

3. Género e condições de vida

OC - (23121) - “ACTS WITHOUT AGENTS”: UNWANTED SEXUAL INTRUSIONS IN THE NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY

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Despite unprecedented levels of public interest in gendered violence over the last decade or so, and myriad efforts to prevent it, sexual harassment – or what we refer to as ‘unwanted sexual intrusions’ (USI) – in the night-time economy (NTE) endures and shows no signs of reducing. It is so prevalent that, for many young women, it is an expected, ‘normalised’ feature of a night out in the UK and elsewhere (UK House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee, 2019). However, it has received less research attention than other aspects of gender-based violence. The research that has been conducted tends to focus on victim/survivors’ experiences (e.g. Gunby et al, 2020; Fileborn 2016). This victimological approach has generated valuable knowledge about the phenomenon but perpetrators have been neglected in research so we know relatively little about their perspectives on USI in the NTE. This neglect of perpetrators is mirrored by interventions to prevent USI; initiatives run by police, local councils, and voluntary organisations tend to focus on raising women’s awareness of the risks of men’s behaviour, or providing information and support for them. The failure – by statutory, mainstream, and victim-centered, feminist organisations as well as research – to focus on men’s perpetration of USI suggests that doing so is challenging. In this paper we borrow from Sharon Lamb’s (1991) work about “linguistic avoidance” in discussions about men’s violence that notes the construction of “acts without agents”. We explore the gendered dynamics observed in traditional and emerging approaches to researching and preventing USI in the NTE which de-center agents – perpetrators of USI – and we argue that a new approach is needed that focuses on and challenges men’s behaviours in the NTE.

Palavras-chave : gender, sexual harassment, night-time economy