

Honour Related Violence and Honour Killings (Crimes in the name of honour): Exploring Rhetoric & Reality

BHANBHRO, Sadiq <<http://orcid.org/0000-0003-0771-8130>>

Available from Sheffield Hallam University Research Archive (SHURA) at:

<https://shura.shu.ac.uk/35607/>

This document is the Presentation

Citation:

BHANBHRO, Sadiq (2019). Honour Related Violence and Honour Killings (Crimes in the name of honour): Exploring Rhetoric & Reality. In: Evaluating Evidence for Practice L6 Student Inspirational Lecture, Sheffield, UK, 16 Apr 2019. Depart of Nursing and Midwifery, Sheffield Hallam University. (Unpublished) [Conference or Workshop Item]

Copyright and re-use policy

See <http://shura.shu.ac.uk/information.html>

Honour Related Violence and Honour Killings (Crimes in the name of honour):

Exploring Rhetoric & Reality

Sadiq Bhanbhro

Senior Research Fellow (Health and Wellbeing)

Doctoral Researcher (Psychology, Sociology
and Politics)

Sheffield Hallam University

Contact:

S.bhanbhro@shu.ac.uk

Twitter: @Sbhanbhro

LinkedIn: Sadiq Bhanbhro

Activity

- ▶ Using Padlet or post-it notes please answer to below questions:

[Note: there is no right/wrong answer please share your opinion]

Q1: What does honour mean to you?

<https://padlet.com/sadiqbhanbhro/v5i6gxwqvkmh>.



Question 2

- ▶ When you listen word 'honour' what does come in your mind?

<https://padlet.com/sadiqbhanbhro/h7rrb6l6bxo>



Honour [Admired]

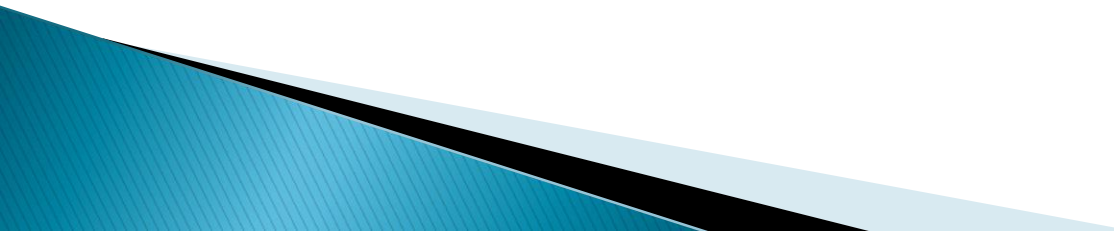
- ▶ **Honour**
 - Medal
 - Degree
 - Award
 - Titles
- ▶ **British Empire Honour System**
 - GBE
 - CBE
 - OBE
 - etc.

Honour [Notorious]

- ▶ **Honour**
 - Violence
 - Killings/Murders
 - Abuse
 - Crime
 - Marriage etc.



Honour: Definition

- ▶ High respect; great esteem (OED)
 - ▶ Self-esteem
 - ▶ Prestige
 - ▶ Dignity
 - ▶ Morally right thing
 - ▶ Grace
- 

HBV: definition

- ▶ HBV is an umbrella term:
 - domestic abuse
 - death threats
 - physical, sexual and psychological abuse
 - acid attacks
 - forced marriage
 - forced suicide
 - forced abortion
 - female genital mutilation
 - assault
 - blackmail
 - being held against one's will
 - Killing or attempted killing

(IKWRO, 2014; HMIC, 2015)

- ▶ Honour killing

- the perpetrators (predominantly family members) killed a woman and/or a girl perceived as having brought or tried to bring shame or dishonour to the family, clan or community.

Pakistan

kala-kali (Punjab)

karo-kari (Sindh)

tor-tora (Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa)

siyakari (Balochistan)

Other terms:

Honour Crime

Honour Based Conflicts

Patriarchal violence/murders

Customary/Ritual Murders

Revolt Killing

Prime Minister agreed with Nusrat Ghani MP that so-called “honour-based” violence should be re-categorised as an act of terror in the UK (2016).

