

**Transgenerational Violence, Trauma, and Growth Research:
A Bibliometric Analysis of Research Output Over Time**

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Declarations

This thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. I give consent to this copy of my thesis, when deposited in the University Library**, being made available for loan and photocopying subject to the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968.

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Acknowledgment of Authorship

I hereby certify that the work embodied in this thesis has been done in collaboration with other researchers. I have included as part of the thesis a written statement, endorsed by my supervisor, clearly outlining the extent of collaboration, with whom and under what auspices.

My supervisor, Associate Professor Lynne McCormack designed the study. I, April Griffiths, attest that I was primarily responsible for data extraction and the writing of the thesis. Together, my supervisor and I screened all publications extracted for inclusion using the title, abstract and where necessary, full text. Data were extracted from included publications according to the data classifications. To provide a measure of quality control, Linda Swaab screened those publications that had not met consensus between the first two researchers providing a quality control for data included in the study from articles downloaded into Confidence. Drafts of the manuscript were forwarded to A/Professor Lynne McCormack for review, and amendments were made based on her feedback.

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Date: 24th January, 2019

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Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the Awabakal people, Traditional Owners of the land on which this study was conducted and written, and pay my respects to Elders past and present. Sovereignty was never ceded.

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Structured Abstract

Scope: Victims of family and domestic violence, both child and adult, may experience pervasive psychological, sexual, and relationship difficulties. Studies have consistently demonstrated links between childhood exposure to family violence and likelihood of future perpetration or victimisation of domestic and family violence (Campo, 2015).

Purpose: The aim of this study was to assess the volume and characteristics of research output in Australia over time in the field of transgenerational violence and positive psychology to determine areas of propriety.

Methodology: This bibliometric analysis used a descriptive repeat cross-sectional study of peer-reviewed publications from PsycINFO and ProQuest across three time periods, 1990-1998, 2000-2008, and 2010-2018. Publications were classified as data- or non-databased with data-based studies being further categorised by study focus, perspective, sexual orientation, cultural background, and age.

Results: Overall, there has been an increase in the volume of publications reporting upon transgenerational domestic and family violence within Australia between three time periods. Infants were more frequently incorporated in in the latter studies. However, other indicators of progression were not found to be statistically significant including the level of evidence, study focus, positive perspective, sexual relationship types, or cultural backgrounds.

General Conclusions and Implications: We demonstrated a growing interest within the field of transgenerational domestic and family violence within Australia as indicated by an increase in the volume of publications between three time periods, that began to acknowledge infants in their studies. This suggests there is a growing interest in this field of research across the lifespan. Despite this, other indicators suggestive of progression were not found to be statistically significant; specifically level of evidence, study focus, positive perspective,

sexual relationship types, or cultural backgrounds. Finally, although increase in volume was statistically significant, numbers are low with a paucity of research in this important area of human behaviour. Attitudes vary considerably in different countries towards family violence influenced by culture, religion, education and geography influencing steps taken to reduce this worldwide threat to families and communities. It is evident that further rigorous cross-cultural research is needed with transgenerational family and domestic violence.

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Transgenerational Violence, Trauma, and Growth Research: A Bibliometric Analysis of Research Output Over Time

Introduction

Victims of family and domestic violence, both child and adult, are likely to experience pervasive psychological, sexual, and relationship difficulties over their lifetime (Beitchman, Zucker, Hood, daCosta, Akman & Cassavia, 1992). Unfortunately, exposure to violence in childhood is a major risk factor for future violence perpetration in adult life (Campo, 2015) and/or victimisation (Kitzmann, Gaylord, Holt, & Kenny, 2003; Wolfe, Crooks, Lee, McIntyre-Smith, & Jaffe, 2003), purporting social learning as a major contributor to transgenerational violence (Cordero, Poirier, Marquez, Veenit et al., 2012). There is no clear etiological explanation for the use of violence within family and domestic relationships, however, this form of violence is an invasive and destructive phenomenon in all societies for which interventions remain predominantly ineffective. This may be due to the sparse literature over time devoted to understanding family and domestic violence. Using bibliometric analysis, a method for measuring the progression of a research field over time, this review examines the volume and characteristics of Australian research publications pertaining to domestic violence specifically transgenerational violence, trauma, and posttraumatic growth over the period 1990-2018. It demonstrates areas within this field that require additional focus, and examines patterns and trends within the field in light of the emergence of positive psychology theory (Seligman, 1994).

Family and domestic violence involves the use of physical force or power resulting in harm to the victim's health, survival, development, or dignity (World Health Organisation, 2002). Currently there is no agreed upon definition for domestic and family violence (Australian Bureau of Statistics [ABS], 2018). However, in 1975 Australia passed the Commonwealth Family Law Act condemning family and domestic violence, defining it as

“violent, threatening or other behaviour by a person that coerces or controls a member of the person’s family, or causes the family member to be fearful”. All Australian states and territories have interpreted this differently, although each consistently recognising it as a range of behaviours that may occur in a variety of relationships and includes physical, emotional, sexual and/or psychological abuse, the restriction of liberty, or isolation from financial, familial or cultural resources limiting autonomy (Australian Government, n.d; The Australasian Institute for Judicial Administration, 2017). These behaviours are classified into four categories of violence including: 1) coercive controlling violence; 2) situational couple violence; 3) separation instigated violence; and, 4) violent resistance (Kelly & Johnson, 2008).

From the age of 15, 77 percent of women and 23 percent of men reported partner-violence in Australia, making women three times more likely to be victims of domestic violence (ABS, 2017). Gender specific violence is poorly understood but often results in death or serious injury causing multiple traumatic sequelae within family life (Goldberg & Freyd, 2006). The 2015 Advisory Panel on Reducing Violence against Women and their Children prepared a report on family and domestic violence within Australia, highlighting a shortage of national data for domestic violence prevalence and its impact particularly for child victims (Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, 2016). From the available data, it is reported that up to a quarter of all young Australian’s have been witness to an incident of domestic violence perpetrated toward a mother or step-mother; with a much higher rate of exposure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. It also reported that one in three women have experienced physical violence, sexual violence, or both, perpetrated by a man they know (ABS, 2017). The need for additional research within this field is vital, as past literature reports exposure to violence during childhood can impact upon brain development, language, social skills, emotion regulation, mental and physical health, future substance use,

and a child's capacity to cope with major life stressors throughout their life span (Beaver & Belsky, 2012; Belsky & de Haan, 2011).

