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Islamophobia and Hate Crime: Challenges and Opportunities in an Emerging Research Field

Klas Borell

Islamophobic attitudes are deeply rooted in Western Europe, and Muslims have, especially in the post-September 11 context, experienced demonization and hate crime. However, the study of hate crime - that is, criminal conduct motivated by prejudice - is fraught with measurement problems and European law enforcement statistics report only a fraction of incidents. The aim of this study, the first of its kind in Europe, is to present a statistically representative view of how Muslim congregations (n=105) in Sweden experienced the reactions from the surrounding community. The result of the survey carried out shows that half of the congregations have experienced opposition from the local community and in 40 percent of the congregations criminal offences - hate crimes - have been committed against active Muslims or their places of worship. The opposition is closely connected with two types of situations: either international occurrences (i.e. terrorist bombings in, for example, London or Madrid) or local events that have emphasized the presence of Islam in the public sphere. A multivariate analysis of the data shows that the strongest opposition has taken place in small municipalities with a relatively large proportion of immigrants. However, opposition does not preclude support. On the contrary, opposition appears to have a mobilizing effect on those who support the right of Muslims to exercise freedom of religion.

Keywords: Islamophobia - Hate Crimes - Survey - Sweden

Continuities of Cooperation: Anti-Muslim racism in civil society, academia and government

Zülfukar Çetin & Savaş Taş

The 2000s are characterized by anti-Muslim discourses in Western societies marking and constructing *Muslims* as the «dangerous Others». In these discourses, alleged *Muslims* are permanently confronted with culturalistic and biologistic

stigmatization and marginalization that is legitimized, especially in Germany, under the guise of the «scientific». Thus anti-Muslim policies are continuously maintained by a cooperation of government, «science» and civil society which are intertwined and reinforcing each other.

In the article at hand, this cooperation is examined by means of discourse analysis applied to selected studies that have been carried out between 2006 and 2012 in Germany with government funding as joint ventures of one or more scientific institutions and at least a segment of civil society. These studies, in which phenomena like homophobia, anti-Semitism, oppression of women/sexism or fundamentalism are culturalistically attributed to *Muslims*, are reconstructed here. Following the discourse analytical approach, critical questions are explored: How does the cooperation between civil society, academia and state work? To what extent have these three instances together a major role in the penetration of society with anti-Muslim racism?

Keywords: Anti-Muslim racism, civil society, academia, government, islamophobia, discourse

The Formal Social Control of Jihadism and Islamophobiamotivated criminality by German state agencies

Charles A. von Denkowski

The author analyzes the intensity of those early warning measures of formal social control, which the German Offices for the Protection of the Constitution and the sub-states' Criminal Polices' Anti-Terrorism-Departments perform to identify potential Jihadists as well as to tackle Islamophobic hate crimes. The author demands a nationwide monitoring of Islamophobic extremism by the Offices for the Protection of the Constitution. Moreover, he demands a specific registration of Islamophobic hate crimes that has not been performed until today in any of the German sub-states crime statistics. Furthermore, he appreciates the decision made by the state of Bavaria that monitors Islamophobic extremism by its Office for the Protection of the Constitution.

Keywords: Islamophobic Hate Crimes, Jihadists, Office for the Protection of the Constitution, Anti-Terrorism-Department, Crime Statistics of Politically Motivated Crimes, Extremistic Islamophobia

#schauhin 2013

Nadja Elgendy

The essay should indicate the situation of Muslims in Europe. Personal experiences as well as media events of the last two to three years make clear that Muslim women are more often victims of Islamophobic attacks. Muslim women take this often with much humor, but more and more everyday racism is also threatening. Both political parties and media are responsible. It needs strategies to combat Islamophobic attacks to allow the participation of Muslim women at all levels.

Keywords: Muslim women – Islamophobic attacks – victims – responsibility – politics and media – participation

The wide range of anti-Muslim resentment Presenting a multidimensional scale based on qualitative and quantitative researches

Wolfgang Aschauer & Elisabeth Donat

The research on Islamophobic attitudes is still in its infancy although the debate on Muslim immigrants is a major issue in contemporary Western Europe. Indicators of attitudes towards Muslims are normally integrated in large scale international studies but there is only space to include single items. In recent years there have been some first attempts to construct differentiated scales but they still face various problems (e.g. using complex Items, which might lead to misunderstandings and measurement errors). Our research aimed to construct an easy to handle but multidimensional scale of attitudes towards Muslims applying a mixed methods design. Based on a bottom-up process, we started with narrative interviews and finished with an almost representative survey (n = 315) based on a quota sample. 16 in-depth interviews (including biographies of the respondents as well as more problem-centered questions) have been conducted (study 1) in order to explore various dimensions of potential Islamophobic thoughts towards Muslim symbols (e.g. the veil, minarets) and areas of potential threats (e.g. demographic scenarios, terrorism, integration in schools). We were able to derive 12 dimensions of Islamophobia, which guided us during the whole process of item construction and evaluation. The full process of Likert scaling, including a pretest of more than 100 Items (study 2), item analysis and testing the factorial structure and reliability of the items in a quota sample in Salzburg (study 3), was imposed in order to fulfill the main requirements of a valid scale construction. The new scale, consisting of 24 items, seems to be applicable in various survey settings and points out the importance to rely on a multidimensional concept of Islamophobia.

