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# GENDER DIFFERENCES IN THE FEAR OF CRIME IN ONLINE AND OFFLINE SPACES

## CONTEXT

- Victimization surveys show that Fear of Crime (FOC) is a serious problem disproportionately affecting women (Box *et al.* 1988; Hope and Sparks 2000).
- CSEW has been subject to a range of cuts – there have been reductions in the number of questions, interviewer hours and sample size (ONS 2017a).
- Social media provides an unprecedented opportunity to study social interactions (Williams *et al.* 2013).
- Twitter is predominantly used by young people (Sloan 2017).
- Can the same trends in FOC observed in the CSEW be found using Twitter data?

## HYPOTHESES

- $H_1$ : FOC would be observable in Twitter data.
- $H_2$ : the majority of tweets relating to FOC would be generated by women.
- $H_3$ : there would be a comparable relationship in the gender of those reporting FOC on Twitter and in the CSEW.
- $H_4$ : temporal variations in FOC would be observable in Twitter data.

## CSEW DATA

- CSEW 2015-16 non-victim form (ONS 2017b).
- Questions used:
  - How safe do you feel walking alone after dark?
  - How safe do you feel walking alone in this area during the day?

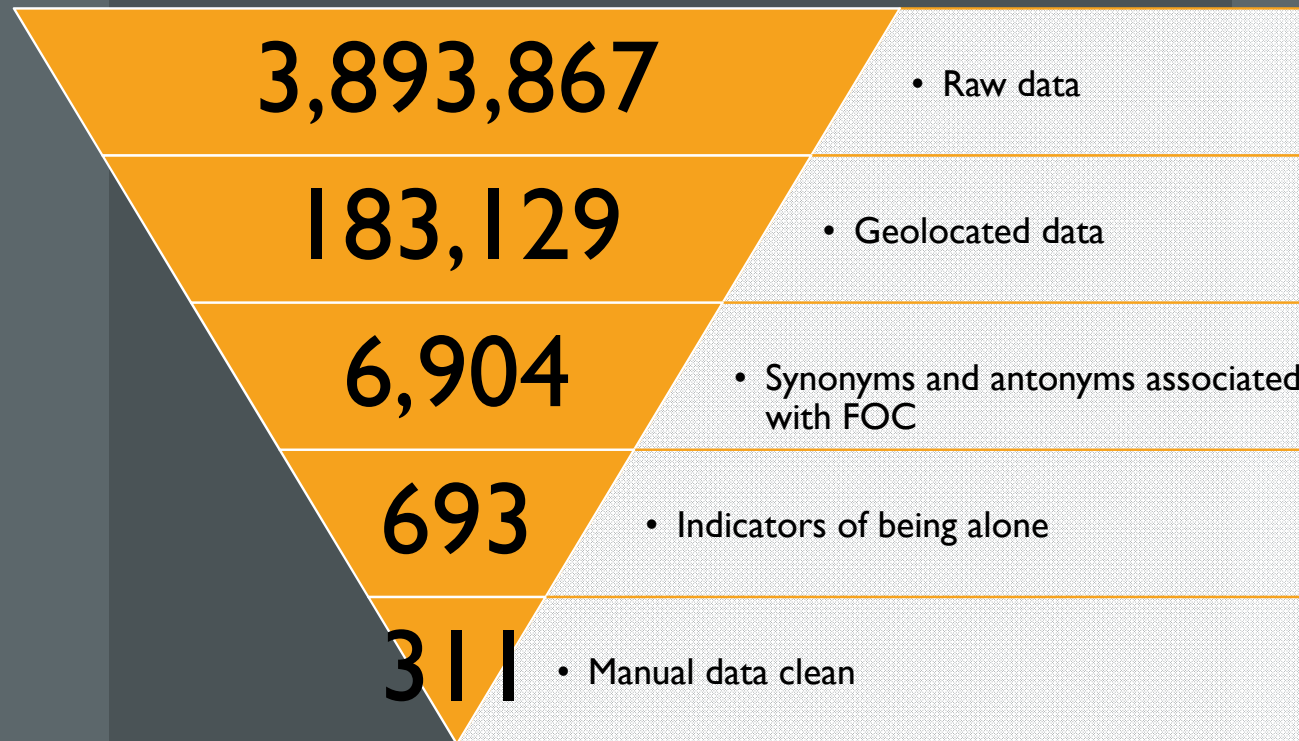
## CSEW ANALYSIS: RATIOS OF FEAR, WOMEN TO MEN

Age (grouped)	'In the day'	'In the dark'
16-19 years	∞	3.0 to 1
20-29 years	5.1 to 1	4.4 to 1
30-39 years	2.3 to 1	3.7 to 1
40-49 years	3.5 to 1	3.8 to 1
50-59 years	2.9 to 1	2.9 to 1
60-69 years	2.5 to 1	2.4 to 1
70+ years	3.5 to 1	2.6 to 1
Overall	3.2 to 1	3.0 to 1

## TWITTER DATA

- Collected using the Collaborative Online Social Media Observatory (COSMOS).
- Between the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and 8<sup>th</sup> July 2018.
- Cross-sectional design.
- Analysed using open source software 'R'.