- ▶ Politically charged topic

- ▶ Laws have been tightened
 - implementation is questionable

		(Source: HRCP)
India (5 states)	HK	2016 – 77 2015 – 251 2014 – 28 2010 – 900 (3 states) (Source: Time of India)

News > UK > Crime

Muslim girl 'who had throat slit in honour killing' thanked god for 'everything' days before her death

Celine Dookhran, who was 'kidnapped, raped and murdered' in suspected honour killing, posted thankful tweet shortly before she died

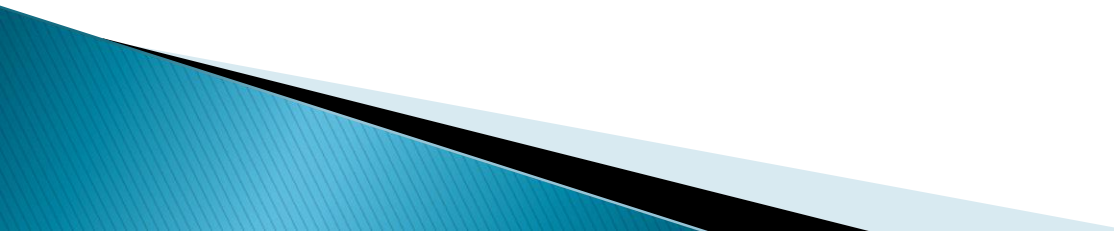
Current academic theorisation

Is "honour killing" part of Pakistani/Asian/South Asian/Middle Eastern culture?

Is "honour killing" an Islamic/Muslim culture/tradition?

Is "honour killing" clash of two cultures?

Theorisation mainly in two camps:

- **Cultural relativism**
 - Values are cultural specific
 - **Post-structuralism**
 - *Difference* (us vs them, west vs east, developed vs underdeveloped etc.)
 - **Academics are divided: Western and Non-Western**
 - Western – honour is kind of biological reality of non-Western cultures
 - Non-Western – honour is just a lame excuse and it has no power to influence on peoples' behaviours and action
- 

