

10th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology

**CRIME AND CRIMINOLOGY:
FROM INDIVIDUALS TO ORGANIZATIONS**

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Neonaticide and Infanticide in Germany and Switzerland

Theresia Hoeynck, Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony, Germany

Nora Markwalder, Institute of Criminology, University of Zurich, Switzerland

The presentation aims to compare neonaticides and infanticides in Germany and Switzerland. It includes information about both offender as well as victim characteristics and the circumstances of the offence. For the analysis, we considered all victims of homicide that are less than 6 years old. The German database encloses about 520 cases between 1996 and 2006 and is based on court files. The Swiss sample consists of 75 cases between 1980 and 2004 and stems from forensic medicine, police and court files.

The downward trend of homicide in the Netherlands: Assessing underlying causes

Marieke Liem, Paul Nieuwebeerta, Paul Smit, Leiden University, The Netherlands

The number of people dying of homicide in the Netherlands has decreased over the last few years. This downward trend is also reflected in other European countries. The aim of this study is at least twofold: First, we describe the recent trends in homicide in the Netherlands, distinguishing subtypes of homicides as well as the characteristics of victims and perpetrators. In addition, we aim to explain the recent drop in homicide by assessing whether this trend is associated with societal changes, such as changes in the demographic composition, the degree of social cohesion, economic deprivation and situational characteristics. Using national data from the Dutch Homicide Monitor that includes all homicides that have taken place in the period 1992-2009, the findings of this study are put into a theoretical perspective.

Thirty years of change in homicide in England and Wales

Brian Francis, Keith Soothill, Centre for Applied Statistics, Lancaster University, United Kingdom

This talk focuses on the patterns and characteristics of Homicide in England and Wales. We will present a discussion of homicide rates from 1977 to 2009, identifying important trends. The analyses will consider age and gender of victims and the circumstances and method of homicide as well as types of homicide. There will be updates of our previous work, including a regional analysis, which was included in our Homicide in Britain (Scottish Executive Central Research Unit 1999). Our main empirical source will be the Homicide Index for England & Wales.

81. Local Communities and Insecurity

Chair: Marc Coester, Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony, Germany

Room: BECCARIA

The perception of neighborhood disorder in Flemish Belgium: differences between natives and immigrant groups and bearing on fear of crime

Kris Vancluysen, SEIN, Hasselt University, Belgium

This paper investigates whether the perception of neighborhood disorder (e.g. loitering youths, drug use, public littering, ...) differs between natives and immigrant communities and whether perceived disorder has the same impact on fear of crime (cf. broken windows theory) among immigrant groups as among the native majority. Immigrants and their offspring are of particular interest for research on perceived disorder as

(especially juvenile) members of immigrant groups are often regarded as responsible for causing disorder or delinquent behavior. To answer the research questions, data are used from the Flemish Integration Survey 2008, a face-to-face survey among Moroccan, Turkish and native Flemish descendants (n=960) gathered in three Flemish Belgian cities (Antwerp, Genk and Ghent). Multiple regression analyses show differences between natives and immigrant descendants with regard to the perception of loitering youths, dog mess and littering. Also, results provide support for the broken windows hypothesis in all groups, but the impact of perceived disorder on fear of crime is highest among the native majority. Possible explanations are discussed.

Area concentrations of collective efficacy and individual differences in avoidance behavior: a multilevel study of 40 municipalities in Belgium

Wim Hardyns, Department of Penal Law and Criminology, Ghent University, Belgium

Area differences in crime, victimisation and fear of crime have repeatedly been shown to co-vary with structural characteristics such as economic disadvantage, ethnic heterogeneity and residential instability, as well as with social cohesion processes in the community. Since 1997 'collective efficacy', as a macro-social process, has been studied extensively in sociological and criminological research. Studies in the United States have shown that areas with high levels of collective efficacy predict low levels of crime, victimisation and fear of crime, and that individuals too benefit from these collective efficacy concentrations. The collective efficacy model has hardly been tested in the Western European context. In the present study a contextual model was tested on a 2009 survey of 2,080 residents from 40 municipalities in Flanders (Belgium). Using multilevel analyses, we discuss the contextual effects of area characteristics on individual differences in avoidance behaviour, controlling for demographic background characteristics.

Social disorganization and crime – A panel analysis of criminal data from the German State of Bavaria

Michael Hanslmaier, Stefanie Kemme, Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony, Germany

A number of studies have investigated the regional differences of crime rates. Researchers point out as one main result the relation between indicators of social disorganization and crime rates. Social disorganization refers to the inability of local communities to realize the common values of their residents or solve commonly experienced problems (Kornhauser 1978). Macrosociological models such as social disorganization assume that there are important community-level dynamics related to crime that are not simply reifications of individual motivational processes. In the present paper we examine to which extent regional differences in crime rates in the German state of Bavaria can be explained by indicators of social disorganization such as economic disadvantage, residential instability and heterogeneity, urbanization or the effects of family disruption. We investigate these determinants of crime on the macro-level based on a panel data set covering all counties of the German Federal state of Bavaria during the years 1995 to 2008. This allows us to apply the logic of social disorganization (Shaw and McKay 1969) to a more general data set and not only to a single city or metropolitan area – a claim made e.g. by Bursik (1988). We estimate several models for different types of crime (e.g. violence vs. property crime) as research has shown conditional influences of the factors.

Municipalities as victims of right-wing extremism

Marc Coester, Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony, Germany

Right-wing extremists do not only assault individual victims. More and more also municipalities, communities, cities or districts are facing new manifestations of right-wing extremism. Possible scenarios might be the infiltration of the local youth work, formation of right-wing civil engagement structures, development of communal "no-go areas", relevant citizen initiatives, real-estate buy-outs, organised (youth)cultural events (concerts, sport events etc) or violence, damage to property and other forms of provocation (demonstrations etc). The Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony in Hanover has a unique programme to help municipalities to cope and prevent such infiltrations of aggressive, violent and inhuman groups. Here a network of