Women who have been exposed to family and domestic violence are most at risk for future perpetration or victimisation (Kitzmann, Gaylord, Holt, & Kenny, 2003; Wolfe, Crooks, Lee, McIntyre-Smith, & Jaffe, 2003). According to social learning theory (Bell & Naugle, 2008), violent behaviours modelled by care givers within a child's home are accepted as normal behaviours in the child's adult relationships. Furthermore, this behaviour is reinforced as it aids in goal attainment (Widom, 1998; Smith, Ireland, Park, Elwyn & Thornberry, 2011). When a child is exposed to violence, they can develop an aggressive social-cognitive processing pattern or internalised worldview that violence is an appropriate response to stressors henceforth limiting the development of more socially or culturally appropriate responses (Fite et al., 2008).

All forms of family and domestic violence are risk factors for future perpetration or victimisation (Fergusson, Boden, & Horwood, 2006). This is particularly problematic when both members of a child's caregiving dyad have experienced childhood trauma. For example, women in relationships where both members have experienced family and domestic violence (dual-trauma) are at a serious risk for long-term ongoing abuse, and are likely to exhibit antisocial traits and depressive symptoms (Alexander, 2014). Unfortunately, they are also less likely to engage in help-seeking behaviours compared to women who have not experienced childhood violence (Roodman & Clum, 2001). On the other hand, men in dual-trauma relationships are more likely to engage in psychologically and physically aggressive violence towards their partners compared to men not in dual-trauma relationships. Associated with this are other high risk behaviours including suicidal ideation, antisocial behaviours, alcohol misuse, and illicit substance abuse (Alexander, 2014).

Child sexual assault victimisation and adulthood family and domestic violence victimisation are closely linked, and complicated by a number of factors. These factors include the duration of time a child was exposed to sexual violence, frequency in which the violence occurred, forcefulness exhibited by perpetrator, if sexual penetration was involved, relationship type (e.g. parent/guardian), level of poverty, and experience of post-traumatic stress symptoms (Roodman & Clum, 2001). Recovery is complicated by continuing family connections, the attribution of blame, and the likelihood that the child perceives betrayal if the abuse is perpetrated by a figure of trust (Briere & Elliott, 1994; Dong et al., 2004; Feiring, Taska, & Lewis, 2002; Freyd, 1996; Gold, 1986; Higgins, 2005; Higgins & McCabe, 2001; Wright et al., 2009). Experiences of multiple distinct instances of violence over a course of life can result in vulnerability to violence revictimisation (Barnes, Noll, Putman & Trickett, 2009; Taylor, Ibrahim, Wakefield, & Finn, 2015).

Betrayal trauma occurs following the complex distress of a care giver or significant other perpetrating an act of violence toward a child (Freyd, 1998). The child is usually dependent upon the perpetrator for basic needs and recognises the need to maintain this relationship to ensure survival; even when a significant breach of safety occurs. This requires the victim to ignore, accept, or remain within relationships despite the risk of harm towards them (DePrince & Freyd, 2002). There are varying levels of betrayal trauma ranging from no betrayal (e.g. natural disaster), low betrayal (e.g. abuse perpetrated by a stranger), to high betrayal (e.g. abuse perpetrated by a caregiver; Goldberg & Freyd, 2006).

Betrayal trauma also seeks to explain transgenerational trauma. It states that victimised children may develop a blindness towards the betrayal in order to maintain an attachment-relationship necessary for survival. As a result of this attachment-disruption however, the child is placed at increased risk of re-victimisation or perpetration in adulthood due to distorted beliefs about social relationships (DePrince & Freyd, 2001). Betrayal

blindness is also thought to hinder the development of trusting relationships and can negatively impact the development of safe adult relationships (Grabbe, Ball, & Hall, 2016).

Childhood exposure to trauma can have devastating impacts upon the social-cognitive competencies of a child resulting in behaviours such as tantrums, crying, avoiding comfort from caregivers, possessiveness, despondency, nightmares, somatic issues (e.g. enuresis and stomach aches), and post-traumatic stress symptoms including dissociation (American Psychiatric Association, 2000; Holt, Buckley & Whelan, 2008; Levendosky, Huth-Bocks, Shaprio & Semel, 2003). Poor affect regulation can lead to peer rejection, poor understanding of internal states, and difficulty understanding emotional expression (Cicchetti, Rogosch, Maughan, Toth & Bruce, 2003; Shipman & Zenman, 1999, Koizumi & Takagishi, 2014; Shenk, Putnam & Noll, 2012). Neurologically, children exposed to trauma have also been found to have a significant reduction in white and grey matter volume (Walsh et. al., 2014). This indicates the vulnerability of social cognition skills to the long-term effects of adverse childhood environments. It also highlights that children who are raised tolerating violence are more likely to view violence as normal leading to view love and violence as intrinsically linked (Hart, 2006).

According to Social Learning Theory, violent behaviours modelled by caregivers will become normal and accepted behaviours within the child's adult relationships (Widom, 1998). This is reinforced when the violence allows for goal attainment (Smith, Ireland, Park, Elwyn & Thornberry, 2011). This model has been supported amongst various relationships including married couples, dating relationships, and with adolescents and young adults (Meier & Allen, 2009). When a child is exposed to violence, they develop an 'aggressive social-cognitive processing pattern' (Fite et. al. 2008), and this internalised worldview regards violence as an appropriate response to stressors, limiting the development of more socially or culturally appropriate responses. Studies also indicate a positive relationship

between negative psychological outcomes and trauma frequency, severity, and duration (Briere & Jordan, 2009).

