



FRANKFURT HATE CRIME SYMPOSIUM

PSYCHOLOGICAL ISSUES AND PREVENTION OF HATE CRIME
12TH – 14TH APRIL 2012

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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The Hate Crime Concept(s) - Moral, Legal and Political Considerations

What is a hate crime? How should "Hate Crime" be defined in order to serve its various functions? We present considerations from the areas of moral, legal and political philosophy to argue the benefits and drawbacks of different definitions. We point out that different functions may require different concepts. A concept of hate crime useful for policy making may be importantly distinct from a legally valid concept - one that needs to fulfil the additional requirement of justifying punishment enhancement. Hate crime as a target for policy measures may thus be importantly distinct from hate crime as a target for legal measures. Law-makers are still left with a number of options, on which the mentioned considerations apply. We argue that there are considerable benefits in adapting a common conceptual framework for hate crimes across the EU, but to allow for some variations due to contextual considerations.

ANNELI SVENSSON

How the LGBTQ population suffering from hate crimes and its consequences can help us understand the preventative work.

The most common hate crimes targeting the LGBTQ population are the ones committed by somebody the victim knows, such as family members, classmates or colleagues. But the most hideous crimes, such as murders, happen in public at the pub, on the street or on public transportation and are carried out by strangers. Youth and members of the transgendered group suffer more often than others from these crimes. Every time the most serious crimes happen, the impact on the community is significant; people get scared or angry and some ignore and deny it. There has been a reluctance within the minority itself to highlight the subject. Nobody wants to be considered a victim. Research shows to whom the victims turn to for help and support, and we also know what kind of help is requested. Research also shows a close correlation between hate crimes and suicide among youth. If we want more people to report these crimes, more convictions and a better healing process, then there are many arenas to look into. The LGBTQ community might not be the best place in which to be strengthened and empowered. There are other safe places that need to be discussed. Prevention programs are essential and much more research when the assault already has taken place is required. In looking for resilience factors concerning suicide attempts, some answers for what is necessary for prevention will be found.

EDWARD DUNBAR

Assault with a Deadly Buddha: Community, Forensic, and Clinical Characteristics of Hate Crime Offenders in Los Angeles

Individuals who engage in intergroup violence are not an uncommon topic of attention by the popular media. These images shape both our assumptions concerning hate crimes and guide our attitudes about how to respond to the problem.

In this presentation the “where and how” of hate crime perpetration in a large multi-cultural urban environment will be considered in terms of neighborhood ethnography, race/ethnic change, and the behavioral factors of the commission of these criminologically unique offenses. Findings from community based organizations will highlight the idea of neighborhood vulnerability to hate crime perpetration, as well as provide information of the differences in premeditation and level of violence as predicated by the targeted victim group. Community offending patterns: the case review of the demographic and developmental characteristics of hate crime offenders apprehended by law enforcement agencies will be presented. This will include estimating offender recidivism risk, the identification of specific facets of the offender’s bias motivation, and their developmental histories in terms of education, psychiatric disturbance and exposure to violence as a child.

Analysis of bias homicide offenders: the clinical and psychiatric characteristics of bias motivated homicide offenders will be examined in terms of mental competence, personality characteristics, and their development history. Comparison of post-conviction data for bias motivated homicide offenders and other homicide offenders will provide preliminary insight into the unique psychological profile of perpetrators of extreme bias.

Clinical intervention with hate offenders: Discussion of the assessment and mental health intervention by the presenter with hate crime offenders will be provided to underscore the within-group diversity of these individuals and their capacity for desistance from further bias-motivated violence.

MARK COESTER

Community Crime Prevention in the case of Hate Crimes and Right-Wing Extremism

Since 2011 Germany is facing a new level of right wing extremism. Between 2000 and 2007 a group of extremists committed at least 10 killings out of xenophobia and hate. It is no secret that in the last 20 years since the reunification of Germany right wing extremism is an immanent fact. It is no exclusive youth subcultural appearance anymore but a growing social movement that spreads with xenophobic, anti-Semitic, anti-Muslim, nationalistic, Neo-National Socialistic misanthropic and hate throughout Germany, Europe and the World. It undermines the principles of a free, united and multicultural society and questions the right to exist of people based on their nationality, ethnicity, religion, color of skin, sexual orientation or disability. The presentation will explore the concept of right wing extremism in Germany and considers aspects of its development, definition, extent and appearance. It then focuses on the problems that right wing extremism causes in communities and shows the Crime Prevention Councils community counseling approach.

HELMOLT RADEMACHER

Conflict Resolution Education in Germany (and Hessen)

Abstract to be announced

BASTIAN FINKE

Connecting People. Living Diversity and Tolerance. MANEO

MANEO was founded in 1990 as a stand-alone project of Mann-O-Meter, Berlin's gay switchboard. It's the oldest and best known gay anti-violence project in Germany. Since its inception it has campaigned for tolerance and diversity.

The work of MANEO should be viewed in its historical context in Germany where explicit gay behaviour was a prosecutable offence until 1994. MANEO now acts on behalf of gay men in Berlin to challenge these prejudices in a more and more globalised world where discrimination and prosecution against LGBT*s can no longer be seen as a local problem.

The work of MANEO is assisted financially by the state of Berlin but is not sufficient for all its services. MANEO has to raise 10.000 Euros donation every year to keep its four core areas running: Victim Counselling, i.e. 800 requests for counselling and 300 people are given support every year; Documentation of Data on homophobic incidents in Berlin; Violence Prevention, for ex. Supporting the Police Schools in Berlin in their training programmes; Co-operation and Dialogue, i.e. working with local communities, recruiting voluntary helpers, and conducting fund raising activities.

Since its founding, MANEO has achieved an international reputation via its innovative projects and energetic initiatives. In addition to its core activities and financed by additional grants, funds and donations, MANEO has created and completed projects such as: the "Lesbian and Gay Street Festival" (attracts 350,000 visitors every year); two national wide surveys on personal experiences of violence among gays (41,000 participants); several International Conferences on Homophobia and Hate Crimes; the campaign "Kiss Kiss Berlin" (supported by Berlin's Tourism Board); the "Rainbow Bridge-Project" (Berlin-Cologne-Tel Aviv); the "Berlin Tolerance Federation" (co-operation with over 80 partners in Berlin); as partner in an EU funded project called "Tracing and Tackling Hate Crime", etc.

ULRICH WAGNER

Evaluation of hate crime prevention – methodology and first meta-analytic summaries

Social scientific intervention should be based on empirically supported theories. This implies that a promising and effective prevention against hate crime needs profound scientific knowledge about relevant courses of hate crime. However, theory based intervention alone does not guarantee the effectiveness of the intervention. Effectiveness has to be empirically controlled in form of evaluation. The presentation describes the needed preconditions and opportunities for the appropriate evaluation of hate crime prevention programs. Following the suggestions made by the Campbell-Collaboration it is argued that for the establishment of broad and valid anti-hate crime intervention strategies, the worldwide available empirical evidence about what works and what doesn't has to be summarized. An example is given on the basis of recent meta-analyses testing the effectiveness of prevention programs against ethnic prejudice.