



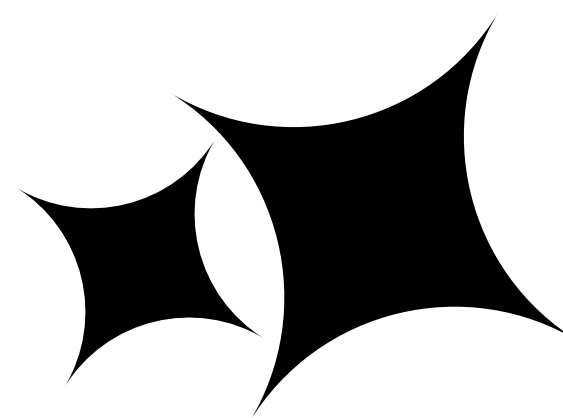
ONATI INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF LAW  
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# Prosecuting "bad mothers" in Argentina: from victims to perpetrators

by Cecilia Hopp

The criminalization of women for failure to protect their children from abuse committed by their partners has gained visibility during the last few years in Argentina. Whenever a child dies or is severely harmed as a result of battering at the hands of their mother's partner, the mother is likely to be prosecuted for failure to protect the child.

Attention of mass media on "bad mothers" who fail to protect their children has coincided with greater awareness and broadcasting of news related to violence against women. I critically analyze cases in which mothers are prosecuted in Argentina for failing to comply with standards of "good mothering". I also present and criticize the legal reasoning that sustains these charges. I examine practices within the criminal justice system that are problematic for feminist legal theory and women's equality.



Law Professor at Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA) and  
Universidad Torcuato Di Tella (UTDT), PhD candidate (UBA), LLM  
New York University, Specialist in Criminal Law (UTDT).

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