The current study described the volume and characteristics of research publications in the field of transgenerational family and domestic violence within Australian publications across three time periods through a bibliometric study. Time periods chosen included 1990-1998, 2000-2008, and 2010-2018 to allow for reflection on publications since the emergence of positive psychology theory and the construct of posttraumatic growth within trauma literature to current over equal time periods. A bibliometric analysis was conducted to gather quantitative information regarding patterns and trends within the field. Publications were categorised according to data base, study type (descriptive, measures, intervention), study focus, theoretical framework, perspective, sexual relationship type, cultural background, and age to examine research output trends. This study also examined the impact of positive psychology within the family and domestic violence field, and if positive psychology theory is informing this field of research. Finally, this study seeks to inform future investments in family and domestic violence topics, outlining patterns and trends by providing statistical evidence about the current research landscape.

Method

Design

A descriptive repeat cross-sectional study was conducted of peer-reviewed Australian publications that examined transgenerational family and domestic violence.

Data Sources

Peer-reviewed publications relating to transgenerational family and domestic violence within Australia were obtained from PsycINFO and Proquest for three time periods including 1990-1998, 2000-2008, and 2010-2018 chosen to explore literature published during the emergence of positive psychology (i.e. 1990) through to current publications. Bibliometric

analyses are unique in comparing discrete trends and patterns over time periods. Due to this, years 2009 and 2019 were excluded from analysis to allow for consistency between each time period. PsycINFO and Proquest were utilised due to the significant number of peer-reviewed publications relating to domestic violence and psychology related research.

Procedure

The authors developed key word search terms to gather publications based on an inclusion and exclusion criteria (see Appendix A). Search terms were developed in close consultation between the student and supervisor, an academic and clinical psychologist with expertise in complex trauma and psychological growth out of adversity (author LM), and with a psychology-specific university librarian with expertise in the databases utilised. Database search results were then assessed systemically with the view to examine characteristics overtime reporting on family violence including whether the advent of positive psychology in the early 1990s impacted trends in research output (Seligman, 1994). The same number of years (i.e. eight years) in each data set was utilised to ensure consistency within each time period and assist with analysis. Unfortunately, due to differences between databases, search strategies had to be altered slightly with a great attempt to maintain consistency in search terms (see Appendix A).

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Both data and non-data-based publications to be included in the review. Data-based publications include research output that reports upon novel data or results, or reconsiders previously collected results. Non-data-based publications were to be included if the content regarded transgenerational family and domestic violence.

Screening and Data Extraction

Two authors (LM and AG) screened publications utilising a computer program, Covidence. This program allows for the screening of title, abstract, and full text (if required).

After the screening of all publications, one author (AG) extracted data according to specific classifications. To assist with discrepancies between two authors, another author (LS) reviewed conflicts in screening between LM and AG.

Publication Classification

Publications that met the inclusion criteria were initially categorised as either data-based or non-data-based. If a study was categorised as data-based, further categorisation occurred based on whether the study was descriptive, measures, or interventions, in addition to the publications focus, perspective, sexual relationship type, cultural background, and age. No additional classification was to be undertaken for non-data-based publications

Data-based papers. In accordance with methods in other bibliometric reviews (Milat, Bauman, Redan & Curac, 2011; Shakeshaft, Bowman & Sanson-Fisher, 1997; Sanson-Fisher, Campbell, Perkins, Blunden and Davis, 2006; Sanson-Fisher, Campbell, Htun, Bailey & Millar, 2008), publications categorised as data-based were categorised by:

- Descriptive: publications reporting upon transgenerational family and domestic violence only.
- Measures: publications examining the quality or usefulness of a measurement instrument that assess transgenerational family and domestic violence or associated themes.
- Intervention: publications that reported intervention outcomes in the field of transgenerational family and domestic violence.

All publications were further classified according to all of the following criteria:

- Study Focus: Publications focus on the ‘perpetrator’ of family and domestic violence, the ‘victim’ of family and domestic violence, or ‘both’ perpetrator and victim.
- Perspective: If publication viewed family and domestic violence as ‘mental health burden’, ‘positive psychology’, ‘both’ or ‘other’.

- Sexual Relationship Type: Publications focus on family and domestic violence in ‘heterosexual’, ‘homosexual’, ‘bisexual’ or ‘other’ types of relationships.
- Cultural background: categorically selected according to the culture in which family and domestic violence occurred
- Age: categorically selected based on the publications focus of age when family and domestic violence experience/perpetration occurred. Classification includes birth to 17 years of age inclusive, and non-infant (four years old) to 17 years of age inclusive.

Statistical Analysis

Data was analysed using SPSS Statistics version 24. Descriptive statistics were obtained to report on the total number of publications, and the number and proportion of publications within each of the classifications (study type) and sub-classifications (study focus, perspective, sexual relationship type, cultural background and age) across three time periods. Chi-square or Fisher’s exact tests, where applicable, were used to assess for change in the volume and characteristics of publications over time. All statistical tests had a type I error of 0.05.

Results

Included Publications

Figure 1 denotes a flow diagram of publications for included within the analysis. A total of 2025 publications were identified across the two databases. From this, 68 duplicates were removed, leaving 1975 to be screen for inclusion. Of these, 29 studies were included in the review.

