

Feminism and Global Justice: New Directions in Critical Criminology (2015) by Kerry Carrington

Priyansh Shukla

Practicing Advocate, Madhya Pradesh High court, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, India.

ARTICLE INFO

*Correspondence:

priyanshps22@gmail.com

Rashtriya Raksha
University, Gandhinagar,
Gujarat, India

Dates:

Received: 26-09-2022

Accepted: 16-11-2022

Published: 28-12-2022

Keywords:

Feminism, Criminology,
Global Justice, Gender
crime

How to Cite:

Shukla P. (2022)
Feminism and Global
Justice: New Directions
in Critical Criminology
(2015) by Kerry
Carrington, Routledge
Publications, First
Edition Pp 183 ISBN
978-0-415-71111-1 (HBK).
DME Journal of Law, 3(1),
96-99.

doi: 10.53361/dmejl.v3i01.13

Abstract

Gender based violence and inequalities remains to be a global issue in current paradigm. The submitted work is a review of the book "FEMINISM AND GLOBAL JUSTICE: NEW DIRECTIONS IN CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGY (2015) by Kerry Carrington, Routledge Publications". It is a substantial work that elaborates how in order to achieve global justice there is a need to look into the aspect of inequalities relating to the gender. It emphasizes that in order to truly achieve global justice, the study and eradication of gender based violence and inequalities need to be looked into. The author has stressed the need to look into the age old beliefs inculcated into criminological definitions and postulate new and sound theories for the same.

INTRODUCTION

This book is a very bold work of Kerry Carrington. This is the eighth book in the eight-book series "New Directions in Critical Criminology." In this book,¹ the author has tried to put forth several things related to gender, crime and inequality and their effects and has emphasized that to achieve global justice. This must not be ignored. Feminism, in recent times, has developed at an incredible pace and occupied its place in different parts of the world. Feminism is not, however, always supported across all parts. It is often targeted and criticized on many grounds. In the book, Carrington has also discussed the rise in the participation of females in violence occurring across various parts of the world and gives relevant instances of the same from the US, UK, Australia and Canada. She has also discussed the participation of females in terrorism and torture. This is also among the major reasons why feminism is often blamed. The author has criticized feminist scholars 'that they also tend to duck the questions regarding this'; instead, they try to portray violent women as victims or limit their research to only the part where the women are victims of men's violence. The book is divided into seven chapters.

In chapter one, the author puts forth an introduction for the readers about the subjects that the book will cover. The author warns that the arguments advanced

1 Carrington, K. (2015). *Feminism and Global Justice: New directions in critical criminology*. Routledge Publications.

in the book are provocative. She says, “some will find the analysis refreshing and illuminating, others irritating or even repugnant”.² In this chapter, she puts forth the book’s objective. She says it attempts to persuade a new generation of scholars, criminologists, activists and policymakers to not just stick to the age-old sets provided but also step out and think more critically. The chapter gives an outline to the readers of what to expect from the book.

Chapter two emphasizes that criminology should contain a more global perspective. It further substantiates that feminist criminology should be globalized. The chapter states that the crimes vary in nature and origin in different spaces arising out of the system, custom, culture or religion. The author argues that there is nothing wrong with embracing cultural influences from the northern hemisphere. In addition, many criminological theories contain presuppositions that do not apply well to the global south because crime and violence there are largely based on regional customs and cultures that are unique to these vast continents. In order for feminism to strengthen its international relevance, the author has motivated feminist researchers and criminologists by stating that it is crucial to broaden its research agendas to include noticeably distinct gendered patterns of crime and violence that exist around the world. In this chapter, the prevalence of intimate-partner violence against women in different parts of the world has been given and presented with the help of a chart.³ The main thing that this chapter revolves around is a global perspective in criminology, including feminist criminology.

Chapters three and four contain the details of forms of violence against women that prevails and the struggle that is there for justice. She has, in this chapter, given instances of Asia and the Middle East, the specific forms of violence prevailing there and how the religious beliefs somehow aid in their commission. The author has talked about forms of violence that include infanticide, female genital mutilation, sati, honor killings, dowry violence, child marriages, and deprivation of Hindu and Muslim

women from fundamental human freedoms. She also talks about how the rising class of female activists is being subject to attacks in some countries with Islamic extremism prevailing, Pakistan being the one with more significant instances.⁴ The struggles in other Middle East nations are also discussed with examples and cases from those countries.

