

Deutsch-Französische Summer School

Einladung zu einer deutsch-französischen Summer School für Graduierte/Doktoranden der Sozial- und Geschichtswissenschaft.

Veranstalter: Internationale Forschungsgruppe „Kontrolle der Gewalt/Control of Violence“ am Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Forschung (ZIF) der Universität Bielefeld (in Kooperation mit der deutsch-französischen Hochschule und der EHESS).

Datum: 8.-10. September 2008, kombiniert mit Abschlusskonferenz 10.-13. September.

Ort: ZIF, Universität Bielefeld.

Themenschwerpunkte: Gewalt in Banlieues, sozialen Brennpunkten und dangerous neighbourhoods, Gewalt in gesellschaftlichen Subkulturen, religiös motivierte Gewalt, politische Gewalt, Sicherheitspolitik und Prävention.

Konferenzsprache: Englisch.

Anmeldefrist: 15. Juli 2008.

Anmeldungen an Prof. Wilhelm Heitmeyer unter ikg@uni-bielefeld.de mit zweiseitigem Exposé des eigenen Forschungsvorhabens.

Summer School franco-allemand

Invitation aux candidats de doctorat en sciences sociales et histoire à un Summer School franco-allemand.

Organisation : Groupe de recherche internationale „Contrôle de la violence“ au Centre de Recherche interdisciplinaire (ZIF) à l’Université Bielefeld (avec la collaboration de l’Université franco-allemande et de l’EHESS).

Date: 8^{ième} à 10^{ième} Septembre 2008, combiné à la conférence finale 10^{ième} à 13^{ième} Septembre.

Lieu de conférence: ZIF, Université de Bielefeld.

Sujets: Violence aux Banlieues et “dangerous neighbourhoods”, violence aux subcultures, violence religieuse et politique, politiques de sécurité et de prévention.

Langue de conférence: Anglais.

Date de l’application: 15/07/2008.

Applications à Prof. Wilhelm Heitmeyer ikg@uni-bielefeld.de incluant un exposé (deux pages) du projet de recherche.

Exposé Summer School

The international Research Group „Control of Violence“ will organize a German-French Summer School on different forms of violence and corresponding modes of violence control. The subject will be discussed from an interdisciplinary historical and sociological perspective. Within this general subject there will be a wide range of topics. In a first section local especially urban phenomena of violence in so-called “sozialen Brennpunkten”, “dangerous neighbourhoods” and “Banlieues” are of special concern. In an international comparison the focus of research will be the specific structural conditions which frame the different situations of violence and violence control for example in German cities and in the French Banlieues.

The recent outbreaks of violence in French Banlieues have demonstrated the effects of a very significant geographical segregation based on ethnic-cultural distinctions which refer to the history of colonial tradition and postcolonial immigration in France. While in Germany the historical context clearly differs from the French case there are nonetheless some parallel trends in geographical segregation combined with diverse mechanisms of social exclusion based on ethnic-cultural origins of urban populations. These structures obviously frame the everyday conditions of violence and violence control by the police as well as recently enhanced social work programmes in both countries.

Another focus of discussion will be violence in diverse subcultures like “Hooliganism”, “Hiphop”, Gothic/Occultism/Satanism etc. Of special interest here are the inherent group-specific socialising functions of violence as well as modes of ritualistic violence which ambivalently refer to the question of violence control. These kinds of subcultures and their constitutive discursive practices have extensively been investigated by the so-called cultural studies. The research on violence in this context on the one hand can build on that research while on the other hand it has to intensify the research on the social structures and effects of physical violence, for example the problem of social recognition by violence, within these social groups as well as to further contextualise this research on subcultural violence by relating it to violence within the so-called mainstream culture of society, e.g. to violence within the traditional family.

Political and religious forms of violence which of course are currently predominantly present in the public attention as it is communicated in the mass media constitute another important dimension of the research on violence and violence control. In Germany especially the modes and strategies of right wing political violence change insofar right wing militant groups partly successfully establish themselves in some regions as an expression of the resentments of the “normal” local society (“Mehrheitsgesellschaft”). Therefore right wing violence consciously addresses socially excluded or marginalised groups as its primary victims. This also involves violent conflicts between right wing and left wing political militant groups on the local level.

In the context of the omnipresent discourse on Islam in Europe religiously motivated or legitimised violence presently is one of the main and virulent features of violence research at all. For example the category of terrorism which formerly was intrinsically linked to political especially left wing violence nowadays is mainly associated with religious violence as it is the case with militant Islamism. Here it should be noted that militant Islamism often is attributed to as religiously *and* politically motivated violence so that one could speak of a recent form of

ideologically motivated and legitimised violence. This also reflects the fact that religion in itself is contemporarily more and more politicised.

On the micro and meso level the potential capacities of individuals and groups are generally more and more systematically included in institutional efforts in violence control. Besides the conventional mechanisms of repression this implicates rather new strategies of preventive measures concerning violence such as social work, integration policies, dialogue etc. Institutional measures of violence control thus systematically involve self-control of individuals and/or groups.

On the macro level of the state monopoly of violence and the corresponding modes of violence control by state institutions there have been recently structural changes concerning the practices of violence and violence control. The political security regimes for example more and more include private actors to which tasks of violence control are delegated by the state. Furthermore in the context of the widely perceived terrorist threat as well as in the perceived growth in everyday forms of violence there takes place an expansion of efforts in violence control, e.g. the surveillance of public spaces etc. Moreover the traditional dichotomy between internal and external security policies of the state tends to be narrowed so that regimes of violence control tend to become ever more exhaustive nationally as well as internationally while at the same time they seem to become ever less effective at least in some respect.

These different perspectives together open up a field of research concerning the future of violence and violence control. In general there seems to be a reciprocal interdependence between the rise in the unpredictability of violence on the one hand and the rise in efforts in violence control on the other hand. The mass media obviously at the same time contribute to a dramatisation and normalisation of violence so that scenarios of violence and violence control currently become main features in the discourse of the self-problematization of society.