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Femicide in Rio de Janeiro: an analysis of the Brazilian feminist movement, gender, emotions and state in gender violence contexts

The research studies femicide as a social category in the context of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. I follow the debates around femicide in the Brazilian feminist movement to debates in Congress about the Femicide Law until its approval in 2015. I also did field work in femicide trials in Rio de Janeiro's court to understand how the law is being enforced. Furthermore, I analyse how the category appears in media coverage and the criticism towards the law, feminist and not. The main objective is to understand how femicide is taught by the feminist movement in Brazil and what ideas are presented by defence and prosecution in the trials. Gender and emotions are deeply connected in the arguments made in the trials, for example, the idea that women "love to much" or that men get "crazy with jealousy". The first results show how on one side gender stereotypes are also renovated even with the Femicide Law and on the other, it's also possible to see changes in relation to how these kind of cases were handled in the past, for example, the idea of violent emotion might still be used by the defence in some cases, but it does not lead to a lack of penalty like it did in the past. The study of femicide from this perspective touches on gender, emotions and state theory.