

## A Survey of Beliefs and Experiences of Gaslighting (#103838)

### Author(s)

This pre-registration is currently anonymous to enable blind peer-review.  
It has 3 authors.

Pre-registered on: 08/01/2022 08:09 PM (PT)

### 1) Have any data been collected for this study already?

It's complicated. We have already collected some data but explain in Question 8 why readers may consider this a valid pre-registration nevertheless.

### 2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?

The aims of the survey are to identify: common definitions of gaslighting, common behaviours and tactics used for gaslighting, and the personal impact and outcomes for victims. The study consists of an online survey which members of domestic violence Facebook groups will complete. Victims of gaslighting will complete it so that we can gain information about the lived experience of gaslighting. Case workers will complete it to provide insight into the experience of working with victims of gaslighting. Responses across both of the samples will be compared to further current understanding of the phenomenon.

The research question/s are as follows:

What are the experiences of gaslighting among domestic violence victims and case workers?

- How do victims and case workers conceptualise gaslighting?
- What are the factors (social, behavioural, environmental) involved in the experience of gaslighting?
- What are the impacts of gaslighting on victim memory and wellbeing, reported by caseworkers and victims?

### 3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

N/A

### 4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?

N/A

### 5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

Data analysis approach: The open-ended/free response questions will be analysed through inductive content analysis as described by Jackson (2009), which will allow for us to identify key themes and patterns across a large range of written responses. This will be supplemented by Iterative Categorisation, as described by Neale (2016). This will assist in maintaining transparency and accountability in the coding process. Using these two strategies, the raw data will be coded manually into a coding scheme. This coding scheme will then be checked among team members, for inter-rater reliability.

### 6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

Inclusion criteria: participants must be over the age of 18, and have either experienced gaslighting, or worked with those who have. Exclusion criteria: non-serious attempts will be excluded from the analysis (i.e., one-word responses or answers that are not related to the question).

### 7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.

Individuals who meet the exclusion criteria described above will be excluded from the analysis. We will not know our final sample size until initial analyses are run to identify the number of eligible responses. It is intended to gather 100 participants from each sample (victim and case worker), making a total of 200 responses.

### 8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

Study design: This is a cross-sectional survey of domestic violence victims and caseworkers who have experience with gaslighting.

Sampling strategy: The sampling method selected for this study is quota sampling. This technique allows for inclusion of multiple perspectives that are of theoretical interest. As gaslighting is a coercive tactic that can be less visible to the victim, it is important to gather information from those who have experienced it (victims n=100), and those who have observed it (case workers n=100). Participation in the survey is voluntary.

Data collection: The data collected will be original data collected for the purpose of this study. The questionnaire will collect descriptive statistics to present the population parameters of the sample (e.g., age, gender). The questionnaire will also utilise open ended questions about definitions of gaslighting, the process of gaslighting, and the impact on the respondent (e.g., memory, wellbeing). The survey will be posted on domestic violence support group social media and distributed amongst domestic violence support agencies. Currently, only the victim data has been collected. This study is being pre-registered now, as it is possible to begin analysing victim data separately, while we collect case worker responses.