

# **“Mine or No One Else’s”: a Discourse Analysis of the Representations of ‘Femicide’ in Italian News Reporting**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Over the past few years, we have witnessed a crescendo of femi(ni)cides in the news. With the onset of the pandemic, the UN has defined this escalation as ‘a Shadow Pandemic’ (UN Women 2020). While something is being done at the institutional level, many news reports perpetuate the framing of femi(ni)cide as a set of isolated cases, fuelled by jealousy or temporary insanity, ignoring its socio-cultural origins. This is the case of Italy, which to date is the first and only European country to which the UN has addressed specific warnings on the phenomenon (Manjoo 2012). Against this background, the present study examines how fem(in)icide is framed in Italian news coverage, through a corpus retrieved from the newspaper *La Repubblica*’s online section ‘*Osservatorio Femminicidio*’ (2021). Drawing upon Bacchi’s (2009) “What’s the Problem Represented to Be” approach, the study analyses the discursive patterns used to frame femi(ni)cides, their implicatures, wording, and negative effects, to highlight what aspects are left unchallenged and what can be done to change the typical news reporting representations of femi(ni)cides in Italy.

**Keywords:** Discourse Analysis, Femi(ni)cide, Italy, Online News Coverage, Representation of Violence against Women