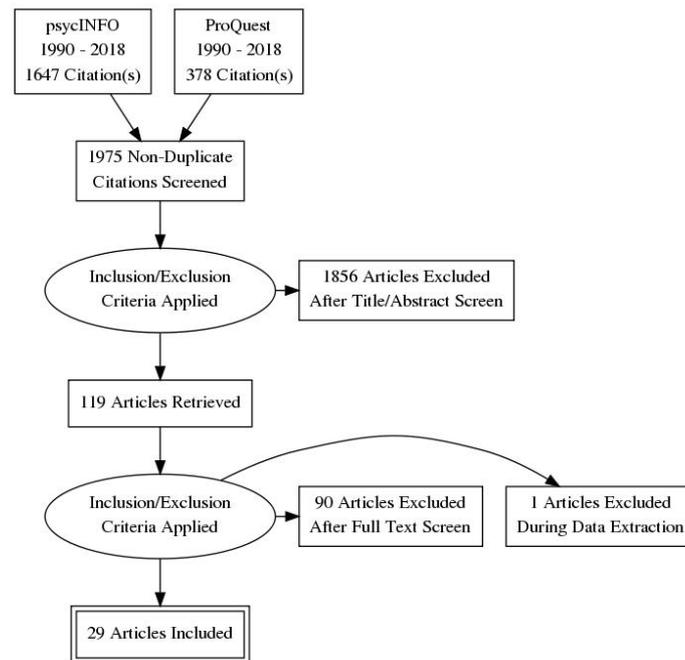


Figure 1. Flow diagram for inclusion of articles in review

Volume of Publications over Time

The total number of publications relating to transgenerational family and domestic violence in Australia over the three time periods was 29; 1 (3%) in 1990 – 1998, 5 (17%) in 2000 – 2008, and 23 (79%) in 2010 – 2018 (table 1). There was a spike in publications in 2014, and again in 2016 (Figure 2). The proportion of data-based publications relative to non-data based publications not significantly increased from 1 publication in 1990-1998 to 4 in 2000-2008, and again to 20 from 2010-2018 ($n=29$, $p<.05$).

A Poisson regression was conducted to determine if publication year was a significant predictor of research publication. For each calendar year, there was an increase in publication volume of at a rate of 1.15 times per year, or 15 per cent ($X^2(1, N = 29) = 30.421$, $p < .01$).

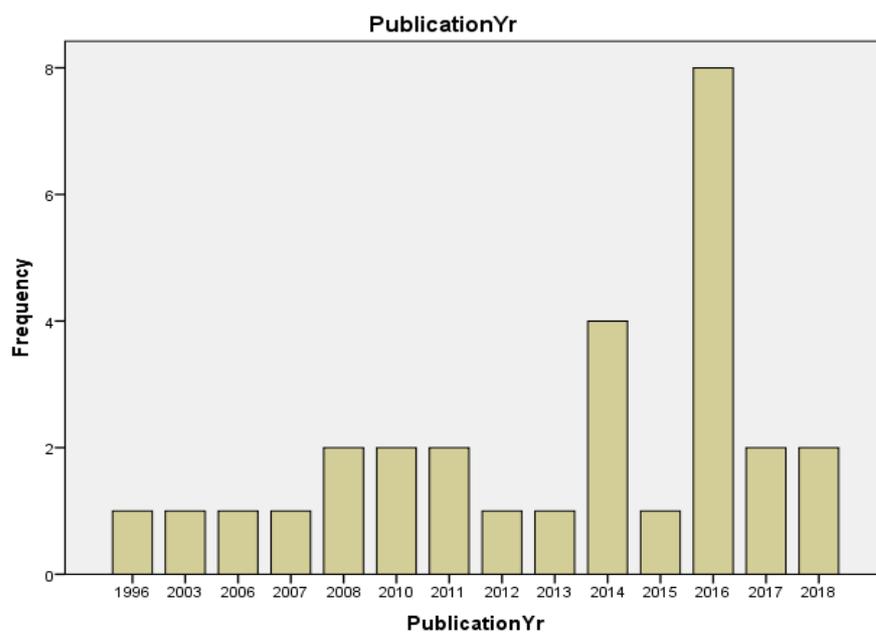


Figure 2. Distribution of volume of publications by year

Study Type

There were no measures or interventions identified in this sample. In 1990 – 1998, 4% of publications were categorised as descriptive and there were no non-data-based studies in this year group. In 2000 – 2008 and 2010 – 2018, 16% ($n=4$) and 80% ($n=80$) of publications were classified as descriptive respectively. Differences across the three time periods were not statistically significant $\chi^2 (2, N=29) = .85, p = 1$, fishers exact test); Table 1).

Table 1

Total Number of Publications across 3 time periods according to Study Type

	1990 – 1998	2000 – 2008	2010 - 2018
	<i>n (%)</i>	<i>n (%)</i>	<i>n (%)</i>
Non-data-based research	0 (0)	1 (20)	3 (13)
Data-based Research	1(100)	4 (80)	20 (87)

Level of Evidence

Among the data-based studies, all studies were descriptive. There were no measures, interventions, or randomised controlled trials within any of the time periods.

Study Focus

Table 2 describes the number and proportion of publications focusing on victims, perpetrators, and both victims and perpetrators across three time periods. No publications in 1990-1998, nor 2000-2008 focused on perpetrators of family and domestic violence. In 2010-2018 the proportion increased with 9% of studies focusing on perpetrators ($n = 2$). No publications in 1990-1998 focused on victims of family and domestic violence, however this rose in 2000-2008 to 40% ($n=2$) and again in 2010-2018 it increased to 65% ($n=15$). The studies focusing on both victims and perpetrators of domestic violence in 1990-1998 was 100% ($n= 1$) and rose to 60% ($n=3$) in 2000 – 2008, with again more studies focusing on both in 2010-2018 at 60% ($n=6$). Changes in the proportion of publications over time was not statistically significant $\chi^2 (4, N=29) = .38, p =.32$, fishers exact test.

Table 2

Study Focus for Publications between 1990-1998, 2000-2008, and 2010-2018

	1990 – 1998	2000 – 2008	2010 - 2018
	<i>n</i> (%)	<i>n</i> (%)	<i>n</i> (%)
Perpetrator	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (9)
Victim	0(0)	2 (40)	15 (65)
Both	1 (10)	3 (60)	6 (26)

Perspective

All publications across the three time periods focused on the impact transgenerational family and domestic violence from a mental health burden perspective, with no studies attempting to explore the impact or role of positive psychology for recovery or growth.

Sexual Relationship Type

Table 3 describes the sexual relationships reported within publications across three time periods. Within these publications, 90% did not report specifically on the sexual relationship type participants. In 2010-2018, 7% (n=2) of total studies reported on heterosexual relationships only, and 3% (n=1) of total studies reported on both heterosexual and homosexual relationships. Changes in proportion over time was not statistically significant ($\chi^2 = .25, p = .29$).

