“The Heterogeneity of Crime Victims: Variations in Procedural and Outcome Preferences” is a collection of articles examining the position of the victim in criminal proceedings, with special attention to the differences that exist among individual victims. While the field of victimology tends to generalize the legal needs to one single group of victims, this dissertation asked whether there may be a need to categorize victims based on factors such as gender, type of crime and culture. Data was examined from New South Wales, Australia, the Netherlands and a refugee camp in Nepal. Much of the research evaluated victim justice experiences. More specifically, several questions were asked including, for example, whether fairness and respectful treatment were more beneficial to victims of sexual crimes when compared to victims of non-sexual crimes, whether there were differences from the perception of the victim dependent on jurisdiction and what influence culture had on victim justice preferences.

Much of the research in this book has implications for policy with regard to the victim’s position in criminal justice proceedings. The rather negative perceptions of victims would suggest that much still needs to be done for victims of crime in criminal proceedings. Factors such as accurate proceedings, voice and respectful treatment have continuously been found to be associated with satisfaction and other concepts such as secondary victimization. Future victimological research just identify more specifically the measures and practices that are impacting victims. The legal system is one example of a necessary change. While the structure itself does not have to change in a systematic sense, introducing mechanisms and protections that may counter the harmfulness of a given practice also provides a solution. The research findings presented in this book have suggested that the differences among crime victims (namely sexual versus non-sexual assault) may call for a more offense focused response. Providing victims of sexual assault with mechanisms to voice themselves could improve their experience with the criminal justice system. Practices such as cross examination that limit the voice of victims should be given more consideration in cases of sexual assault and opportunities for expression such as victim impact statements must be made more available, as is not often the case. More generally, it is important to ask the conditions under which given policies would best perform.