An archival research of the causes, nature and nuclear family destructiveness of uxoricide as revealed in some newspapers

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It does not make any prescriptions in terms of the number of pages or words that a manuscript of this nature should contain. For this reason, this study adopted this unconventional method of presenting its content for this mini-dissertation.

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In today's world, "I CARE" is not just a nice phrase- it's a two- word recipe for excellence, success and fulfilment by Bob Mogwad.

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ABSTRACT

This research used a general inductive approach in analysing qualitative raw secondary data from the newspaper archives on the causes, nature and nuclear family destructiveness of uxoricide. The raw data from the newspaper archive cases revealed that uxoricide is ubiquitous and has been occurring since the period before Christ to date. Analysis of data from the 35 national and international uxoricide incidents reveals that couples' strained marital relationships, anger, rage (including jealous rage), upset and loss of temper, arguments, uxoricides having propensities to violence, financial and material gain overwhelmingly provided the basis for wife murders. The findings also indicate that victims of uxoricide were stabbed to death, shot to death with guns, strangulated/asphyxiated to death, murdered with excessive force (over-kill), and pre-meditatedly and calculatedly murdered.

The study also highlighted that the effects of uxoricide on children is immediate and devastating. Usually in a single act, the children lose both parents, one to death and the other to the criminal justice system or suicide and they become the social responsibilty of either the extended family or governmental social agency systems or remain uxoricide orphans in child-headed families. In this way nuclear families are destroyed. It also emerged in this research that it is relatively uncommon for a husband to kill his wife and children in the same incident, thus uxoricide taking the form of a familicide (a multiple-victim homicide incident in which the killer's spouse and one or more children are slain). In this respect, victims of uxoricide are murdered together with their children, another tragic complete destruction of the nuclear family.

Overall, the results demonstrate that the causes, nature and nuclear family destructiveness of uxoricide in the whole world are common in many significant ways. The only unique and exclusive cause of uxoricide in this research was honour uxoricide which occurred when a wife refused "seizure of her share of the family land by his husband and his brothers"; wore "westernised, tight-fitting clothes" and planned to "provide alcohol at the terminally ill son's 18th birthday party" and having been sexually "molested" by her brother-in-law. The United Nations (2002) reveals that honour killing

is revered among some people in the Middle East, South-West Asia and some migrants in Western countries such as France, Germany and the United Kingdom. Women's groups in the Middle East and South-West Asia suspect its women victims could be ±20 000 annually (Fisk, 2010).

Finally, recommendations for psychological and social practice with the potential to contribute to the development of sound ecosystemic programmes to remedy uxoricide were made.

Keywords: uxoricide, domestic violence, nuclear family, violence against women, archiva research, ecological and systems theories.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Violence against women is one of the most serious violations of human rights in the world. It manifests either generally in femicide, i.e. female homicide by their male friends or specifically in uxoricide, i.e. married women (wives) homicide by their married men (husbands). The latter is the focus of this research, which has employed an archival research method to collect 35 cases' secondary raw data previously accumulated from newspaper reports on uxoricide's causal factors, the nature in which it is committed and ways in which it destroys families to achieve its objectives. Major themes that describe the causes, the nature and the destructiveness of the uxoricide phenomenon are developed through a general inductive, qualitative data analysis method which consists of identifying, encoding, and categorising secondary raw data that was collected from some national and international newspaper archives.

The next section defines, describes and clarifies the conceptual and theoretical frameworks which are foundational in the understanding of the content and context of this research.

2 CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS OF THIS STUDY

This section, firstly, defines, describes and clarifies some key concepts which are significant in understanding the content and context of this research. Secondly, it discusses the two theoretical frameworks, i.e. ecosystems theory and Structural Family Orientation, which guided this researcher in discussing the ways in which the lethal phenomenon of uxoricide has destroyed the nuclear family structure. The two theoretical frameworks also helped this researcher to formulate ecosystemic psycho-social recommendations which could help in building strong family structures and marriage institutions, and to re-build the families of uxoricides by re-joining them with their children (see section 9 below).

dishonour upon the family, clan, or community. This perceived dishonour is normally the result of:

- utilizing dress codes unacceptable to the family;
- wanting out of an arranged marriage or choosing to marry by own choice; or
- engaging in certain sexual acts (Chesler, 2009:61).

Human Rights Watch (2001) defines honour-killings as follows:

> Honour crimes are acts of violence, usually murder, committed by male family members against female family members, who are held to have brought dishonour upon the family. A woman can be targeted by (individuals within) her family for a variety of reasons, including:
>
> - refusing to enter into an arranged marriage;
> - being the victim of a sexual assault;
> - seeking a divorce—even from an abusive husband; or
> - (allegedly) committing adultery.

The Catholic Key Blog (2009) asserts that the mere perception that a woman has behaved in a way that dishonours her family is sufficient to trigger an attack on her life.

In many patriarchal cultures, uxoricide is regarded as the correct and honourable thing to do, and is consequently regarded less harshly than other forms of homicide, especially in cases of adultery (The Catholic Key Blog, 21 April 2009; Fisk, 2010; Geiger, 2005; Zain, 2007).

2.1.4 Children without sufficient primary parental care

As used in this research and conceptualized by this researcher, this concept refers to children who lost their mothers as a result of uxoricidal scourge, with their fathers incarcerated in jails as a result of the uxoricide they committed. In this way, these children experience a dearth of both primary maternal and paternal care, although they could visit their fathers in jail.

2.1.5 Uxoricide orphans

As used in this research and conceptualized by this researcher, this concept refers to children deprived of primary parental care as a result of uxoricidal crime and consequent uxoricide suicide. In this case, these children either experience the death of both parents in case of uxoricide-suicide or a dearth of primary maternal and paternal care because the mother is dead and the father languishes in jail.

2.1.6 Primary parental care

As used in this research and conceptualized by this researcher, this concept refers to the most important fundamental support and guidance provided by both fathers and mothers, as spouses, to their children.

2.1.7 Family structure

As used in this research and conceptualized by this researcher, this concept refers to the organizational patterns in which family members interact e.g. spouses (wife and husband), and their children. A family's structure can also mean the invisible set of functional demands or rules that organize the way family members, i.e. spouses and their children, relate to one another (Minuchin & Fishman, 2004; Piercy, 1986; Seligman, 2004).

2.1.8 Domestic violence perpetrated against wives

In this research, domestic violence perpetrated against wives refers to their physical, sexual, emotional, verbal and psychological abuse; economic abuse,

intimidation, harassment, stalking; and damage to their property by the husbands they are or were married to. It also refers to entry into the wives' residences without their consent, where the parties do not share the same residence is also included as well as and any other controlling or abusive behaviour towards married women which harms, or may harm the safety, health or well-being of the married women (South Africa, 1998).

2.1.9 Economic abuse

In this research, economic abuse refers to the unreasonable deprivation of economic or financial resources, including house-hold necessities for the married women, and mortgage bond repayments or payment of rent in respect of the shared residence; and the unreasonable disposal of household effects or other property in which the married women have interests (South Africa, 1998). It also refers to situations where married women are murdered for the financial gain of uxoricides.

2.1.10 Emotional, verbal and psychological abuse

In this research, emotional, verbal and psychological abuse means a pattern of degrading or humiliating conduct towards married women such as insults, ridicule or name calling, threats to cause emotional pain, repeated obsessive possessiveness or jealousy by their husbands (South Africa, 1998).

2.1.11 Human development

According to Bubolz and Sontag (1993:437), human development is a process of on-going and interrelated changes in an individual's ability to perceive, conceptualize, and act in relation to his or her environment. Embedded in the meaning of this concept is the principle that an individual's development is dynamic, and that development can be influenced by all levels of the social ecosystem (i.e. micro-, meso-, exo-, macro-, and chrono-systems) (see sub-section 2.1.27 below).

2.1.12 Organism/individual

As used in this research and conceptualized by this researcher, this concept refers to the cognitive development, temperament, personality traits, health, intelligence and disabilities characteristics of the human being. In this way, the organism/individual is regarded as a psychic, affective and conative being.

2.1.13 Theory

According to Boss, Doherty, LaRossa, Schumm and Steinmetz (1993:20), a theory is a collection of concepts, constructs, variables, relationships, and propositions that are logically connected to explain a phenomenon. They further posit that a theory is made up of variables and propositions that identify relationships and provide explanations that are logically deducible when all things are equal.

In the light of the latter paragraph, theorizing becomes the process of systematically formulating and organizing ideas to understand a particular phenomenon. In this regard, a theory becomes the set of interconnected ideas that emerge from this process.

2.1.14 Adaptation

According to Bubolz and Sontag (1993:437), adaptation is the behaviour of living systems (e.g., the family) that changes the state or structure of the system, the environment, or both. Bubolz and Sontag (1993:437) assert that adaptation is necessary for growth, learning, and survival of humans in their environments. In this regard, humans adapt to the social environment in which they exist and modify it for their individual adaptation.

2.1.5 Homeostasis

In ecosystemic theoretical terms, homeostasis refers to the designation of the patterns of environmental transactions that assure the stability of the social system, and the maintenance of its basic characteristics as they can be described at a certain point in time. In this way, homeostatic processes tend to

keep the *status quo*. For example: The two-way process that links A's passivity to B's initiative serves a homeostatic purpose for the system AB (Warren, Franklin, & Streeter, 1998; Ross, 2006).

When viewed from the perspective of homeostasis, individual behaviours complement each other.

2.1.16 Change

In contrast to homeostasis, change is the re-accommodation that the living system undergoes in order to adjust to a different set of environmental circumstances or to an intrinsic developmental need. For example: A's passivity and B's initiative may be effectively complementary for a given period in the life of AB, but a change to a different complementarity will be in order if B becomes incapacitated. Marriage, births, entrance to school, the onset of adolescence, going to college or to a job are other examples of developmental milestones in the life of most families. Also loss of a job, a sudden death, a promotion, a move to a different city, a divorce, and a pregnant adolescent are special events that affect the homeostasis of some families (Warren, Franklin, & Streeter, 1998; Ross, 2006).

Whether universal or idiosyncratic, the above-mentioned impacts call for changes in patterns, and in some cases, for example, when children are added to a couple, dramatically increase the complexity of the system by introducing differentiation. The spouse sub-system co-exists with parent-child sub-systems and eventually a sibling sub-system, and rules need to be developed to define who participates with whom and in what kind of situations, and who are excluded from those situations. Such definitions are called boundaries. They may prescribe, for instance, that children should not participate in adults' arguments, or that the oldest son has the privilege of spending certain moments alone with his father, or that the adolescent daughter has more rights to privacy than her younger siblings (Warren, Franklin, & Streeter, 1998; Ross, 2006).

2.1.17 Interdependence

In ecosystems theoretical terms, interdependence refers to the mutual dependence of the various components of an ecosystem. For example: Family members are interdependent with each other for goods, services, and support, while families are mutually dependent on the environment for resources (Warren, Franklin, & Streeter, 1998; Ross, 2006).

2.1.18 Bi-directional influences

Bi-directional influences infer that relationships are interdependent and reciprocal. For example: Parents impact their children's behaviours, and their children affect the parents' behaviours (Bronfenbrenner, 1989).

2.1.19 Values

Values are human notions of what is good and worth-while (Bubolz & Sontag, 1993). For example: Individuals, families, and other human groups hold values which guide decision making and behaviour. It is important to be aware of the values the individual, family, and socio-cultural environment hold.

2.1.20 Quality of life and environments

Quality of life refers to individual well-being and is based on the extent to which needs are met and social values are realized, whereas quality of environment refers to the ability of the environment to supply adequate resources for social survival (Warren, Franklin, & Streeter, 1998; Ross, 2006).

2.1.21 Linear causality

Linear causality (i.e., cause-effect) refers to one-way causal links (i.e., A causes B). Linear causality suggests that problems are within the individual, or somebody or something caused it. Hence, the removal of the cause would automatically cure the problem. For example: Husband nags so wife drinks. Husband stops nagging. Does wife stop drinking? (Warren, Franklin, & Streeter, 1998; Ross, 2006).

Linear causality takes, therefore, a process and segment it at a given time to look at it (i.e., punctuation). In a process there is no starting point. For example: Any cause/effect relationship is an observation of an individual (Warren, Franklin, & Streeter, 1998; Ross, 2006).

2.1.22 Punctuation

Punctuation refers to the simplistic segmenting of a complex interaction sequence in such a way that a beginning of the sequence is posited and 'cause' and 'effect' elements are arbitrarily assigned (Warren, Franklin & Streeter, 1998; Ross, 2006). In other words, arbitrary starting and ending points are assigned to an event by an observer. Two ways to punctuate the same event, for example: H e drinks because she nags versus she nags because he drinks demonstrates the punctuation dilemma. Which is correct?

2.1.23 Circular causality

Circular causality (also called pseudo-feedback, reciprocal causality, and mutual causality) refers to mutual interactions of causes and consequences. The effect of an event returns indirectly to influence the original event itself by way of one or more intermediate events (Warren, Franklin, & Streeter, 1998; Ross, 2006). This concept means that A affects B, which then affects A, and so on, in a circle of events which modify each other. For example: The father's drinking habits cause his son to drink. The son gets in trouble; this causes the father to get stressed out so he drinks, which then increases the son's drinking. Other examples: A child cries, parent yells at the child, and the child cries more. A mother yells at her daughter for being late, the daughter decides to stay out late to get back at her mom, who then gets upsets, yells at her daughter, and then grounds her, and so on.

From this definition, it is clear that families cannot be linear, hence, ecosystems theory (see 2.2 below) rejects linear causality (Dell, 1982; Warren, Franklin, & Streeter, 1998; Ross, 2006). Ecosystems theorists try to expand A causes B by looking at mutual causes or multiple causes because the cause of any event or outcome may never truly be known (Phillips, 1980).

2.1.24 Equi-finality

According to Von Bertalanffy (1968), Becvar & Becvar (2006). , equi-finality refers to ways in which the same results can be obtained by different means and by starting from different beginning points. In other words, there are many different means to the same end, and no matter where one begins, the end will be the same.

Even though the family systems may start from different beginning points, they have the ability to achieve the same goals through different means or developmental routes. A simplistic Example: we may take different roads to campus, but we all arrive at the same place. Very different family backgrounds, living conditions, and family interaction patterns may still produce adolescents with very similar outcomes (e.g., delinquency, drug abuse, or valedictorian). Another example: The boy may drink for many different reasons (e.g., father drinks, easy access to alcohol, acceptance of drinking in the house, peer pressure). It cannot be said that the drinking had one specific cause. This decreases the focus on the 'why'. What becomes important is the focus on the present-centred 'what'. In other words, what is going on, and how is the system maintaining the behaviour? (Becvar & Becvar, 2006).

When looking at equi-finality and circular causality together it demonstrates how any arbitrarily designated behaviour may have many "whys" and may be influencing many other behaviours (Becvar & Becvar, 2006).

2.1.25 Ecological science

The term *ecology* originates from the Greek word *oikos* (house) and *logos* (knowledge). The concept was coined by a German zoologist in 1873 who proposed the term *oekologie* to describe a science that studied the organism as a product of both environment and heredity (Bubolz & Sontag, 1993).

On the basis of this definition, ecology, therefore, can broadly be defined as the study of organisms in relation to their environment. It assumes that the

social and physical environments are:

- interdependent and a source of available resources; and
- influence human life and can be modified to improve quality of life.

Ecology as a science (body of knowledge) is holistic, interdisciplinary and grounded in scientific principles, methods and results (Bubolz & Sontag, 1993).

The definition and clarification of 'ecology' as a concept highlighted above implies that it is the science of adaptedness, i.e. organisms/individuals adapting to their environment. In this way, ecologically oriented scientific investigations focus on mutual adaptations between the organism/individual and the environment, with recognition that such adaptation is often, although not always, mutual.

In ecological terms, in some cases an organism (including persons) simply adjust to the environment. The term 'adaptation' is often reserved for those situations where both organism and environment change in complementary and transactional ways. According to Germain and Bloom (1999:12), there is a general tendency for each party to this interaction to seek a goodness of fit or positive adaptedness *vis-a-vis* themselves and the other party. Maladaptation reflects problems in this fit and is regarded as the target of intervention in ecological psychology.

Among ecological concepts that have been emphasized in psychology are those of social niche and habitat, which are now described below:

- **Niche**

The social niche is used as a metaphor for the status or social position occupied by particular persons in the social structure of a community (Germain & Bloom, 1999:64). Such niches may be enabling, offering opportunities for positive growth and development, or entrapping, failing to

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provide for basic human needs and leaving few routes to escape (Sullivan & Rapp, 2006).

- **Habitat**

In ecological science, habitat refers to the physical and geographic surroundings in which an organism lives. Metaphorically, in psychology, it is typically used to refer to physical and social settings within a cultural context (Germain & Gitterman, 1996:20). Ecological practice may involve targeting dimensions of niche and habitat, often emphasizing considerations of stress and coping, vulnerability and oppression, and social and technological 'pollution' that may be transactionally structured into niches or present in the habitat.

- **The role of diversity**

Ecological science has established that diversity is key to ecosystemic balance. Capra (1996:303) posits that a diverse ecosystem will also be resilient and that the more complex the network is, the more complex its pattern of interconnections, and the more resilient it will be. Racism, heterosexism, ageism, sexism, and many other forms of oppression and discrimination result in unearned privilege for some, as well as severe lack of opportunity, violations of human rights, and even loss of life for others. Acts of prejudice and bias are common toward those who are different from oneself and are associated with physical, emotional, and structural violence of many kinds, contributing to a socially toxic environment for all.

In addition, however, ecological science suggests that variation is critical to survival, and thus that respect and appreciation for those different from oneself and one's group are adaptive and critically important at a socio-cultural level. Each enduring cultural group has developed unique ways to survive in the world, each adapted to different environmental and social conditions. As a result, in many cases one cultural group struggling with an apparently intractable social problem can turn to others to find solutions that

do not emerge within their own matrix of cultural practices. For example: In countries where a system of honour-killing is practized, human rights are hopelessly broken (Farmer, 2003). In this way, escalating resources are dedicated to those oppressive systems, and yet enormous amounts of potentially productive human resources remain locked away, with other enormous amounts of human resources required to keep them that way. There is no obvious route out of this pattern within these systems, because they are deeply grounded in existing cultural values and economic arrangements.

Other cultures around the world, however, have found quite different ways to deal with issues of crime and justice, and there is strong evidence that some of those practices can be successfully integrated into cultures that have found no solutions internally (Ross, 2006). Similarly, women in some parts of the world have begun to find ways to challenge sexist oppression. In part as a result of the globalization of communication, increasingly those practices are being adopted and adapted by women in other cultures (Lowery, 2007).

The analogy with biological diversity is evident. Because particular cultural practices have proven adaptive under differing conditions, the diversity of these practices is a source of potentially valuable variations. Maintaining cultural diversity preserves banks of potentially useful possibilities for responding to changing circumstances. Unfortunately, the practices of cultures quite different from one's own often appear peculiar, and sometimes even primitive and shameful. In an increasingly globalized world, however, recognition of the crucial importance of diversity may prove central to the future of the human species. Some practices, for example, those inconsistent with universal human rights, should be abandoned (although cross-cultural perspectives on human rights have also not received adequate attention, and there remain serious challenges in that area). But the richness of cultural and human diversity is a primary resource for human survival (Warren, Franklin, & Streeter, 1998; Ross, 2006).

- **Ecofeminism**

As the name suggests, ecofeminism as a science, emerged from the intersection of ecological science and feminist thought (Besthorn & McMillen, 2002; Spretnak, 1990). Human beings are recognized as simply part of the natural ecosystem, and all oppressive power structures (e.g., sexism and the destruction of the natural environment) are seen as interrelated. Dominance hierarchies (e.g.,man over woman, human over nature, human over other species) are viewed as central to all ecological problems. Ecofeminism thus calls for 'wild justice' to challenge those hierarchies. The social justice implications of ecofeminism are important. So, potentially, may be the recognition of human life as genuinely, not metaphorically, part of the natural world, which may move toward a more integrated scientific perspective on all of human life.

Some versions of ecofeminist thought challenge the utility of scientific method for understanding the world. Ecologists, however, and ecologically minded psychologists have found science a critical tool.

2.1.26 General Systems Theory (GST)

According to (Warren, Franklin, & Streeter, 1998) and Ross (2006), the concept 'system' can be defined as an assemblage of interdependent parts, living or non-living. This definition, therefore, implies that systems are characterized by dynamic interconnectedness and reciprocity. For example: An action by one member of the system will often, but not always, have an effect on other members, and actions by other members are likely to have an impact on the first. Also, active interventions in one or another aspect of the case always resonate through other elements of the case in some way. These reverberating (and in some cases amplifying) effects have great practical implications because the psychologist and client, working together, can sometimes influence relatively distal variables by intervening in more available or accessible areas.

In the early and mid-twentieth century, a variety of thinkers and scientists were moving toward systems thinking and systems theories. Capra (1996:44) describes a number of examples, including the ecologist Odum (1953), who tried to clarify ecological phenomena by using flow diagrams, *Bogdanov's tektology*, which sought to arrive at a systematic formulation of the principles of organization operating in living and non-living systems; and Cannon's (1939) concept of systemic homeostasis.

All organized systems, as understood by the GST and more recent varieties of related systems theories, are characterized by a number of common properties. Following Meyer (1988), these include common structural features, the influences of contextual variables, and hierarchical organization, which are now discussed below.

- **Structural Dimensions**

According to Warren, Franklin, and Streeter (1998) and Ross (2006), systems have boundaries. Living systems often actually create their own boundaries. These boundaries can be reflected in physical space, as in a classroom in which the class is a system. Or they can be drawn conceptually, for example, as the psychologist identifies salient transactional patterns that affect the client in systemic ways. Systems have patterned relationships. For example: Students meet regularly in classrooms. In contrast, if an accident happens on the street, the people who gather to watch it are not a system but a random aggregate. A physical boundary is usually self-evident, i.e. a classroom or a school building, for example, has walls.

According to Warren, Franklin, & Streeter (1998) and Ross (2006), conceptual boundaries are identified by tracing transactional patterns. A family has a boundary, for example. Some people are in the family, and others are not. Who is, and who is not, a member of the family system may be verbally defined by participants differently than it might be defined by tracing patterns of transactions. Different definitions in this case may both be correct, but for different purposes. If the psychologist collaborates with the client in a dynamic

of shared power, the clarification of boundaries and thereby the definition of the case becomes a co-creative act. In some kinds of practice, the psychologist attempts to become a temporary part of the client system. Minuchin (1974), a Structural Family Theory proponent, for example, emphasizes temporarily 'joining' the family as a critical step in family treatment, a position from which one can have an impact 'from the inside'. Although this usage is somewhat metaphoric, in highly engaged forms of family treatment like Minuchin's, the therapist may in fact become a central source and nexus of transactions within the family for a period of time.

According to (Warren, Franklin, & Streeter, 1998) and Ross (2006), for living systems to survive, their boundaries must, to some extent, be open or permeable. Living systems must at a minimum be able to import energy from the environment and to eliminate waste products. Such exchange enables the system to grow and permits its elements to differentiate and develop. Closed (self-contained) systems cannot survive, i.e. they run down through a process of entropy. All systems move toward disorganization or death without regular importation of energy. Systems that import more energy from the environment than they expend are displaying what is termed negative entropy which, of course, is not a bad thing. They can then move toward greater complexity through elaboration and differentiation.

Systemic survival requires substantial structural stability. Systems therefore tend to preserve their structure (persistent patterns among elements and transactions). For example, in family therapy, the members of the parental sub-system usually do not change, although the parents may come to behave differently. Within this basic structure, however, living systems are in continuing dynamic process. A living system in which all transactions stop ceases to live. Stable systems tend to resist extreme change and to maintain a steady state. But because living systems are dissipative structures that disappear if all processes stop, the steady state must be a dynamic balance, not a static equilibrium (Warren, Franklin, & Streeter, 1998; Ross, 2006).

Because of the complexities of transactions within the system and exchanges outside the system, many eventual outcomes are possible given any particular beginning state (multifinality). Similarly, it is possible to reach a particular outcome through many different transactional paths (equi-finality). These factors can be both advantageous and challenging in practice. A childhood history of trauma may, but need not, lead to lifelong depression (multi-finality), a hopeful perspective compared to traditional linear views that suggest that the effects of childhood trauma could not be substantially moderated by later events. On the other hand, because of interactions among many conditions and events throughout the transactional field, using the same intervention strategy will not lead to the same outcome in every case, which emphasizes the need for careful case monitoring. For example, there are several evidence-based ways to work with a person with significant depression (equi-finality), so if one is blocked, another might be tried. Given the enormous individual variation in the outcomes of any particular treatment approach, practice evaluation remains critical even when using an intervention with strong empirical support (Warren, Franklin, & Streeter, 1998; Ross, 2006).

From the above expositions, it is clear that multi-finality and equi-finality are not abstract possibilities, but are characteristic of psychology in any area in which complex variables are in play.

