime, And Law)





## Synopsis

Domestic violence, a serious and far-reaching social problem, has generated two key debates among researchers. The first debate is about gender and domestic violence. Some scholars argue that domestic violence is primarily male-perpetrated, others that women are as violent as men in intimate relationships. Johnson's response to this debate—and the central theme of this book—is that there is more than one type of intimate partner violence. Some studies address the type of violence that is perpetrated primarily by men, while others are getting at the kind of violence that women are involved in as well. Because there has been no theoretical framework delineating types of domestic violence, researchers have easily misread one another's studies. The second major debate involves how many women are abused each year by their partners. Estimates range from two to six million. Johnson's response once again comes from this book's central theme. If there is more than one type of intimate partner violence, then the numbers depend on what type you're talking about. Johnson argues that domestic violence is not a unitary phenomenon. Instead, he delineates three major, dramatically different, forms of partner violence: intimate terrorism, violent resistance, and situational couple violence. He roots the conceptual distinctions among the forms of violence in an analysis of the role of power and control in relationship violence and shows that the failure to make these basic distinctions among types of partner violence has produced a research literature that is plagued by both overgeneralizations and ostensibly contradictory findings. This volume begins the work of theorizing forms of domestic violence, a crucial first step to a better understanding of these phenomena among scholars, social scientists, policy makers, and service providers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This excellent book brings so much to the discourse on intimate partner violence and paves the way for more nuanced, theoretically-driven research, practice, and advocacy. The book is a must read for researchers in the field, and it also can serve as an essential guide for beginning scholars and graduate students on how to be critical consumers of domestic violence research. Overall, the book makes a significant contribution to the violence field." *Journal of Marriage and Family* "This book makes several valuable contributions to the literature on domestic violence. . . . Johnson's book is well written and engaging. It is highly recommended reading for undergraduates, graduate students, academics, and policy makers interested in creating prevention and intervention services for domestic violence." *Gender and Society* "Michael Johnson presents a thought-provoking argument for why existing research on intimate partner violence conflates several different phenomena, thus failing to adequately understand the issue. By separating types of intimate partner violence into the three categories, intimate terrorism, violent resistance, and situational couple violence, Johnson argues that existing tensions in the research can be reconciled." *Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law, and Justice* "Johnson's compelling distinction between intimate terrorism, violent resistance, and situational couple violence has been the most influential of the typologies proposed in the past two decades. In this volume, Johnson lays the case for his thesis that the past forty years of domestic violence research have generated misleading and contradictory findings because researchers have failed to recognize distinctions between these types. The clarity and brevity of his argument and the liveliness of his style make this book an excellent choice for students and researchers who want to understand domestic violence typologies." *Contemporary Sociology* "[Johnson's] writing style is clear, and those with baccalaureate degrees can understand the work. Adequately referenced and indexed. For libraries supporting programs with an interest in feminism. . . . Recommended." *Choice* "Johnson and Stark establish the empirical basis for the feminist position that physical violence in the context of an abusive relationship is harmful because, in addition to injuring women's bodies, it is persistent, threatening, and ultimately coercive, and therefore erodes women's personhood. They both incorporate insights from feminist research into defining and understanding

partner perpetrated violent acts and injurious outcomes in a gendered world. Johnson and Stark both offer feminist sociologists important tools for the “conscious reformulation of the nature of sexual violence” for which Bumiller calls. Their books should be widely read and debated and are appropriate for advanced undergraduate and graduate courses, especially in criminology, social research methods, and of course violence and gender.

•Gender & Society

“Michael Johnson has written an astonishing volume on domestic violence. The theory is remarkably compelling, the research thorough, the application to advocacy directive. This book is the first to offer researchers and a broad array of practitioners a means to resolve a long-standing dispute that has baffled the field since its inception on the nature of domestic violence and its relation to gender. The book is essential reading and will undoubtedly set the research and policy agenda for the next decade.” (Robert M. Milardo, Editor, *Journal of Family Theory and Review*, and Professor of Family Relations, University of Maine) “Michael Johnson has added complexity to our understanding of intimate partner violence in a clear and compelling voice. His typology challenges most of the truisms we have accepted and shines a path for more valid research and effective social policy. Everyone who cares about ending intimate partner violence should read this book.” (Kathleen J. Ferraro, Northern Arizona University)

As a doctoral student, researcher, and activist this book has been an invaluable resource in helping refine the way I do my work. Dr. Johnson’s contribution to the body of knowledge about domestic violence is, in my opinion, one of the most important contributions since domestic violence came into public discourse in the US in the 1960s and 1970s. I am a community psychologist so I am interested in preventing the violence and working to put the responsibility for change where it belongs - on the perpetrator and on the culture which supports this kind of crime. Dr. Johnson also presents ideas for future research which are solid and valuable, so hopefully scholars will take note and keep the dialogue going.

BUY! Excellent exposition -- leading-edge understanding -- NEW discoveries and treatment -- RECOMMENDED. He's just starting out to establish new definitions of the FOUR types of domestic violence. This is excellent advice if you work with DV as some of this stuff is new and will change the way you resolve some of your cases. It's a fascinating understanding of a complex subject. He is upfront that he doesn't have all the answers yet, but this changes how we understand and treat

DV.

This is the go-to book for anyone working with domestic violence survivors.

Good way of categorizing social organization in relationships of families of origin and seeing how systems at the institutional level tie into the fabric of the domestic sphere.

Excellent read. Very balanced and grounded strongly in research. This is a great resource, particularly for those working in offender treatment.

Bought this as required reading for a class. Good read. Very informative.

great resource

Compelling! Presents a lot of evidence to dispel myths about domestic violence.

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