Police and young people in multiethnic societies (POLIS)

A mixed methods-approach in Germany and France

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Background

London/GB

Paris/F

…and Germany?
The research project POLIS

Project partners:
- University of Grenoble – Institute for Political Science, France
- Max-Planck-Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law, Dept. of Criminology, Freiburg, Germany

Project aim:
- Systematic comparison of everyday police-adolescents-relationship

Mixed-Methods Approach:
- **Qualitative**: Participant Observations (Police), Interviews (Police)
- **Quantitative**: School Survey (n=20,000)
[Comparative Findings]
Quantitative findings: proactive police stops by origin

**Germany**

- Percent: 15% for 1-2, 10% for 3-5, 5% for >5

**France**

- Percent: 10% for 1-2, 5% for 3-5, 5% for >5

Error bars: 95% CI
Qualitative findings: stop and search conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>France</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Police units</strong></td>
<td>community police officers</td>
<td>repressive forces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stop and search</strong></td>
<td>maintaining contacts</td>
<td>fighting crime</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Locations/ territories</strong></td>
<td>policing places</td>
<td>policing neighborhoods</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Qualitative findings: treatment of ethnic differences

Germany: Awareness of differentness

„Fundamentally, first of all I try to treat everyone as neutral and equal as possible, because I know that I have stereotypes in mind“ (patrol officer, Cologne).

France: Practicing the “republican ideal”

„As soon as they have a French identity card they are French, so I don‘t make any difference“ (patrol officer, Grenoble).
Quantitative findings: police legitimacy – overall scale

The bar chart shows the mean sum index of police legitimacy for Germany and France, categorized by ethnicity.

- **Germany**:
  - Native: Approximately 3.0
  - Maghreb/Turk.: Approximately 2.5
  - Other: Approximately 2.0

- **France**:
  - Native: Approximately 2.5
  - Maghreb/Turk.: Approximately 2.0
  - Other: Approximately 2.0

Error bars represent 95% CI.
Thank you for your attention!

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