- **Contextual Factors**

All living systems require regular exchanges with the larger environment. For example, some varieties of systems theory, especially those dealing with organizations that are designed to generate physical or behavioural products, emphasize inputs, outputs, and throughputs in discussing these exchanges (Malott, 2003). Using the individual as the focal system, Bronfenbrenner (1979) discusses contextual factors in terms of micro-systemic factors (family, school, work, peers, etc.), meso-systemic interactions (transactions among micro-systemic elements), exo-systemic factors (extended family, mass media, and other systems of which the individual is not a part but that influence individuals and micro-systems), and the macro-system (larger socio-

cultural forces). In some formulations, Bronfenbrenner (1989) also discussed the chrono-system, which roughly encompassed the place of time and socio-historical conditions.

The individual or family system, for example, can be powerfully influenced by the very immediate environment, i.e. the micro-system (the home, each other, television) (Saleebey, 2006), as well as by economic forces, social agencies, national social welfare policies, i.e. the macro-system, and many contextual variables, and these influences shift over time. Some transactions with environmental forces can nourish, and others can overwhelm the resilience of the system. A functioning system maintains its balance through rich but manageable transactions with the environment.

- **Hierarchy**

General systems theory clarifies that any system may be viewed simultaneously as:

  - the focal system (the one being considered primary in this research, for example, the family in family therapy);
  - a sub-system of a larger system (the family as a sub-system of the community); and
  - a supra-system that is constituted of other systems (the family is a supra-system, with individuals as constituents).

This means that any system is therefore a holon, simultaneously a whole and a part (Anderson & Carter, 1999). It is therefore possible to shift one's frame of reference from one level to another as such shifts are useful. This is precisely what occurred with the emergence of family therapy. The family had previously been considered primarily as simply background social context for work with the individual as focal system. With the coming of family therapy, the family became the primary focus of attention, with individuals as members, and sub-sets of individuals, seen as sub-systems. Minuchin (1974), for

example, talked about the parental sub-system, the couple sub-system (sometimes the same people as those constituting the parental sub-system, but looked at from a different functional perspective), and the sibling sub-system.

- **The Primacy of Relationships**

Contemporary research and theory in physics and biology suggest that reality is best thought of not as a collection of objects, but as an 'inseparable web of relationships' (Capra, 1996:37). The relational components of this web are patterns of transactional events. Objects (including organisms) are more like emergent consequences of those transactions, and have reality only in networks of relationships. Cells, organisms, and ecosystems are all organized and defined by such network patterns. The hierarchical organization of systems described in GST (sub-systems, focal systems, supra-systems) emerges from levels of networks. Members of an ecological community are interconnected in a vast and intricate network of relationships, and the web of life. They derive their essential properties and, in fact, their very existence from their relationships to other things (Capra, 1996:298).

A neighbourhood, then, is the relationships among families, residents, businesses, churches, and other elements present within a geographic area, along with their larger context. A family is the relationships among members. The work of psychology is, therefore, action taken to influence those transactional webs of relationship. The psychologist is part of the web, the client is part of the web, and the work they do together will be supported, opposed, or both by transactions elsewhere in the web.

- **Self-Organizing Networks**

Systems theory has also expanded the understanding of the structure and boundaries of living, self-organizing networks (Hudson, 2000). These autopoietic networks are literally 'self-making': They dynamically organize and construct themselves without guidance from outside. The dynamic patterns of

transactions that constitute an autopoietic system are organized by the network itself and construct their own boundaries, because the boundary of such a network is a natural result of how it functions. Such natural boundaries (e.g., that of a family or a network of fictive kin) need to be honoured in practice, because they are real. They cannot simply be artificially invented by the practitioner; should the practitioner attempt to do so, natural homeostatic processes would likely neutralize the impact of the work being done.

How any particular network responds to an influence from outside is determined by the state and structure of the network. For example, two economically stressed families may both live in a dangerous, high-crime neighbourhood that offers little access to social capital or support. One family may respond by simply dissipating, with its diffuse boundaries eventually dissolving and members lost to the street. Another, however, may demonstrate great resilience, taking collective steps to couple with healthier networks (churches and youth organizations, for example) while closing its boundaries to negative influences. Thus the enduring patterns of transactions within each family are key determinants of outcome, which cannot be predicted from knowing only about the impinging environment. It is, however, important to note that the resilience literature indicates that progressively fewer families can survive in healthy ways as environmental stressors increase, and that survival will often involve substantial costs, even for the most resilient (Benard, 2006).

2.1.27 Ecosystems theory

The ecosystems theory in psychology and related fields (Auerswald, 1968; Meyer, 1976) emerged from the two conceptual frameworks drawn from the ecology (DuBos, 1972) and general systems theory (GST) (von Bertalanffy, 1968) sciences, which were clarified above.

Developed in the 1970s and 1980s, the ecosystems theory seeks to identify and improve ecological conditions. This approach was, first, developed by Meyer, Germain and Gitterman, and Maluccio. Meyer (1988:287) propounded

that the paradigm on ecosystems considers environmental variables as interrelated and reciprocal with the person variables, and, therefore, environmental intervention must be included among the treatments of choice. Germain (1979) posited that, in an ecological view, social science practice is directed at improving transactions beweeen people and environments in order to enhance adaptive capacities and improve environments for all who function within them.

Also called 'Development in Context' or 'Human Ecology' theory (Paquette & Ryan, 2001), the ecosystems theory specifies the following four types of nested environmental systems, with bi-directional influences within and between the systems (Bronfenbrenner, 1979; Angela, 2005):

- the micro-system, which refers to people and structures that the person has direct contact with most often. At this level, relationships have impact in two directions - both away from the person and toward the person. For example: parents, siblings, peer group, *etc.* Simply explained, this system refers to human beings' immediate environments;

- the meso-system provides connections between the structures of the micro-system. For example: a child's gaurdian taking part in his outside activities such as school or sports. It makes connections between the immediate environments of the microsystem;

- the exo-system includes the larger society that is not involved in daily interactions with the child. They impact the child's development by interacting with some structure in his or her micro-system. For example: extended family members, neighbourhood, a parent's work place. It, therefore, includes external environmental settings that indirectly affect development;

- the macro-system refers to the outer-most layer in a child's environment that consists of values, customs and laws. The effects of larger principles defined by the macro-system have a cascading

influence throughout the interactions of all other layers. For example: the government, Eastern *vs.* Western Culture, the economy or political culture, cultural activities and values. This system looks at larger cultures which may have an effect on human development; and

- the chrono-system encompasses the dimension of time as it relates to a child's environments. Elements in this system can be external or internal. For example: external-timing of parents' death, internal-physiological changes that occur with the aging of a child. This system considers the pattern of environmental events or transitions that a person can go through in life.

Each of the above systems contains roles, norms and rules that can powerfully shape development. The human being is viewed by this theory as developing within a complex system of relationships affected by multiple levels of the surrounding environment.

From the above explanation of the ecosystems theory it is clear that it is an approach to the study of human development that consists of the scientific study of the progressive and mutual accommodation throughout the life course, between an active, growing human being, and the changing properties of the immediate settings in which the developing person lives, as this process is affected by the relations between these settings, and by the larger contexts in which the settings are embedded (Bronfenbrenner, 1989:188).

Since its publication in 1979, Bronfenbrenner's major statement of this theory, *The Ecology of Human Development* (Bronfenbrenner, 1979) has had wide-spread influence on the way psychologists and other social scientists approach the study of human beings and their environments. As a result of this conceptualization of human development, these environments, from the family to economic and political structures, have come to be viewed as part of the life course from childhood through adulthood (Smith, Cowie & Blades, 2008).

The above specification of the ecosystems theory can be illustrated as follows (The bi-directionality discussed above is indicated by the arrows among various systems of the ecological field):

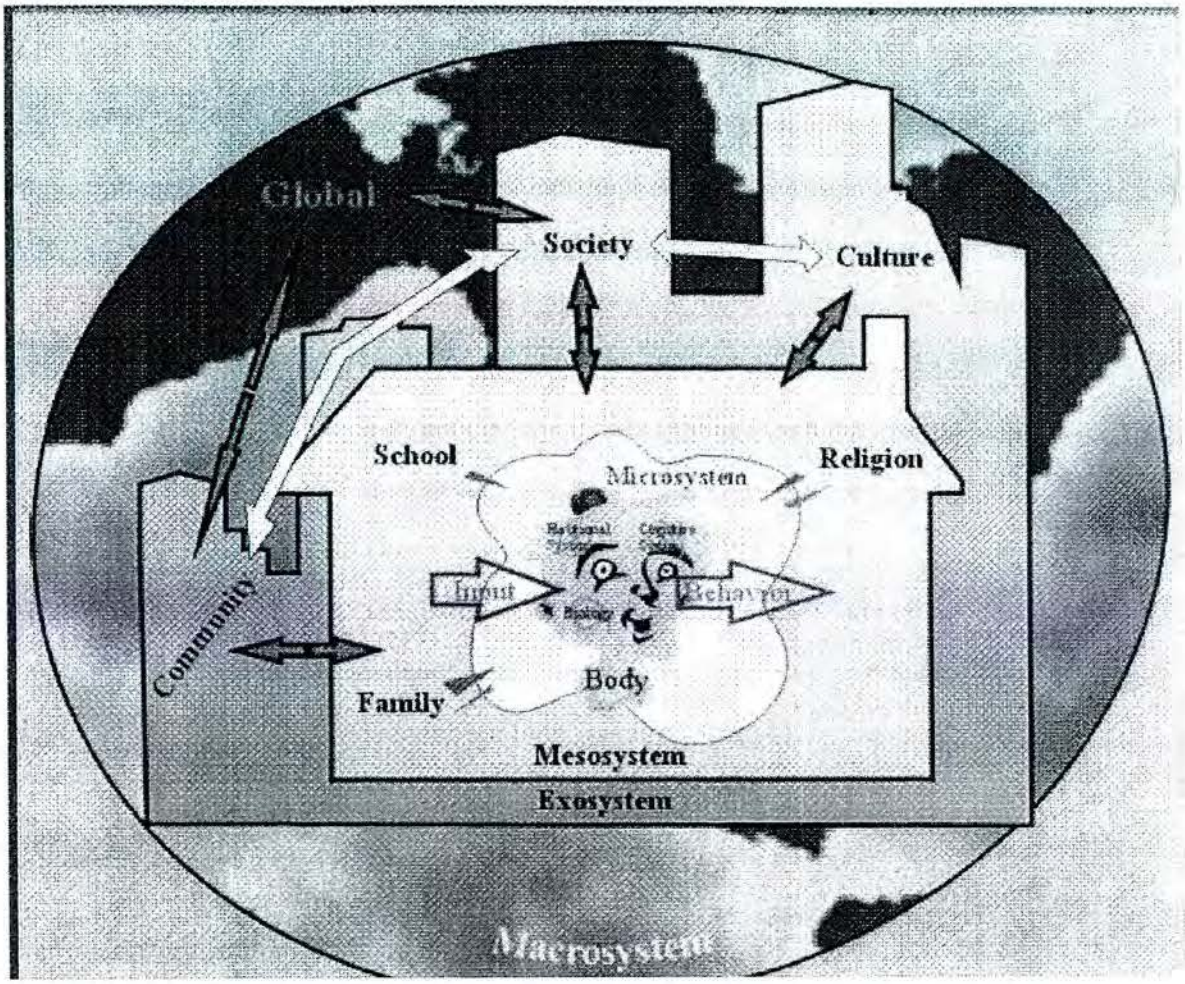

Table 1: Nested systems of the ecosystem (Taken from Bronfenbrenner, 1979)

According to Bubolz and Sontag (1993); and Herrin and Wright (1988), the following assumptions can be made about the ecosystems theory:

- humans are ecological organisms interdependent with other organisms in the environment. Humans cannot be considered as separate from other organisms or the environment. This is a departure from earlier

positivist views which believed that humans were an exempt species from the ecological perspective;

- the ecosystem is comprised of the family in interaction with the environment;
- ecosystems are based on the holistic premise that a change in any part of the system affects the system as a whole and also the parts of the system. This assumes the whole system and the parts are interdependent and operate in relation to each other; and
- all humans are interdependent with the resources of the world, and therefore:
    - the environment is the source of limited resources necessary for survival;
    - these resources and the environment can be modified to improve the quality of life; and
    - the way humans, both on a national and individual level, choose to use these resources is important to the world's ecological health.

2.2 Ecosystems and Structural Family Orientation as the theoretical frameworks of this study

This section presents ecosystems and structural family orientation theoretical frameworks on which the perspectives and recommendations of this study are based.

2.2.1 Ecosystems theoretical framework

The ecosystems theory was viewed as an appropriate framework within which to contextualise and delimit the content of this study because of:

- first, its emphasis on the existence of multiple social contextual influences on human behaviour and its emphasis on the concept of reciprocity between the individual and the environment;

- second, it highlights that humans and human societies are essentially interwoven into the fabric of a larger ecological field, and that ecological field can be understood scientifically; and

- third, it provides the basis for the understanding of Structural Family Orientation (see sub-section 2.2.2 below) as propounded by Minuchin (1970), which also forms part of the theoretical perspective of this study.

The latter statement implies that the nuclear family, whose structure is destroyed by the phenomenon of uxoricide, is regarded in this research as a living open system whose members are interdependent and that it (nuclear family) has the potential to undergo transformation of an evolutionary nature. In this respect, the family process is regulated by the multi-level inter-play of homeostasis and change. In cases where the family fails to adjust its rules to changing environmental or intrinsic demands, it is the belief of this researcher that homeostasis becomes dominant.

The development of children in more holistic and interactive terms is regarded as crucial in this research. This researcher believes that the origins, maintenance and solutions to social problems such as uxoricide and special needs of uxoricide orphans cannot be separated from the broader social context and systems within which they occur. Hence, this researcher applied the ecosystemic approach to make recommendations for psycho-social development of both family structures, marriages and children in section 9.

2.2.2 Structural family orientation

Structural family orientation is a model that was developed by Minuchin (1970) to help psychotherapists and social workers during family therapies. As a

therapy framework, it is primarily characterized by:

- **Family structure**

In structural family therapy (SFT), the life history of a family is viewed as a series of attempts at keeping a desirable balance between stability and change. The family is seen as one system that exists as a sub-set of larger social systems (such as communities and organizations) and contains smaller social sub-systems (such as coalitions) within its boundary. Family structure, sub-systems, boundaries and how these inter-connect (meaning, their dynamics or rules of operation) are of particular significance in evaluating the functionality of family patterns (Guerin & Chabot, 1992).

According to Colapinto (2000), identifying the hierarchy among individuals, sub-systems, coalitions, and the rules that govern all interactions is also part of understanding and helping a given family.

- **Family patterns**

According to Minuchin (1974), it is through observing patterns of interaction repeated across time an d situations that an understanding of roles, sub-systems, coalitions, hierarchy, and rules (family structure) can be achieved.

SFT (Minuchin, 1974) outlines three basic subsystems:

- the spouse sub-system in which the couple relationship, its function, and roles are contained;
- the parental sub-system in which the parental relationship including its roles and function are maintained; and
- the sibling sub-system in which the children's' relationship, function, and roles are contained

A family may be comprised of these sub-systems and operate according to either generic (typical, expected, hierarchical) or idiosyncratic (irregular, unexpected) family rules. A family operating under a generic hierarchical

structure places the parents at the helm, in good communication overseeing the family together with mutually agreed rules and roles. A family operating under idiosyncratic structure might have the teenage children as a team running the family, making the rules (Colapinto, 2000; Guerin *et al.*, 1992; Warren, Franklin, & Streeter, 1998; Ross, 2006). The latter is considered problematic even if it is an adaptation to parental incapacity.

- **Family boundaries**

According to SFT, understanding a family requires identifying the processes and boundaries that operate the sub-systems and coalitions in that family (Colapinto, 2000). Minuchin (1974) defined three types of interpersonal boundaries (clear, rigid, or diffuse) that determine the overall ability of the family to adapt successfully to change, i.e.:

- clear boundaries around generic subsystems are ideal because they are firm yet flexible, permitting maximum adaptation to change;
- rigid boundaries imply disengagement between family members or sub-systems. The prevailing non-communicative hinders support and limits effective adaptation; and
- diffuse boundaries imply enmeshment where everyone is into everyone else's business. In this case, no one and everyone is taking charge and effective guidance during times of change is impossible.

Either of the two latter boundary styles make it difficult to attain optimal adaptation because the family structure either lacks flexibility (it is too rigid) or has too much flexibility (it is too diffuse) to permit the successful re-adjustment of all the family members (Warren, Franklin, & Streeter, 1998; Ross, 2006).

So, in addition to identifying the parts that make up the family's whole, SFT defines the rules, processes, and their interconnections in ways that are more versus less functional. The goal of the family therapist is to help family members understand the current structure and the way it may be preventing effective adaptation. This is often sufficient for powerful, long-lasting change.

This orientation is based on the notion that most symptoms of dysfunctional families are a by-product of structural failings within the family organization (Guerin & Chabot, 1992). Therapeutic change consists of helping the family modify its stereotyped patterns and re-define relationships (Colapinto, 2000). Minuchin's (1974) central idea is that an individual's symptoms are best understood from the vantage point of interactional patterns within a family and that structural changes must occur in a family before an individual's symptoms can be reduced or eliminated.

The model conceptualizes the family as a living open system whose members are interdependent and which undergoes transformation of an evolutionary nature. According to this model, family process is regulated by the multi-level inter-play of homeostasis and change. Change in families can be arrested, in which case the family fails to adjust its rules to changing environmental or intrinsic demands, and homeostasis becomes dominant. Intergenerational coalitions, triangulations, conflict avoidance and lack of growth and differentiation characterize these families, which then come to therapy as caricatures of themselves (Colapinto, 2000).

The problem behaviour is seen as a partial aspect of the family stagnation. The diagnostic endeavour in a therapeutic situation consists of assessing the transactional and perceptual structure that is supporting (rather than 'causing') the symptom. Accordingly, therapeutic change depends on the modification of the family structure such as positional changes, increases and reductions in distances, re-definition of hierarchical relations, exploration of new alternative rules, and conflict resolution are required so that the family's natural development to growth can be re-opened. A special social context, the therapeutic system, is created to this effect, where the therapist pushes the system limits in a quest for its potential strengths and under-utilized resources (Warren, Franklin, & Streeter, 1998; Ross, 2006).

Colapinto (2000) asserts that family therapy is an effective way of helping families overcome psychological problems. Using this model, the trained family therapist is able to treat issues such as child problems, mental illness,

eating disorders, conflict, and trauma. This therapy is extremely effective in overcoming many child and adolescent problems. It is probably one of the most effective methods for understanding and healing troubled families.

The therapist's function is to assist the family in its re-structuralization, and his participation is subject to boundaries both in terms of depth and time. His role is paradoxical, i.e. he needs to find the right equation of accommodation and challenge, and at different moments of his encounter with the family it can be compared to the job of a dancer, a stage director, a camera director and a strange body in the family organism. The model provides him with the following techniques for the formation of the therapeutic system and for the creation of disequilibrium and change:

- joining techniques such as maintenance, tracking and mimesis; and
- disequilibrating techniques such as reframing, enactment, boundary making, punctuation, and unbalancing (Warren, Franklin, & Streeter, 1998; Ross, 2006).

From the foregoing exposition it is clear that structural family therapy assumes that:

- family structure, i.e. repeated, predictable patterns of interaction determine individual behaviour to a great extent; and
- the power of the system is greater than the ability of the individual to resist (Warren, Franklin, & Streeter, 1998; Ross, 2006).

This means that the system can often override any family member's attempt at non-engagement (Piercy, 1986; Coyne & Anderson, 1988). Roles, boundaries, and power establish the order of a family and determine whether the family system works. For example, a child may assume a parental role because a parent is too impaired to fulfill that role. In this situation, the boundary that ought to exist between children and parents is violated.

Structural family therapy would attempt to decrease the impaired parent's behaviour and return that person to a parenting role (Seligman, 2004).

Whenever family structure is improperly balanced with respect to hierarchy, power, boundaries, and family rules and roles, structural family therapy can be used to re-align the family's structural relationships. This type of treatment is often used to reduce or eliminate substance abuse problems. As Minuchin and Fishman (2004) explain, the family systems model can be used to:

- identify the function that any pathology serves in maintaining family stability; and
- guide appropriate changes in family structure

The above assumptions of the structural family orientation can be overally summarized as follows:

- families are hierarchically organized with rules for interacting across and within sub-systems;
- insight is not sufficient for change;
- normal developmental crises can create problems within a family;
- inadequate hierarchy and boundaries maintain symptomatic behaviour;
- improving a sub-system's boundary improves the functioning of the parts of the sub-system;
- problems are a product of social relationships, e.g., they have a context;
- families are evolving organizations continually regulating their internal structure in response to internal and external change;
- developmental life demands change in the structure of the family, as well as rules and roles;

- good functioning is determined by the fit of a family's structure to its operational functions;
- conflict is not to be avoided, but used for change;
- family members develop a preferred degree of emotional proximity/distance in relating to one another;
- structures and sub-structures are related;
- the individual is a sub-unit of her or his family as well as a sub-unit of other social contexts;
- family members relate to each other in patterned ways that are observable;
- family structure determines the effectiveness of family functioning;
- people are competent and resourceful, although interactional circumstances handicap competent functioning;
- a faulty structure prohibits movement through various stages (accomplishment of life tasks);
- families are organized entities (developmentally and economically);
- families are their own best resource for change;
- family structure is defined by family transactional patterns (rules); and
- families inherently promote predictable organization (structure) for stability (Minuchin, 1974; Coyne & Anderson, 1988, 1989; Minuchin & Fishman, 2004; Piercy, 1986; Seligman, 2004; Will, 1985).

3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Uxoricide has been a world-wide social problem since the period before Christ to date, but very little academic research has been conducted internationally, and none in South Africa, on this phenomenon of married women's lethal physical victimisation by their husbands or former husbands. In this section, the problem of uxoricide will be highlighted by:

- first, providing some cases from the newspaper articles that highlight the historicity and ubiquity of this homicidal phenomenon perpetrated against married women;
- second, reviewing some psycho-social journal articles and books which provide empirical research findings on the extent, causes, nature and family destructiveness of uxoricide; and
- third, formulation of research questions.

3.1 Cases highlighting the historicity and ubiquity of uxoricide

Some of the well-known cases that highlight the historicity and ubiquity of uxoricide are those of:

- Cambyses II of Persia, who married two of his sisters and installed the younger as queen consort to him. During his insanity, he murdered her for grieving for their brother Smerdis, whom Cambyses had murdered (Adinkrah, 1999);
- Ptolemy XI of Egypt had his wife and step-mother murdered nineteen days after their wedding in 80 BC (Adinkrah, 1999a);
- Roman Emperor Tiberius probably had his second wife Julia starved to death in 14 AD, while she was in exile on Pandataria. Their marriage was unhappy, and he had been publicly embarrassed by her adultery years before (Adinkrah, 1999a);

- Roman Emperor Nero ordered the death of his first wife Octavia soon after divorcing her in 62 AD. In 65 AD he also reportedly kicked his second wife Poppaea Sabina to death after an argument (Adinkrah, 1999a);

- George Forster murdered his wife and child by drowning them in Paddington Canal, London: he was hanged at Newgate on 18 January 1803 (Adinkrah, 1999a);

- Edward William Pritchard (1825-1865) was an English doctor who was convicted of murdering his wife and mother-in-law by poisoning. He was the last person to be publicly executed in Glasgow (Adinkrah, 1999a);

- The Reverend John Selby Watson (1804-1884) was sentenced to death in 1872 for killing his wife, but a public out-cry led to his sentence being reduced to life imprisonment. The case is notable for Watson's use of a plea of insanity as his defence (Adinkrah, 1999a);

- William Henry Bury (1859-1889) was executed in Dundee, Scotland, for the murder of his wife Ellen in 1889. He was suspected by some of being Jack the Ripper (Adinkrah, 1999a);

- Dr Crippen (1862-1910) was an American homeopathic physician hanged in Pentonville Prison, London, England, on 23 November 1910, for the murder of his wife, Cora Henrietta Crippen (Adinkrah, 1999a);

- George Joseph Smith (1872-1915), the 'Brides in the Bath Murderer', was convicted and subsequently hanged for drowning three women, all of whom he had polygamously married, between 1908 and 1914 (Adinkrah, 1999a);

- Herbert Rowse Armstrong (1869-1922), a solicitor in Hay-on-Wye, was hanged for the murder of his wife by arsenic poisoning (O'Brien, 2007);

- Dr Buck Ruxton (1899-1936) murdered and dismembered his wife in Lancaster, England in 1935 (O'Brien, 2007);

- John Reginald Halliday Christie (1899-1953), an English serial killer active in the 1940s and 1950s murdered at least seven women including his wife Ethel in his flat at 10 Rillington Place, Notting Hill, London (O'Brien, 2007);

- Charles Whitman killed his mother and wife before going on his killing spree at the University of Texas at Austin that killed 14 people and wounded 31 others, as part of a shooting rampage from the observation deck of the University's 32-story administrative building on August 1, 1966. He was eventually shot and killed by Austin police (O'Brien, 2007);

- On 9 November 1971, John Emil List murdered his three children, his mother and his wife and then was a fugitive for eighteen years. He was apprehended on 1 June 1989 after an episode of *America's Most Wanted* had been aired. On 1 May 1990 he was sentenced to five life terms in prison (O'Brien, 2007);

- On 23 October 1989, Charles Stuart, who worked at a furrier on Newburry Street, fatally shot his pregnant wife, Carol, in the head and then apparently shot himself in an attempt to frame someone else. But police, after arresting another man, began to suspect Stuart. Police, in their investigation, later determined that Stuart really wanted to open a restaurant with the money he would get from his wife's life insurance. Stuart, a man from Reading, killed himself, and the whole affair became infamous (O'Brien, 2007);

- On 23 July 1990, David MacGraw, a real estate investor, fatally strangled his wife, Nancy, in the living room of their Walpole home to avoid what may have been a six-figure divorce settlement. He was caught and was convicted in 1999 (O'Brien, 2007);

- On 27 September 1998, Joseph Romano, a Quincy iron-worker, killed and dismembered the body of his wife, Katherine, with a power saw he had borrowed from a neighbour. Her corpse was never found, but Romano was convicted of her murder. He became the first person ever convicted of murder in Massachusetts without the body of the victim (O'Brien, 2007);

- On 31 October 1999, Dr Dirk Greineder, a renowned Wellesley allergist killed his wife, Mabel, in order to protect his secret sex life with prostitutes. He slit her throat. He was convicted in sensational trial in 2001 (O'Brien, 2007); and

- On 14 July 2000, Dr Richard Sharpe, a rich cross-dressing dermatologist in Gloucester, admitted to fatally shooting his wife, Karen, with a rifle to keep her hands off the $5 million in assets. During his court prosecution, he claimed temporary insanity. The jury disagreed with him, and he was convicted in 2001 (O'Brien, 2007).

