

VICTIM STATUS:

A DESCRIPTIVE PSYCHOLOGY APPROACH

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April 2011

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Abstract

This doctoral project introduces a serviceable conceptualization of the status of victim from a Descriptive Psychology perspective. The etymology of victim and its study within victimology are reviewed. Forensic and social psychological consequences of the current victim concepts are discussed and the status of victim is introduced through the use of conceptual tools and notational devices in Descriptive Psychology. How one becomes victim, the implication for this status assignment, the manner in which this status is or is not incorporated in a personal narrative, and how the assignment of victim status impacts one's self-concept are discussed. Victim status draws attention to the person's identification as victim, conferring a self-denouncement, denial of status, and restriction of eligibility and can be used to undo shame and increase status in an effort to further present oneself in the world at large. Peter Ossorio's maxim that a person does not choose less behavioral potential over more is invoked to support the argument. (Ossorio, 1998).