

WORKSHOP INVITATION

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS: WORKING WITH VICTIMS AND PERPETRATORS OF CRIME

You are kindly invited to attend a workshop organized in collaboration with Prof Dr Olivera Simić entitled **Qualitative Research with Vulnerable Populations: Working with Victims and Perpetrators of Crime**. The workshop will take place **on Wednesday, 8 April 2026, at 10:00, at the Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana**.

In this workshop, we will explore the benefits and costs of undertaking qualitative research in legal and social sciences, in particular, qualitative data collection methods that require immersion in a specific social setting or group, such as ethnography, participant observation, or interviewing. We will discuss in-depth and semi-structured interviewing with vulnerable groups, including a critical discussion of reflexivity, positionality, and vulnerability.

We will also discuss ethics when working with humans, particularly vulnerable populations, such as survivors and perpetrators of crimes (“ordinary” and “extraordinary” crimes/mass atrocity). Is there a difference in speaking with the victim versus the perpetrator? What are some of the key ethical issues one has to take on board when working with vulnerable populations?

In relation to such research, managing well-being and recognising vicarious trauma are two of the topics that researchers dealing with sensitive topics have raised in recent years. We will tackle the risks of vicarious trauma when undertaking sensitive research and explore various ways to stay healthy and safe when researchers work involves direct exposure and engagement to highly vulnerable populations, traumatic material such as trauma narratives, reports, interviews, visual material, and media content. This will be a hands-on workshop, and participants will be invited to discuss their current project and the methodology they plan to use to execute it.

The workshop **will be conducted in English and will last three academic hours** (including a break).

Due to the limited number of available places (25 participants), prior registration via [the registration form](#) is required.

We look forward to your participation.



Dr. Olivera Simić is a Professor with the Griffith Law School, Australia. Originally from the former Yugoslavia, Dr Simić lived through Yugoslav wars (1991-1999). Initially as a refugee and later as a migrant, Dr Simic lived and studied in Eastern and Western Europe, the USA and South America before coming to Australia in 2006. She has published four monographs and numerous co-edited collections, book chapters, journal articles and personal narratives. They draw on hundreds of interviews with victims, perpetrators and bystanders of the wars.

Dr Simić was a nominee for the Penny Pether Prize for Scholarship in Law, Literature and the Humanities, and won the Peace Women Award from Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF, Australian branch).