

Evan Stark, Coercive Control—Revitalizing a
Movement

Lauren Bennett Cattaneo

George Mason University

April 2008

Arjanita Elezaj



Main Ideas

Purpose: To change the narrative of domestic violence and recognize coercive control as its ongoing form of abuse.

Results: Coercive control theory emphasizes a violation of “liberty” and focuses less on what men do to women and more on what they prevent women from doing for themselves. It’s defined as an ongoing pattern of sexual mastery by which abusive partners, almost exclusively males, interweave repeated physical abuse with three equally important tactics: intimidation, isolation, and control.

1

2

3

4

Methods: The author reviewed Evan Stark’s Book, Coercive Control: How Men Entrap Women in Personal Life. By Evan Stark. New York, Oxford University Press, Inc., 2007. 452 pp. ISBN: 978-0-19-515427-6

Conclusions: The coercive control model points to women’s cultural marginalization and how religious, cultural upbringing, patriarchies, legal, and political influences have led to the decline in equality, freedom and financial independence between women and men.

Why this is relevant to our research

Our preliminary study findings show a significant rate of coercive control tactics being used such as intimidation, isolation, financial abuse or male privilege (40-81%)

The coercive control model views the dynamics in abusive relationships from the vantage of the historical struggle for women's liberation and men's efforts to preserve their traditional privileges in personal life in the face of this struggle.

1

2

3

4

Coercive control shares general elements with other capture or course-of-conduct crimes such as kidnapping, stalking, and harassment, including the facts that it is ongoing and its perpetrators use various means to hurt, humiliate, intimidate, exploit, isolate, and dominate their victims

Like hostages, victims of coercive control are frequently deprived of money, food, access to communication or transportation, and other survival resources even as they are cut off from family, friends, and other supports through the process of "isolation."

References

Cattaneo, L. B. (2008, January 15). *Evan Stark, coercive control revitalizing a movement*. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Lauren-Cattaneo/publication/247391306_Evan_Stark_Coercive_Control-Revitalizing_a_Movement/links/0c960530c1598f254b000000/Evan-Stark-Coercive-Control-Revitalizing-a-Movement.pdf.