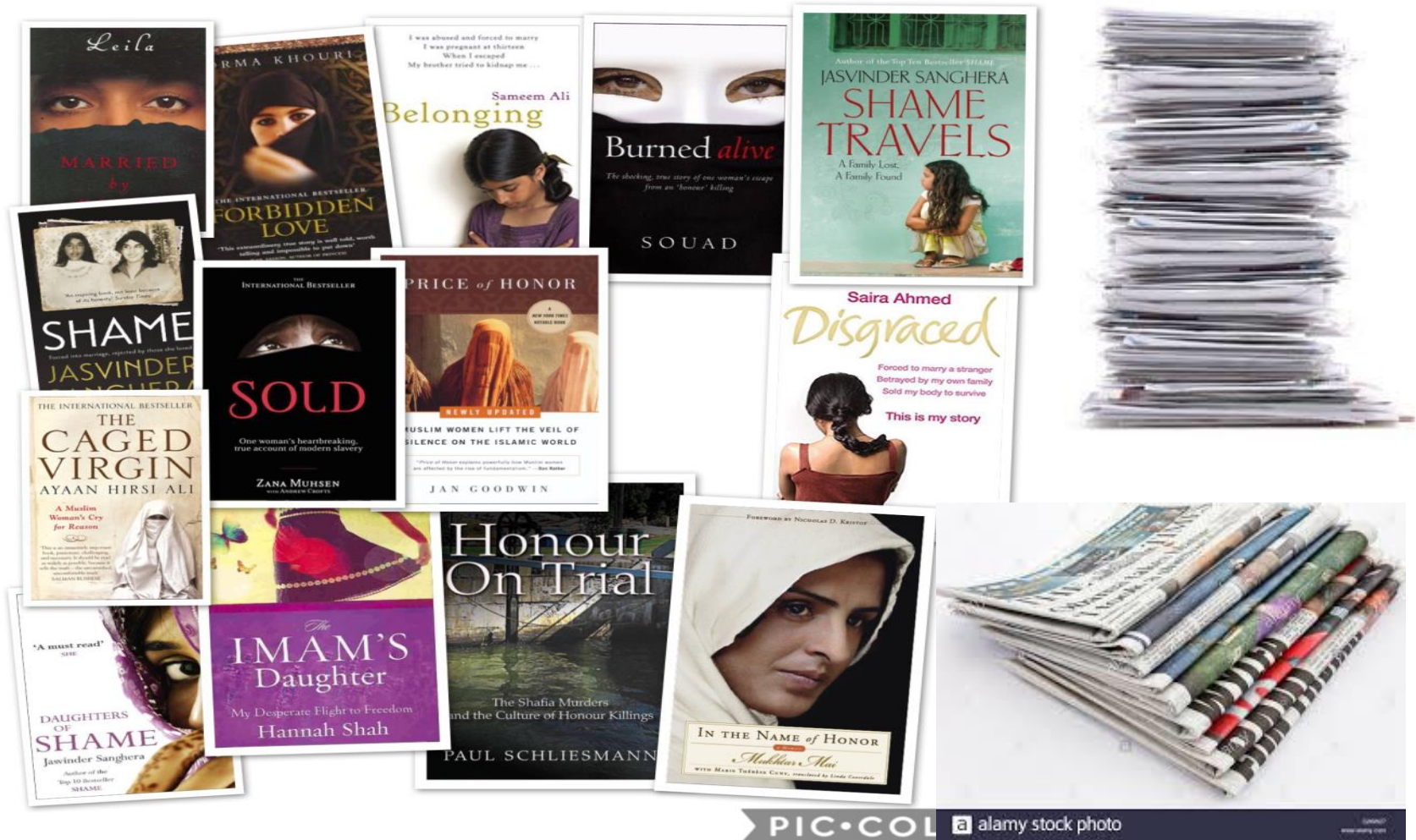
Rhetoric

- ▶ Culture/customary practice
- ▶ **Muslim problem** (Chesler, & Bloom, 2012; Perlmutter, 2011; Feldner, 2000)
- ▶ **Victims are only women and girls**
- ▶ **Perpetrators are only men and boys**
- ▶ **Sacred/Ritualistic practice** (Sev'r, 2013; Perlmutter, 2011; Patel, & Gadit, 2008)
- ▶ **5000 cases occur worldwide annually** (UNFP, 2000).
- ▶ **Pakistan and Afghanistan are in Middle East.**