3.2 Review of psycho-social literature

Given the lack of research on the topic of uxoricide, it is not surprising that there are few recent international journal articles on the empirical investigations on the extent, causes, nature and nuclear family destructiveness of this lethal phenomenon. This researcher was, therefore, circumstantially compelled to review any available and relevant empirically based articles and books on the subject under investigation. This researcher is aware that the new trend in academic research is that researchers should strive to refer to recent sources, but it was practically impossible for the subject under investigation in this research. The findings from this review are now presented below, according to the key variables of the topic of this research:

3.2.1 The extent, causes and nature of uxoricide

Campbell (1992) found that 28 of 65 (43%) femicides in Ohio were uxoricides. Of these, 18 of 28 (68%) had recorded histories of previous physical abuse, and 17 of 28 (61%) used 'excessive force' (over-kill) during the killing. Wolfgang (1956) found that 44 of 53 (83%) of husbands who killed their wives did so with excessive force (over-kill). Cooper (1994) also reported excessive force as frequent in the 51% of cases of uxoricide he investigated. Rage-motivated killings demonstrated greater violence than other murders. Wolfgang (1958) cited in Straus (1976:55) defined violent homicides (over-kill) as involving two or more acts of stabbing, cutting, or shooting or a severe beating.

In a study of 896 woman killings (femicides) with identified perpetrators in Ontario from 1974 - 1990, Crawford and Gartner (1992) found that 551 of 896 (62%) of cases were uxoricides. Of the uxoricides, 297/551 (54%) had prior recorded histories of domestic violence, 166/551(30%) had records of threats to the wife, and 130/551 (24%) had records of prior police intervention. Crawford and Gartner (1992) also reported excessive force (over-kill) as frequent in 60% of uxoricides. They asserted that, in almost 60% of uxoricide, offenders stabbed, bludgeoned, beat, strangled, and\or slashed the throats of their victims. Often these fatal assaults involved lengthy and excessive violence. In many of these killings the offenders inflicted harm far beyond what would have been necessary to kill their victims. For example, more than half of the stabbings involved multiple stab wounds, i.e. in many cases, dozens of wounds over the entire body.

Similarly, beatings and bludgeonings were typically prolonged attacks with numerous injuries. Case histories indicate that it was not unusual for the killer to continue to attack his victim after it was clear that she was dead (Crawford & Gartner, 1992:45-46; Adinkrah, 1999a, 1999b; Buss, 2005; Burgess, Burgess, Koehler, Dominick & Wecht, 2005; Dobash, Dobash, Cavanagh & Lewis, 2004). Cazanave and Zahn (1992), in a study of 83 uxoricides, found that 46% of uxoricides but only 12% of mariticides (killing of a husband) were cases of over-kill.

Dutton (1995) reports that, of all uxoricides where a motive for the killing could be established from police records, 32% were 'estrangement killings', another 11% were based on beliefs that the wife was sexually unfaithful (amorous jealousy), a variation of the abandonment fear without actual physical estrangement. Amorous jealousy involves beliefs, real or delusional, of the partners' infidelity. It is usually committed by males aged 18-60 years of age. The beliefs range from ruminative to obsessional. The latter being termed the 'Othello Syndrome', and accompanied by irritability, despondency and murder (Marzuk, Tardiff & Hirsch, 1992:3180). As Marzuk, Tardiff and Hirsch (1992:3180) put it: "...more often there has been a chronically chaotic relationship fraught with jealous suspicions, verbal abuse and sub-lethal physical violence. The triggering event is often the female's rejection of her lover and her immediate threat of withdrawal and estrangement".

Wilson and Daly (1993) point out that equality in the sex ratio of killing does not connote equal motives for spousal homicide. One motive that appears disproportionately by sex in the homicide data is what they call 'estrangement', a misnomer that appears to mean recent or imminent abandonment. Abandonment means that the eventual perpetrator was left or expects to be left by the eventual victim, whereas estrangement means simply that the perpetrator and victim are separated. Clearly, if the male left, he would have a reduced motive to kill. Recent abandonment serves as a risk factor for uxoricide but not mariticide (husband killing) (Dutton & Kerry, 1999; Frye, Wilt & Schomburg, 1999; Wilson & Daly, 1996; Wilson, Johnson & Daly, 1995).

Wilson and Daly (1993) examined police records in Canada, Australia (New South Wales), and the United States of America (Chicago) and found that estrangement was associated with an elevated risk of uxoricide, that is, a risk factor of 3 in Chicago, 6 in Australia or 7.5 in Canada. This effect did not replicate for husband killings. Comparable increases in mariticide for separated men are as follows: In Chicago and Canada, the risk factor was 2 while in New South Wales it was zero. Hence, abandonment appears to disproportionately affect uxoricide.

The duration of estrangement is also of note. Wallace (1986) reported that 47% (15\38) slain wives in Australia were killed within the first two months and 91% (29\38) within the first year of separation. Comparable data are reported for Chicago (50% within 2 months, 85% within a year) (Wilson & Daly, 1993). Stout (1993) echoed the risk involved in early stages of estrangement. In a study of 23 men incarcerated for uxoricide in Missouri, she found 52% of all uxoricides occurred during estrangement. The modal period of separation was less than one month (25%). Cooper and Eaves (1996) found that 46 of 147 'family homicides' were precipitated by separation from the partner. Wilson and Daly (1993) point out that the temporal association between separation and uxoricide does not necessarily prove that separation caused uxoricide. For example, if a woman left a relationship where violence was escalating to a dangerous level, then the immediate post-separation period might be a time of elevated uxoricide risk regardless of whether men respond violently to separation *per se*...However, the case descriptions often make it clear that the link between separation and murder is more than incidental: Homicidal husbands are often noted to have threatened to do exactly what they did, should their wives ever leave them, and they often explain their homicides as responses to the intolerable stimulus of the wife's departure (Wilson & Daly, 1993:10).

A perspective on the motivational basis for abandonment-precipitated uxoricide comes from a study of non-lethal males who had been convicted of wife assault (Dutton & Browning, 1988). After viewing video-taped conflict scenarios with a theme of a woman 'abandoning' her husband, maritally violent men reported significantly more anger and anxiety than non-violent controls. Dutton (1995) suggested that abandonment rage had its origins in early development, including attachment and object relations.

Mize, Shackelford and Shackelford (2009) reports that in most police records there were indications that the most typical scenario (96%) before uxoricide was for victims to be, first, verbally\physically confronted over sexual indiscretions and\or when the victim had made the threat of terminating the marital relationship. Goetting (1995:26) highlights that homicidal marriages and

other romantic relationships appear to have been strongly ambivalent in nature, and the deadly act seems to have dissipated hateful sentiments on the part of the offender, leaving a sense of despair at the loss of the loved one. Similar findings were obtained by Campbell (1992), in a study of 73 uxoricides in Dayton, Ohio (1975 - 1979). 52% were killed by sexual intimates (half from whom they were estranged), 64% were known to have been previously physically abused by the perpetrator. Police reports of male jealousy indicate that it was the most frequent motive (Duntley & Buss, 2005; Van Patten & Delhauer, 2007; Shackelford, Buss & Peters, 2000; Mazzolo & Desinah, 2005; Fox, 2004). Campbell's (1992) investigation indicates that conjugal paranoia was frequent.

Goetting (1995) compared 123 uxoricides in Detroit (1982-1983) to other homicides in the city at that time. She found uxoricides somewhat less likely to be committed by gun (66% vs. 54%), and married women were somewhat more likely to be stabbed or beaten with a weapon (29% vs. 35%). Another 17% of uxoricide victims were killed by the perpetrator's bare hands. Less than a third of the offenders had been drinking at the time of the murder. Stout (1993) and Cooper (1994) also reported that use of a knife was the most common *modus operandi* of uxoricide. Dawson and Langan (1994) found that 41% of uxoricides were the result of stabbings. They also found that the use of fire-arms declines from non-family murders (60%) to family murders (40%).

Psychopathology has also been found to be causal to uxoricide. Biro, Vucovic and Djuric (1992) examined Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) profiles of 112 convicted uxoricides in Eastern Europe. They found that 49% of their sample showed a 'hypersensitive-aggressive' profile characterized by scale elevations on the Pa and D scales, in other words, exhibiting signs of paranoia and depression. Factor analysis of MMPI scores revealed six factors. One of these (Factor 5) depicted 'overcontrolled' murderers. Kalichman (1988) collected MMPI data on 16 women and twenty men convicted of murdering spouses and 19 other men convicted of murdering strangers during the course of a crime. Although there was a high incidence of psychopathology in each

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group, the patterns varied. Sixty nine percent of the female perpetrators had no significant scale elevations on the MMPI, whereas only 15% of the male perpetrators had 'normal' profiles (i.e. no scale elevations). The most frequently elevated scale in the male uxoricide group was Pd (35% had elevations over T scores of 70). Men who had killed strangers had more scale elevations than the uxoricidal group, with 37% showing elevations on the Ma scale as well as the Pd scale.

In their research, Dutton and Kerry (1999) determined the presence of personality disorder among uxoricides using the MCMI criterion cut-off of 85th percentile above baseline. They found that, according to this criterion, the most prevalent type of personality disorder associated with uxoricide were the Passive-Aggressive (M =88.6), Avoidant (M = 80.1), Self Defeating (81.0) and Dependent (M = 78.8) diagnoses. These 'overcontrolled' personality types are generally believed to suppress rage. In comparison to non-lethal spouse assaulters, these 'overcontrolled' personalities were more prevalent than the more expressive types (anti-social, aggressive-Sadistic). They, also, found that estrangement killings were exclusively committed by men with overcontrolled 'dependent' type personality disorders. By contrast, anti-social personality disordered uxoricides engaged in instrumental killings that were more likely to be planned. Anti-social personality disordered uxoricides were more likely to hide the body ($t = 3.4$, $p < .01$) and less likely to report post homicide suicidal feelings ($t = 4.1$, $p < .01$).

In the light of the latter findings, Dutton and Kerry (1999) concluded in their research that uxoricides who complete valid MCMI reports are almost invariably personality disordered. This finding is consistent with the findings of Hart, Dutton and Newlove (1994) that, as severity of non-lethal physical abuse of spouses increased, so did the likelihood of personality disorder. The surprising finding in this research, however, is that the so called 'overcontrolled' personality disorders are over-represented amongst spousal killers. Passive aggressive and dependent personality disorders are most frequent, and anti-social personality disorder less frequent compared to non

lethal spouse abusers. Their findings also revealed that 'overcontrolled' men are more likely to commit abandonment murders, to attempt suicide after the murder, and to kill 'reactively'. Many of the murders occurred during a failed reconciliation, or when a woman first announced her intentions to leave.

Dutton and Kerry's (1999) research, also, revealed that anti-social men killed for instrumental reasons, such as to collect insurance policies, and their killings were planned in a 'cold-blooded' way. The impending or recent abandonment killing may best be explained by the concept of catathymic crisis (Wertham, 1937; Revitch & Schlesinger, 1981; Meloy, 1992; Buss, 1998; Alridge & Browne, 2003; Buss, 2005; Buss, Shackelford, Kirkpatrick, Choe, Lim, Hasegawa & Bennett, 1999). Catathymic crisis is characterized by:

- a seemingly unsolvable psychic state of chronic and aversive emotional tension (called an incubation period); and
- projection of responsibility for the internal tension state onto the external situation (the marriage or the spouse), with the perception arising that violence is the only way out of the situation.

After this prolonged period of internal conflict and rumination, the violent act is carried out. The internal tension dissipates after the violent act (with no insight), 'superficial normalcy' is apparent for several months and internal psychic equilibrium is eventually established with development of insight (Wertham, 1937).

Wertham (1937) viewed the violent act as an expression of the fight on the part of the uxoricide for safeguarding of his personality. As such, the act derives from the 'psychological deep structure', that is the 'inborn modes of organizing experience that provides the templates for representations of self and others. The actual representations, and their respective affects, are the product of early learning and subsequent development' (Wertham, cited in Meloy, 1992:41).

Weiss (cited in Meloy, 1992:43) highlights 'sudden murderers' who commit a

'single, isolated, unexpected episode of violent, impulsive acting-out behavior, i.e. behaviour which is never well thought out and has no obvious purpose or hope for personal advantage'. Such sudden murderers came from large, mother dominated families with hostile or rejecting fathers. Attachment between mother and child was ambivalent, characterized by 'an underlying hostility that had to be repressed or split-off during affectionate moments by both parties' (Weiss, Cited in Meloy, 1992:44). The sudden murderers differed from habitual criminals in the following two important ways:

- they showed the highest dependency needs on assessment; and
- they did not use projection completely successfully, in that they were intermittently aware of their own failures.

This latter aspect of their personality makes them similar to suicidal people as described by Baumeister (1990). That is, both sudden murderers and suicides appear to have a pre-violence acute notion of themselves as failing. It is this notion, in the case of suicides, that creates 'aversive self awareness' from which the suicide is an attempt at escape. In the case of some uxoricides, the aversive feelings are seen as being caused by the eventual object of murder (Dutton & Yamini, 1995; Block & Christakos, 1995).

Meloy (1992:47) describes catathymic violence as delineated by intense autonomic arousal, overwhelming anger during the violence, the perception of the victim as an imminent threat to the ego structure of the perpetrator, a time limited behavioural sequence, and a goal of threat reduction and a return to homeostasis. Revitch and Schlesinger (1981) described catathymic violence as having three stages: incubation, violent act, and relief. The incubation stage includes cognitions that are marked by an 'obsessive pre-occupation with the future victim' and affect states including depression, frustration, and helplessness. The victim is typically known to the perpetrator, and an emotional bond or attachment exists between them.

Meloy (1992:58) describes the lack of an integrated identity in perpetrators of catathymic violence. Self and object representations vacillate between good or

bad, and are not held constant. Meloy (1992:58) cites the 'homicidal-suicidal wish' that emerges during the incubation stage 'Either he or I must die, something has to give'. During the incubation stage, 'there is no consciousness of the good self or good object, instead, what is focused on, is the aggressive aspect of the self-object dyad'. This polarization of self and object representation as either all good or all bad is comparable to that demonstrated by children aged 2 - 7, after the development of the notion of a separate self (Mahler, Pine & Bergman, 1975), but before the development of 'conservation of the self' (Kagan 1981). The fixation at this level may indicate profound disturbances in the interpersonal relationship with the parent occurring at that age in the subsequent perpetrator.

Meloy (1992:59) describes another feature of catathymia which is essential in fully understanding this form of aggression. In catathymia what occurs is 'oscillation of the destructive wish', also referred to as projective-introjective cycling. That is, the origins of aggression, pain and dysphoria are alternately projected onto the 'object or introjected into the self. The suicidal or homicidal nature of the aggressive wish depends on the perceived origin of the emotional distress, which may rapidly oscillate'. Although such thinking still assumes a distinction between self and other, the blurring of the origin of the pain or the 'attributional dilemma' suggest an imperfect separation. Confusion is apparent about the origin of psychological content: Who is doing what to whom? Am I feeling a certain way or is she?

Meloy (1992:60) also points out that typically such thinking is extreme; more moderate choices (such as leaving the relationship) are never consciously considered. 'Splitting, a characteristic of borderline personality organization, may occur during the experience of intense, polarized and alternating affect states. Rage may be felt toward the self and then toward the object. The intensity of the rage at the moment of violence also implicates splitting, since there is no blocking or neutralization of discharge that is seen in higher level repressive operation'. Aggressive drives remain raw, unmodulated and 'split off' from conscious expression during the incubation phase. For this reason,

the actual violence is often experienced as 'out of character' and 'overwhelming' by the perpetrator. Typically, the perpetrator experiences some tension release during the violent act and subsequent relief.

The clinical description of catathymic homicides is consistent with abandonment-precipitated rage killings. The pent up rage, for example, generates 'over-kill' as described by Crawford and Gartner (1992). The abandonment probably initiates the catathymic crisis: rumination on the thought that 'if I can't have her, no one else will' (Campbell 1992), or on the notion that the woman's act of leaving and the image of her being with another man is the cause of the perpetrator's psychic pain. Dutton and Browning (1988) found that, even in non-lethal abusive men, video-tapes of a woman expressing her desire for more independence produced greatly elevated levels of both anger and anxiety, over and above those reported by non-abusive men. The notion of catathymic crisis raises the issue of personality disorder and homicide. All the 'overcontrolled' types of personality disorder found to be over-represented in this study (compared to non-lethal wife assaulters) are men who have self-disturbances as part of their clinical personality. However, borderlines also have self disturbances. Borderlines were represented amongst both lethal (34%) and non-lethal (38%) groups in this study.

Cooper and Eaves (1996) reported 20 of 65 intimate partner homicides were followed by suicide or by a suicide attempt. Rosenbaum (1990) compared 12 homicide-suicide perpetrators with 24 intimate killers who were not suicidal. While both groups had relationships that were 'chaotic' with histories of physical abuse, and all perpetrators were extremely jealous, murder-suicide perpetrators were exclusively male and were depressed at the time of the murder (the murder-only group was 50% female perpetrators).

3.2.2 The effects of uxoricide on children and family structure

Pynoos and Eth (1984) investigated 200 cases of uxoricide which were committed in Los Angeles County where children witnessed the killing of their mothers. They report that:

- children of uxoricide lose their parents through a combination of murder and incarceration. In this way, they have to feel the pain of the loss and the shame of having a father who has, or is suspected of having killed their mother;

- they have to adapt to a new environment without their parents and to acknowledge that, in the future, they will not live in the former family home. Children will be taken from familiar surroundings and there may be confusion about who will be responsible for their upbringing;

- in some cases, they have observed the murder and stayed with the dead or dying parent. Also, matrimonial discord and divorce often precede uxoricide; and

- the arrest of the suspect parent is a further traumatic experience. The relationship with, in most cases, the father can become an additional burden.

Van Nijnatten (2004) and Steeves and Parker (2007) posit that domestic violence and, in the ultimate case, uxoricide can leave children with feelings of shock and fear. They often react by showing developmental disturbances such as cognitive retardation, pathological mourning, and social isolation. In many cases, they are absent-minded, have feelings of detachment and may show a lack of compassion. Eating disorders, sleeplessness, enuresis, *etc.* may be normal expressions of unhappiness in such circumstances. In later life, children of uxoricide have a higher chance of mental disturbances. Adolescents who were exposed to family violence whilst children appear to have lower self-esteem (Ritter, Stewart, Bernet, Coe & Brown, 2002).

However, there are some differences. Small children will have limited cognitive possibilities for understanding what exactly happened and will often have naïve concepts of causality (Black and Newman, 2000). Moreover, witnessing violence is quite different from being the victim of it and in some circumstances

it may even be worse (Kaplan, 1997). In many cases, children of uxoricide observed the violence by seeing or hearing what happened in a context of enforced passivity. This may cause extra difficulties, because the child is not distracted by personal pain and may fully concentrate on both what is happening between its parents (Pynoos & Eth, 1994) and on the dramatic reactions of the parent victim (Pynoos, 1996). In such situations, children show defence strategies in order to limit their traumatic anxieties. For example, they mitigate painful experiences by denying what has happened and avoid the topic by holding back spontaneous thoughts, by engaging in repetitious and detached reporting of family events and by producing new dramas in order to prevent themselves thinking about what happened (Pynoos & Eth, 1995).

Black and Kaplan (1988) interviewed 95 children who had experienced the death of one parent at the hands of the other. Some interviews were conducted within hours of the murder and some as long as years later, depending on when the child was referred to the study. They found that:

- forty percent were aged 5 or under and 40% were between 6 and 11;
- twenty-four of the children actually saw their parent being killed, and another nine heard but did not see the killing;
- after the death, more than half of the children immediately went to live with a relative. Thirty-five percent went to the deceased mother's family, usually a grand-parent, and 17% went to the father's family, about 30% went to foster homes, and 10 of the children went to institutional children's homes. Almost 75% of the children moved from one placement to another in the first year after the death. Thirteen of the children moved three or more times;
- half of the children saw the surviving parent after the crime. Interestingly, 10% of these children were more likely to visit their

usually incarcerated parent, perhaps based on a learned obligation to care for and protect parents; and

- half of the children had symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); 25% had mild symptoms and another 25% showed moderate to severe symptoms. Witnessing the killing was significantly associated with PTSD, but age, gender, and having received crisis intervention were not.

Black and Kaplan (1988), also, looked at these children's externalizing behaviours, or disruptive acting out. They found that:

- Sixty percent (60%) of the children exhibited these behaviours, and 40% were in the moderate to severe range;
- internalized behaviours, such as phobias, obsessions, or mood disorders, were present in 40% of the children;
- two thirds of the children were judged to be overly emotional in their responses to every-day situations, and another 25% were thought to be overly in control of their emotions;
- only 15% of the children did as well in school after the killing as before;
- a quarter of the children reported health problems that were judged to be psycho-somatic;
- nearly half of the children were victimized by their peer group, but only 15% showed a tendency toward bullying;
- about 10% were judged to be excessively passive in their peer relationships; and
- severe problems with attachment to the adults who were caring for them appeared in approximately 25%. Only 40% appeared to

be free of attachment problems.

Kaplan, Black, Hyman, and Knox (2001) did a follow-up study of these 95 children by contacting the person making the original referral (most often the assigned social worker). All of the children had been seen by the therapists more than 18 months previously (median 3.5 years; range 19 months to 15 years). Seventy-four percent of the referrers returned the questionnaires. The authors determined that the children lost to follow-up (n = 34) were not different from those in the follow-up sample in age or in having witnessed the homicide. There was a difference between the two groups in terms of the child's current placement. Eighty-three percent of children in the followed group were living in residential children's institutions compared to the original group, in which 61% were living with the assailant's family, 41% with the victim's family and 47% in foster care. Interestingly, the only children with regular contact with the assailant were those in foster care. Children with the maternal family had no contact, and in those living with paternal relatives, contact had ceased.

According to the assessment of the referrers, children living with the assailant's family (in all cases the father's) were doing worse in terms of behavioural and emotional problems. Children who had witnessed the homicide also had significantly more behavioural problems, despite having had more therapy. Overall, children living with the victim's family (all were the mother's family) were doing better behaviourally and in peer relationships than children in foster care, and both groups were doing better than children with the perpetrator's (father's) family (Kaplan, Black, Hyman, and Knox, 2001).

Eth and Pynoos (1994) interviewed 55 children ages 3-17 who had witnessed the killing of a parent. They reported the presence of PTSD, but they found that all of the children experienced it to some degree. The event was exquisitely painful and made the children feel helpless, anxious, and overwhelmed. These researchers noted that the children often had what Brown and Kulik (1977) referred to as 'flash-bulb' memories, which is explaned as, powerfully charged, detailed memories of the specific horrific event. The vivid memories were stable over time, and sometimes elaborately detailed narratives grew up

around them as children re-interpreted the event. Eth and Pynoos (1994) described a number of presenting symptoms (most of which can be classified as part of PTSD) such as:

- muteness;
- aggression;
- disconnection;
- anger;
- guilt;
- anxiety; and
- school problems.

