

*Summaries in English*

*Leif Peter Olausen: Angst for voldskriminalitet i Norge.* [Fear of Violence in Norway]. Pp. 249 ff.

The analysis of fear of violence in the Norwegian population is based on data from the national Survey of Standard of Living. The *first* part is a cross sectional analysis of the 1991 survey. Parallel to many other studies it is found that fear is most widespread among women, among elderly people, and in urban areas. Partly the distribution of fear of violence may be explained by the parallel distribution of exposure to criminal violence, and by differences in vulnerability. However, it is argued that research on fear of violence has overlooked the importance of individual differences in psychological alertness for danger. Adding mental health as an explanatory variable is found that fear of violence is strongly correlated with mental health both among men and women. The proposed interpretation is that people with weakened mental health are projecting their anxiety on the outer world. Since many studies of different kinds of fear show that the prevalence of fear is highest among women, the higher prevalence of fear of violence among women with good mental health is supposed to reflect a (generally) lower risk tolerance among women than among men. Women are more alert to different kinds of risk triggers in their surroundings, it is argued.

The *second* part is an interpretation of why fear of violence seemed to increase in the 1970s but not in the 80s. Rapid urbanization during the twentyfive years after World War II, and new, noisy, and highly visible strange looking youngsters, prepared the ground for a rising level of fear in the seventies. The period after 1975 is less threatening: it is more settled, and people have become more comfortable both with the youngsters and with the urban way of living. A stable level of fear of violence in the eighties is paralleled with a stable prevalence of psychological distress in the population. In addition, the prevalence of victimization of violence has not increased. New groups of foreigners in the Norwegian society may, however, create more fear in parts of the population in the years to come.

*Nina Jon: Registrert voldskriminalitet i Oslo.* [Crimes of violence registered in Oslo]. Pp. 273 ff.

The article presents the main findings in a study on crimes of violence registered in Oslo in 1988. The study is based on crimes of violence against the person that have been investigated at the Oslo police station in the course of that year. The study focuses on the gravity of the violence and its context. The gravity of the violence is measured on the basis of the category of crime, of the use of instruments, the gravity of the acts carried out without the use of an instrument and the damages inflicted on the victim. With reference to the context in which the violence is carried out, the study looks closer at the relations between the victim and the offender, and the situation as well as the arena in which the violence takes place. Further, the article points to how the context of the violence changes with the increase in gravity of the violent acts.