

Young People and Collective Violence: Identity Performance, Communication, and Belonging Through Violence

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Violence is *NOT* senseless

Collective Violence is *Communicative*

Violence is *Performative*

As per the World Health Organisation:

Violence is *Reducible*

Violence is *Preventable*

European Study of Youth Mobilisation Partners



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ESYM Inputs 2008-2011

9 Workshops in Bratislava, Brno, Budapest, Copenhagen, Helsinki, and Stockholm

- 250 Police practitioners, local authorities, community workers, young people and academics

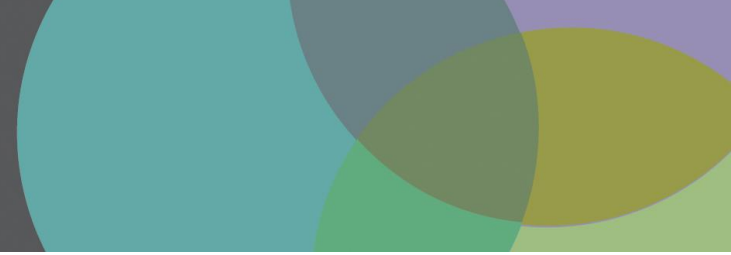
817 Interviews in Bratislava, Brno, Budapest, Krakow, Prague and Warsaw

- Interviews with young people from 18-31
- Mixed Methodologies, including 85 item survey, social network socio-gram, socio-spatial mapping, and qualitative engagements
- Interviews ran 2-4 hours.

With Whom Did We Speak?

- Far Left / Anarchists / Environmentalist 156
- Gay / Feminists 148
- Civil Rights Activists 98
- Ethnic Jews / Roma / Ethnic Minorities 126
- Religious / Baptists / Evangelicals 165
- Far Right / Nationalists / Neo-Fascists 124

Women 47% and Men 51% (2% not-reporting)



Belonging to a Group is Social Capital

“ You are not invisible; you can do something, gain respect – you can be someone.”

-- Earth Liberation Activist, Krakow, Poland. M-E-1-12-K

“ I did badly in school. I am dyslexic; I could not read, and I was laughed at. But inside the [white power] movement I could be a leader.”

-- Ex-neo-Nazi, Stockholm, Sweden



Violence as Part of Belonging to a Group

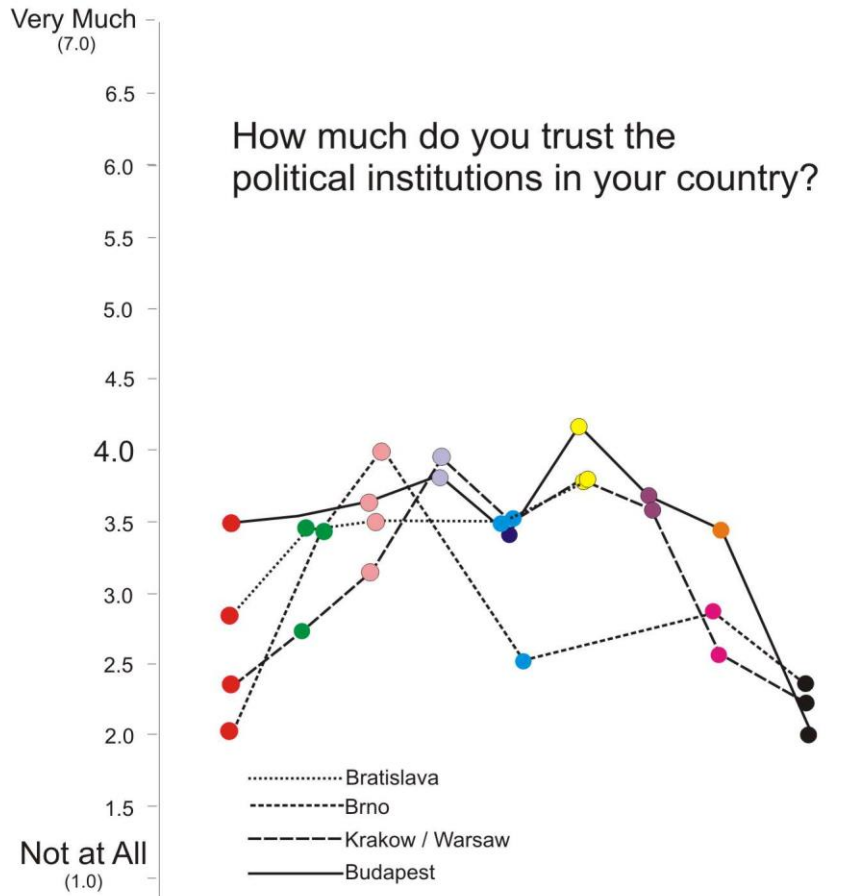
“ Violence is the initial phase you must go through to become a member, and that you must return to [in order] to be [seen as] active.”