Table 3

Sexual Relationships Reported for Publications between 1990-1998, 2000-2008, and 2010-2018

	1990 – 1998	2000 – 2008	2010 - 2018
	<i>n</i> (%)	<i>n</i> (%)	<i>n</i> (%)
Heterosexual	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (9)
Homosexual	0(0)	1 (20)	0 (0)
Not Stated	1(4)	4(15)	21(80)

Cultural Background

Table 4 describes the proportion of cultural backgrounds reported across three time periods. In 1990-1998 3% (n=1) of publications included Australian-Caucasian cultural

background, and no other cultural backgrounds were reported upon. In 2000-2008, 14% (n=4) publications reported upon Australian-Caucasian cultural background, 7% (n=2) of publications reported upon Australian-Indigenous cultural backgrounds, and no publications reported upon Australian-Asian cultural backgrounds. In 2010-2018 79% (n=23) of publications reported upon Australian-Caucasian cultural background, 3% (n=1) reported upon Australian-Asian cultural background, and 14% (n=4) upon Australian-Indigenous cultural backgrounds. There were no statistically significant changes in any cultural backgrounds ($\chi^2 = .13, p = .219$)

Table 4

Cultural Backgrounds Reported for Publications between 1990-1998, 2000-2008, and 2010-2018

	1990 – 1998	2000 – 2008	2010 - 2018
	<i>n</i> (%)	<i>n</i> (%)	<i>n</i> (%)
Australian-Caucasian	1(3)	4(14)	23 (79)
Australian-Asian	0(0)	0(0)	1(3)
Australian-Indigenous	0(0)	2(7)	4(14)

Age

Table 5 describes the proportion of age ranges reported across three time periods. In 1990-1998 3% (n=1) of publications reported on childhood experience of family and domestic violence from birth to 17 years of age inclusive and in 2000-2008 and 2010-2018 10% (n=3), and 76% (n=22) reported on childhood experience of family and domestic violence from birth to 17 years of age inclusive respectively. No studies in 1990-1998 excluded infants from their publication. In 2000-2008 7% (n=2) publications reported on childhood experience of family and domestic violence from within the range of 4 to 17 years of age inclusive, and in 2010-2018 3% (n=1) reported on childhood experience of family and

domestic violence from within the range of 4 to 17 years of age inclusive. Changes in proportion over time were not statistically significant ($\chi^2 = .06, p = 1$)

Table 5

Age Ranges Reported for Publications between 1990-1998, 2000-2008, and 2010-2018

	1990 – 1998	2000 – 2008	2010 - 2018
	<i>n</i> (%)	<i>n</i> (%)	<i>n</i> (%)
0-17	1(3)	3(10)	22 (76)
4 – 17	0 (0)	2 (7)	1 (3)

Discussion

The current study utilised a bibliometric analysis in examining the volume and characteristic of research publications in transgenerational family and domestic violence across three time periods since 1990, coinciding with the emergence of positive psychology theory within the literature. In summary, transgenerational family and domestic violence research output increased from one study in 1990-1998, to five in 2000-2008, to 23 in 2010-2018, however this increase was not statistically significantly meaning there has not been a significant increase in domestic violence research since 1990.

There is an increased focus on transgenerational family and domestic violence in Australian literature as determined by our Poisson analysis finding a 15 per cent increase per year in publication output. Despite this, the actual numbers within this are small with no papers considering the potential for growth out of adversity. The small increase may align with major political and social movements within the country (e.g. Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children, 2010 – 2022 [the National Plan, 2011]; Little Children are Sacred, 2007; Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, 2017; Wood Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW, 2008;

subsequent state and federal responses to Royal and special commissions e.g. Keep Them Safe, 2009; and philanthropic organisations commencing operation within Australia such as White Ribbon and Luke Batty Foundation).

Transgenerational domestic and family violence translational research remains limited. Increases in publication output was only observed in the proportion of data-based (descriptive) publications, with no interventions or measure publications found. Research translation models propose that research progression frequently follows a trend from describing phenomenon, to the developmental and assessment of interventions, before finally reaching dissemination of research into clinical practice (Nutbeam, Smith & Catford, 1990). In terms of transgenerational family and domestic violence, it could be considered that recognition of growth out of adversity is possible. Unfortunately, no study highlighted this suggesting this field is still immature particularly with perpetrators. Currently, perpetrator research has followed a trend of determining causal factors resulting in family in domestic violence. These causal factors include substance use disorders, gambling addiction, and psychiatric disorders (Dowling et al., 2014). Publications have also examined at requirements of intervention programs to reduce the perpetrator of family and domestic violence including the need to tailor treatment responses to specific behaviours and the personal characteristics of the program (Bernarddi & Day, 2015).

In accordance with research translation models, progression in a field requires an increase in intervention-focused publications over time. The predominance of descriptive research publications within our results indicates insufficient research has occurred. Although descriptive studies are vital to understanding the impact and influencing factors between factors, it is important that research output shifts towards interventional research. This should occur with a view to reduce the impact of trauma and break the transgenerational cycle that is often a hallmark of family and domestic violence. It has been previously reported in other

fields of research that offer descriptive publications may be associated with more convenience, productivity, and lower cost (Milat, Bauman, Redman & Curac, 2011).

Therefore, strategies to improve the appeal of interventional research may include different study types being weighted more by journal editors, funding bodies, supporting research across all impacted by family and domestic violence e.g. victims, children, and perpetrators.

In terms of study focus, results indicated that majority of publications regarding transgenerational domestic and family violence within Australia focused on negative impacts upon victims, followed by publications examining both victims and perpetrators, with perpetrator-only being the least studied. This means publications have primarily focused on victims-only, and the impact of related traumatic distress. There is a consensus within the literature regarding the lack of contextual and attitudinal knowledge regarding victims, and even less known or understood about perpetrators (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2018). Perpetrator programs have been found to be effective in reducing male re-offending against their partners (Strang et al., 2017) therefore, increased focus on perpetrator, and both perpetrator-and-victim based publications may inform practices designed to reduce offending and related mental health burden. To encourage additional research into understanding factors relating to perpetration and recidivism, increased funding in this area may need to be considered. Alternatively, framing this work within a recovery/growth-orientated model simultaneously addressing past or transgenerational trauma may be of benefit in attracting more experts to study within the field with the aim of reducing future perpetration.

