

Use and abuse of a victim

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Victimology already drew attention to the contribution of a victim of criminal offence several decades ago. Over time, the field of its research has extended from the first blame addressed to a victim that she/he should have expected what had happened to her/him, to attempts to assist victims and prevent situations attracting offenders. However, victimology has been less concerned with the responses of victims, their wishes for more just punishment, and even less with false claims of apparent victims for justice. The latter can only imagine their unfortunate situation, and in the worst case, they know perfectly well that nothing threatening can happen to them. Nevertheless, they try to take advantage of their imagined status of victim to achieve something immoral, also illegal and sometimes even criminal.

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