

Appendix 2

Positionality statement for the first author for the paper “En route without a steering wheel – a victim-centred mapping of power in the criminal justice system”

For the study, a reflexive thematic analysis was applied (section 4.2. in the paper). Here, the themes are constructed bottom-up from the data and are a result of both the data itself as well as the theoretical background of the researcher and how that influences the theme construction. This analysis was primarily done by the first author. To make the process more transparent, we have attached a positionality statement to show what academic background and biases that might have influenced the first author:

I have developed this positionality statement through continuous reflection throughout this project. It touches upon both my academic background, personal experiences and my motivations.

I am a young white woman who grew up in a safe upper-middle-class neighbourhood. I have been privileged in multiple ways. However, being a woman, I grew up with the ever-present risk of rape and sexual violence around me. With the rise of #MeToo, I acquired a vocabulary to put to words the feelings of fear and frustration I had lived with. It helps me see the destructive narratives around sexual violence and the impact it has on people's lives.

This has been influential in my academic work. I want to make a difference in how society, particularly the criminal justice system, deals with sexual violence. It is important to mention that I do this as someone privileged who has limited personal experience with the criminal justice system. My work, therefore, approaches the context with an optimistic belief that the criminal justice system can change for the better.

My work is strongly influenced by black feminist theory, which explores how oppression and privilege are distributed in society through intersecting axes of power, impacting people's experience (Collins, 2017; Costanza-Chock, 2018; D'Ignazio & Klein, 2020). Sexual assault has always been used as a tool of oppression, and many of the negative reactions victims of sexual assaults get when disclosing their stories are strongly connected to sexism, homophobia, racism and classism. The knowledge of how these isms oppress victims of sexual assault has guided the analysis and has most likely impacted what findings were constructed from the data.

References:

- Collins, P. H. (2017). On violence, intersectionality and transversal politics. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 40(9), 1460–1473. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2017.1317827>
- Costanza-Chock, S. (2018). Design Justice, A.I., and Escape from the Matrix of Domination. *Journal of Design and Science*. <https://doi.org/10.21428/96c8d426>
- D'Ignazio, C., & Klein, L. F. (2020). *Data Feminism*. The MIT Press.
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