

## Special Issue

# Impact of Rape and Sexual Violence on the Relationships of Survivors

### Message from the Guest Editor

Rape and sexual violence are transgressions of personal boundaries and dignity, shuttering the ability of survivors to trust and connect safely with others, and leading to self-protective coping, including setting rigid relationship boundaries and self-isolation. Moreover, survivors are often made to feel judged and unrelatable, particularly in those cultural and religious contexts that place a high value on virginity and sexual purity, also causing further shaming and isolation. Consequences of rape and sexual violence are more complex in wartime as such assaults are usually committed with extreme atrocity and are often coupled with other forms of violence imposed on the victims. Worse still, in some war-afflicted regions, rape and sexual violence are used as weapons of assault against the social fabric of enemy communities. This Special Issue aims to capture a global picture on how the survivors of rape and sexual violence experience social relationships based on contextual aggravation and, perhaps, protective factors. We seek to highlight the challenges faced and needs presented by survivors as they rebuild trust and a sense of safety in social interactions and relationships.

### Guest Editor

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## Social Sciences

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### Editor-in-Chief

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