

Men, Livelihoods, and Sexual Violence in Kenyan Slums

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Sexual violence directed *at women, children, and men, is common in the slums of Kenya. Relying on fieldwork in two slums in Nairobi, Kenya, I* examine the intersections of livelihoods in accounts, experiences, and constructions of meanings surrounding sexual violence perpetrated by slum men. Sexual violence is an instrument of domination, control, and intimidation, but it is also related to the particular economic marginality of men and the general ‘state of emergency’ in the slums which make the realization of customary markers of masculinity (e.g., steady employment, income, security, and authority) very exigent. *Sexual violence is also facilitated by the structural incapacity of slum residents.* The relevance and applicability of contemporary theories of male sexual violence can be enhanced by focusing on primary facets of social life, particularly issues of context and livelihoods. Upsetting the cycle of sexual violence is a gender as well as a livelihood issue.