All publications within this study examined transgenerational domestic and family violence research within Australia from a mental health burden perspective and sought whether growth of research in the field of positive psychology had influenced family violence research. However, studies thus far considering the impact of family and domestic violence

did not include the lens of positive-psychology, but rather measured the negative impact traumatic events have had upon individuals.

Traumatic life events have the propensity to ‘shatter our fundamental assumptions about ourselves and our world’ (Janoff-Bulman, 1992). However, since 1990, more generally, research has moved away from an exclusive focus on negative impacts from exposure to traumatic events and attempted to examine ways to assist people in identifying positive responses to negative events (Joseph, 2011). In the aftermath of adversity it is now recognised that for some there is the opportunity for posttraumatic growth (Joseph, 2012). Posttraumatic growth has been described as enhancing relationships, changing individual’s view of self, and changing philosophy of life all in positive ways (Tedeschi & Calhoun, 1996). Considering the wealth of publications reporting upon peoples’ ability for growth out of adversity, processing trauma information positively, allowing for an opportunity to experience posttraumatic growth (Tedeschi & Calhoun, 1995), there is an absence of research considering positive outcomes in the aftermath of family and domestic violence. Future studies that consider both positive and negative interpretations of experiencing family and domestic violence are needed to inform trauma-informed and recovery-focused interventions, and reduce the burden of mental health.

It has been recognised that women are almost three times more likely than males to experience domestic and family violence, with one in three women experiencing physical or sexual violence perpetrated by a man they know (ABS, 2017). However, there is a growing literature that reveals the existence of family and domestic violence within same-sex couples indicating that the incidence of violence is comparable to heterosexual couples (Turell, 2000). Ninety per cent of the studies considered in this research did not specifically report on the type of sexual orientation or relationship type but focused on heterosexual relationships. There has been a shift in Australia’s social attitudes towards homosexual couples as indicated

by changes in same-sex marriage legislation and an increasing acceptance of all members of the LBGTQI+ community (Wilkins, 2017). Therefore, it is vital that research continues to ensure publications remain relevant and purposeful across all variations of relationship engagement. Potential factors that impede the study of non-heterosexual relationships may include the anecdotal difficulty in obtaining ethics approval for this subgroup due to discriminatory issues. To address this, researchers will need to improve their knowledge in understanding the problems LBGTQI+ people experience within the community, implementing safe-guards for protecting the confidentiality of participants within studies, and explicitly identifying how the funding source may use the outcome data and possible consequences of this. Alternatively, should there be adequate research, another potential limiting factor would be the long delay publication within journal. It is commonly understood there are delays for studies to be publicised within journals, therefore key areas of research may need to be prioritised to address this, and improve research output for this particular subgroup.

This study revealed that there has been no statistically meaningful change in research into family and domestic violence that considers other cultural backgrounds other than Australian-Caucasian. Yet, Indigenous females are five times more likely to be victims of homicide within their own homes at the hands of their intimate partners (Wills, 2011). Additionally, there is an overwhelming amount of literature noting the large and tragic impact of violence within the Indigenous population, with Indigenous women more at risk of death and hospitalisation than their non-Indigenous peers (Day, Francisco & Jones, 2013; Willis, 2011; Chan & Payne, 2013). The lack of valuable and informative output in this area is a major concern which may be influenced by the anecdotal difficulty in obtaining ethics approval for non-Indigenous researchers wishing to work with the Indigenous population. Understandably, such ethical barriers are relevant given the systemic and historical

discrimination experienced by Indigenous people throughout history. One way to combat this in the future would be to foster the progression of Indigenous academics to allow for research to happen ‘in conjunction with’ and not ‘to’ Australia’s first peoples.

This same argument cannot be used in explaining the underrepresentation of culturally and linguistically diverse people (CALD) within Australia other than Indigenous Australians. CALD populations are reported to experience specific at-risk forms of family and domestic violence, particularly financial abuse, reproductive coercion and immigration-related violence (El-murr, 2018). There may also be visa/residency restrictions placed upon this group reducing their desire to participate in studies or seek assistance. Similarly, governmental funding and subsequent access to scholarships supporting this area of research is often dependent on political attitudes. To address this Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety (ANROWS) has begun focusing CALD backgrounds within Australia through a two-year initiative funded by the Department of Social Services with 26 projects to be completed by November 2019 as (ANROWS, 2018). The aim of this research is to develop more responsive health policies and practices to improve the wellbeing of CALD people within an increasingly multicultural Australia, and prevent violence against these women and children.

A small number of studies in 2000-2008 and 2010-2018 excluded infants from their publication, whereas the majority of studies across all time periods acknowledged risk to infant in reporting on family and domestic violence experience. This indicates that there is adequate awareness and understanding in the importance of trauma that occurs during the infantile-period, and how this can influence semantic memories and exacerbate distress in later life.

Limitations

The current study had several methodological factors that should be considered. It would be useful to source articles from more than two research databases in future. The current study may not be a true representation of publications due to this reason. Despite this, it is unlikely this has had a major impact upon the trends presented. Additionally, as grey literature and government documents were not able to be obtained from the utilised databases, this study only allowed for assessment of the volume and quality of peer-reviewed publications. Similarly, it is unknown if the excluded years would have impacted results however, bibliometric studies provide a representative snapshot of change over time. Forthcoming could consider utilising more databases to include additional publications, and the use of systems that provide non-peer reviewed publications for consideration.

Conclusion

Overall, there has been an increase in the volume and publications reporting upon transgenerational domestic and family violence within Australia between three time periods, 1990-1998, 2000-2008, and 2010-2018, as well as incorporating infants in their studies. This suggests there is a growing interest within the field. However, other indicators of progression were not found to be statistically significant including the level of evidence, study focus, positive perspective, sexual relationship types, or cultural backgrounds. To continue to achieve progression, and subsequently meaningful change within transgenerational family and domestic violence research within Australia, a greater increase in research volume is required; particularly that which assesses effectiveness and implementation of perpetrator programs. Attitudes vary considerably across the globe regarding family violence influenced by culture, religion, education and geography thereby influencing steps taken to reduce this worldwide threat to families and communities. It is evident that further rigorous cross-cultural research is needed with transgenerational family and domestic violence.