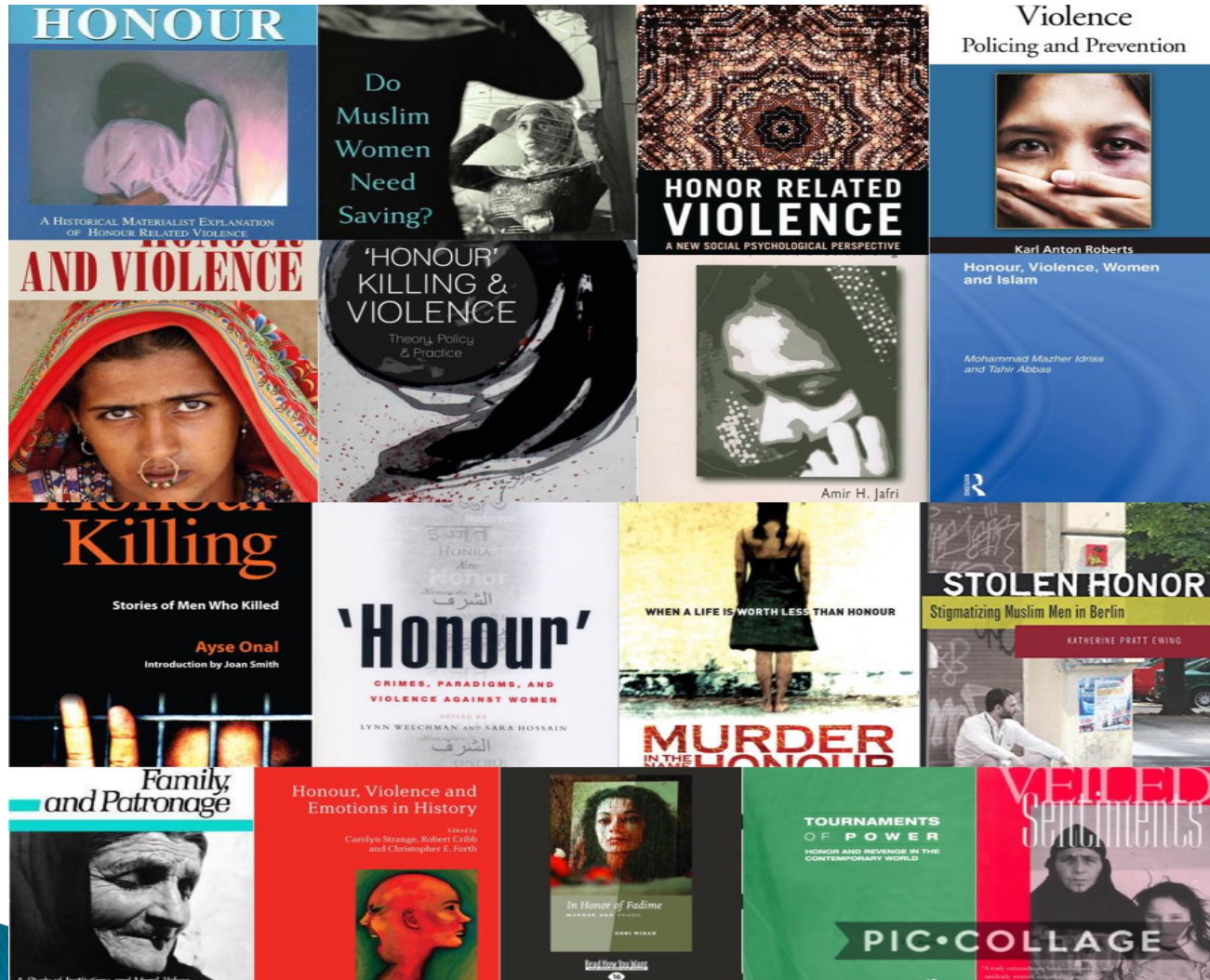
Reality

- ▶ No – it is a harmful practice exists in some shape or form in many cultures.
- ▶ No – it exists in Christians, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs, Yezidis, Druze and non-believers (Gill, 2008; Terman, 2010; Shafak, 2012; Chesler, & Bloom, 2012).
- ▶ No – Men, boys, gays, bisexuals, lesbian & transgender are victims too (Bhanbhro, 2015; Shah, 2016).
- ▶ No – women also take part
- ▶ No – an excuse not to engage with people/communities.
- ▶ No – this is a tip of iceberg
- ▶ No – neither geographically nor socially or culturally.

Where does the rhetoric come from?



What about a reality?



Existing explanations

- ▶ Three main features are eminent:
 - violence and killings in the name of honour are the products of certain 'cultures' – labelled as 'honour cultures'.
 - these cultures are mainly non-western, distant, static and insular (Volpp, 2000).
 - the culture behind the HBV & killings is characterised – as a fixed and homogenous entity.

What the explanation do?

- ▶ Hypersensitive issue
- ▶ Specified to almost a single group
- ▶ Stigmatised and stereotyped particular groups
- ▶ Police and Crown Prosecution Services are reluctant to tackle the issue.
- ▶ The wider social, political and economic factors are ignored.
- ▶ Less attention paid to engage people and groups.



Courtesy @IKWRO

My research

▶ Research Question

- uncover and explain notions of honour and how they are implicated in 'honour killings' of women and girls in Pakistan and within people of Pakistani descent living in the UK.

▶ Methodology

- the critical realist social constructionism

▶ Research sites

- England (South Yorkshire) and Pakistan (Sindh province).

Methods and participants

Methods

- ▶ Informal conversations
- ▶ In-depth interviews
- ▶ Focus groups
- ▶ Observations
- ▶ Archives

Participants

- ▶ Male (n=50)
- ▶ Female (n= 35)
- ▶ Events (n=4)
- ▶ Archives (Since 1757, South Asia in general India and Pakistan in particular)

Honour: Definition

Honour

is a social asset (highly valued & fiercely protected)

of social standing
to an individual/family

within their norm circle

Norm Circle (NC)

a group/set of individuals
who endorse and enforce a
social norm

Main features of NC

- Mainly consists of kith and kin
- Distance doesn't matter
- Members don't have equal importance or influence

"Honour Killings"

a social practice to maintain and protect the valuable social asset (honour).

Social practice

a routinised set of collective behaviours underpinned by a web of intersubjective meanings.