They also listed a number of what they referred to as the prominent traumatic symptoms:

- nightmares;
- re-enactment of the event;
- intrusive memories;
- fears; and
- anxiety.

Another category of symptoms reflected the grief response. These symptoms included:

- denial;
- depression;
- passivity; and

- an absence of affect when the dead person was mentioned.

Pynoos and Eth (1983) offered some insights into the mechanisms of damage, defense, and recovery. Flash-bulb memories, such as that of a mutilated body, sometimes became intrusive and interfered with mourning and prevented sleeping. Previous violence in the house did not seem to lessen the effect of the murder, but it may have provided the child with some defenses to lessen the impact. The study reconfirms the view expressed by Frederick (1980) that stress is greater when the loss is caused by human design and not by nature. The authors also added the notion that ambivalence is a problem when the killer is a parent. It is difficult to blame and be angry with a loved one, and some children felt guilt or self-blame at failing to intervene or prevent the murder.

Clements and Burgess (2002) interviewed children aged 9 to 11 who had experienced a family member homicide. They reported that sources of pain and suffering included:

- the way families were notified of the death (most often by the police);
- extensive police investigation and interrogation;
- lack of confidentiality;
- exposure to chaotic events;
- feelings of grief confounded by guilt and blame;
- stigma; and
- difficulties in returning to school.

3.3 Research questions

In the light of the foregoing reports from newspapers articles and psycho-social journal articles and books, uxoricide is a great cause of concern for this researcher. If the newspapers articles and findings from the psycho-social empirical research are anything to go by, it is clear that uxoricide is as qualitatively devastating as HIV/AIDS to the healthy functioning of family ecologies (environments). Just like communities end up with AIDS orphans as a result of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, where both parents die of various opportunistic diseases such as *inter alia* pneumonia, tuberculosis, psychosis, etc., communities could end up with uxoricide orphans where firstly, mothers experience lengthy and excessive emotional violence from their husbands before they are murdered in a brutal and over-killing manner and fathers either languish in jails or commit suicide because of the uxoricide. In both cases nuclear families are destroyed and, consequently, children and adolescents have to develop socially and psychologically in entirely destroyed nuclear families without parental care. Children could also see themselves leaving their familiar places of abode to be cared after by the extended family members or other caregivers who are not their biological parents.

In South Africa, uxoricide occurs in spite of the best intentioned laws. The first piece of legislation to specifically address domestic violence in South Africa was the Prevention of Family Violence Act (PFVA), Act No 133 of 1993). However, soon after the PFVA was introduced, aspects of its provisions were questioned by attorneys who thought men's right to a fair hearing was being violated by the PFVA. Others countered that the departure from the *audi alteram partem* rule was justified by the victims' urgent need for protection from harm. After soliciting the opinion of the Department of Justice as well as the Family Advocate, the South African Law Commission (SALC) established in February 1996 a project committee comprising a number of feminist lawyers and experts in the area of domestic violence to review the legislation (Meintjes, 2003). The product of the committee was the Domestic Violence Act No 116 of 1998, which was operationalised a year later on 15 December

1999 (South Africa, 1998). The preamble to the Domestic Violence Act No 116 of 1998) states that the purpose of this Act is to afford the victims of domestic violence the maximum protection from domestic abuse that the law can provide; and to introduce measures which seek to ensure that the relevant organs of state give full effect to the provisions of this Act, and thereby to convey that the State is committed to the elimination of domestic violence (South Africa, 1998; Lewis, 2007:1).

The South African government has also introduced a number of other progressive pieces of legislation and policies to address violence and abuse directed at women. This includes, but not limited to the National Policy Guidelines for the Handling of Victims of Sexual Offences which were finalised in 1998 and the Policy Framework and Strategy for Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence in South Africa in 2003 (Department of Social Development, 2003). Specialist facilities have also been set up such as family courts, specialist sexual offences courts and Thuthuzela centres. Thus the first ten years post-1994 have been marked by increasing state intervention into the problem of violence against women. South Africa, also, has People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA), a non-governmental organization that provides legal assistance, shelter and advice to women suffering abuse at the hands of violent partners (POWA,1995).

The 2004 South African Fire-arms Control Act (South African Police Service, 2004) specifies that a gun license will be refused to anyone with a record of domestic violence, while the 1998 DVA includes provisions to seize fire-arms from offenders. In this way, South Africa has harmonized domestic violence and fire-arms, with provisions to separate perpetrators of domestic violence from guns .

In the light of the statements above, both the case studies and the inductive qualitative analysis proceedings that were employed in conducting this research from newspaper archives answered the following questions, which developed in this researcher's mind during the reviewing of some international

and national newspapers and journal articles, including books on the subject of uxoricide.

- Is uxoricide a ubiquitous phenomenon?
- What are the causes of uxoricide?
- How is uxoricide committed?
- How does uxoricide affect the nuclear families of its perpetrators and victims?
- Can recommendations for combating uxoricide be made for the field of psychology, and are there potential areas for further research of this homicidal phenomenon, which results in nuclear families' destruction and the untimely orphaning of children and adolescents?

All of the above five (5) questions are fundamental to the following five (5) objectives that regulated both the choice of the case studies and inductive data analysis proceedings of this research.

4 OBJECTIVES OF THIS RESEARCH

The objectives of this research are to conduct an exploratory research by:

- highlighting the ubiquity of uxoricide;
- enquiring into the causes of uxoricide;
- exploring the nature of uxoricide;
- investigating the effects of uxoricide on the nuclear families of its perpetrators and victims; and
- making recommendations for practical implementation in the field of psychology and to identify potential areas for further study of this

homicidal phenomenon that results in the destruction of nuclear families and the orphaning of children and adolescents.

The next section provides methods used to collect and analyse data.

5 METHODS USED TO COLLECT AND ANALYSE DATA

This section presents the research method, processes and procedures that were used to collect and analyse the raw secondary data from the newspapers. Firstly, relevant newspapers and books were reviewed to collect secondary data on uxoricide, while psychological and other social sciences journal articles were used to collect primary data.

Secondly, an archival research method was employed to collect secondary raw data previously accumulated from newspaper reports on uxoricide's causal factors, the nature in which it is committed and ways in which it destroys families. In this regard, newspaper stories reporting on incidents of uxoricide, occurring from the period BC to the year 2009, were drawn from some newspapers both in South Africa and globally to highlight the ubiquitous, historical and current occurrence of this most vile and despicable homicidal act that husbands are capable of perpetrating against their wives. The archives of the South African Press Association (SAPA), *The New Zealand Herald*, *The Merinews*, *The Telegraph*, the *Sindh Today*, *The Star-Ledger*, *The Australian News*, *The Independent*, *The Jihadwatch*, *The Mercury*, the Sowetan, the *Citizen*, the *Mail and Guardian*, the *Daily Record*, the *Yorkshire Post*, the *Courier Mail*, the *Daily News*, and AP News were used to collect the secondary data of thirty-five (see section 6 below) cases on uxoricide.

Thirdly, an inductive method to data analysis was employed to condense extensive and varied raw text data provided by the newspapers into a brief and summary format; to establish clear links between the research objectives and the summary findings derived from the raw data and to ensure these links are both transparent (able to be demonstrated to others) and defensive (justifiable, given the objectives of the research); and to develop a theory

about the causes, nature and nuclear family destructiveness of uxoricide as a ubiquitous phenomenon.

Thirdly, a systematic strategy was used in selecting 35 cases on husbands who killed their wives that were used in the provision of raw data for this research (see section 6 below). In this way, the selection included every 10^{th} element on the list of the South African cases as well as on the international list.

These three methods are now described below.

5.1 Literature review

A literature review on the phenomenon of uxoricide and ways in which it destroys nuclear families will be undertaken in order to develop the theoretical basis for this research. The main focus when reviewing relevant literature will be on causes and nature of uxoricide that is perpetrated against married women by their husbands, and ways in which this lethal phenomenon destroys nuclear families. Since the family is the micro-system of communities in which uxoride is committed, and married women who become its victims are members of those particular families, this researcher decided to adopt an ecosystemic theoretical framework to investigate the effects of uxoricide on the nuclear families of its perpetrators and victims; and to make recommendations for practical implementation in the field of psychology and to identify potential areas for further study of this homicidal phenomenon that results in the destruction of nuclear families and the orphaning of children and adolescents.

Journal articles provided primary sources of information on uxoricide, while newspaper articles and books provided secondary sources.

The following key words were used in searching data from the newspapers:

uxoricide, domestic violence, nuclear family, lethal violence against married women, archival research, ecological and systems theories, Minuchin's Structural Family Theory.

5.2 Archival research method

An archival research method is the kind of research in which the major base of references and knowledge is from secondary sources such as census data, newspaper clippings (as is the case with this study), birth certificates and past records in different sectors. This means that archival research is performed by analysing case studies or case histories conducted by other researchers or by looking at historical records as mentioned in the latter statement. In this regard, the data collected through this method becomes secondary. This provides the reason why another name for archival research is *secondary research*, which is the opposite of *primary research*, which indicates research that is done from scratch and no past material is utilised.

Case studies (or case histories) used when an archival research method is used by qualitative research investigators may consist of information obtained by means of archival records such as newspapers *etc.* (Brescoll & LaFrance, 2004:519; Dodd, Russell & Jenkins, 1999:518). The newspaper articles used for the case studies of this research were down-loaded by means on the internet.

5.2.1 Ethical considerations

Since the archives of the newspapers from which the case studies were obtained were accessed by means of internet usage, it becomes necessary to discuss the ethical considerations that were undertaken to keep to the scientific rules and principles of ethics in research.

The academic world, today, is witnessing the proliferation of new communications' technologies that significantly affect the world of research. The internet, a prime example, has many dimensions that can be studied such as textual information sites, notices, pictures, archives (which are the research

tool of this research), online videos, *etc.* or used as research tools such as email, discussion groups, chat rooms, on-line questionnaires, on-line intervention sites, *etc.* In the wake of these technological developments, there have been numerous debates on ethics in internet research (see American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1999; Association of Internet Researchers 2002; Eysenbach & Till, 2001; Ess & Jones, 2004; Robson & Robson, 2002; Buchanan, 2004; National Committee for Research Ethics in the Social Sciences and the Humanities, Norway, 2003; Sveningsson, 2001, 2004; Kitchin, 2003, 2007).

This research adopted Kitchin's (2007) general framework for the use of internet in research. Her analysis identifies the ethical issues associated with internet research. Kitchin (2007:13) identifies a typology of internet-based research that specifies which research projects are likely to require an ethical review by a research ethics board of any academic institution. She distinguishes between:

- non-intrusive and engaged web-based research; and
- on-line research.

According to her, only engaged web-based research and on-line research categories would require an ethics assessment.

For research not requiring an ethics assessment, Kitchin (2003:403) supports her theories with the works of Eysenbach and Till (2001), among others. She defines non-intrusive web-based research as research on the internet that does not require the involvement of the researcher, i.e. it draws on text data or data from Web sites or discussion groups that the researcher observes. Thus, this information is considered as being in the public domain and so would not require ethics review, or for research that involves no interaction with the person who is the subject of the public records. To Kitchin (2007), non-intrusive analysis strategies fall under categories covering naturalistic observation or public activities, for which the paradigm of the human subject would not apply.

Using Kitchin's (2007) perspective, it can be concluded that sites containing text, to the extent that they are public sites, pose a minimum of ethical problems involving privacy and confidentiality of data. Kitchen (2007) asserts that material on the internet that deals with public persons may be used unless its access is accompanied by specific clauses regarding dissemination. In the case of research, case studies which were copyrighted, i. e. necessitating permission to reproduce the material were not used.

5.2.2 Advantages of archival research

The advantages of archival research are that it is often relatively less expensive than other study methods. Researchers can often access data through free archives or records databases, though primary research has a more authentic aura in comparison to secondary research. Archival materials also give the researcher(s) direct access to the time or event the researcher(s) are studying. Using archival materials can help researchers to better understand their topic, apply their knowledge and experience in a specific area, develop their own ideas, and gain a sense of "reality" about their project. The researcher cannot introduce changes in participant behaviour, and enormous amounts of data provide a better view of trends, relationships and outcomes (Brescoll & LaFrance, 2004:519).

Because of the aforementioned advantages of the archival research method, this researcher found such method financially viable and convenient for the fundamental exploratory research he conducted on the causes and nature of uxoricide both in South Africa and overseas. Data and information provided by the systematically selected cases was useful when for this researcher who is starting to investigate a new area of the phenomenon of uxoricide in which there is little information (if any) available in the South Africa. Case studies provided by both national and international newspapers were rich sources of ideas and hypotheses for future research on this phenomenon.

Kotler, Adam, Brown and Armstrong (2006:122) assert that the objective of exploratory research is to gather preliminary information that will help define

problems and suggest hypotheses. In this respect, this researcher thought that a fundamentally exploratory research on the causes and nature of uxoricide is necessary in order to provide significant insight into uxoricide as a form of femicide. It is the conviction of this researcher that such an exploratory research could assist academically oriented psychologists in South Africa to determine the best research design, data collection methods and selection of subjects in a country devoid of academic empirical research on this highly neglected psycho-social pathology in South African communities.

The exploratory nature of this research is appropriate for the archival approach of this study because it also often relies on secondary research such as reviewing available literature and/or data, or qualitative approaches such as case studies. This researcher endeavoured to explore the archives of some newspapers to glean some indication as to the "why" (causes), and "how" (nature) and "when" (period) of uxoricide.

From the above explication of the archival research method it is clear that if it is carried out as a 'stand-alone' survey, it should contain enough information for readers to make an informed decision and/or finding and they should be in the position to understand the basis for the appropriate decision or finding (Brescoll & LaFrance, 2004:519; Dodd, Russell & Jenkins, 1999:518).

The report of this research contains at minimum the following information:

- historic context of uxoricide, including information gathered from any archival and other background research conducted on uxoricide;
- area researched or surveyed (i.e. uxoricide's causes and nature in the case of this research); and
- methods used (which research sources were used, e.g. *Sowetan*, *Citizen*, *Star*, etc. newspapers).

5.2.3 Disadvantages of archival research

The disadvantages of archival research are that the researchers have no control over ways in which data were collected; important dates may be missing from the records; previous research may be unreliable; and the data which were reconstructed from newspaper archives may contain insufficient types of information. Particularly histories of prior abusiveness may be under-reported by this method (Brescoll & LaFrance, 2004:519; Dodd, Russell & Jenkins, 1999:518).

From the latter paragraph it is clear that subsequent studies should, in the case of this study's topic, include an interview with an intimate friend, where possible, of the victim of uxoricide.

5.3 Inductive approach to data analysis

According to Brescoll and LaFrance (2004:519), Dodd, Russell and Jenkins (1999:518), Schweigert (2003:141), Patten (2004:63) and Deary and Der (2005:68), some of the assumptions which underly the use of the inductive method for qualitative data analysis are that:

- data analysis is determined by both the research objectives (deductive) and multiple readings and interpretations of large amounts of contextually laden, subjective, and richly detailed raw data (inductive). Thus the findings are derived from both the research objectives outlined by the researcher(s) and findings arising directly from the analysis of the raw data;

- the primary mode of analysis is the development of categories from the raw data into a model or framework that captures key themes and processes judged to be important by the researcher;

- the research findings result from multiple interpretations made from the raw data by the researchers who encode the data. Inevitably, the findings are shaped by the assumptions and experiences of the researcher(s)

conducting the research and carrying out the data analyses. In order for the findings to be usable, the researcher (data analyst) must make decisions about what is more important and less important in the data;

- different researchers are likely to produce findings that are not identical and that have a non-overlapping component; and
- the trustworthiness of findings can be assessed by a range of techniques such as independent replication of the research; comparison with findings from previous research; triangulation within a project; feedback from participants in the research; and feedback from users of the research findings.

In the light of the latter paragraph, in this research, a general inductive, qualitative data analysis consists of identifying, encoding, and categorising patterns found in the data collected from some newspaper archives. These data had to be paired down to represent major themes or categories that describe the causes, the nature and the destructiveness of the uxoricide phenomenon. Data reduction facilitates communicating findings simply and efficiently. This pairing and sifting of data are termed *thematic analysis*, which is now described below.

5.3.1 Thematic analysis

Thematic analysis is a way of seeing, as well as a process for encoding qualitative information. An analogy of thematic analysis could be sorting a box of buttons. One could determine different strategies or categories to describe the buttons. They could be grouped according to size, the number of holes, colour, or type. In the same manner, this researcher had to make many decisions about the process of identifying themes, and he had to clarify why specific categories were chosen (Patten, 2004:36).

Another decision the researcher had to make when analysing data was whether to analyse the collected data obtained from each newspaper independently or whether to use cross-case analysis. He decided to use the

latter. A code to label the findings was created manually, because the researcher had no access to software specifically designed for qualitative data management.

5.3.2 Data encoding

Deary and Der (2005:66) emphasise the necessity of developing a code to label research findings during data analysis. He suggests five elements to a good code, including labels; definitions of what each theme concerns (i.e., the characteristics or issues constituting each theme); descriptions of how to know when each theme occurs (i.e. how to "flag" themes); descriptions of any qualifications or exclusions to identifying themes; and examples, both positive and negative, to eliminate possible confusion when looking for themes.

As highlighted in Brescoll and LaFrance (2004:519), Dodd, Russell and Jenkins (1999:518), Schweigert (2003:141), Patten (2004:63) and Deary and Der (2005:68), in this research, the following steps were followed in encoding the data:

- **Step 1: Encoding the data**

The researcher went through the data looking for things pertinent to answering the research questions mentioned in section 3 above. The specificity and concreteness of each research question told him what he was looking for. The question suggested what pieces needed to be encoded and what to leave for another question.

The researcher wrote a paraphrase, phrase, heading, or label that described what he was seeing in that passage or information or quote that was most important. The label did not have to be very precise at the time – it was just a general indicator. The encoded material was labelled with labels that did not just come from the literature review or the research question. New observations and insights had to produce new labels.

- **Step 2: Developing themes from the data**

The encoded data were sorted into 'data sets' according to topics. All the chunks of data that had the same labels, or closely related labels had to be put in the same pile. Each pile was labelled with a word or phrase that captured the gist of happenings in that pile. The 'data sets' were put into envelopes and labelled.

The 'data sets' were assessed by asking questions such as:

- Does everything in each pile relate to the label was assigned to the pile?
- Can some 'data sets' be combined?
- Can some 'data sets' be deleted because they are insignificant, and do not relate to the research question, or only have a few pieces of data in them?

- **Step 3: Develop a conceptual schema from the data**

The conceptual schema ties the data together, answers the research question, is coherent, and goes beyond the obvious. This could be seen as a critical step. This is what would enable this researcher to make an original contribution to the field of research. It is during this stage that this researcher elicited the help of his peers by discussing his ideas with them to arrive at the final conceptual schema.

- **Step 4: Writing up of the analysis**

The 'data sets' were organised in the order in which this researcher wanted to deal with the topics (the order in which he wanted to explain his schema). Then each pile was taken in turn and sorted, organising and eliminating the data within it. Next, the strips of paper were laid out in one pile and the researcher worked through the pile, connecting the strips with his own thoughts and transitions.

The analysis of this issue is written in a manner driven by this researcher's conceptual schema, i.e. what the researcher considers to be unique. Theory and literature was used to support this researcher's ideas.

5.3.3 SYSTEMATIC SELECTION OF CASES

Firstly, the researcher used the internet to download 3 507 cases on uxoricide from the 57 archives of both South African and international newspapers. Of the 3 507 cases, 1 901 were from South African newspapers reporting on uxoricide incidents that were committed in South Africa. The researcher ended up with two lists, i.e. a list on uxoricide that was committed nationally and one of uxoricide committed internationally.

Secondly, using the systematic selection method, the researcher selected twenty (20) cases from the South African newspapers, and the other fifteen (15) cases were selected from various international newspapers in order to:

- highlight the ubiquity of uxoricide;
- provide enormous amounts of data on this homicidal phenomenon which victimizes married women; and
- depict a better view of trends, relationships and outcomes of the murder of married women by their husbands.

The latter paragraph implies that a formula of n/100=X (n representing a number of cases on each list, i.e. national and international, and X representing a number of cases used in this study) which translated to formulae of 1901⁄100 and 1606⁄100 being used to select every 100th case on the cases that happened in South Africa and internationally respectively.

6 CASES PROVIDING RAW DATA FROM THE NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES

This section provides cases of uxoricide found in both international and national newspaper archives. Each case is numbered and presented *verbatim* as reported.

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- **Case 6.1 SAPA, South Africa, 27 August 2009**

SAPA (27 August 2009) reports that Acting Judge Andre Louw convicted 50-year-old Larry Burt Phillips of the pre-meditated murder of his wife, Henriette, 48, near her flat in Lynnwood, Pretoria, in November 2008. Phillips was also convicted on charges of assaulting his wife on a previous occasion, ignoring a protection order she had obtained against him, kidnapping his son Howard and assaulting a neighbour, Pieter Korb.

The court did not accept Phillips' claims that he was not armed when he broke into the flat and waited for her in the dark that night. It also rejected his version that his wife had grabbed two knives in the kitchen and tried to attack him before he disarmed her, became "insane with anger", followed her when she fled and stabbed her once in the back.

The judge accepted the evidence of Phillips's son, Howard, and daughter, Leigh, that he had threatened to wipe out the family before he killed his wife. He also accepted Leigh and Korb's evidence that Mrs Phillips had never been in the kitchen that night, but went directly to the bedroom, where her husband was waiting for her. Louw said the only conclusion was that Phillips had already been armed with two knives while he sat waiting in the dark for his wife to come home after deliberately breaking into the flat. It was clear that he must have had about half an hour to contemplate what he was going to do. Afterwards, he had told a neighbour he was "satisfied, because Henriette was dead" and told his daughter he had "warned her mother".

The judge described both Phillips' children as excellent witnesses, who never changed their evidence and readily admitted their father's love for them. Phillips, on the other hand, had presented a "far-fetched" version to the court, had a "selective memory" and became "nasty and sarcastic", making uncalled-for remarks such as that his children had become "unreliable" and that his son had not shaved before coming to court.

Louw said it was clear that Phillips had kidnapped his son earlier that night and drove around with him against his will for hours while trying to convince

him to talk to his mother so that she could withdraw criminal charges against him.

Phillips testified he wanted his wife to withdraw the charges because he could not otherwise get a lucrative security job elsewhere in Africa.

It was clear that the incident had severely traumatised his son, the judge said. The trial was postponed to 12 October 2009 at the request of the defence.

- **Case 6.2 New Zealand Herald, New Zealand, 31 July 2009**

Gay, E. (31 July 2009) reports that 56-year-old Nai Yin Xue, a Chinese immigrant, was jailed for life on 31 July 2009 for murdering his 27-year-old wife, An An Liu, and abandoning his three-year-old daughter at a railway station. He was found guilty of strangling his wife at their Auckland home and dumping her body in the boot of his car. He then fled to the United States of America.

Liu's body was found by the police in September 2007, days after their daughter Qian Xun, nicknamed "Pumpkin" by the police after the brand of her clothing, had been found crying at an Australian railway station.

Xue became the focus of worldwide media attention when security footage showed the little girl standing alone next to an escalator at the station while the self-styled martial arts expert calmly walked away.

After the United States of American marshals had posted a US$10 000 reward for his capture, he was caught on the outskirts of Atlanta by six Chinese-Americans who recognised him five months later.

- **Case 6.3 Merinews, Pakistan, 16 June 2008**

Saini, R.K. (16 June 2008) reports that a married woman, Anita, was allegedly strangulated to death by her husband in the Dubaldhan village of Jhajjar in the district of Haryana. The victim's brother Sushil, a resident of a Bhiwani village, alleged that the brothers of his sister's husband were trying to seize her share

of their land and her husband, too, was siding with them. He further stated in his complaint to the police that the interpersonal relations of this couple were strained with regard to this issue and their two children were staying at Anita's parental house.

- **Case 6.4 Telegraph, United Kingdom, 1 December 2008**

Britten, N. (1 December 2008) reports that Emran Hussan, a 27-year-old man from the town of Bedford lost his temper and strangled his wife, Rubina, at their home, before laying her body out with a single peach-coloured rose on her breast. Hussan admitted to the man-slaughter of his wife, but denied murdering her. Lynn Taton, a prosecutor, told the court that the couple were cousins who had married in Bangladesh in 2005 after an arrangement between their families. Miss Taton also told the court that Mrs Hussan had complained to friends about her husband's "controlling" ways, stating an incident when he had slammed a door against her head during an argument and also when he had smashed a vase in the house because she went out with friends.

The situation allegedly became critical early in December 2007 when it was revealed that she was unexpectedly pregnant. She complained to her medical doctor, saying that she was frightened about having a baby and that she was too young. She also allegedly told her mother that she feared Hussan might kill her.

