

# Research you can use:

## Article Summary



BORDER CROSSING  
**OBSERVATORY**  
BORDERS, CRIME, JUSTICE

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**Pickering, S. and Cochrane, B. (2012) 'Irregular border crossing, deaths and gender: Where, how and when women die crossing border', *Theoretical Criminology*, 17 (1): 27-48.**

**Keywords:** Borders; Death; Migration; Women

### **1) Description of the purpose of article/chapter**

This article examines increased securitization of migration between the developed and developing world and undertakes a gendered analysis of the ways women die irregularly crossing borders. Three data sets, all based on figures from non-governmental organizations and journalistic sources, examine death at or near the borders in the European Union, the United States, and Australia. The central argument is that the hardening of borders by governments to keep irregular migrants out is causing harm to these people.

### **2) Key findings from the research**

One of the most basic data that this article points to is that refugee deaths remain largely unknown in regards to basic demographics, especially sex. Within the known data, the authors find women are more likely to die crossing borders at the harsh physical frontiers of nation-states rather than at increasingly policed 'internal border' sites. That is, in those physical spaces which cover the territorial border (compared to other border sites). In the case of Australia and the European Union, these deaths at the frontier are likely to happen at sea, while on the US-Mexico border this is likely to happen in the frontier of the desert.

The authors also found data which suggests women from countries that are likely rejected for lawful entry as part of pre-departure visa regimes are more likely to die. The authors argue for more robust reporting mechanisms about border deaths, as well as future concerted efforts to understand better vulnerable groups undertaking to cross borders.

### **3) Contribution to knowledge on border crossings and/or irregular migration**

This article gives insight and attempts to enumerate border deaths of irregular female migrants at the border frontiers of the European Union, Australian, and the United States. It is one of the first articles to exam this issue with quantitative data and with a comparative base which allows for not only different type of data to be presented in this realm, but a broad range of irregular migrants deaths to be examined.

*Prepared by Brandy Cochrane, April 2013.*