

# 2013 Annual CEPOL Police Research & Science Conference

Session: Public perception of police  
and police work 11. September 2013

## **POLICE USE OF FORCE**

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# Images



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gegung der unangenehmen Art: Polizisten in Kampfmontur führen einen Protestierer ab.







# Illegitimate Use of Force

Situations and Standard Explanations

Typology of Violence

Confrontational tension, Escalation  
and Violence

# Standard Explanations

- Personality
- Broken Home
- Biographies of violent offenders
- Discrimination/ migrant background
- Masculinity/ Male Violence
- „The Society“: Desintegration, Individualization, Modernization

# Violence: Differences

Typology: Situations of Violence (Collins)

Violence as Entertainment

Ritual and Rules: Martial Arts Confrontations

Incompetent Violence

Attacking the Weak

Violence: Enjoy!

Stage, Sports et cetera



# Methodology

- Technology of recording (digicams)
- In combination with skill of „analyst’s view“
- Recordings
- Reconstructions
- Observation
- Best findings: combination of methods

# Police Violence

- “Police violence... is like other kinds of violence“...“...most of the people avoid violence.“ (Randall Collins)
- Use of Force (US Studies): 5-8%
- Excessive Use of Force: less than 2%

# Code (Wall) of Silence

- Loyalty
- Isolation
- Consequences of Whistle blowing for colleague(s)
- Police is a professional culture based on secrecy and keeping of secrets
- Transparency in case of abuse
- Inside/Outside?



## Control/ reduction of illegitimate use of force by police officers

- Transparency without dobbing in (treason)
- „Secrecy“/Isolation results in WoS
- Transparency is prevention of violence
- Delegation of reporting; letters to superiors:  
„We feel obliged to inform you about an incident...“
- H. Omer: Ecology of Violence is changed