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Appendix A: Key Word Search Terms for PsycINFO and ProQuest

These searches were developed in close consultation with a clinical psychologist with expertise in trauma and posttraumatic growth (author LM) and with a psychology-specific university librarian with expertise across all the databases searched.

A1. PsycINFO Search

Table A1.1. PsycINFO Search Terms

Search
1. Childhood
2. Transgenerational trauma
3. Adult Re-experience of Trauma
4. Type of Violence
5. Location

Table A1.2. PsycINFO Search Strategy

Search	Search Strategy
1. Childhood and Type of Violence	Combine (Search 1: Childhood) AND (Search 4: Type of Violence) AND (Search 5: Location) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit to studies published after 1990 • Limit to English studies
2. Adult Re-experience of Trauma and Violence	Combine (Search 3: Adult Re-experience of Trauma) AND (Search 4: Type of Violence) AND (Search 5: Location) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit to studies published after 1990 • Limit to English-language studies
3. Transgenerational Trauma and Violence	Combine (Search 2: Transgenerational Trauma) AND (Search 4: Type of Violence) AND (Search 5: Location) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit to studies published after 1990 • Limit to English language studies

Table A2. ProQuest Search Terms and Strategy

Search	Search Term and Strategy
1. Subject search for violence types	su(domestic violence) OR su(intimate partner violence) OR su(partner abuse) OR su(child abuse) OR su(transgeneration* pattern*) OR su(sex* abuse) OR su(sex*

offense*) OR su(emotion* abuse) OR su(family violence) OR su(intergeneration* violence) OR su(intergeneration* abuse) OR su(intergeneration* assault) OR su(intimate partner abuse) OR su(intimate partner assault) OR su(partner abuse) OR su(partner assault) OR su(child violence) OR su(child assault) OR su(transgeneration* pattern*) OR su(dating) OR su(dating violence) OR su(dating abuse) OR su(dating assault) OR su(intergeneration* transmission) OR su(betrayal trauma) OR su(violence)

- Limit to studies published after 1990
 - Limit to English-language studies
 - Limit to Australian studies
-

2. Keyword for Violence-related term anywhere except full text

noft("domestic violence") OR noft("intimate partner violence") OR noft("partner abuse") OR noft("child* abuse") OR noft("transgeneration* pattern*") OR noft("sex* abuse") OR noft("sex* offense*") OR noft("emotion* abuse") OR noft("family violence") OR noft("intergeneration* violence") OR noft("intergeneration* abuse") OR noft("intergeneration* assault") OR noft("intimate partner abuse") OR noft("intimate partner assault") OR noft("partner abuse") OR noft("partner assault") OR noft("child violence") OR noft("child assault") OR noft("transgeneration* pattern*") OR noft("dating") OR noft("dating violence") OR noft("dating abuse") OR noft("dating assault") OR noft("intergeneration* transmission") OR noft("betrayal trauma") OR noft("violence")

- Limit to studies published after 1990
 - Limit to English-language studies
 - Limit to Australian studies
-

Appendix B: References for publications included in the review**Data Based Publications**

Abajobir, A. A., Kisely, S., Williams, G. M., Clavarino, A. M., & Najman, J. M. (2017).

Substantiated childhood maltreatment and intimate partner violence victimization in young adulthood: A birth cohort study. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, *46*(1), 165-179.

doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10964-016-0558-3>

Ahmadabadi, Z., Najman, J. M., Williams, G. M., Clavarino, A. M., d'Abbs, P., & Abajobir, A. A.

(2018). Maternal intimate partner violence victimization and child maltreatment. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, *82*, 23-33. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2018.05.017>

Bernardi, J., & Day, A. (2015). Intimate partner violence perpetrator subtypes and their

developmental origins: Implications for prevention and intervention. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Family Therapy*, *36*(3), 371-379. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/anzf.1111>

Bor, W., Stallman, H., Collerson, E., Boyle, C., Swenson, C. C., McDermott, B., & Lee, E. (2013).

Therapy implications of child abuse in multi-risk families. *Australasian Psychiatry*, *21*(4),

389-392. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1039856213492350>

Briggs, F., & Hawkins, R. M. (1996). A comparison of the childhood experiences of convicted male

child molesters and men who were sexually abused in childhood and claimed to be

nonoffenders. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, *20*(3), 221-233. doi:[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0145-](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0145-2134(95)00145-X)

[2134\(95\)00145-X](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0145-2134(95)00145-X)

Cale, J., Tzoumakis, S., Leclerc, B., & Breckenridge, J. (2017). Patterns of intimate partner violence

victimization among Australia and New Zealand female university students: An initial

examination of child maltreatment and self-reported depressive symptoms across profiles.

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Non-data-based Publications

Nil

Appendix C: Journal's Scope and Notes for Contributors

Traumatology is a primary reference for professionals all over the world who study and treat people exposed to highly stressful and traumatic events, such as terrorist bombings, war disasters, fires, accidents, criminal and familial abuse, hostage-taking, hospitalization, major illness, abandonment, and sudden unemployment.

Whether you are a psychologist, medical or nursing professional, aid worker, social worker, or other disaster/trauma professional, *Traumatology* will help you better understand how to work with disaster victims and their families, as well as other caregivers. Each unique issue offers original articles, reviews, field reports, brief reports, commentary, and media reviews on trauma research, treatment, prevention, education, training, medical, legal, policy and theoretical concerns.