# TWITTER ANALYSIS



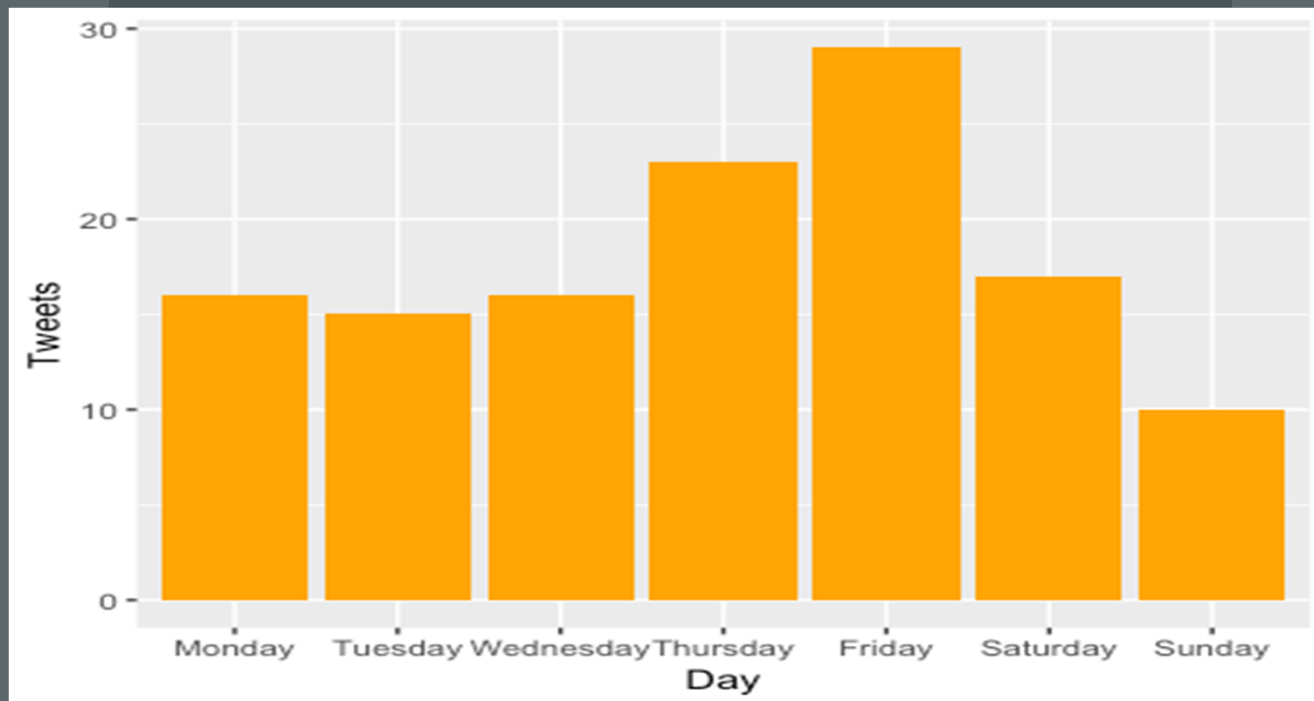
## H<sub>2</sub> AND H<sub>3</sub> GENDER ANALYSIS

	Male	Female	Unknown
Total	106 (34.1%)	89 (10.6%)	116 (37.3%)
Personal Experience	4 (11.4%)	18 (51.4%)	13 (37.2%)
Altruistic	102 (37%)	71 (25.7%)	103 (37.3%)

- Of those tweets with identifiable gender, the majority were generated by men.
- Regarding personal experience tweets, women are 4.5 times more likely to tweet about FOC than men.
- Men are more likely to tweet altruistically.



## H<sub>4</sub> TEMPORAL RESULTS



\* unique tweets

# CONCLUSIONS

- **Supporting H<sub>1</sub>** - FOC is present in Twitter data.
- **Disproving H<sub>2</sub>** - More Tweets are generated by men than women. Also Different modes of Tweet are present, 'Personal Experience' and 'Altruistic'.
- **Supporting H<sub>3</sub>** - Personal experience tweets show a similar relationship to CSEW data in the 'Under 30 years' age group. Also Altruistic Tweets demonstrate a previously unidentified example of 'mansplaining' (Solnit 2014).
- **Supporting H<sub>4</sub>** - There are more FOC-related tweets on a Thursday and Friday night and this may be related to the night-time economy (Swann 2012).

**Next step – extended data collection to confirm results (part of an ongoing PhD).**

## FUNDERS

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