On 18 December 2007, after visiting their doctor again, they visited her mother. The court heard that Hussan had overheard his mother-in-law telling his wife to tell him she was not sure she was pregnant and that she should abort the baby. When they got home they argued and Hussan allegedly grabbed her by the neck and put his hand over her mouth. He then was said to have handed himself into police, shouting, "Arrest me, arrest me. I killed my wife, I killed my wife." Mrs Hussan was rushed to hospital but died the following day.

Miss Taton said, "The Crown suggests the defendant was very angry with his wife, who was clearly very anxious about the unplanned pregnancy, and some sort of argument must have happened. During the argument the defendant lost his temper and asphyxiated Rubina, at that time intending at least to cause her really serious bodily harm. When he realised she was dead he laid her out with the rose on her breast. "He walked out of that house, made no attempt to get assistance from neighbours or from passers-by, and he walked rather than ran to the police station, where he gave himself up in order to protect himself from the anger of Rubina's brothers."

- **Case 6.5 Sindh Today, India, 17 June 2009**

The *Sindh Today* (17 June 2009) reports that, on 17 June 2009, in Noida, a 34-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her husband, Mahaveer, a 36-year-old man, as he suspected her of having an affair with another man. He suspected his wife, Rekha, of having illicit relations with another man who lived in the same locality. An argument broke out between Mahaveer and Rekha and the husband stabbed Rekha to death in a fit of rage.

When the neighbours heard the screams of the woman, they rushed to the spot and informed the police about the incident. Rekha's eldest daughter, who is 15 years old, rushed her to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. The couple had four children.

- **Case 6.6 The Star-Ledger, England, 9 June 2008**

Conte, M. & McCarron, B. (9 June 2008) report that a Somerville man fatally stabbed his wife in their apartment, dropped off their two children, taped a message at a relative's Jersey City home and then drowned himself in the Hudson River. "It's very tragic," Hudson County Prosecutor Edward DeFazio said of the couple, who left behind children aged 1 and 6. "We believe it was clearly a domestic violence type of situation that led to the homicide. It's very, very sad."

Ruth Sigue, 38, whose state records showed that she was a registered nurse, was found in the living room of the family's East Main Street apartment. According to Somerset County Prosecutor Wayne Forrest, she had been stabbed several times in the chest. The body of Sigue's husband, Peter Ng, 58, was spotted in the river off Hoboken, according to Hudson County authorities.

Residents of the apartment building, which is adjacent to the Somerset Medical Centre and has doctors' offices on its ground floor, said they did not know what had happened. "He seemed like a friendly guy. They were always together," said Reyghie Felix, a teenager who lived next door to the couple. His mother said she would see them at the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church in Somerville, and she described Ng as always being with his children. They said they never heard any noise coming from the apartment, except for the occasional crying of a baby. The two orphaned children are now in the custody of the state Division of Youth and Family Services and were to be taken to the Somerset County DYFS office, officials said.

- **Case 6.7 The Australian News, Australia, 2 February 2005**

The Australian News (2 February 2005) and Sunday Herald Sun (5 February 2006) report that John Myles Sharpe, a 37-year-old man, pleaded guilty in the Victoria Supreme Court to the murders of 41-year-old Anna Kemp and their 19-month-old daughter, Gracie Sharpe. He buried the body of her wife in a shallow grave in their backyard in Mornington, south of Melbourne. The conveyancer told police he murdered their baby, Gracie Sharpe, four days later in an act of "irrational bloody madness" as he tried to make it look as though his five months' pregnant wife had taken the child and left him for another man. Sharpe drank three scotch and cokes "for courage" and then shot Gracie with four spears. "The child belongs with the mother," he later told the police.

After Sharpe's New Zealand-born wife and daughter had gone missing and police started a search for them, he told television reporters he believed she

was still alive. His message was, "Anna, our marriage may be over but I still love you and you are the mother of our beautiful daughter, Gracie, whom we both adore more than anyone else," Sharpe also said, "My biggest fear is being denied a part of Gracie's future." Police were unconvinced by his explanation and actions and on 22 June 2004 they charged Sharpe with murder and began the grisly task of sifting through rubbish heaps for the bodies of the wife and daughter. He later confessed to the murders when questioned by the police and told them he had killed Ms Kemp because she had been "controlling and moody" and that their marriage had been unhappy.

After killing her, Sharpe used a chainsaw to dismember Ms Kemp's exhumed body and left her remains as well as Gracie's body in waste collection bins at the Mornington Transfer Station. After an extensive police search, their remains were later found at the Rockleigh waste management site in Mornington in July 2004. Sharpe told police that he had already been thinking about killing Ms Kemp when he bought a speargun at a Mornington sports shop at least a month before the murders.

- **Case 6.8 The Independent, India, 21 February 2007**

reports that a traditionalist and a practising Muslim husband killed his wife and their 16-year-old, 15-year-old, 10-year-old and 3-year-old daughters because of their Western ways of life...had become estranged from his vivacious wife, a high-profile community worker who had co-founded the local women's group, mentored teenage girls at a high school in nearby Rishton, and was a school governor and board member of several diversity groups...

The wife, whose father married an English woman after becoming one of the first Asian men to immigrate to the area in the 1960s, was sent back to Pakistan for 15 years after completing primary school, but she returned in the early 1990s with the husband, with whom she had an arranged marriage. The children flourished in Britain...the eldest daughter was a "second mother" to her sisters, and had a passion for fashion design; the second daughter loved rap music and wanted to be a Master of Ceremonies; while the third daughter was the closest to her father...completely

embraced the Asian culture and was a regular at the mosque...while their mother thrived, their father struggled to find employment, eventually working for a plastic bag manufacturer.

Their relationship deteriorated rapidly after the death of the wife's father, in 2003, and her husband had taken to sleeping downstairs. The pressure on their relationship became worse when the son who had moved in with his uncle was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma, an aggressive form of cancer. Doctors said he would only live six months. "It meant the financial situation was bad," said the police. "A lot of money was being spent on presents for the son as he was coming to the end of his life. They were spending a lot more than they earned – at the wife's will, not husband's". The pressure drove the husband to drink heavily, and sclerosis of the liver was diagnosed after his death. On their last afternoon in life, the husband saw his wife being dropped off after enjoying a meal with friends, and the police say there was no suggestion she was involved in a relationship with anyone else.

Early on 1 November 2006, the husband decided that he could not handle the pressure any more. While his wife and daughters were asleep in three upstairs bedrooms, he poured petrol over them and trailed more around the house, and then lit three fires. The Police believe his wife woke up and might have tried to throw one of the two petrol cans he used away from her bed, but she died almost immediately. The husband stood downstairs and waited for the flames to come down and engulf him. When they did not, he ran back upstairs through a wall of fire and was found by fire-fighters in the bathroom. He died of 65 per cent burns and smoke inhalation.

Barry Khanan, Mrs Riaz's brother (a 38-year-old man), said her alienation from Mr Riaz was a result of "the different ways in which they approached their lives." He said, "She had become frustrated with his lack of emotional support and involvement throughout Adam's illness. Caneze was also outgoing and wanted to better herself, while her husband was more withdrawn. Words cannot express how we feel about the man we believe killed our family."

- **Case 6.9 Jjihad Watch, Pakistan, 25 April 2004**

Spencer, R. (25 April 2004) reports that Ismail Peltek was indicted on charges of second-degree murder on account of slaying his wife Hatice Peltek on 15 April 2004. Peltek, a 41-year-old man, claimed that he attacked his wife and daughters after learning that his brother had molested his wife and his 22-year-old daughter.

He said that he attacked his 4-year-old daughter because she had been "sullied" by a gynaecological examination. "I was concerned that my family's honour was taken," he allegedly told investigators. His 39-year-old wife died after being stabbed repeatedly and bludgeoned on the head with a hammer. His daughters suffered fractured skulls from hammer blows.

"If you had the opportunity to kill the family again, would you?" he was asked by Rochester Police Officer Emre Arican, who was brought in to help investigators because he speaks Turkish. "My female family, yes. My male family, no," Peltek allegedly replied.

- **Case 6.10 The Mercury, South Africa, 1 September 2008**

The Mercury (1 September 2008) and the *Pretoria News* (2 September 2008) report that, on 2 June 2005, Richard van Ameron, a resident of Schoemansville near Pretoria, intentionally killed his common-law wife and the mother of his child in a fit of rage. This was the finding of the North Gauteng (Pretoria) High Court, which convicted the 33-year-old man of murder. Van Ameron – whose bail was revoked after the conviction – appeared to be extremely shocked by the verdict. Acting Judge Sakkie Luther rejected Van Ameron's defence that he had acted involuntarily due to non-pathological automatism.

Van Ameron had blamed automatism on a condition known as hypoglycaemia (low levels of blood sugar). The judge found that Van Ameron knew what he was doing when he fired several shots at his common-law wife, Jana Venter, at close range, three of which penetrated her body. Judge Luther said that,

apart from the circumstances pointing to the fact that Van Ameron's defence could not be true, his version that he suffered from amnesia at the moment of firing the shots could not be explained medically or scientifically. Two experts testified to this effect, while a psychologist said he believed Van Ameron's version. The judge found that all Van Ameron's actions before and after the killing were calculated.

Venter was gunned down in the bedroom of their home. The room appeared to be in disarray – the bedding was torn up, the bed lamp knocked down, curtains ripped from the rails and several cupboard doors stood open. Van Ameron, who called his church minister after the killing, told him that he had shot Venter 13 times that night because she kept on pulling the blankets to her side of the bed, and he eventually lost his temper. He claimed during his evidence that the killing was prompted by Venter, who was upset about a photograph of a naked woman one of their friends showed them earlier that night on his cellphone. He said things were fine earlier that night, while they entertained some friends.

When one of their friends showed them the naked picture, they laughed about it. Van Ameron said he was extremely tired after the guests had left, and went to bed without taking a bath. Venter was in the bathroom when he fell asleep. He said when Venter later got into bed she shouted at him about the photo. He claimed he just wanted to sleep, and told her they could discuss the matter later. Van Ameron said he pulled the pillow over his head, but Venter kept arguing with him while he tried to sleep. He claimed that the next thing he could remember was hearing two "clicking sounds", then realised that he stood with his firearm next to his head. He also vaguely heard his daughter crying. When he looked down he saw Venter lying on the floor, with blood coming out of her mouth.

Without checking whether she was still alive, he ran to his daughter and rushed her to the car. He took her to Venter's parents, who lived nearby, and told them that he had killed their daughter. He then phoned his church minister, and questioned him about sin and forgiveness. Judge Luther

commented that it appeared that Van Ameron was more concerned about himself than about the fact that he had shot his wife. He said it was clear that his moves were calculated, and that at that stage he had not told anyone that he could not remember what had happened.

The court previously heard that Van Ameron and Venter had had a stormy relationship, and that she had left him on one occasion. Van Ameron told the court that he had loved Venter very much, and had never planned to hurt or kill her. He even wrote her a letter two days after the killing, while he was in jail, saying, "I am asking you humbly for forgiveness for ending your life. I have deprived you of many things. I always thought I would give my life for you, but in a moment, without thinking, I shot you."

- **Case 6.11 SAPA, South Africa, 29 December 2004**

SAPA (29 December 2004) reports that in Witbank, a 48-year-old man appeared in the Siyabuswa Magistrate's Court in connection with the murder of his second wife and attempted murder of his daughter. The police said Piet Mbangwa Motshweni walked into his house and found his wife speaking to someone on her 24-year-old daughter's cellphone. The police also said, "The husband suspected his wife was cheating on him and did not believe that the victim's brother was speaking to her. He went outside and returned minutes later with his licensed firearm."

The police said the victim Johanna Anna Mahlangu and the daughter ran to a neighbour's house for help. Motshweni followed the two and fired two shots in his daughter's direction, which missed her. He then fired four shots at his wife, fatally wounding her. He was not given bail.

- **Case 6.12 SAPA, South Africa, 3 November 2008**

SAPA (3 November 2008) reports that, in Pretoria, a ditched husband waited outside his wife's shop in the Mpumalanga town of Dullstroom for an hour before gunning her down. This emerged from testimony on the last hours of

Riekie Riekert, a 40-year-old mother of two who was shot dead at Milly's Trout Stall on 11 March, 2007.

Her husband, the 43-year-old Johan Riekert, pleaded not guilty to a charge of murder, but gave no explanation to his plea. An informal trader, Johannes Mbuyane, testified that he had seen a man sitting in a white bakkie outside the shop for about an hour before getting out, putting a firearm into his pocket and going into the shop. He heard three shots and saw a white woman falling through the open window onto the porch outside the shop. The man came out and stood over the woman, watching her, before driving away at a high speed. Annemarie Stuiver, who owns a shop next to the trout stall, testified that she saw Riekert getting out of his car that day and then heard what sounded like a cracker.

After a second cracking noise, she heard people shouting and saw them scattering. A friend stopped her from going outside, but she looked out of her window and saw Riekert walking to his wife, standing over her and firing another shot. She went to fetch the town's only doctor, but he told her Riekie was already dead. Riekie's mother, Hannie Hietbrink, said the couple, who stayed in a house on their farm, had marital problems. Her daughter had told her three days before her death that she wanted a divorce. She complained that he walked around naked in front of the children. Riekert moved out of the house the next day while her daughter and grand-children came to stay with her.

She last heard from her daughter on the day of her death, when she phoned them to come and fetch their granddaughter at the shop. The child was very upset about her father sitting around in front of the shop the whole time. Hietbrink said there had been problems in the marriage before because Riekert had had an affair. She denied interfering in her daughter's marriage or advising her to get a divorce.

- **Case 6.13 Sowetan, South Africa, 1 July 2008**

Hlatshwayo, R. (1 July 2008) reports that, on 30 June 2008, Tshepo Mokoena, a prominent radiographer who was arrested in connection with the gruesome murder of his wife, appeared in the magistrate's court in Mpumalanga. The bruised body of his wife was found naked in the bushes in 2007 after she had suddenly disappeared. Mokoena was not asked to plead on charges of murder with aggravating circumstances when he appeared in the Acornhoek Magistrate's Court. He was granted R10 000, 00 bail pending his next appearance on 30 July 2008.

Mokoena was accused of killing Debra Silinda, 30, a Thulamahashe resident who was employed as a nurse at the Medi-Clinic in Nelspruit. It was not clear when Silinda was actually murdered but her naked and bruised body was found in the bushes between Hazyview and Bushbuckridge on 15 January 2007. The murder left many people shocked in Thulamahashe where the woman grew up. Police said the motive for the murder was not yet clear but they suspected jealousy, prompted by the fact that the wife worked more than 150 km from their home.

They said financial gain from an insurance payout could be another motive. "We are investigating all the possibilities and leaving no stone unturned," Mpumalanga police spokesman, Superintendent Abie Khoabane, said. A close relative of the victim told the *Sowetan* that Mokoena had taken the woman's insurance policies just before her death. "He took the policies so that he could benefit from them – and we have established that he has already made claims," alleged a relative of the victim, who wished to remain anonymous. The police have indicated that more arrests are looming since they believe the murder was carried out by more than one person.

Mokoena had just paid *ilobolo* to his wife's family at the time when she was murdered. He hails from Mabopane near Pretoria and has worked at the Tintswalo Hospital for about two years (*Sowetan*, 1 July 2008).

- **Case 6.14 The Citizen, South Africa, 17 June 2009**

The Citizen (17 June 2009) reports that, on 16 June 2009, a man allegedly shot his wife dead and then turned the gun on himself in Kwanobuhle near Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape. The 29-year-old man and his 28-year-old wife from Veeplaas in Port Elizabeth had separated a month ago after marital problems. She was living in East London.

On Tuesday she visited a friend in Mondile Street. Her husband arrived at the house around noon. The woman's friend said the couple tried to resolve their problems and everything appeared to be fine when she left to buy bread to prepare a meal. When the friend returned at around 19:00 she found the two lying dead in pools of blood on the bedroom floor. She then contacted the police.

The wife was found with two bullet wounds in her face and the husband was found with a single bullet wound to his head. A 9 mm pistol was found next to him. The pair's names could not be released because their next-of-kin had not been notified of their deaths. It was unknown whether the couple had children (SAPA, 17 Jun 2009).

- **Case 6.15 The Pretoria News, South Africa, 17 December 2008**

The Pretoria News (17 December 2008) reports that a Delmas resident, Ockert Daniel van den Berg, a 43-year-old man, stood trial due to the death of his wife, Christa, in August 2005. He admitted that he had bashed and stabbed his wife to death in the bedroom of their Sundra, near Delmas, home. Christa van den Berg died on her bed.

In testimony at his trial at the Pretoria High Court, he, after at first proclaiming his innocence, told the court that he and his wife had a fierce argument the night of the murder about her suspected infidelity and his complaints that she kept on pushing him away. He told how the murder was the result of his wife's demands that he had to have a penis enlargement. The accused told the court of how the two argued over her alleged infidelity and that she demanded

that he saw a physician to undergo a penis enlargement operation. She told him that she was tired of him and was leaving him for someone else. He then proceeded to tell the court how he stabbed her and beat her to death with a shifting spanner. He also admitted that he had attacked his son, Jacques, with the spanner to make it appear as if housebreakers had killed his wife and then attacked his son. He later took his son for medical treatment.

He told the Pretoria High Court how his wife's blood had spurted onto his chest while he (repeatedly) kept on bashing her head with a spanner. He also told the Pretoria High Court on how he, in a fit of anger, grabbed the shifting spanner and kept on hitting his wife until she was dead. She was also stabbed with two knives in the neck and back. He also admitted that he had hit his son, Jacques, on the head with the shifting spanner to make it appear as if housebreakers had killed his wife and attacked his son. He conceded that he had previously lied to the court and made up a version about hearing shots before finding his wife dead. He also added that he had decided to tell the full story because he did not want to hurt his parents any more.

A tearful Van den Berg said that he was very angry and hurt after his wife had told him their marriage was over and that their youngest son was not his child. This is exactly what he said in court, "At first, she denied having an affair, but then suddenly told me that it was all over between us. She said I must go to a doctor to get my penis enlarged. She said she was tired of me and had another man. She said I could take a day off to find out who the man was that she was having an affair with. Then she said my youngest son was not my child, turned around and walked to the bedroom."

Van den Berg said he felt hurt and upset. "I took two knives from the kitchen counter. I saw a shifting spanner on the dining room table and grabbed that as well," he told the court. I stormed at her and hit her on the head. She fell on the bed. I kept on hitting. I was like a wild animal on my poor little wife. I did not even know what I was doing." He said he could not say how many times he hit his wife. "Blood was spurting onto my chest. When I put on the light I

saw what I had really done to my wife. I saw there was a knife in her throat. When I turned her around I saw the other knife in her back."

He said he tried mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to revive his wife. "She was already dead". "I pulled the knives out of her body because it looked very ugly. I washed off the blood, wrapped the knives in a face cloth and hid it under the bed." Van den Berg said he then went to the lounge to think about his next move. "Then I went to Jacques' room and hit him with the shifting spanner so that it would look like a break-in and that the housebreakers had killed my wife." Afterwards he gave his son tablets for the pain, and took the boy to hospital the next morning.

- **Case 6.16 The Mail and Guardian, South Africa, 14 July 2007**

The *Mail and Guardian* (14 July 2007) reports that Ben du Toit, a millionaire farmer jailed for 32 years for murdering his wife, wants to be released on parole and awarded the opportunity to prove his innocence. The case was heard in the Pretoria High Court when Du Toit sought an order to set aside a decision by the parole board at the Pretoria Central Prison, refusing to release him.

The Johannesburg High Court sentenced Du Toit, a 53-year-old man, to 32 years' imprisonment in October 1997 for the 1992 murder of his wife, Joyce, who was bludgeoned to death in her bed. He was also convicted of falsifying his wife's will, and of false insurance claims involving millions of rands.

Du Toit, who re-married shortly after his wife's murder, was only arrested more than five years after her death. He insisted that he was innocent and that unknown robbers had killed his wife. His appeal against his conviction failed, but the Appeal Court later reduced his sentence to 28 years. Du Toit said that with special remissions, he was now entitled to release on parole after serving nine years and eight months of his sentence.

He said the parole board's decision not to release him, but to order that he underwent further anger and stress management to address his "denial" was

"irrational", as he was a model prisoner and no danger to society. He felt his proclamation of innocence was being unfairly held against him. In court papers, Du Toit claimed he had not had a fair trial, that vital evidence was suppressed and that he was convicted by the press and public.

He wanted the Constitutional Court to re-open his trial and the investigation into his wife's murder. Du Toit said his disabled son and daughter, now in matric and receiving no support from him or his late wife's family needed him. He and his second wife were estranged and would probably be divorced. On Friday, Judge Chris Botha changed the parole board's order that Du Toit could only re-apply for parole in 18 months' time, and ruled that the board reconsider his case on 20 January 2008.

Du Toit might not need anger management and his denial of guilt might not translate into aggression, but this did not necessarily mean he was entitled to parole.

- **Case 6.17 The Australian, Australia, 8 August 2009**

Hall, L. (8 August 2009) reported that John Walsh who had murdered his Scottish wife Jean and their two grandchildren was given two life sentences in Australia. Jean Walsh, 52, had moved to the country from Aberdeen when she was 16.

John Walsh, 70, who was originally from Northern Ireland, attacked his wife with a hammer before murdering the children, aged five and seven also. He then tried to kill his daughter with an axe blade and drowned the family dog. Walsh admitted to three counts of murder and attempted murder. He was also given 12 years in jail for the attempted murder of his daughter. The murders happened at the couple's home in New South Wales in June 2008.

The New South Wales Supreme Court heard how Walsh killed his wife by hitting her head with a lump hammer and stabbing her as the couple babysat their granddaughter Jaime, five, and grandson Kevin, seven. He then killed his grandson with the same hammer and drowned his granddaughter. The court

was told he regarded his wife's murder as a "mercy killing", telling police she was in "poor health".

He had planned to kill his son-in-law and daughter before killing himself, but decided to "add his grandchildren to the list" after realising no-one would be able to look after them after the killings. He also drowned the family dog, wrapped it in plastic and put it under the children's bed, later telling police he was worried there would be no-one left to look after it.

When his daughter, Shelley, called to fetch the children, she discovered the bodies before Walsh attacked her with an axe blade and told her, "We are all better off this way." Ms Walsh survived the attack, but was left with severe lacerations to her head, a fractured skull and torn brain linings.

The court was told Walsh was "not in a normal state of mind" wh en he committed the murders, but there was no evidence of an underlying psychiatric disorder that would explain his actions. At an earlier hearing, Walsh, from Cowra, pleaded guilty to three counts of murder and the attempted murder of his daughter.

Passing sentence, Supreme Court Justice Lucy McCallum said Walsh's acts were "wicked in the extreme". "The offender killed his young grandchildren when they had been entrusted to his care," she said. "He intended to kill them and planned their murders with grim attention. He killed the children knowing that he had already killed the only person who might have come to their defence." He abused the children's trust in him by coaxing them out of their beds. There was a high degree of violence in the murder of Kevin Hodges. "The murder of Jaime Hodges involved a struggle, during which she must have experienced a degree of terror no child should know."

Outside the court, Ms Walsh said, " While I can never get my mother or children back, whatever justice is left for them has been done today."

- **Case 6.18 SAPA, South Africa, 13 May 2009**

SAPA (13 May 2009) reports that a 46-year-old man shot and killed his 42-year-old wife and then himself in Meyersdal in Alberton on 12 May 2009, Netcare 911 emergency services said. Spokesperson, Nick Dollman, said the two shootings, one at the wife's Meyersdal home and one at the man's house in Glenvista, happened minutes apart.

The first shooting happened at a residential complex in Falcon Street around 18:45 on 12 May 2009. Paramedics found the woman's body in the parking area. She had sustained multiple gunshot wounds and was declared dead at the scene.

A trauma counsellor on scene counselled one of the children who had seen the shooting. A clinical psychologist who lived in the complex offered to assist with the couple's other children, Dollman said. Minutes later, paramedics responded to a shooting at a house believed to belong to the husband in Hantamberg Street. The man appeared to have shot himself in the chest in his garage. He was declared dead on the scene.

Constable Nonhlanhla Mosia confirmed the shootings and confirmed that the couple had been married. She was unable to give further details until further investigations were concluded (SAPA).

- **Case 6.19 The Mercury, South Africa, 20 July 2009**

The Mercury (20 July 2009) reports that in Johannesburg a man shot and killed his wife and then shot himself in the head after the couple had argued in Kabokweni near Nelspruit on 18 July 2009, Mpumalanga police said.

Captain Leonard Hlathi said the 39-year-old security guard and his wife were arguing. Neighbours heard gunshots and called the police. "When police arrived they found the doors locked. They had to break the doors to enter," he said. "When we came in with his brother, the suspect had already shot himself but he was conscious and fired a shot, hitting his brother." The police

disarmed the man and he and his brother were taken to the hospital. His wife died on the scene. The 39-year-old was in intensive care.