Among the topics covered in recent issues are:

- post-tsunami training of helpers in Phuket, Thailand 2005
- helpful interventions on the Mississippi Gulf Coast
- Stockholm effects and psychological responses to captivity in hostages held by suicide terrorists o sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway system
- vicarious witnessing in European concentration camps: imagining the trauma of another
- the counting method: applying the rule of parsimony to the treatment of posttraumatic stress disorder
- adaptive coping in adolescent trauma survivors
- emotional release technique: a new desensitization method
- gender differences and acute stress reactions among rescue personnel o neurological basis for the observed peripheral sensory modulation of Violation and Hope: Child Refugee Experience 75 emotional responses

- post-traumatic stress in youth experiencing illnesses and injuries o post-traumatic growth and HIV bereavement
- post-traumatic growth following a cancer diagnosis
- psychological growth from a close brush with death

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Appendix D: Traumatology Notes for Manuscript Submission

Notes for Contributors

Prior to submission, please carefully read and follow the submission guidelines detailed below. Manuscripts that do not conform to the submission guidelines may be returned without review.

Submission

To submit to the Editorial Office of Regardt J. Ferreira, please submit manuscripts electronically through the Manuscript Submission Portal in Word Document format (.doc). General correspondence may be directed to the Editor's Office. In addition to addresses and phone numbers, please supply email addresses, as most communications will be by email. Fax numbers, if available, should also be provided for potential use by the editorial office and later by the production office.

Manuscript Preparation

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition (2010). Review APA's Journal Manuscript Preparation Guidelines before submitting your article.

Formatting

Double-space all copy. Manuscripts should be 30 pages and under (not including references and tables/figures). Other formatting instructions, as well as instructions on preparing tables, figures, references, metrics, and abstracts, appear in the Manual. Additional guidance on APA Style is available on the APA Style website. Below are additional instructions regarding the preparation of display equations, computer code, and tables.

Display Equations

We strongly encourage you to use MathType (third-party software) or Equation Editor 3.0 (built into pre-2007 versions of Word) to construct your equations, rather than the equation support that is built into Word 2007 and Word 2010. Equations composed with the built-in

Word 2007/Word 2010 equation support are converted to low-resolution graphics when they enter the production process and must be rekeyed by the typesetter, which may introduce errors. To construct your equations with MathType or Equation Editor 3.0: Go to the Text section of the Insert tab and select Object. Select MathType or Equation Editor 3.0 in the drop-down menu. If you have an equation that has already been produced using Microsoft Word 2007 or 2010 and you have access to the full version of MathType 6.5 or later, you can convert this equation to MathType by clicking on MathType Insert Equation. Copy the equation from Microsoft Word and paste it into the MathType box. Verify that your equation is correct, click File, and then click Update. Your equation has now been inserted into your Word file as a MathType Equation. Use Equation Editor 3.0 or MathType only for equations or for formulas that cannot be produced as Word text using the Times or Symbol font.

Computer Code

Because altering computer code in any way (e.g., indents, line spacing, line breaks, page breaks) during the typesetting process could alter its meaning, we treat computer code differently from the rest of your article in our production process. To that end, we request separate files for computer code. In Online Supplemental Material We request that runnable source code be included as supplemental material to the article. For more information, visit [Supplementing Your Article With Online Material](#).

In the Text of the Article

If you would like to include code in the text of your published manuscript, please submit a separate file with your code exactly as you want it to appear, using Courier New font with a type size of 8 points. We will make an image of each segment of code in your article that exceeds 40 characters in length. (Shorter snippets of code that appear in text will be typeset in Courier New and run in with the rest of the text.) If an appendix contains a mix of code and

explanatory text, please submit a file that contains the entire appendix, with the code keyed in 8-point Courier New.

Tables

Use Word's Insert Table function when you create tables. Using spaces or tabs in your table will create problems when the table is typeset and may result in errors.

Academic Writing and English Language Editing Services

Authors who feel that their manuscript may benefit from additional academic writing or language editing support prior to submission are encouraged to seek out such services at their host institutions, engage with colleagues and subject matter experts, and/or consider several vendors that offer discounts to APA authors. Please note that APA does not endorse or take responsibility for the service providers listed. It is strictly a referral service. Use of such service is not mandatory for publication in an APA journal. Use of one or more of these services does not guarantee selection for peer review, manuscript acceptance, or preference for publication in any APA journal.

Submitting Supplemental Materials

APA can place supplemental materials online, available via the published article in the PsycARTICLES® database. Please see *Supplementing Your Article With Online Material* for more details.

Abstract and Keywords

All manuscripts must include an abstract containing a maximum of 250 words typed on a separate page. After the abstract, please supply up to five keywords or brief phrases.

References

List references in alphabetical order. Each listed reference should be cited in text, and each text citation should be listed in the References section.

Examples of basic reference formats:

Journal Article:

Hughes, G., Desantis, A., & Waszak, F. (2013). Mechanisms of intentional binding and sensory attenuation: The role of temporal prediction, temporal control, identity prediction, and motor prediction. *Psychological Bulletin*, 139, 133–151.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/a0028566> Authored Book:

Rogers, T. T., & McClelland, J. L. (2004). Semantic cognition: A parallel distributed processing approach. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Chapter in an Edited Book:

Gill, M. J., & Sypher, B. D. (2009). Workplace incivility and organizational trust. In P. Lutgen-Sandvik & B. D. Sypher (Eds.), *Destructive organizational communication: Processes, consequences, and constructive ways of organizing* (pp. 53–73). New York, NY: Taylor & Francis.

Figures

Graphics files are welcome if supplied as Tiff or EPS files. Multipanel figures (i.e., figures with parts labeled a, b, c, d, etc.) should be assembled into one file. The minimum line weight for line art is 0.5 point for optimal printing. For more information about acceptable resolutions, fonts, sizing, and other figure issues, please see the general guidelines. When possible, please place symbol legends below the figure instead of to the side.

APA offers authors the option to publish their figures online in color without the costs associated with print publication of color figures. The same caption will appear on both the online (color) and print (black and white) versions. To ensure that the figure can be understood in both formats, authors should add alternative wording (e.g., "the red (dark gray) bars represent") as needed. For authors who prefer their figures to be published in color both in print and online, original color figures can be printed in color at the editor's and publisher's discretion provided the author agrees to pay: \$900 for one figure, an additional \$600 for the second figure, and an additional \$450 for each subsequent figure.

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