Keywords: Ethnic Prejudice, multidimensionality of islamophobia, mixed methods design, scale construction

Setting a right-wing agenda? The media coverage and far right propaganda against the mosque in cologne

David Christopher Stoop

In 2014, after ten years of intensive debates, the central mosque in Cologne will be officially opened. From the very beginning, the representative mosque has been one of the most highly contested infrastructural projects in the city. In the debates, provisos of local residents because of the expected noise and traffic increase in the area intermingled with narratives interpreting the mosque as a visible sign of Islamic power. Moreover, right-wing extremist groups, especially the Populist Party PRO KÖLN, attempted to instrumentalize the conflict for their anti-Muslim agenda. The article provides a content-analysis of the populist right-wing propaganda against the mosque and media representations of the conflict in local newspapers. It shows that PRO KÖLN was at least partially successful in attracting media attention. Although the right-wing populist group was excluded from the debate by the local media, the topics raised by them nevertheless played an important role in the media coverage.

Keywords: Right-Wing Extremism, Mosque Debates, Media Analysis, Anti-Muslim Racism, Islamophobia

Anti-Muslim racism and teaching: some thoughts on context and methods.

Eva Kalny

Media campaigns like the campaign against Muslim and Jewish circumcision have significant influence on general perceptions of Muslims (and Jews) and increase anti-Muslim racism. While human rights education can be an adequate approach to address these mechanisms of exclusion and discrimination, current anti-Muslim racism constitutes specific challenges with regard to the interactions among students during the teaching process, the topic of "Islam", and the influence of current media debates. The article aims at presenting possible solutions for teaching against Islamophobia and wishes to stimulate exchange of experiences and best practice examples among educators.

Keywords: Islamophobia – human rights education (or: human rights, education) – discrimination – debate on circumcision (or: media)

Tourists and Islam

Ingrid Thurner

For decades, Muslim countries have been touristdestinations for Non-Muslim travelers. However, the relation between tourism and Islam in social sciences has been confined to limited issues such as pilgrims and spiritual trips. But it is unexposed, how the knowledge on Islam of tourists is constituted and how tourists perceive and reflect Islam and Muslim practice during their travels. These questions were asked in a period of time from 2009 to 2012 during ten study trips in Morocco in the context of multilocal and multitemporal study (George Marcus).

Keywords: tourism, Islam, knowledge

On the relation of consuming TV and Islamophobia

Daniel Geschke, Jana Eyssel & Wolfgang Frindte

Despite the large number of Muslims living in Germany and the frequent public debates on Islam-related issues in Germany, direct contact between non-Muslims and Muslims in Germany is rather rare. Therefore, the media representation of Muslims is a crucial source of information and opinion for German non-Muslims. Existing studies have demonstrated that German TV channels cover Muslims and Islam in a biased, negative way. Their focus mostly lies on Islamist terrorism and military action to fight this terrorism. This tendency is stronger in private TV channels (channels RTL and Sat.1) than in public TV channels (channels ARD and ZDF). The present study seeks to investigate the relationship of Islamophobia and (a) the quantity of TV consumption and (b) preferences for public (ARD/ZDF) and private (RTL/Sat.1) TV-channels. In so doing, the study tries to provide new insights on the emergence of Islamophobia and on possible ways to minimise it in non-Muslims. Moreover, we tested Slater's (2007) theory of reinforcing spirals of media selectivity and media effect. It posits that media content and frequency of media use can influence users' attitudes. Simultaneously, these attitudes can influence the choice of media content and the frequency of media use. We conducted a longitudinal two-wave study with a sample of non-Muslim Germans aged 14-32 (N = 100). Results show that the preference for private TV-channels and the level Islamophobia are reciprocally reinforcing. Thus, users preferring RTL/Sat.1 become more Islamophobic over time. Simultaneously, strongly Islamophobic users show increased preferences for RTL/Sat.1. Users preferring ARD/ZDF exhibit no increase of Islamophobia. A lower level of Islamophobia did not lead to a stronger preference of public channels. Additionally, our results showed no longitudinal influence of quantity of TV consumption on Islamophobia. Our study therefore demonstrates the importance of Muslims' media representation for non-Muslims' level of Islamophobia in Germany. A less biased, more neutral or positive representation of Muslims and Islam on German TV could be one important factor in fighting Islamophobia.

Keywords: Islamophobia, media use, media content, private TV-channels, public TV-channels

Ignaz Goldziher: The Orient as an Instrument of Self-Assurance?

Kerim Edipoğlu

The article examines the diary of the Hungarian Orientalist Ignaz Goldziher (d. 1921) in terms of its personal experiences of Islam and the Orient. During his stay in Syria and Egypt in 1873, Goldziher actually recorded in his diary only positive memories about his contact with Muslims and Islamic culture. However, this seems not to be reflected in his academic works on these subjects.

Goldziher had difficulties in finding access to the official academic circles of Oriental Studies during the greater part of his life. It seems that he has studied religion and history of Islam for decades in order to survive (psychologically) the hardships of his life as secretary of the Jewish community in Budapest and to get along with the humiliations and rivalries inside the community. The Goldziher of the diary as a vulnerable person, constantly struggling for the construction of his self-image is in sharp contrast to the self-confident Goldziher of academic scholarship who attempts to deconstruct the basic sources of Islam with his harsh criticism.

His experience with the institutionalized anti-Semitism of the university on the one hand and the rejection and contempt of his own Jewish community on the other hand seem to have brought forth a personality who could only find satisfaction in the deconstruction of the Islamic sources – at the expense of the absent Muslims.

Keywords: Goldziher, Islam, orientalism, orient, anti-Semitism