The couple's four daughters, aged between five and fifteen, were present during the argument but left after it became too heated. They did not witness the shooting. Police were investigating a case of murder, another of attempted murder and a third of attempted suicide. Hlathi appealed to couples to go for counselling and avoid arguments "going to the extreme". "If people argue, they must not go to the extreme and resort to killing each other, they must seek professional help," he said (SAPA).

- **Case 6.20 The Sowetan, South Africa, 19 November 2009**

The Sowetan (19 November 2009) reports that a polygamist businessman has been found guilty of killing his pregnant first wife and then attempting to murder his second wife. First, Jabulani Ndlovu shot Phindile Dlamini and disposed of her body. Second, fourteen days later, he shot Tholakele Ngubane while they were having sex.

Ngubane told the court: "I had to flee the house naked. I was lucky to escape with my life. Neighbours helped to hide me." "We were having sex when he pulled a gun and shot me through the shoulder. He had been aggressive throughout the day that he had even had sex with me in his car earlier."

Ndlovu's employee, Mzwenduku Ngubane, who appeared with him, was found guilty of being an accessory after the fact to murder. He had helped his boss dispose of Dlamini's body and kept quiet about the killing.

Ndlovu was also found guilty of possession of an unlicensed firearm and ammunition. He shot and killed Dlamini who was seven months pregnant with his second child in their house in Orange Farm in the Vaal on 11 June 2008. He shot her twice in the upper body. Together with Ngubane they loaded her body into his car and dumped it in an open veld. They fetched the body the following day and drove to a municipal dumping site where they left it.

On 25 June 2008 Ndlovu fetched his second wife from her flat in Johannesburg and drove with her to his Orange Farm home. They went into the bedroom to have sex. It was while they were busy with sex that Ndlovu produced a firearm and shot her.

She had told the court that she blindly pushed him away and they fell. She managed to rush to the door and escaped naked into the night. "A neighbour helped me to hide and gave me clothes. He organised an ambulance to take me to hospital," she said. At the time when she was shot, Tholakele had a protection order against Ndlovu. Tholakele testified that days before she was shot Dlamini had warned her that Ndlovu wanted to kill her.

Passing judgment Victor said Ngubane was an accessory after the fact to murder. "After Dlamini was killed you failed to report the matter to the police. Alternatively you also failed to take the stand during the trial and explain why you helped Ndlovu to dispose of Dlamini's body," said Victor.

During the trial Ndlovu told the court that he owned a block of flats in Johannesburg and eight minibus taxis and Ngubane was his employee.

Case 6.21 All News, United States of America, 12 February 2008

All News (12 February 2008) reports that Darren Mack killed his wife in a cold-blooded manner and then injured the judge who was handling his divorce case by shooting him. He was awarded life imprisonment and is still appealing against the judgment. Herndon imposed the maximum terms of a plea deal by sentencing Mack to life in prison with the possibility of parole after 20 years on the murder charge. The judge also upheld the recommendation of Special Prosecutor, Christopher Lalli, by sentencing Mack to 40 years, with parole possible after 16 years for attempted murder with a deadly weapon. Both terms are to run back-to-back.

In handing down the sentence, Herndon cited the heinous nature of the crimes and Mack's lack of remorse. "The truth is Mr Mack is guilty of these crimes, but he doesn't want to hear anything about that," the judge said. After

sentencing Mack, Herndon issued an emotional plea for Mack's family and his wife's survivors to "be a bigger person" for the sake of the couple's 9-year-old daughter. "You have a young child at a very impressionable age, to enter soon her teen years and then adult life," Herndon said, pausing to compose himself. "You all can either choose to raise her, disparaging her parents on each side," he said, "or you can try to get past the court cases, the criminal proceedings ... and teach her good things about both these parents. She needs to be raised with hugs and kisses," Herndon said with tears in his eyes.

During testimony on Thursday, Mack reiterated his claims that he acted in self-defence when he slashed his wife's throat in the garage of his south-east Reno town house. He also has argued that he was coerced by his former lawyers into the plea deal, and suggested the attorneys, prosecutors, investigators and law enforcement officers who investigated the case were corrupt.

Herndon said while he allowed Mack to speak at length, he never said what the judge hoped he'd hear, "I'm sorry." Herndon's sentencing followed emotional testimony earlier on Friday by Charla Mack's family and Weller. Soorya Townley described how she and her daughter had grown closer as they got older. "I was one of those lucky mothers to be best friends with my daughter," she said. "In those last years, Charla and I cleared our past mother-daughter conflicts." She said her daughter's dream was to sing professionally, or start a business developing seminars for divorcing couples. "Charla believed ... she could even tame Darren's rage and get him involved," Townley said.

Mack hung his head in his hands and appeared to cry when Townley concluded her testimony with a song Charla had recorded before her death. "It was a song she wanted to sing to Darren," Townley said.

Authorities said Mack, upset with contentious divorce proceedings and his belief that Weller was corrupt, killed his estranged wife when she arrived to drop off their daughter. Charla Mack had filed for divorce in 2005.

In court documents, her lawyer said Darren Mack had ignored Weller's order to pay her $10 000,00 a month in temporary alimony. Weller found him in contempt of court, but Mack filed for bankruptcy to avoid paying. The lawyer also said in documents that Mack continued to live a lavish lifestyle, took frequent vacations with girlfriends and often attended "swinger" parties. The pathologist who conducted the autopsy on Charla Mack said she died from at least seven different stab wounds, including one to the neck near her collarbone.

Mack then drove to a downtown parking garage, where he shot Weller from 170 yards away. In his plea, Mack admitted shooting Weller, but denied he intended to kill him. After shooting the judge, Mack fled to Mexico, where he voluntarily surrendered 11 days later. His trial, which was moved to Las Vegas because of extensive media coverage in Reno, ended on 5 November when Mack entered his pleas after prosecutors had finished presenting their case. Soon after, he fired his previous lawyers, hired William Routsis to represent him, and tried unsuccessfully to withdraw his pleas and get another trial.

On Friday, Routsis said he would take the case to the Nevada Supreme Court, which this week denied his motion seeking to block the sentencing and allow Mack to withdraw his pleas.

- **Case 6.22 The News Obsever, United Kingdom, 31 July 2009**

The News Observer (31 July 2009) reports that, in Lumberton, a Robeson County jury deliberated about 40 minutes on Thursday before recommending that former Cary builder Myron Britt be sentenced to life without parole. Jurors began deliberating shortly afterwards. They came back with a sentencing recommendation at 12h40. The same jury convicted Britt earlier that week of killing his wife, Nancy, in August 2003. The Wake County teacher was shot to death at her childhood home in Lumberton while caring for a disabled sister.

Before Britt was led away, Superior Court Judge, Gregory Weeks, gave him a final opportunity to address the court. Britt, who did not testify during his trial,

had words for the jury, his lawyers and his supporters. He told the jury he forgave them for wrongly convicting him. He said he would pray for them. The sentence they passed on him, he said, was also a sentence for his children and his mother. He thanked his lawyers, friends and family who had supported him during the past six years. He said he had hoped and prayed the complex issues in the case would become clear during his second trial. His first trial ended in 2006 with a hung jury.

Earlier on Thursday, lawyers for Britt and the state argued about the appropriate sentence for the Cary businessman. Prosecutors described Myron Britt as a man swimming in a pool of debt that kept growing and growing until the only way out he saw was to kill his wife for the insurance money. District Attorney Johnson Britt – no relation to Myron Britt – told the jurors they would have to decide the appropriate sentence for a man who killed his wife for $800 000 in insurance. That, Johnson Britt said, was the value Myron Britt placed on Nancy Britt's life. Johnson Britt said Myron Britt had killed his wife to maintain a particular lifestyle and keep up appearances.

The jury would have to determine whether the aggravating factor outweighed the 11 mitigating circumstances the defence would present, Johnson Britt said. Aggravating factors favoured imposing the death penalty. Mitigating factors favoured a life sentence.

"I am not going to stand up here and tell you there is no value of a father-son relationship, that there is no value in a father-daughter relationship or that there is no value in a mother-son relationship," Johnson Britt said. "What I am going to tell you is that the 11 pale in comparison to the reason Nancy Britt was murdered."

Myron Britt's grown children – Lauren, 22, and Brandon, 29, – told jurors on Wednesday that they had a strong relationship with their father and still relied on him for advice.

Jim Parrish, one of Britt's lawyers, told jurors they would have to decide whether Myron Britt should die in prison at a date set by the state or die in prison at a date set by his maker. That is what that was all about, Parrish said. Parrish said the mitigating circumstances did not justify anything; they showed Myron Britt's life had value. If the jury found there was value to Myron Britt's life, he said, then it made no sense to sentence him to death.

- **Case 6.23 The Australian, Australia, 14 August 2009**

Scheikowski, M. (14 August 2009) reports that a man who callously murdered his young step-daughter after she had stumbled across him strangling her mother has been jailed for life. In the NSW Supreme Court today, Justice Michael Grove said the murder of the nine-year-old innocent girl put the crime into the "worst-case category". "In whatever way you killed this child, it was pitiless conduct and your culpability for so doing is extreme," he told the 43-year-old man.

The Blacktown man, who cannot be named for legal reasons, pleaded guilty to murdering his second wife and her daughter in May 2008, before throwing their bodies off cliffs in the Blue Mountains. Justice Grove concluded the man killed his wife for financial motives, fearing he would lose property if they were divorced. He said the little girl was murdered, in a way which has not been revealed, to ensure he would not be caught after she had witnessed her mother's strangulation. He referred to the man telling a cell mate that he had "dealt with the daughter" and that "she wasn't my blood anyway". "... the attitude inherent in your remark that the child who you murdered was not of your blood is to be taken into account in the overall assessment of your future dangerousness," he said.

The man was sentenced to 30 years for his wife's murder and was handed a life sentence for the girl's murder.

- **Case 6.24 The Yorkshire Post, United Kingdom, 13 August 2009**

Robinson, A. (13 August 2009) reports that a hard-working factory boss who struggled to adapt to retirement became so depressed that he killed his wife and then drowned himself in the bath. Kenneth Mann owned a plastics factory in Dewsbury but sank into depression when he had to sell the business in 2000 when he was 72, an inquest heard yesterday. Mr Mann was given anti-depressants for five years from 2000 and was again being treated for clinical depression a month before he attacked his wife, Doreen, with a hammer and two knives, leaving her dead in the lounge.

In the weeks before her death Mrs Mann, a retired sales rep, had mentioned to others her fears that her husband might attack her. Relatives urged her to leave him. Three weeks before her death she told her sister that she was worried that her husband was going to do something to her.

The couple, who did not have children and had been married 57 years, were found dead in their neat detached bungalow in Thornhill, Dewsbury – which they had named Kendoreen – two days before Christmas when a psychiatric nurse could not get an answer. Mrs Mann died from head injuries and cuts to her neck and wrists. She had tried to defend herself, suffering a hand injury. Two knives and a hammer were found on the sofa.

Her husband, 81, was found face-down in the bath and had drowned. It is believed that Mr Mann had been particularly upset after being advised by his psychiatrist that he should not drive while taking medication, including sleeping pills. He was due to take his wife to the Lake District over Christmas. Brother-in-law, Stuart Smith, told the inquest at Huddersfield Coroners Court, "Driving was the light at the end of the tunnel for Kenneth, and then even this stopped."

Psychiatrist, Dr Vinod Shukla, told the court that Mr Mann was a "keen and hard-working man" and said, "I think, having known him all these years he struck me as someone quite energetic and motivated, rigid in his thinking with

a perfectionist's personality." Asked by coroner, Roger Whittaker, if Mr Mann would have struggled with the transition from working life to retirement, he replied, "People who do have this personality type find it hard to adapt to changes. He was suffering from depression, he talked about fatigue, lack of drive, lack of motivation, not sleeping, feeling very low and having thoughts of taking his own life."

Mr Whittaker recorded a verdict of unlawful killing on Mrs Mann and ruled that Mr Mann had taken his own life while the balance of his mind was disturbed. He described their deaths as a "double tragedy" and said he believed "lessons had been learned" following a review of the case carried out by the local NHS Trust. He said: "I'm satisfied that Kenneth Mann's mind was disturbed at the time of his death. I believe that imbalance of the mind was present at the time of his wife's death also"

A statement from South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Trust said the trust reiterated its sympathies to the family and others affected by the tragic deaths. The circumstances had been thoroughly investigated. "Sadly, we cannot change the tragic events that happened but we can learn from them and a number of changes have been made as a result." These include improved systems for referrals between services and exchange of information; and improved record keeping following home visits.

- **Case 6.25 Courier Mail, Australia, 14 August 2009**

Keim, T. (14 August 2009) reports that the first man to face a judge-only trial in the Queensland Supreme Court has been sentenced to life imprisonment after he was convicted of the murder of his wife during a frenzied "psychotic" stabbing in 2005. Brisbane Supreme Court Judge, Margaret Wilson, in a written judgment, found Colin Barry Clough guilty of murdering his wife, Leanne Elizabeth Clough, 34, at Carina in Brisbane's south-east on 16 September 2005.

Clough, 41, sat shaking in the dock of Court 2 as Justice Wilson declared him guilty of his wife's murder. "My verdict is that Colin Barry Clough is guilty of the murder of Leanne Elizabeth Clough," Justice Wilson said. Justice Wilson, in sentencing Clough, said, "You killed her in a frenzied attack with a knife and she died as a result. What occurred has had a devastating effect on both her and your families. There is only one sentence I can impose and that is life imprisonment." As Clough was led to the court's cells, members of Ms Clough's family yelled scathing abuse. "Rot in hell," said one family member. "I hope you die in there, you mongrel," said another.

The court had been told Clough, who had stabbed his wife 11 times, had murdered her in the "psychotic" belief she was the member of a criminal syndicate and was plotting to murder him. It was also revealed that Clough had been so deranged prior to the killing that he had been trying to decipher words written on a package of salami for hidden codes.

Clough had a history of violent psychotic episodes and had been treated by a state-run Logan Mental Health Hospital prior to the alleged murder. Clough was granted a "judge only" trial after the Supreme Court approved a "no-jury trial" in November, last year, after his lawyers revealed the facts regarding the actual killing were not in dispute. However, what was in contention was the issue of whether Clough was entitled to the defence of insanity of diminished responsibility. Clough was a diagnosed schizophrenic and had suffered from drug-induced psychosis for several years leading up to the killing of Mrs Clough. Clough had consumed the illicit drug "speed" almost 48 hours before the slaying and it was medically possible he was affected by the drug at the time, Justice Wilson was told.

Barrister Rob East, for Clough, argued his client was in the grip of a psychotic episode prior to killing his wife. "This was a frenzied attack by a psychotic man," he said. "It is more than likely that Mr Clough was not of sound mind ... at the time of the killing." Mr East said after the killing he told his mother he had to do it or his wife was going to kill him. "(Clough) believed his wife was part of a criminal syndicate and had plans of killing him," he said. He said

while four psychiatrists had given conflicting opinions on whether Clough had been under the influence of illicit drugs at the time, all agreed he had been experiencing a psychotic episode when he stabbed his wife.

Prosecutor Michael Byrne argued medical evidence before the court showed Clough's intoxication, as the result of drug use, was what "took the brakes off" the accused act to kill his wife. Mr Byrne said it was the level of Clough's intoxication that "broke the camel's back."

- **Case 6.26 The Times, Daily News, South Africa, 7 May 2008, 6 May 2008 respectively**

The *Times* (7 May 2008) and the Daily News (6 May 2008) report that a 35-year-old man was sentenced to life in prison by the Pietermaritzburg High Court for the murder of his wife. The court heard that Nico Vather fatally stabbed his wife, placed their two-year-old son next to her body on their bed, went drinking, satisfied his urges with two prostitutes and spent the rest of the night at the home of friends. The child stayed next to his mother's body until 5:00 when Vather came home with his friends. These horrific details were recounted in court, before Judge Piet Koen sent Vather to jail for life.

Vather was convicted of murder in 1992 and sentenced to 15 years' jail, but in 2002 he was released on special remission of sentence. Koen said that had Vather served the full sentence his wife Valencia would still be alive. Vather was also convicted of indecent assault in 1991 and assault in 2006. The judge said he had a propensity to violence and society should be protected from him.

Vather told the court that when he left his wife on the night of the murder she was with his mistress, Jasmin Shaik. The two had become friends, he said. Koen said, however, that Vather had lied to the court, had contradicted himself, and his version was so improbable that it could not possibly be true. Vather had shown no remorse and his prospects of rehabilitation were not good.

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A child psychologist, briefed by the family of Valencia, told the court that Vather's son had shown symptoms indicating a severe trauma condition known as night terror. Valencia's brother, who cares for the toddler, and Valencia's two daughters from her previous marriage, said the little boy would wake up at night, his body would be stiff and he would scream and resist sleep. He was withdrawn and did not eat properly.

After the sentence had been handed down, Valencia's father, Montgomery Royappen, embraced the investigating officer, Inspector Phillip Lemmer, and warmly congratulated the state counsel, Dheelan Naidoo.

Case 6.27 AP News, United States of America, 27 July 2009

AP News (27 July 2009) reports that George Doby had been married to Edna for 57 years on the day authorities say he shot her to death in the back yard. Police say he also killed their 12-year-old grandson before taking his own life. The gunshots rang out as two of the couple's children and four of their grandchildren were visiting for a Sunday dinner to celebrate the anniversary. The couple's son ran outside to find both his parents and his son Jacob dead.

The motive for the shootings is unknown, but a neighbour who was friends with the family said 82-year-old Edna Doby's health had been declining, and 87-year-old George was caring for her.

"This was an all-American family," Police Capt. Russell Popham said. "The family's still struggling to understand why he did it and obviously we'll never know now."

Margaret Bowman and her husband, Keyes Bowman, had been their neighbours in the suburb south of Atlanta for 42 years. Her son, Glenn Bowman, was visiting when the shots were fired. He looked out of the window to see a boy lying in the grass under a swingset.

Glenn Bowman rushed over to the house to find Alan Doby holding Jacob, who was autistic.

"He was saying, 'Hold on, help is coming,'" Glenn Bowman said of the scene. "Then I heard sirens."

The Dobys' daughter, Jane Laughridge, told authorities she was in the kitchen making dinner with her daughter and could see her parents standing next to each other in the backyard.

Laughridge said she looked away and then several gunshots rang out. When she looked back, her parents and nephew were lying in the yard, according to the police report.

George Doby, the family patriarch, had a Colt .45-calibre revolver in his hand, police said.

Stone Road, where the Dobys lived for more than four decades, was quiet Monday. The brick façade of their ranch house sat dark, the chairs on the porch empty.

Efforts to reach members of the Doby family were unsuccessful. A man who answered the phone at Jane Laughridge's home declined to comment.

Margaret Bowman said the Dobys were a loving couple. Edna Doby had become hard of hearing and used a walker due to Parkinson's Disease and arthritis, Bowman said. Recently, George Doby had been anxious about having to pass his driver's license exam because his eyesight had been failing.

"They were good to each other," she said. "They were older, and now he had to look after her."

Bowman recalled that the family was close and gathered for most special occasions: birthdays, anniversaries and holidays.

The Dobys were also foster parents who cared for a number of children along with their own, Bowman said. Edna Doby was good at sewing and would make drapes and layette sets for the foster babies.

"They were very proud people," Margaret Bowman said as she tried to think of why such a tragedy would happen. "All I know is ... depression. Who knows?"

Case 6.28 SAPA, South Africa, 17 November 2004

SAPA (17 November 2004) reports that, in Lagos, a Nigerian court has sentenced a man to death by hanging for conspiring to kill his wife as part of a money-making magic ritual.

Justice Chioma Nwosu-Iheme of the High Court in Owerri convicted Robert Ibrahim Chilaka of the murder of Cecilia in March 1998.

Chilaka was said to have conspired with ritualists who had promised him one million naira (R54 000) for his wife's vital organs.

Case 6.29 SAPA, South Africa, 11 October 2003

SAPA (11 October 2003) reports that a man in Giyane hacked his wife to death and then hanged himself at their home in Giyane.

Captain Moatshe Ngoepe said the couple and other family members were together until late on Friday night. When they heard no sounds from the couple's house in the morning they knocked and peeped through the window, only to see the dead woman.

They called the police, who opened the door and found that she had been hacked to death with a panga, which was still lying next to her. Her husband was hanging from the roof, also dead.

He said as far as everyone was concerned the couple did not have any marital problems, but the police "can not rule that out".

The police opened a case of murder, and an inquest into the death of the man, said Ngoepe.

He said the names of the deceased would be released as soon as all family members had been informed.

Case 6.30 SAPA, South Africa, 21 September 2009

SAPA (21 September 2009) reports that a man shot his wife dead, then turned his gun on himself at the Qwaqwa hotel, in Phuthaditjhaba, in an apparent domestic dispute, Free State police said.

Sergeant Mmako Mophiring said the man arrived at the hotel at 8h00 and walked to the woman's office. "He went into the office, drew a firearm and shot her in the head." he then shot himself. Both were found dead inside the office.

Mophiring said the man was Jonas Khumalo, 43, of Phuthaditjhaba. His 29-year-old wife had worked at the hotel.

Case 6.31 SAPA, South Africa, 17 August 2009

SAPA (17 August 2009) reports that a man who stabbed his wife 19 times but pleaded not guilty to killing her was convicted of murder in the Pietermaritzburg High Court.

Jaiseelan Govindsamy, 41, admitted to stabbing his wife, Anthea, in front of her family at Howick Falls on a Sunday afternoon in March 2007 because "he could not control his actions". He said his actions were involuntary and the result of stress coupled with the effects of alcohol and drugs. Anthea was about to qualify as a psychologist.

Judge Esther Steyn said Govindsamy's version should be rejected as he knew perfectly well what he was doing; he intended to kill her and the killing was premeditated. He took a long knife to the falls area and the fact that she was stabbed 19 times showed he directly intended to kill her.

State advocate Dheelan Naidoo asked for Govindsamy to be jailed for life, but if the court found substantial and compelling circumstances to impose a more lenient sentence, he asked for a 25-year jail term.

Steyn said the verdict of being guilty by her and two assessors was unanimous.

Sentencing was expected later.

Case 6.32 The Daily News, South Africa, 23 March 2006

The Daily News (23 March 2006) reports that, in a crime described by acting Pietermaritzburg High Court Judge, Anton van Zyl, as "truly shocking and deplorable", a Margate man pleaded guilty to killing his common-law wife so he could pursue a relationship with the woman's 14-year-old daughter.

In a detailed confession, the 37-year-old man told the court how, just hours after he had killed his 33-year-old girlfriend, he took her minor daughter to his home, where he had sexual intercourse with her twice.

He was convicted of murder and unlawful intercourse with a girl under the age of 16 and sentenced to an effective 21 years in prison for his "crime of passion". In his plea, the man explained that he had been living with the woman in the Port Shepstone area for five years. The woman's daughter lived with her grand-mother and used to visit the couple at weekends.

The man, who had been involved in a relationship with the girl's mother since 1995, said he fell in love with the youngster when she was 13 years old. "A relationship developed between us and we had sex on several occasions before I killed her mother," he said.

It was on 10 March 2006 that he decided to kill the woman, so he would be free to be with her daughter. He and his partner were returning home from a shopping trip when they had to walk through a forested area. "I picked up a stone and struck her with it. She fell to the ground, still conscious, but dazed. I began to throttle her until I was satisfied that she was dead," he said.

The man then went home. He told the court he had later picked up the youngster from her grandmother's home, took her back to his house and then proceeded to sleep with her twice.

When the girl asked about the whereabouts of her mother, he told her she was probably staying over at her place of employment, where she had been a domestic worker. She apparently did that often.

The man said the next morning the reality of what he had done sunk in and he felt disgusted with himself. He tried to kill himself and drank an entire bottle of

whiskey before stabbing himself in the stomach. "I lost consciousness and upon waking up found myself at the police station. I was assumed to be a drunk and they let me go," he said.

The next day, the police visited his home inquiring about his partner, who was thought to be missing. He broke down and related the entire series of events to the police and then pointed out the woman's body.

In sentencing, Van Zyl called the crime one of sadness and regret. "As a result of your selfish actions you robbed this young girl, who you are in love with, of her mother, her innocence and her sources of support. Your bizarre affection for this child defies logic," Van Zyl said. "Not only did you kill someone, who you called your wife, in the most violent fashion, but you also ruined the life of a young girl who you profess to love. In the process you also ruined your own life," Van Zyl said.

Case 6.33 The Sowetan, South Africa, 16 July 2007

Hlatshwayo, R. (16 July 2007) reports that, at the weekend preceding this date, a foreigner, who accused his wife of having an affair, hacked her to death before committing suicide in Mpumalanga. The couple, from Shambayana near Bushbuckridge, was heard arguing during the night. The fierce argument began at midnight and carried on for several hours, said police after gathering information from neighbours and the couple's children.

Police found the bodies of Masengi Ngwenya, who was 42-years-old, and his wife, Alvira Mhlongo, who was 35-years-old, both of unknown nationality. "The husband accused the wife of sleeping with other men. The woman apparently tried to shelter in a roofless house that is still under construction," said the police.

