Title: Victim Blaming Doesn't Take a Holiday
Author: Heather L. Jeffrey[1] & Paola Vizcaino Suárez[2]
Affiliation: University of Bedfordshire[1], Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México[2]
Contact: paola.vizcaino.suarez@gmail.com
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Abstract:
        Gender is socially constructed, shaped by gender discourses that permeate society, and is performed every day in every interaction. At the intersection between contemporary feminist theories and postmodern currents, in particular poststructuralism, it is recognized that gender identities are not static but are (re)constructed from social and political discourses. The critical analysis of discourse is concerned precisely with the reproduction of social domination through discourse. Discourse is an important vehicle for defining socially accepted activities for both women and men, including activities related to leisure, tourism, and travel. In the Latin American context, violence against women is normalized by adherence to a patriarchal system that seeks to blame victims without taking into account the role of abusers. The field of travel and tourism is not immune to this trend, since female victims of violence are often held responsible for their victimization or even femicide.

        Whilst a small stream of research has analysed female tourists in the English speaking world, less research has focussed on tourists from Other countries. A paucity of conceptualisations concerning Other female tourists can unwittingly reify the binary constructions of hosts and guests. This paper attempts to address these concerns by exploring and opening debate on gender-based violence and the normalisation of victim blaming, in the context of travel and tourism. A critical discourse analysis investigates user generated comments on online news that reported the case of two Argentine tourists, Marina Menegazzo and María José Coni, who were murdered during a trip to Ecuador in 2016. The Internet offers a space for participants from around the world to (re)construct narratives and discourses, while providing an important source of data for researchers, and it can be a space of misogyny and sexism with the potential to perpetuate and even intensify existing gender inequalities.