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# 4th International FJC Conference

THE IMPORTANCE OF RECOGNITION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INTIMATE TERROR

Anne Groenen

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# 1. What is intimate terrorism?



# a pattern of control and coercion

isolating, humiliating & intimidating

controlling finances, physical & sexual violence

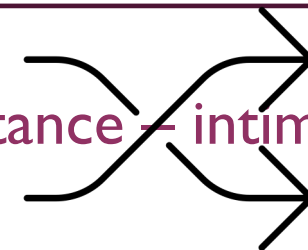
mainly – but not exclusively – perpetrated by men

traditional role patterns & power imbalance



situational violence – mutual violence resistance – violent resistance – intimate terrorism

(e.g. Johnson, 2008)



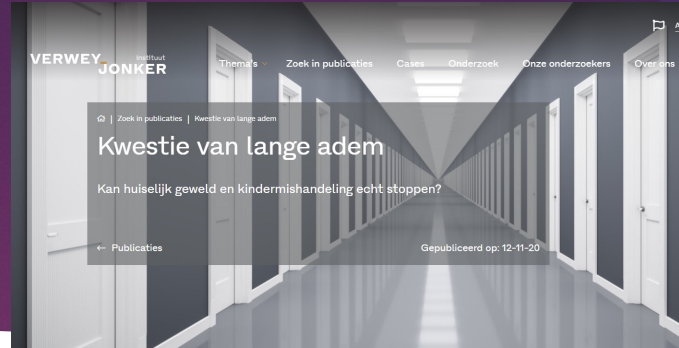
# 10 characteristics of IT

1. speeding up the honeymoon phase & isolating
2. activity monitoring & digital terror
3. limit autonomy
4. psychological manipulation
5. criticizing & humiliating
6. jealousy & blackmail
7. turning children against the partner
8. setting up third parties
9. sexual compulsion
10. threatening to commit suicide, children or pets

(based upon a literature review, e.g. <https://www.healthline.com/health/coercive-control>)



# Typology



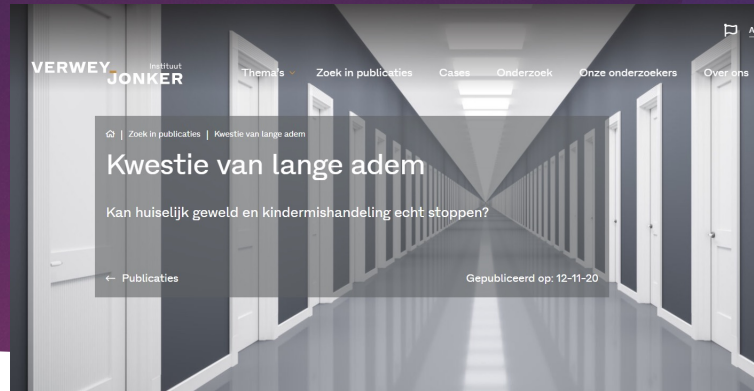
## Recent typology

(Steketee, M., Tierolf, B., Lünnevan, K. & Lünnevan, M. (2020). *Can domestic violence and child abuse really be stopped? A long haul. [Kan huiselijk geweld en kindermishandeling echt stoppen? Kwestie van lange adem.]* Utrecht: Verwey-Jonker Instituut.)

<https://www.verwey-jonker.nl/thema/huiselijk-geweld-kindermishandeling/>

- N= 576 families (633 parents, 978 children)
- registered at Veilig Thuis, multidisciplinary approach
- questionnaire, in-depth interviews with fathers, mothers and children, and interviews with care workers

# Typology



- 5 types:
  1. intimate terrorism (2/3 serious physical violence)
  2. family under stress
  3. child behaviour and parenting stress
  4. long-term care
  5. complex divorces



# Red flags for (fatal) violence

- stalking
- death threats
- possession/use of weapons
- recent violent behaviour
- violence during pregnancy
- non-consensual sex
- refrain from urgent care
- attempted strangulation
- extreme fear
- victim does not dare to speak
- increasing severity and/or frequency of violence

*(e.g. Matias, A. Gonçalves, M., Soeiro, C. & Matos, M. (2020); Monckton Smith, J. (2019))*



# What is needed?

- in-depth analysis
- personal, behavioural, relational characteristics
- expectations, attitudes, dynamics
- event perspective
- risk assessment, management & communication
- Multi-faceted, systematic & gender-sensitive approach

(e.g. LeCompte & Groenen, 2020; [risicotaxatie.be](http://risicotaxatie.be))