Case 6.34 SAPA, South Africa, 3 September 2008

SAPA (3 September 2008) reports that, in Johannesburg, a 30-year-old man shot dead his wife and child before committing suicide, Bronkhorstspruit police said on Wednesday.

Spokeswoman, Marinda Stoltz, said the incident happened at House 2286 in Section E at Ekangala at 00h30.

Cengani Dunywe shot his wife Nomella Maswangabye, 27, and their six-month-old child after a fight in their dining room.

"Her brother heard them fighting while he was sleeping in his bedroom. He then heard three gunshots. He ran to the police station to report the matter," said Stoltz.

Maswangabye had attempted to run away from her husband, but he chased her and shot her, she said.

Police are investigating a case of murder and suicide.

Case 6.35 SAPA, South Africa, 22 October 2008

SAPA (22 October 2008) reports that, in Johannesburg, a 51-year-old man killed his wife and then shot himself dead in Jabulani, Soweto, police said.

Inspector Kay Makhubele said the man arrived at home about 21:30. An argument with his 43-year-old wife in the bedroom resulted in him shooting her and then shooting himself. Both died on the scene.

Relatives informed the police, who on arrival confiscated the licensed firearm belonging to the man.

7 THEMES EMERGING FROM THE ABOVE RAW DATA

This section provides themes which emerged from the content and context of the raw data of some newspapers. The analysis of the causes of uxoricide are

presented first; followed by the the analysis of the nature in which it is committed; and lastly its destructiveness on the nuclear family is presented.

7.1 Themes on the causes of uxoricide

Themes emerging from the cases above on the causes of uxoricide are the following.

7.1.1 Couples' strained marital relationships

This theme emanates from the following items of the cases' raw data:

- the brother of the victim of uxoricide stated in his complaint to the police that the relations of the couple had got strained on the issue of the victim being dispossessed of the land in which she had a share by the perpetrator of this crime (see 6.3);

- the relationship between the perpetrator and victim of uxoricide had deteriorated rapidly after the death of the victim's father in 2003. Her husband had taken to sleeping in the downstairs room of their house, and the pressure on their relationship were also made worse when Adam, their son, who had moved in with his uncle was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma, an aggressive form of cancer, and doctors said he would live only six months, all of this meaning that their marital situation was bad (see 6.8);

- it was revealed in court that the perpetrator and victim of uxoricide had had a stormy relationship, and that the victim had left the perpetrator on one occasion (see 6.10);

- the mother of the victim of uxoricide said the couple, who stayed in a house on their farm, had marital problems (see 6.12);

- the 29-year-old man and his 28-year-old wife had separated a month before the victim was murdered after marital problems (see 6.14);

- the perpetrator's and victim's marriage had been unhappy (see 6.7); and
- with the perpetrator straining their marital relationship with an affair (see 6.12).

7.1.2 Anger, rage (including jealous rage), upset and loss of temper

- The perpetrator was very angry with his wife, who was clearly very anxious about the unplanned pregnancy, and some sort of argument must have occurred, during which the perpetrator lost his temper (see 6.4);
- an argument broke out between the perpetrator and victim and the perpetrator stabbed the victim to death in a fit of rage (see 6.5);
- the perpetrator intentionally killed his common-law wife and the mother of his child in a fit of rage (see 6.10);
- a tearful perpetrator said that he was very angry and hurt after his wife told him their marriage was over and that their youngest son was not his child (see 6.15);
- upset with contentious divorce proceedings (see 6.21); and
- upset after being advised by his psychiatrist that he should not drive while taking medication, including sleeping pills (see 6.24).

7.1.3 Victims planning a divorce

- The victim's mother said her daughter had told her three days before her death that she wanted a divorce (see 6.12);
- a tearful perpetrator told the court during his trial that he was very angry and hurt after the victim had told him that their marriage was over (see 6.15);

- the court found that the perpetrator had planned the victim's killing over three days as he was desperate because she wanted to divorce him (see 6.20); and

- the victim had filed for divorce in 2005, and the perpetrator was upset with contentious divorce proceeding (see 6.21).

7.1.4 Manipulative tendencies of uxoricides

- The prosecutor told the court that the victim had complained to her friends about her husband's "controlling" ways, including when he slammed a door against her head during an argument and when he had smashed a vase because she went out with friends (see 6.4);

- the perpetrator killed his wife and children because of their Western ways of life ... the perpetrator made every conceivable attempt to prevent his wife and daughters enjoying their Westernised lifestyle....the perpetrator destroyed their clothes – modest by Western standards but tight fitting by his own – when they came out of the laundry and he rallied against plans to allow alcohol at his terminally ill son's 18th birthday party, which had been brought forward because of his prognosis..... the perpetrator saw his wife being dropped off after enjoying a meal with friends in Manchester, and the police say there was no suggestion she was involved in a relationship with anyone else (see 6.8);

- the police said the perpetrator walked into his house and found his wife speaking to someone on her 24-year-old daughter's cell-phone ... the husband suspected his wife was cheating on him and did not believe that the victim was talking to her brother on the cell-phone (see 6.11).

7.1.5 Psychopathology

- The perpetrator had been on anti-depressants for five years from 2000 and was again being treated for clinical depression a month before he attacked the victim (see 6.24);
- "All I know is...depression ..." (see 6.27); and
- the perpetrator was a diagnosed schizophrenic and suffered drug-induced psychosis for several years leading up to the killing of the victim. The perpetrator had consumed the illicit drug "speed" almost 48 hours before the slaying and was medically possible he was affected by the drug at the time (see 6.25).

7.1.6 Financial and material gain

- The victim's brother Sushil, a resident of a Bhiwani village, alleged that the brothers of his sister's husband were trying to seize her share of their land (see 6.3);
- a close relative of the victim told the *Sowetan* that the perpetrator had taken the woman's insurance policies just before her death so that he could benefit from them and they had established that he had already made claims (see 6.13);
- the Johannesburg perpetrator was convicted of falsifying the victim's will, and of false insurance claims involving millions of rands (see 6.16);
- the perpetrator killed his wife for $800,000 in insurance (see 6.22);
- the perpetrator killed the victim for financial motives, fearing he would lose property if they were divorced (see 6.23);
- to maintain a particular lifestyle and keep up appearances (see 6.22); and

- Chilaka was said to have conspired with ritualists who had promised him one million naira (R54 000) for his wife's vital organs (see 6.28).

7.1.7 Financial situation

- He struggled to find employment....."It meant the financial situation was bad," said Detective Superintendent Mick Gradwell, of Lancashire Police.... "A lot of money was being spent on presents for Adam as he was coming to the end of his life. They were spending a lot more money than they earned – at the victim's will, not the perpetrator's" (see 6.8); and

- .....described Myron Britt as a man swimming in a pool of debt that kept growing and growing until the only way out he saw was to kill his wife (see 6.22).

7.1.8 Incompatibility of wife's and husband's way of life as a result of arranged marriage

- The victim's brother said the victim's alienation from the perpetrator was a result of "the different ways in which they approached their lives....the victim was outgoing and wanted to better herself ... the perpetrator was more withdrawn, ... victim vivacious, involved in community development issues and was committed to self-aggrandisement, while the perpetrator was withdrawn and estranged by the different way of life of his family (see 6.8).

7.1.9 Honour killing

- The perpetrator killed the victim for "honour". The perpetrator was indicted on charges of second-degree murder in the 15 April 2004 slaying of the victim, and he claimed that he attacked his wife and daughters after learning that his brother had molested his wife and his 22-year-old daughter. The perpetrator said he attacked his 4-year-old daughter because she had been "sullied" by a gynecological exam. "I

was concerned that my family's honour was taken," he allegedly told investigators..... "My female family, yes. My male family, no" (see 6.9).

7.1.10 Dispossession of a married woman of her property by her in-laws, and her husband siding with them on this issue

- The victim's brother alleged that the brothers of the victim's husband were trying to seize her share of her land and that the husband, too, was siding with them on this issue (see 6.3).

7.1.11 Wife working a long distance away from husband

- "... prompted by the fact that the wife worked more than 150 km from their home" (see 6.13).

7.1.12 Husbands suspecting that their wives have affairs or illicit relations with other men

- The perpetrator suspected the victim of having illicit relations with another man who lived in the same locality (see 6.5); the husband suspected his wife was cheating on him and did not believe that the victim's brother was speaking to her (see 6.11).

7.1.13 Wife applying for family violence interdict and husband avoiding appearing in court

- The victim was shot because she was heading to court to get a family violence interdict against the perpetrator confirmed. The court found that the perpetrator had simply shot the victim to avoid appearing in the court where he worked as an administrative clerk (see 6.18).

7.1.14 Jealousy

- The police said the motive for the murder was not yet clear but they suspected jealousy, prompted by the fact that the wife worked more than 150 km from their home (see 6.13).

7.1.15 Victim experiencing dearth of affection by perpetrator during child illness

- He said, "She had become frustrated with his lack of emotional support and involvement throughout Adam's illness (see 6.8).

7.1.16 Estrangement, alienation and desperation of uxoricides

- Police investigations revealed how the perpetrator was estranged by the different way of life of his family (see 6.8); the perpetrator and the victim were estranged (see 6.16); and the perpetrator killed his estranged victim when she arrived to drop off their daughter (see 6.21).

7.1.17 Religious traditionalism and fanaticism

- The perpetrator was a traditionalist and a practising Muslim (see 6.8).

7.1.18 Arguments

- In 65 AD the perpetrator reportedly kicked the victim to death after an argument (see 3.1);

- the victim had complained to friends about the perpetrator's "controlling" ways, including when he pushed a door against her head during an argument (see 6.4);

- an argument broke out between the perpetrator and the victim and the perpetrator stabbed the victim to death in a fit of rage (see 6.5);

- the perpetrator told the court that he and the victim had a fierce argument on the night of the murder about her suspected infidelity and his complaints that she kept on pushing him away (see 6.15);

- in Johannesburg, the perpetrator shot and killed the victim and then shot himself in the head after the couple had argued (see 6.19); and

- an argument with his 43-year-old wife (see 6.35).

7.1.19 Victims thriving while perpetrators struggle occupationally

- The victim was vivacious, a high-profile community worker who had co-founded the local Aawaz women's group, mentored teenage girls at a high school in nearby Rishton, and was a school governor and board member on several diversity groups, while the perpetrator struggled to find employment, and eventually becoming a labourer for a plastic bag manufacturer in Blackburn (see 6.8).

7.1.20 Alcoholism and intoxication

- The pressures drove the perpetrator to drink heavily (see 6.8); and

- prosecutor Michael Byrne argued medical evidence before the court showed Clough's intoxication, as the result of drug use, was what "took the brakes off" the accused act to kill his wife. Mr Byrne said it was the level of Clough's intoxication that "broke the camel's back" (see 6.25).

7.1.21 Uxoricides having propensities to violence

- Phillips was also convicted on charges of assaulting his wife on a previous occasion, ignoring a protection order she had obtained against him.....assaulting a neighbour, Pieter Korb....had threatened to wipe out the family before he killed his wife (see 6.1);

- had slammed a door against her head.....and also when he had smashed a vase in the house....allegedly grabbed her by the neck and put his hand over her mouth (see 6.4);

- Clough had a history of violent psychotic episodes and had been treated by a state-run Logan Mental Health Hospital prior to the alleged murder (see 6.25);

- Vather was convicted of murder in 1992 and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment, but in 2002 he was released on special remission of sentence. Koen said that had Vather served the full sentence his wife Valencia would still be alive. Vather was also convicted of indecent assault in 1991 and assault in 2006 (see 6.26).

7.1.22 Mercy killing

- The court was told he regarded his wife's murder as a "mercy killing", telling police she was in "poor health" (see 6.17); and

- .....but a neighbour who was friends with the family said 82-year-old Edna Doby's health had been declining, and 87-year-old George was caring for her..... "Edna Doby had become hard of hearing and used a walker due to Parkinson's Disease and arthritis," Bowman said..... "They were older, and now he had to look after her" (see 6.27).

7.1.23 Wives killed for magic ritual involving their vital organs, q uite clearly for *muthi*

- "... for conspiring to kill his wife as part of a money-making magic ritual" (see 6.28).

7.1.24 Domestic dispute

- "... in an apparent domestic dispute" (see 6.30).

7.1.25 Wife killed for uxoricide to have a bizarre sexual relationship with the under-age step-child

- "... a Margate man pleaded guilty to killing his common-law wife so he could pursue a relationship with the woman's 14-year-old daughter" (see 6.32).

7.1.26 Uxoricides' extra-marital affairs

- The perpetrator had had an affair (see 6.12); and
- killing his common-law wife so he could pursue a relationship with the woman's 14-year-old daughter (see 6.32).

7.1.27 Selfish characters

- Phillips had kidnapped his son earlier that night and drove around with him against his will for hours while trying to convince him to talk to his mother so that she could withdraw criminal charges against him.....Phillips testified he wanted his wife to withdraw the charges because he could not otherwise get a lucrative security job elsewhere in Africa (see 6.1);
- judge Luther commented that it appeared that Van Ameron was more concerned about himself than about the fact that he had shot his wife (see 6.10); as a result of your selfish actions you robbed this young girl, who you are in love with, of her mother, her innocence and her sources of support. Your bizarre affection for this child defies logic," Van Zyl said (see 6.32).

7.2 Nature of uxoricide

The raw data of the cases reveal that:

- The victims are starved to death; and/or kicked to death (see 1)
- The victims are strangulated/asphyxiated/throttled (see 3.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.23, and 6.32);
- The victims are stabbed to death (see 6.5, 6.6, 6.15, 6.17, 6.21, 6.24, 6.26, 6.31);
- The victims are bashed and hit with a hammer (see 6.9, 6.17, 6.24);
- The victims are shot with guns (see 6.10, 6.11, 6.12, 6.14, 6.18, 6.19, 6.20, 6.21, 6.27, 6.30, 6.34, and 6.35);
- The victim's body is burried in a shallow grave (see 6.7);
- The victim is dismembered with the use of a chainsaw (see 6.7);
- The victim is having petrol poured and ignited over her as she slept (see 6.8);
- The victims' corpses are left naked and bruised in the bushes (see 6.13, 6.20, and 6.32);
- The victim's corpse dumped in the boot of the perpetrator's car (see 6.2);
- The victims are killed while pregnant (see 6.4, 6.7, and 6.20);
- The victim's corpse left in waste collection bins /waste management sites (see 6.7);
- Pre-meditated and calculated uxoricide (see 6.1, 6.7, 6.10, 6.12, 6.17, and 6.31);
- Pregnant victim's throat slit (see 6.21);
- Hacked to death with a panga (see 6.29);
- Struck with stone (see 6.32);

- Over-kill (see 6.6, 6.9, 6.10, 6.11, 6.12, 6.15, 6.21, 6.25, 6.31, and 6.32);
- Victims killed at their place of employment (see 6.30); and
- Body of victim thrown off cliff in the Blue Mountains (see 6.23).

7.3 Nuclear family destructiveness of uxoricide

Themes emerging from the cited cases on the nuclear family destructiveness of uxoricide are the following.

7.3.1 Perpetrators languish in jail, victims die and children deprived of sufficient parental care

- The perpetrator was jailed for life because the victim died, and a three-year-old daughter was deprived of sufficient primary parental care (see 6.2);
- when the victim died, their two children were staying at their grandparents' house (see 6.3);
- the couple had four children (see 6.5);
- the perpetrator was jailed and victim died, and their 4-year-old and 22-year-old daughters who had suffered fractured skulls from hammer blows inflicted by the perpetrator were left without parents (see 6.9);
- the perpetrator was jailed and victim killed, and their daughter was left with grandparents (see 6.10);
- he perpetrator was jailed and victim died, and their two children were left with grandparents (see 6.12);
- the perpetrator was jailed because victim died, and their son who the perpetrator had hit with the shifting was orphaned (see 6.15);

- the perpetrator was jailed and victim died, and their disabled son and daughter were left with grandparents (see 6.16);
- the perpetrator was sentenced to twenty-five years because victim died, and they left three children (see 6.19); and
- the perpetrator was jailed, the victim died and the couple's nine-year-old daughter was left behind (see 6.21).

7.3.2 Victims die, some perpetrators commit suicide and children are orphaned

- Drowned himself in the Hudson river, and the victim died, their two orphaned children were left in the custody of the state Division of Youth and Family Services and were to be taken to the Somerset County DYFS office (see 6.6);
- Mr Riaz, who died in hospital two days after the fire, took his own life (see 6.8);
- turned the gun on himself (see 6.14);
- a 46-year-old man shot and killed his 42-year-old wife and then himself in Meyersdal in Alberton on 12 May 2009 (see 6.18);
- in Johannesburg a man shot and killed his wife and then shot himself in the head (see 6.19);
- he killed his wife and then drowned himself in the bath (see 6.24);
- George Doby had been married to Edna for 57 years on the day authorities say he shot her to death in the back yard.....before taking his own life (see 6.27);
- a man in Giyane hacked his wife to death and then hanged himself at their home in Giyane (see 6.29);

- a man shot his wife dead, then turned his gun on himself (see 6.30);
- a 30-year-old man shot dead his wife and child before committing suicide (see 6.34); and
- a 51-year-old man killed his wife then shot himself dead in Jabulani, Soweto (see 6.35).

7.3.3 Children are traumatized

- children are severely traumatised as can be deduced from the following statements: Louw said it was clear that Phillips had kidnapped his son earlier that night and drove around with him against his will for hours while trying to convince (see 6.1);
- abandoning his three-year-old daughter at a railway station..... after their daughter Qian Xun, nicknamed "Pumpkin" by the police after the brand of her clothing, had been found crying at an Australian railway station.....security footage showed the little girl standing alone next to an escalator at the station while the self-styled martial arts expert calmly walked away (see 6.2);
- Rekha's eldest daughter, who is 15 years old, rushed her to the hospital (see 6.5);
- his daughters suffered fractured skulls (see 6.9);
- he also vaguely heard his daughter crying (see 6.10);
- attempted murder of his daughter..... the daughter ran to a neighbour's house for help..... fired two shots in his daughter's direction, which missed her (see 6.11);
- he walked around naked in front of the children..... the child was very upset about her father sitting around in front of the shop the whole time (see 6.12);

- attacked his son, Jacques, with the spanner to make it appear as if housebreakers had killed his wife and then attacked his son....later took his son for medical treatment (see 6.15);

- then tried to kill his daughter with an axe blade.....was also given 12 years in jail for the attempted murder of his daughter..... Walsh attacked her with an axe blade and told her, "We are all better off this way," Ms Walsh survived the attack, but was left with severe lacerations to her head, a fractured skull and torn brain linings (see 6.17);

- a trauma counsellor on scene counselled one of the children who had seen the shooting..... (see 6.18);

- the couple's four daughters, aged between five and fifteen, were present during the argument but left after it became too heated, and they did not witness the shooting of the victim and when the perpetrator committed suicide (see 6.19);

- killed his estranged wife when she arrived to drop off their daughter (see 6.21);

- placed their two-year-old son next to her body on their bed.....the child stayed next to his mother's body until 5:00 when Vather came home with his friends.....a child psychologist, briefed by the family of Valencia, told the court that Vather's son had shown symptoms indicating a severe trauma condition known as night terror.....Valencia's brother, who cares for the toddler, and Valencia's two daughters from her previous marriage, said the little boy would wake up at night, his body would be stiff and he would scream and resist sleep.....he was withdrawn and did not eat properly (see 6.26); and

- ..... also ruined the life of a young girl who you profess to love (see 6.32).

7.3.4 Victims murdered together with their children/grand-children/step-children

- The murders of 41-year-old Anna Kemp and their 19-month-old daughter, Gracie Sharpe..... he murdered their baby, Gracie Sharpe, four days later in an act of "irrational bloody madness" as he tried to make it look as though his five months' pregnant wife had taken the child and left him for another man (see 6.7);

- .... killed his wife and children (see 6.8);

- his daughters suffered fractured skulls from hammer blows (see 6.9);

- murdered his Scottish wife Jean and their two grand-children.....attacked his wife with a hammer before murdering the children, aged five and seven also.....he then killed his grand-son with the same hammer and drowned his grand-daughter..... "the offender killed his young grand-children when they had been entrusted to his care.... he intended to kill them and planned their murders with grim attention.....he killed the children knowing that he had already killed the only person who might have come to their defence.....he abused the children's trust in him by coaxing them out of their beds.....there was a high degree of violence in the murder of Kevin Hodges.....the murder of Jaime Hodges involved a struggle, during which she must have experienced a degree of terror no child should know" (see 6.17);

- callously murdered his young step-daughter after she had stumbled across him strangling her mother.....Justice Michael Grove said the murder of the nine-year-old innocent girl put the crime into the "worst-case category". "In whatever way you killed this child, it was pitiless conduct and your culpability for so doing is extreme,".....pleaded guilty to murdering his second wife and her daughter in May 2008..... the little girl was murdered, in a way which has not been revealed, to ensure he would not be caught after she had witnessed her mother's

strangulation.....the judge referred to the man telling a cell mate that he had "dealt with the daughter" and that "she wasn't my blood anyway". "... the attitude inherent in your remark that the child who you murdered was not of your blood is to be taken into account in the overall assessment of your future dangerousness," (see 6.23);

- he shot her to death in the back yard.....police say he also killed their 12-year-old grand-son (see 6.27); and
- a 30-year-old man shot dead his wife and their six-month-old child (see 6.34).

8 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This research succeeded in answering the five (5) questions (see sub-section 3.3 above) which are fundamental to its five (5) objectives (see section 4 above) that regulated the choice of its relevant literature, the case studies and inductive data analysis proceedings of this research

This study confirmed the ubiquity of uxoricide. For example cases of uxoricide could be provided from South Africa (see cases 6.1, 6.10, 6.11, 6.12, 6.13, 6.14, 6.15, 6.16, 6.18, 6.19, 6.20, 6.26, 6.28, 6.29, 6.30, 6.31, 6.32, 6.33, 6.34, 6.35); New Zealand (see 6.2); Pakistan (see 6.3, 6.9); United Kingdom (see 6.4, 6.6, 6.22, 6.24); India (see 6.5, 6.8); Australia (see 6.7, 6.17, 6.23, 6.25), United States of America (see 6.21, 6.27). Cases from South Africa formed 57% of the sample, while cases from the international countries formed 43% of the sample. The main reason for having the majority of cases from South Africa is that the study was conducted in South Africa and the recommendations of the study mainly target South African communities. As will be seen in the following paragraphs of this section, the study also revealed that uxoricide's causes, nature and its effects on the structural nature of the nuclear families (i.e. it destroys the family structure and adversely affects children) are generally the same all over.

The thematic analyses of the 35 case studies presented in section 7 above reveal that the main causes of uxoricide in families are:

- couples' strained marital relationships (see cases 6.3; 6.7; 6.8; 6.10; 6.12; 6.14), which could be an indication that married women in strained marital relations could be in greater risk of being murdered by their husbands. It is disheartening to read that couples marital relationships are strained by material (e.g. the dispossession of married women of their estate by their husbands); domestic responsibilities (e.g. sickness of the child); turbulent marital relationships (e.g. stormy and unhappy) variables.

  Marriages are naturally supposed to be characterized by closeness, dearness, nearness, warmth, friendliness which are all nouns describing healthy and happy relationships; and where problems arise, wives and husbands need to talk and communicate their problems to each other in an intimate manner which encapsulate human virtues of appreciating, valuing, relishing, cherishing (treasuring), esteeming, and taking pleasure in each other. This finding reveals that problems occurring among married couples keep them psychologically distant from each other and could result in uxoricide or mariticide.

- anger, rage (including jealous rage), upset and loss of temper (see cases 6.4; 6.5; 6.10; 6.15; 6.21; 6.24). Sub-section 3.2.1 revealed that anger, rage (including jealous rage), upset and loss of temper which leads to uxoricide could be a manifestation of its perpetrator's catathymic crisis. Catathymic crisis is a psychopathological condition characterized by a seemingly unsolvable psychic state of chronic and aversive emotional tension and projection of responsibility for the internal tension state onto the external situation (the wife in respect of this research), with the perception arising that lethal violence is the only way out of the crisis (see sub-section 3.2.1). As described in sub-section 3.2.1, catathymic violence has the following three stages, namely:

- incubation, a stage where the uxoricide's cognitions are marked by an 'obsessive pre-occupation with the future victim and his affect state includes depression, frustration, and helplessness. This type of violence basically develops when victim is typically known to the perpetrator, and an emotional bond or attachment exists between them;

- after the latter mentioned prolonged period of internal conflict and rumination, the violent act (uxoricide in respect of this study) is carried out; and

- the internal tension dissipates (i.e. is relieved) after the violent act (with no insight). 'Superficial normalcy' is apparent for several months and internal psychic equilibrium is eventually established with development of insight.

