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SEX TRAFFICKING AND ETHNICITY

**A CASE STUDY ANALYSIS OF ETHNIC NETWORKS IN INDOOR
AND OUTDOOR PROSTITUTION IN ITALY**

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Abstract

This thesis aims at investigating the relationship among ethnicity, modalities of crime commission and relational structure of different ethnic networks involved in sex trafficking.

A case study analysis of two West African and two Balkan networks is carried out by the adoption of two methods: crime script analysis and social network analysis. A merger of the results obtained in these analyses is performed in order to understand how relationships among individuals are distributed within the criminal framework. Finally, the case studies are compared to verify whether a relationship exists between ethnicity and sex trafficking, also apart from the field of exploitation.

The results show that ethnicity has an impact on sex trafficking. In particular, it influences *modi operandi* and the socio-biographical characteristics of the members of the networks operating in the same field of exploitation. If different fields of exploitation are considered, both carried out by same or different ethnic groups, ethnicity appears to affect neither the modalities of crime commission nor the features of the people. Indeed, also the outdoor/indoor exploitation context seems to be relevant. Conversely, the relational structure and the relation between the latter and the modalities of crime commission do not seem to be affected by ethnicity.

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