In chapter four, Kerry Carrington continued talking about this systemic violence arising from culture, system or religious beliefs. Here she has taken Latin America and described how and what the injustices against women prevail there. The point is how injustice against women is spread across the globe. She has taken some studies from Latin America, and the examples include victims of rape, torture and femicide in the border city of Juarez, Mexico and the abduction, torture and murder of activists, many of them being women.⁵ She has exposed the brutality of violence against females in these countries. The author highlighted how the women started the struggle for justice and challenged the systemic inequalities that the females had to endure in a continent where deeply conservative Catholicism was intertwined with military fascist dictatorship and succeeded even after facing numerous atrocities; some even lost their lives fighting for it. Lastly, she analyses the importance of United Nations Women and other transnational entities in eliminating the violence against women and children and highlights their work with partner local organizations therein.⁶

Chapter five is an important chapter that emerges as a striking chapter. The author has tried to strike at various age-old and commonly accepted beliefs and inclusions generally assumed in criminology. For instance, there is a general assumption that males are essentially dangerous and are typically linked with crimes. The author has criticized this heavily and has asked to do more research in this field. She has also talked about the anomic spaces of super-capitalism, which emerged as a result of globalization and capitalism and how the situation there also plays a role in shaping male-on-male violence.⁷ In this chapter, she has taken

4 Supra note 1 at 32

5 Supra note 1 at 76

6 Supra note 1 at 89

7 Supra note 1 at 105

2 *Id. at 1*

3 Supra note 1 at 23



two examples, one from Australia and the creation of anomic spaces due to super capitalism and its effects on rising male violence. And another is from Latin America, where she has also discussed how various factors play an essential role in shaping male violence. She has hugely placed importance on research in this field rather than accepting age-old beliefs and assumptions.

In the sixth chapter, she again criticized a history of criminological theories associating violence with boys.⁸ She has argued that there is a need to study why this happens rather than merely accepting that the male sex is aggressive and labeling it. She has also put forth how there has been a rise in various parts on cases of female violence. The author has presented instances of involvement of women in terrorism, torture and violence and how this needs to be addressed by feminists. She has argued and presented instances that show no particular region where these have risen; instead, it is observed across various spaces. The author has tried to answer the questions here that have been raised against feminism. She has also pointed out how feminism is wrongly blamed repeatedly and said to be spoiling women. She has urged feminists and scholars not to shy away from answering the questions and develop a better understanding by conducting in-depth research on the subject matter and tackling the questions rather than trying to neglect and portray women as incapable of committing such acts.

In chapter seven, the book's concluding chapter, the author emphasizes the need for feminism now more than ever. In this chapter, she summarises all the points she has elaborated on throughout the book. Gives final words using examples again mentioned all over the book and thus makes a point how feminism is required all the way more to address the issue of injustice against women across the globe, how these include various factors like customs, culture and religion and systemic forms of injustice that are prevailing for ages. Here in this chapter, she has asked feminists from the west to move past the boundaries and widen their perspective, conduct more in-depth research and explore various regions. Furthermore, this will help develop feminist ideology by getting acquainted with the tales from

other parts of how the women there rose against the injustices and achieved success.

Throughout the book, the author kept attacking various age-old beliefs and has also spoken against the ones that try to justify injustices against females by claiming that they are not injustices and are according to their religious systems, customs and culture. She has not restrained from boldly speaking on all these factors and has shared her views. To further substantiate her thoughts, she has used books by the victims of these injustices and many other sources from where these instances occur. She clearly stated that the ones trying to take religion as a justifying ground for injustice against women are not at all correct and that the ones from the same religion are exposing them. She has pointed out that this happens out of the fear in the systems where patriarchy prevails and women are still looked down on. She has attacked this directly. She has emphasised that these injustices against women must be looked into, and the systemic, cultural and religious beliefs that shape them must be struck down to achieve global justice.

The book is provocative, as the author has claimed, and it makes you aware of many aspects of gender and crime, inequalities and their role in shaping them up. The author Kerry Carrington has been fearless throughout and has managed to stay on the theme till the end. She has urged to research more and contribute to developing criminological theories that are more appropriate. Though the book is short, the author has still tried to talk about male-on-male violence. She has also struck the belief and assumptions in Criminology that men are dangerous and commit crime. She urged that research should be conducted in this area so that some better and sound theories in criminology may develop. The language used in the book is not that complex, specific terms have been used that might make one think, but the author has managed to give details about them and gives a picture of what context they are using. Cases, as examples, have been used from specific parts to elaborate on the arguments that help prove the things being talked about.

The book is worth reading, and the author has very aptly covered the relevant aspects that can be read, appreciated and acknowledged by criminologists,

8 Supra note 1 at 134

It is a book review, hence it is requested that short running title may be avoided.

law students, feminists, activists and human rights associations. It motivates critically examining the prevailing situation and then developing sound theories that can aid in developing criminology. It touches on various aspects that need more and more development and reforms and provides an approach that needs to be taken to extend the knowledge of feminism and global justice.