The clinical description of catathymic homicides is consistent with abandonment-precipitated rage killings (see sub-section 3.2.1). The pent up rage, for example, generates over-kill. In this regard, the abandonment probably initiates the catathymic crisis, i.e. rumination on the thought that 'if I can't have her, no one else will' or on the notion that the woman's act of leaving and the image of her being with another man is the cause of the perpetrator's psychic pain. This could be the case because, as highlighted in sub-section 3.2.1, perpetrators of catathymic uxoricide lack an integrated personal identity. The separation (abandonment) is a very important factor in cases of uxoricide (see sub-section 3.2.1).

Anger, rage (including jealous rage), upset and loss of temper could also be indicative of clinical depression. Sub-section 7.1.5 and cases 6.24 and 6.27 reveal cases of uxoricides who killed while psychopathologically depressed and on anti-depressants;

- arguments (see sub-sections 3.1, 6.4, 6.5, 6.15, 6.19, 6.35). This finding highlights one of the limitations of uxoricides, that is failure to

tolerate arguments from their victims because of their controlling tendencies and demand to have power over and be in charge of the lives of their wives. Sub-section 3.2.1 reveals that these men are extremely jealous and become desperate about the idea of not being able to maintain control over their victims. They use violence and threats as a means of establishing and maintaining control over their wives, even to the point of killing them.

They always expect their wives to consent, concede and relent in whatever actions or words they impose and compel them to do or say. They are the 'do as I say' women abuser. In such a situation, any argument and disagreement by a wife with her husband could be the trigger for her to be murdered by him. In this way, arguments become the cause of their uncontrollable anger and rage which results in them commiting uxoricide (see sub-sections 3.2.1).

Sub-section 3.2.1 revealed that, more often, arguments which lead to uxoricide occur where there has been a chronically chaotic relationship fraught with amorous jealousy which involves beliefs (real or delusional) of the partners' infidelity (jealous suspicions), verbal abuse and sub-lethal physical violence. In this case, it could be said that male sexual proprietariness plays a role in uxoricide. Proprietary tendencies could be linked to their beliefs that they can exercise property rights over their wives, which may result in a tendency to control their wives' lives to prevent possible infringement or usurpation of this right. This tendency can result in jealousy which is closely linked to uxoricide (see sub-sections 3.2.1, 6.8, 6.11, 6.4, 6.15).

Proprietary tendencies of uxoricides could also pose a danger when married women plan for a divorce (see sub-section 7.1.3) because such plans cause their abusive husbands to kill them (see cases 6.12, 6.15, 6.20 and 6.21). This again highlights how the proprietary propensities of abusive husbands stifle their wives' personal independence and freedom. It is not surprising that sub-section 3.2.1

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revealed that a woman's expression of her desire for more independence produced greatly elevated levels of both anger and anxiety in abusive men. This is a clear indication that uxoricides are intimidated by their victims' expressions of desires for independence and ultimately kill them. Proprietary propensities indicate uxoricides' manipulative attitudes (see sub-section 7.1.4);

- uxoricides having propensities to violence (see sub-sections 7.1.21, 6.1; 6.4; 6.25; 6.26), which could be an indication that women married to (including those divorcing) husbands who are having propensities to violence could probably become the victims of uxoricide. As revealed in these sub-sections, these husbands are characterized by having a legal conviction on charges of having assaulted his wife on a previous occasion; ignoring a protection order the victim had obtained in courts against him; having assaulted a neighbour who was trying to mediate in problems the perpetrator had with his victim; having threatened to wipe out the whole family before he killed his wife (see 6.1); having slammed a door against his wife's head; having smashed a vase in the house; having grabbed the wife by the neck and put his hand over her mouth (see 6.4); having a history of violent psychotic episodes and had been treated by a state-run Mental Health Hospital prior to uxoricide (see 6.25); having been convicted of murder and sentenced to many years' imprisonment, but released on special remission of sentence before completing their sentence, before they again committed uxoricide; and having been convicted of indecent assault and other common assault before committing uxoricide (see 6.26).

  This again could be an indication of psychopathology among some uxoricides. Sub-section 3.2.1 indicated that the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) profiles of 112 convicted uxoricides in the Eastern Europe revealed that 49% of this sample showed a 'hypersensitive-aggressive' profile characterized by scale elevations on the paranoia (Pa) and depression (D) scales, in other words, exhibiting

signs of paranoia and depression. Depression could be the affect state of the incubation stage of the catathymic crisis which the uxoricide is going through. Such a psychopathological state could be linked to frustration and helplessness (see sub-section 3.2.1); and

- financial and material gain (see sub-section 7.1.6 and cases 6.3; 6.13; 6.22; 6.22; 6.23; 6.28). This finding highlights the fact that there are husbands who could be economically abusing their wives and ultimately murder them for instrumental reasons such as seizure of a wife's share of the couple's land just before her uxoricidal death (see 6.3); taking the wife's insurance policies just before her uxoricidal death, and immediately there-after make swift claims of the money from the insurance companies (see 6.13); falsifying the victim's will, and of false insurance claims in her name involving millions of rands and dollars (see 6.16, 6.22); fearing that the uxoricide would lose property if they were divorced with the victim (see 6.23); egocentric wish to maintain a particular life-style and keep-up personal appearances (see 6.22); and mercenary killing in order to gain thousands of rands after selling the wife's vital body organs for ritual reasons (see 6.28). Such behaviour is an indication of an anti-social personality.

  Sub-section 3.2.1 revealed that uxoricides with such personalities killed their wives for instrumental reasons such as to collect insurance policies and their killings were planned in a cold-blooded, cruel, callous, brutal, pitiless, merciless and unfeeling ways. Sub-section 3.2.1 also revealed that anti-social personality disordered uxoricides were more likely to hide the body ($t = 3.4$, $p < .01$) and less likely to report post homicide suicidal feelings ($t = 4.1$, $p < .01$) (see sub-section 3.1 and cases 6.2, 6.6, 6.7, 6.13, 6.15, 6.18, 6.20, 6.26, 6.32). This means that anti-social abusive men could kill their wives for financial and material gains.

- Other interesting causes of uxoricide which emerged from the study are the following:

    - 'honour killing' which manifested itself as a lethal uxoricide act characterized by prior oppressive tendencies of a husband against his wife and daughter (see sub-section 7.1.9 and case 6.9). While countries which practise this horrifying murder of women and children regard it as a customary killing based on perceived dishonour of their culture, Human Rights Watch (2001) defines it as a criminal act of violence (usually murder) committed by male family members against female family members , who are accused of having brought dishonour upon the family (see 2.3). This researcher regards this lethal male act as barbaric, dehumanizing, inhumane and characteristic of male chauvinism, bigotry, sexism and prejudice against women human beings.

      This finding could also be seen as related to religious traditionalism and fanaticism which appears psychopathological (see sub-section 7.1.17 and case 6.8). Case 6.8 reveals that a married woman and her children were killed because of their Westernized lifestyle which was averse to the perpetrator's perception and understanding of the Muslim religion. It can be deduced from this case that married males who are religious traditionalists and fanatics could be patriarchal, chauvinistic, repressive and oppressive to married women and could lead to uxoricide.

    - Mercy killing which manifested itself in a geriatric family (see sub-section 7.1.22 and case 6.27). It appears that the uxoricide (87-years-old) was a care-giver of his victim (82-years-old) who had become hard of hearing and used a walker due to Parkinson's Disease and arthritis (see 6.27). It can be concluded from this finding that care-giving by geriatric husbands of their

wives could be associated with an increased risk for mental health problems like depression and thus also heightens the risk of uxoricide.

The main ways in which the victims of uxoricide die are brutal in nature, namely:

- They are stabbed to death (see sub-section 7.2 and cases 6.5; 6.6; 6.15; 6.17; 6.21; 6.24; 6.26; 6.31, which confirm sub-section 3.2.1 revelations that stabbings by means of knives were the most common *modus operandi* of uxoricide The reason for this common *modus operandus* could be the easy availability of knives in households and are easily accessible for the perpetrators of uxoricide to use them in commiting this lethal crime. Sub-section 3.2.1 also revealed that uxoricide is somewhat less likely to be committed by gun (66% vs. 54%), and victims were somewhat more likely to be stabbed or beaten with a weapon (29% vs. 35%);

- however, the latter assertion could not be confirmed in this research. In this study, the use of guns appeared in 12 cases of uxoricide as highlighted in cases 6.10, 6.11, 6.12, 6.14, 6.18, 6.19, 6.20, 6.21, 6.27, 6.30, 6.34, and 6.35. This finding indeed highlights that the availability of a fire-arm in a turbulent, stormy and violent relationship could considerably increase the uxoricide risk;

- strangulated/asphyxiated (see sub-section 7.2 and cases in 3.1; 6.2; 6.3; 6.4; 6.23; 6.32) which could be an indication that abusive men have the potential to express their natural physical strength over their wives in order to commit uxoricide. Strangulation, according to sub-section 3.2.1 always involved excessive force which manifests

cruelty and heartlessness of these murderous married men's personalities; and

- murdered with excessive force (over-kill) (see sub-section 7.2 and cases 6.6; 6.9; 6.10; 6.11; 6.12; 6.15; 6.21; 6.25; 6.31; 6.32) which confirms sub-section 3.2.1's finding that reveals that 61% of uxoricides used 'excessive force' (over-kill) during the event of killing of their wives. Sub-section 3.2., for instance, revealed that 44 of 53 (83%) of husbands who killed their wives did so with excessive force.

  Rage-motivated killings demonstrate greater violence than other murders. For example, they involve two or more acts of stabbing, cutting, or shooting or a severe beating. In many of these killings the offenders inflicted harm far beyond what would have been necessary to kill their victims. Case histories indicate that it was not unusual for the killer to continue to attack his victim after it was clear she was dead (see sub-section 3.2.1). Sub-section 3.2.1 reveals findings of a study of 83 uxoricides which highlighted that 46% of uxoricides were cases of over-kill while only 12% of mariticides were committed in this manner; and

- premeditatedly and calculatedly murdered (see sub-section 7.2 and cases 6.1; 6.7; 6.10; 6.12; 6.17; 6.31) which indicates that most uxoricides are planned and, therefore, are proactive lethal acts. They are proactive lethal acts which are well thought out (with grim attention) with the sole purpose of a pitiless, merciless, compassionless, brutal, ruthless, cold-hearted and cold-blooded murder of a married woman by her husband.

The nuclear families are destroyed by uxoricide, i.e:

- children are deprived of sufficient primary nuclear family parental care, traumatized and orphaned (see sub-sections 3.2.2 and 7.3.1, and cases 6.2; 6.3; 6.5; 6.9; 6.10; 6.12; 6.15; 6.16; 6.19; and 6.21) which highlights that the effects of uxoricide on uxoride orphans and family structures are both immediate and psycho-socially devastating (see sub-sections 3.2.2, 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 for the psycho-somatic-social trauma that children experience before, during and after uxoricide). These cases and deductions reveal that, usually in a single act of uxoricide, the child loses both parents. The mother is dead and the father is either also dead having committed suicide (in the case of uxoricide–suicide), or is a fugitive (running away from the police) or in the custody of the police (see sub-section 3.2.2). Home, school, neighbourhood, and therefore friends, will probably change as the child is moved to the custody of a relative, friend, or foster family. Extended contact with police and other criminal justice system workers may add to the psychological trauma (see sub-section 3.2.2). Sub-section 3.2.2 highlighted that uxoricide orphans manifest, in most cases, the prominent psychological traumatic symptoms such as nightmares, re-enactment of the event, intrusive memories, fears, and anxiety.

  Uxoricide can leave orphaned children with feelings of shock and fear. They often react by showing developmental disturbances such as cognitive retardation, pathological mourning, and social isolation. In many cases, they are absent-minded, have feelings of detachment and may show a lack of compassion. Eating disorders, sleeplessness, enuresis, *etc.* may be abnormal expressions of unhappiness in such circumstances. In later life, children of uxoricide could have a higher chance of mental disturbances. Adolescents who were exposed to family violence whilst children appear to have lower self-esteem (see sub-section 3.2.1); and

- victims of uxoricide are sometimes murdered together with their children/grand-children/step-children (see sub-section 7.3.3 and cases 6.7; 6.8; 6.9; 6.17; 6.23; 6.27; 6.34). This finding highlights that uxoricide, sometimes, could also be committed with filicide or (paternal filicide). Filicide (from the Latin words *filius* meaning 'son' or *filia* meaning daughter and the suffix *-cide* meaning to kill, murder, or cause death) is the deliberate act of a parent killing their own son or daughter. In the case of uxoricide it becomes paternal filicide, meaning that the children were solely killed by their fathers.

  The children in this respect become innocent victims:

  - in an act of 'irrational bloody madness' as uxoricide tries to make it look as though his five months' pregnant wife had taken the child and left him for another man (see 6.7); and

  - to ensure that the perpetrator of uxoricide would not be caught by the police after the little girl had witnessed her mother's uxoricidal strangulation (see 6.23).

  There are also cases of physical trauma in the process where children suffer fractured skulls from hammer blows and do not die (see case 6.9), which highlights physical danger that children are exposed to in the process of uxoricide.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the above exposition on uxoricide, the following recommendations for psychological and social practice as well as for further research are made.

9.1 Recommendations for ecosystemic psychological and social practice

The findings of both sections 3 and 6 above highlight that uxoricide is a result of toxic domestic violence found in some families world-wide and that there is a need for psychotherapists to concertedly advocate for the well-being of family structures and the strengthening of communities in combating the scourge of uxoricide. This means that psychotherapists should *inter alia* strategically work from an Ecosystemic Structural Family Therapy (ESFT) model. In ESFT, psychotherapists develop collaborative relationships with families and learn from them about the cultural uniqueness of each family. Treatment goals and interventions are developed in collaboration with the family and family strengths are used to promote therapeutic change. The intent of ESFT is to expand a family's competence by changing patterns of transaction, both within the family system and between the family and community systems, so that the family makes better use of its resources. The psychotherapists in this regard advocate ESFT across four stages while focusing on specific areas of intervention. The four stages are:

- assemble the relevant members of the ecosystem;
- co-create a meaningful therapeutic focus;
- create growth promoting experiences; and
- anchor change in community-based resources

On the basis of the latter paragraph, this research recommends that:

- Communities need to develop ecosystemic governmental and non-governmental psycho-social teams to help married couples develop and maintain healthy marital relationships, psychological and social well-being, assertiveness, responsible and virtuous behaviour in marriage, stress management, proactive thinking strategies, mutual respect in marriage, the role of vicarious learning in nuclear family development, the concepts of uxoricide and mariticide and its impact

on child and adolescent development and disrespect of human rights of spouses.

Such ecosystemic teams should be multi-disciplinary in nature, i.e. involving clinical psychologists, educational psychologists, counselling psychologists, forensic psychologists, social workers, faith/religious leaders, counsellors, police officers, lay counsellors, parole board members, Correctional Services' officers, magistrates, prosecutors and successfully married people who can help in vicarious teaching of spouses and others. The multi-disciplinary teams can provide psycho-education to married couples with regard to the need for a self-regulated life in marriage, where each spouse is proactively, responsibly, virtuously, motivationally, metacognitively and behaviourally involved in the mutual development of their marriage. They should also be psycho-educated on the norms and values, i.e. cultural virtues of human rights and assertiveness skills, inculcating in both spouses the realisation of the significance of healthy, assertive argumentation skills in marriage.

- Members of the police force can be useful in educating married couples on the illegal use of knives to cause bodily harm, or of a gun to kill a human being, and to psycho-educate spouses that theoretically, guns are acquired to protect members of the household and not to use them against them. Psychologists can psycho-educate married couples on rage management, which leads to over-killing and brutality in the murder of human beings. Social workers can psycho-educate married couples on marriage management. Ward counsellors can be a useful resource for conflict resolution between the two fighting spouses when such conflicts have been reported to them. Media could play an ernomously positive role in changing public perceptions and attitudes on uxoricide by featuring it on the front pages and news, and they should also involve columns by specialists on ways to combat uxoricide.

- An ecosystemic psycho-education on uxoricide should focus on strengthening the nuclear family and developing the metacognitive skills of both spouses on health, promoting nuclear families and marriages that have the potential to help children and adolescents develop into healthy families. In this respect, the government should vote for special funds which should be administrated by the Ministry of Women and Children to specifically deal with the scourge of uxoricide in communities.

- Through Health Professions Council of South Africa, psychologists should develop programmes which can be used to advocate nuclear families free of the 'infection' of uxoricide. These programmes should be broadcasted nationally in a concerted manner on special radio and television programmes during Women's Month in August and on Valentines' Days. Daily media (e.g. newspapers, radio, televisions *etc.)* should also be used in this regard. If musicians and singers can be used to compose and propagate the Biblical Gospel, they can equally be used to compose and propagate messages against uxoricide and the gospel of healthy and happy marriages. The foundational principles of these programmes should be the United Nations Declaration on Violence against Women of 1979, the Domestic Violence Act (no. 118 of 1998), the National Policy Guidelines for the Handling of Victims of Sexual Offences of 1998, and the Policy Framework and Strategy for Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence in South Africa of 2003.

- The role of communities' specialist facilities such as family courts (include a divorce court, a maintenance court, Children's court and family violence court) and Thuthuzela centres (these centres act as a 'one-stop shop' for streamlining a network of existing investigative, prosecutorial, medical and psychological services in communities where they are located) should be popularized so that married couples should be aware of their existence and the role they play in promoting human rights and actions against domestic violence. Media (e.g. radios, televisions, newspapers *etc.*) should play a great role in making information on these support services available.

- Correctional Services should employ clinical psychologists and psychiatrists whose main focus of duties should be the diagnosis of psychopathological conditions such as catathymic crisis, depression and anti-sociality (see sub-section 3.2.1 and section 8 above). Uxoricides who have been diagnosed with these psychopathological conditions should immediately be placed at mental hospitals for treatment, rehabilitation and possible re-joining with their families.

- Universities' specialised psychology programmes such as B.Psych. and M.Psych. degrees should include modules encapsulating uxoricide and mariticide specifically and ways to combat it. University professors who have specialized on the study of uxoricide and mariticide should organize workshops and seminars in communities where they psycho-socially educate married couples on the value of happy lives in families and marriages.

- On the basis of my latter recommendation, I recommend that the study of uxoricide and mariticide should be called uxo-mariticidology. Such a study should be a module for Forensic and Neuro-Psychology students. This will help university specialists on these subjects and their students to focus on these lethal phe nomena. T hey can together visit correctional services, police stations and uxoricides' and mariticides' families to conduct interviews and administer MMPI, MCMI, and 16 PF *etc.* psychological instruments in order to assess the levels of psychopathies among these or suspected criminals. In this way, primary academic data will be gained in order to help the Ministry of Women, Children and Disabled People in South Africa in their development of policies regarding the scourges of uxo-mariticide, i.e. uxoricide and mariticide phenomena.

- The United Nations together with all the countries of the world whose Constitutions respect the human rights of women should unequivocally and clearly organize economic and political sanctions against countries

which still oppress women and children and abuse their human rights in the name of 'honour killing'.

- Domestic Violence Act No 116 of 1998 should be infused in schools' and post-schools' curricular activities in order to educate learners and students on the ideals of violence-free families and marriages which are founded on the value and respect of human rights as enshrined in Chapter two of the South African Constitution.

Sub-sections 3.2.2 and 7.3.2 above revealed that the impact of uxoricide on children is often severe and long-lasting. Therefore, when uxoricide has been committed, it is recommended in this research that, with regards to children, the following issues need to be considered :

- the investigating Police Officer should immediately inform Social Development Services and the Department of Children, Women and People with Disabilities of the incident and the names, ages and addresses of the children involved. This should be done in order to solicit immediate psycho-social help for the uxoricide orphans;

- if the child is a potential witness in the case, the procedures of consent (i.e. permission for discloser should be obtained if possible), confidentiality (i.e. intensive trust; the relationship between two persons with respect to the 'entrustment of secrets') and professional responsibilty (i.e. the importance of maintaining trust between the uxoricide orphan, police officer, psychologist, social worker) should be available and be followed;

- urgent psycho-social expert advice from psychotherapists and social workers must be sought if a family placement is being considered. For the child's psychic and affective well-being, this researcher recommends that a child should not be placed with the family of the alleged perpetrator of uxoricide other than in the most unusual and carefully evaluated circumstances (i.e. social workers and psychologists should be involved in this evaluation);

- with regards to statutory intervention, the Community Police Forum should consider the need for early statutory intervention and the necessity of gaining independent representation for the child;

- regarding psycho-social therapeutic assistance for uxoricide orphans, it is imperative that urgent consultation with the Child and Family Mental Health service should take place to ensure that the child's immediate and long-term needs are met. Psychotherapists and social workers should collaborate in this respect;

- psychotherapists and social workers should assess the psycho-social needs of uxoricide orphans. A full social, medical and educational history of the child should be compiled to enable appropriate pro-active planning to take place. Extended family members, health workers and the education department will also be able to contribute to the child's assessment. It is essential to understand what the child has experienced in order to plan therapeutic help and placement pro-active plans for the future;

- regular contacts with the extended family members are imperative. This means that the child will need to have appropriate contact with family extended members. If the child is a potential witness in the case, then any decision about contact with the alleged perpetrator of his/her mother will need to be taken in consultation with the Police and the magistrates;

- there is also a need for criminal injuries compensation for uxoricide orphans. It should be the obligation of forensic psychologists and forensic social workers to apply to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board on behalf of the uxoricide orphans. This recommendation, therefore, advocates that the Ministries of Women, Children and People with Disabilities should create such a system in the society; and

- lastly, family psychologists who work within the Ecosystemic Structural Family Therapy framework should be engaged. Their role should be to

re-join the family, i.e. the uxoricide, uxoricide orphans and extended family members who may be reluctant or poorly communicating as a result of the incidence of uxoricide. This is a social constructivist approach to this scourge of uxoricide. The family psychologist should concertedly endeavour to re-create the family that has been affected by uxoricide by:

- engaging family members, including reluctant ones from the victims of uxoricide, in a planned family meeting or a series of meetings;
- structuring a meeting with even a poorly communicating family in such a way that all members have a chance to express themselves;
- systematically assessing the family's level of functioning;
- supporting individual members while avoiding coalitions;
- re-framing the family's definition of its problem of uxoricide in a way that makes problem-solving more achievable;
- helping family members view their difficulties as requiring new forms of collaborative efforts;
- helping family members generate alternative, mutually acceptable ways to cope with difficulties;
- helping the family balance its coping efforts by standardizing, adjusting, regulating and attuning various roles so that members can support each other without sacrificing autonomy; and
- identifying family dysfunction beyond the scope of primary care treatment; advocating a psycho-social referral by informing the family and the specialist about what to expect from each other.

9.2 Recommendations for further study of uxoricide

Given the frequency of uxoricide occurrence and its obvious deleterious effects, it has been surprisingly internationally under-studied and not studied at all in South Africa. The findings of this study provide South African researchers an interesting beginning in the description of this complex lethal phenomenon. Research is needed to learn more about the uxoricide orphans and to describe the nature and extent of the burden of uxoricides' orphans on the extended family members. There is a need, also, to empirically investigate if there are no child-headed families which have resulted because of the phenomenon of uxoricide mariticide.

It is high time academic family, neuro- and forensic psychologists in South Africa concertedly investigate, *inter alia*:

- the nature of the personalities of uxoricides;
- the psychopathologies from which uxoricides may be suffering;
- the nuclear family systems of uxoricides; and
- the psychopathologies from which geriatric uxoricides may be suffering as a result of their being care-givers of their sickly victims.

10 STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS OF THIS RESEARCH

The main limitation of this research is that it relied solely on secondary data from newspaper archives. Had it used courts and police stations' archives as well, it would have greatly enhanced the qualitative content of this academic document through providing a multi-sourced data. The next research will have to triangulate the archival documents of the media, the courts, and police stations. It would also be beneficial to trace some of the perpetrators of this crime in South African jails with the sole purpose of eliciting primary data through interviews, and to administer tools such as MMPI, MCMI, 16 PF, etc., to assess their personalities. Such an empirical research would greatly

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enhance the quality of academic results through the triangulation of both qualitative and quantitative data on the phenomenon of uxoricide in South Africa.

The strength of this research is that it is exploratory and provides foundational data, which are key to generating academic debate on the phenomenon of uxoricide in South Africa. Researchers in South Africa, especially forensic family psychologists, forensic social workers and forensic sociologists should take concerted action to focus on the scourge of uxoricide, as it affects married women and children and infects and affects nuclear families, just like concerted focus has been on the HIV/AIDS scourge so far. Th is country needs academic research based on primary data on uxo-mariticide to help her deal with these scourges.

11 CONCLUSION

This research presented the causes, nature and destructiveness of uxoricide. Cases from both national and international newspapers provided the secondary raw data, which were inductively analysed by developing themes. Recommendations for ecosystemic psychological and social practice and for further research on uxoricide were made.

This researcher hopes that this exploratory research will generate academic debate and research among psychologists, especially forensic, neuro-psychologists and family psychologists in South Africa in particular and the rest of the world in general.

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