

Presentation title:

## Exploring the relationship between gender inequality and female-victim intimate partner homicide in mainland China via data mining approach

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Notably, a prominent theme in feminist and criminological literature is the plausible relationships between gender inequality and female-victim intimate partner homicide (FV-IPH). The “amelioration hypothesis” assumes the reduction of gender-based violence in more gender-egalitarian societies, while the “backlash hypothesis” anticipates that reducing gender inequality may actually increase males’ violence perpetration against women to maintain their dominance. A third theoretical account hypothesizes a curvilinear relationship that integrates the traditional ameliorative/backlash theses and provides a possible explanation accounting for previous inconsistent findings in the literature. This study revisited and tested the three alternative theoretical propositions using detailed incident information on 11,310 Chinese judgment documents of intentional homicides (2017-2019) retrieved from the China Judgements Online Website and multidimensional gender inequality indices across provinces drawn from statistical yearbooks. Our hierarchical models found that: 1) backlash processes are more likely to occur with increases in women’s empowerment; 2) the relationship between the degree of egalitarian gender ideology and men’s likelihood of committing FV-IPH conforms to an inverted U: a backlash effect dominates as the level of gender inequality ranges from very high to intermediate levels but is followed by an ameliorative effect as gender stratification ranges from intermediate levels of inequality to low levels of inequality. Overall, this study systematically investigates the relationship between gender inequality and FV-IPH in mainland China, providing researchers with an innovative Chinese big-data source for criminological research, as well as an efficient method of utilizing text-mining techniques.