The Cross-Over: An interdisciplinary approach to the study of victims of crime.

The nine articles included in the thesis, mainly but not solely relate to the role of victims in the criminal justice system. All of them relate to theoretical issues in victimology, rather than empirical research, Victims’ perspectives on justice and their reactions to injustice are the main topics. Restorative justice is a recurring issue, but the thesis also addresses victims’ movements, victim impact statements and even victims’ reactions to Al Qaeda’s attacks. Four themes recur throughout the thesis.

It is called the Cross-over, due to the fact that its main subject relates to a ‘cross-over’ from branches of social science, like social and clinical psychology, political science and philosophy that are rarely or insufficiently applied to victimology.

The thesis takes issue with the tendency to essentialize victims and victimisation. The victim does not exist. Victims’ experiences vary widely and so do their reactions, even when they have suffered very similar crimes.

In the victim’s perspective on criminal justice, the emotional base of morality and by implication of criminal transgressions is paramount. The importance and use of criminal justice for victims is related to this emotional base.

Realism. A number of the articles the importance of a realist approach to victimology. This relates to the notion that needs conflict, between and within victims. Secondly it relates to a critical appraisal of ideological notions within the study of victims. And thirdly it relates to the unfortunate but nevertheless essential qualities of the human condition.