Preliminary findings

- ▶ Strong normative social expectations
 - mediated through gossip.
 - enforced by social sanctions (both +ve & -v)
- ▶ HKs has various forms
 - For example, genuine and non-genuine
- ▶ Overwhelming support for genuine HKs.
- ▶ Fraudulent use of honour.
- ▶ Forced Marriages i.e. cousin or interfamily marriages leads to HKs in the UK

Conclusion

- ▶ Honour is:
 - socially constructed,
 - historically and culturally variable,
 - functions to control women's behaviours, sexuality and body.
- ▶ Eradicating or banning the notion of honour is neither realistic nor essentially needed
- ▶ Urgent and active peoples' and social engagement required:
 - to redefine honour,
 - reform its implications
 - remove social expectations in context of the practice.
- ▶ Formal legal provisions that tacitly endorse need to be reformed.
- ▶ Human rights framework promoted to raise awareness.
- ▶ Urgent efforts and actions required to dismantle patriarchal systems.

References

- ▶ Pitt-Rivers, J (1965). Honour and social status. In *Honour and shame: the values of Mediterranean society*. J. G. Peristiany, eds. Pp. 19–78. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson.
- ▶ Pitt-Rivers, J. (1968). Honour. *International Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences*, 6:503–511.
- ▶ Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (2014). Postcode lottery: police recording of reported 'honour' based violence. IKRWO, London, available at <http://ikwro.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/HBV-FOI-report-Post-code-lottery-04.02.2014-Final.pdf>.
- ▶ Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (2015). The depths of dishonour: hidden voices and shameful crimes. An inspection of the police response to honour-based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation (Report). HMIC, London, December 2015, available at <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/publications/the-depths-of-dishonour>
- ▶ Chesler, P., & Bloom, N. (2012). Hindu vs. Muslim honour killings. *Middle East Quarterly*, 19(3), pp. 43–52.
- ▶ Perlmutter, D. (2011). The semiotics of honour killing & ritual murder. *Anthropoetics: the Journal of Generative Anthropology*. XVII (1).
- ▶ Feldner, Y. (2000). "Honour" murders—why the perps get off easy. *Middle East Quarterly*, 7(4), pp. 41–50.
- ▶ Gill, A. (2008) 'Crimes of Honour' and Violence against Women in the UK. *International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice*, 32(2), 243–263.
- ▶ Terman, R. (2010). To specify or single out: Should we use the term 'honour killing? *Muslim World J. Hum. Rts.* 1(10).

References

- ▶ Shafak, E. (2012, 30 April). *Honour killing: Murder by any other name*. The Guardian. Retrieved from <http://www.theguardian.com/uk/2012/apr/30/honour-killings-spreading-alarming-rate>.
- ▶ Bhanbhro, S. 2015. Representation of honor killings: critical discourse analysis of Pakistani English-language newspapers. In *Sexuality, Oppression and Human Rights*. Tomas, J., and Eppler, N. eds. Pp. 3–16. Oxford: Inter-Disciplinary Press.
- ▶ Shah, N. (2016). *Honour and violence: gender, power and law in southern Pakistan*. New York. Berghahn Books.
- ▶ Sev'er, A. (2013). *Patriarchal murders of women: A sociological study of honour killings in Turkey and in the West*. New York: the Edwin Mellen Press.
- ▶ Patel, S. & Gadit, A. (2008). Karo-kari: A form of honour killing in Pakistan. *Transcultural psychiatry*. 45(4), 683–694.
- ▶ United Nations Population Fund. (2000). The state of the world's population (Research Report). UNFPA. Retrieved from <http://web.unfpa.org/swp/2000>.
- ▶ Volpp, L. (2000). Blaming culture for bad behaviour. *Yale Journal of Law and the Humanities*, 12:89–116.
- ▶ Bond, J. (2012). Honour as property. *Colum. J. Gender & L.* 23(2), 202–256.
- ▶ Schneider, J. (1971). Of Vigilance and Virgins: Honour, Shame and Access to Resources in Mediterranean Societies. *Ethnology*. 10 (1), 1–24.
- ▶ Bicchieri, C., Jiang, T & Lindemans, J, (2014). *A Social Norms Perspective on Child Marriage: The General Framework*. UNICEF.
- ▶ Bicchieri, C. (2017). *Norm in the wild: How to diagnose, measure and change social norms*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Thanks for listening

Comments and Questions