-- Neo-Nazi, Brno, Czech Rep. G-Z-1-12-N

...group violence provides the “feeling that someone will stand up for you. ”

-- Anarchist, Budapest, Hungary, L-Rs-2-09-

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11 Item scale of different institutions

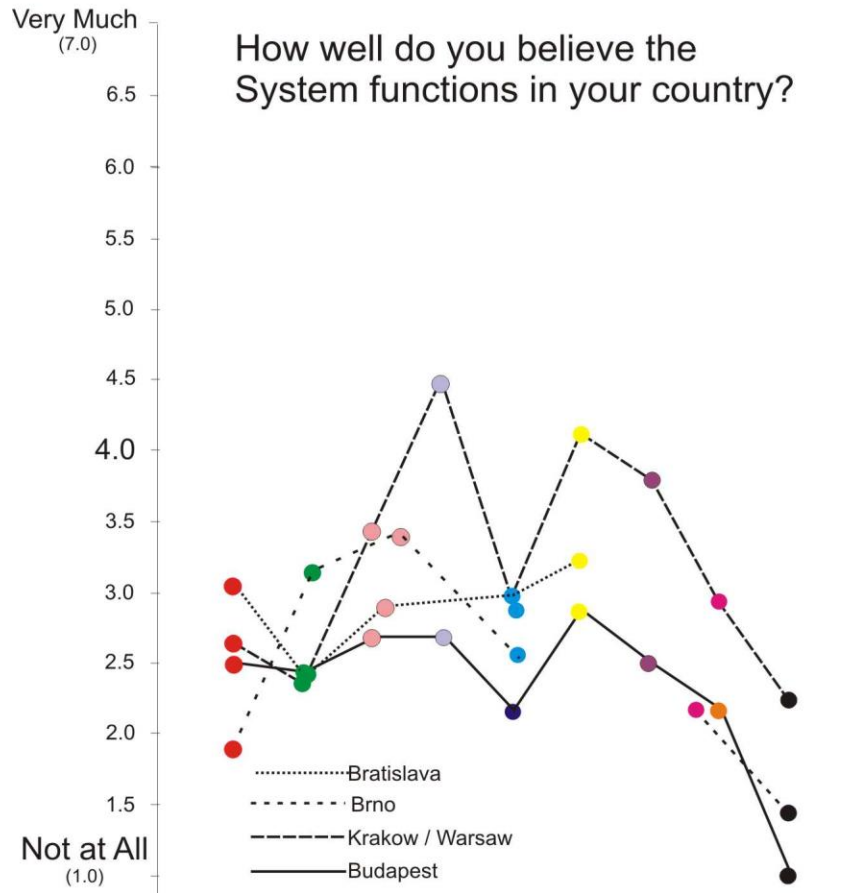
75% of all respondents in all 5 cities
Stated that they did not trust at all or
did not trust their national government.

70% did not trust political parties.

2/3 of all respondents in Bratislava,
Brno and Budapest said that they did
not believe that they or their parents
were represented in the government.

Far-right, nationalists, and the far-left
expressed the least trust in all
institutions.

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5 Item Scale, including questions on whether respondents supported the government or thought the system functions well.

86% of all Budapest respondents thought that the System did not function well, and a full 30% thought NOT at all.

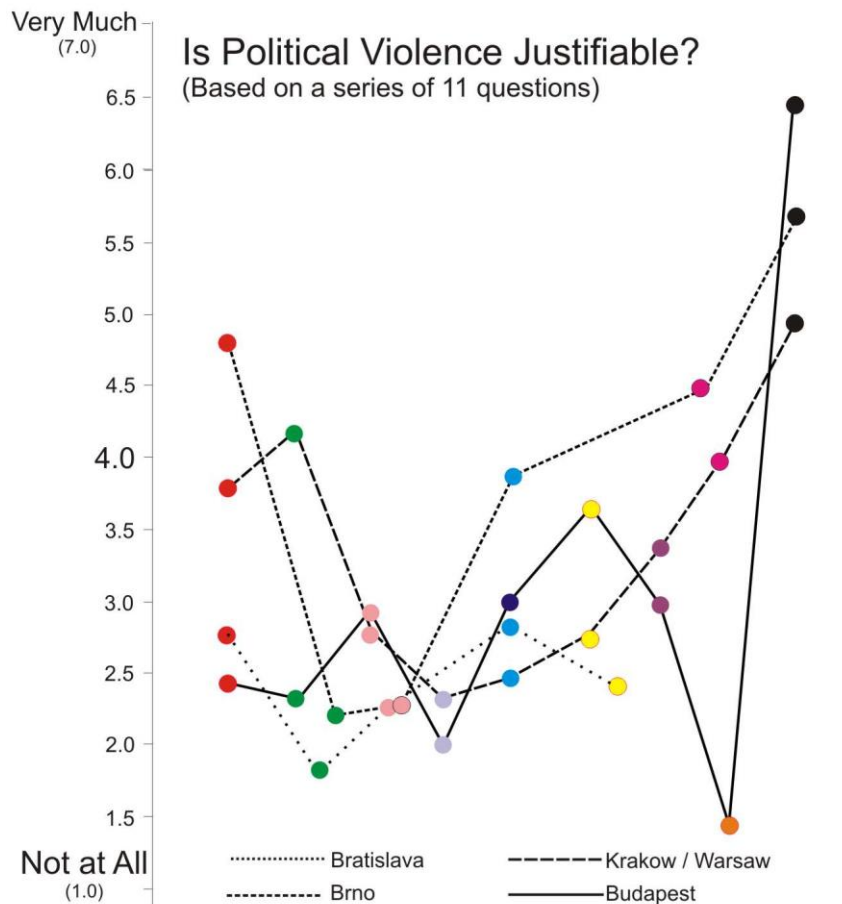
All far-right Jobbik supporters thought the system did not function well, and in all five cities the far right and ethnically motivated nationalists thought the system did not function.

90% of the far-right and nationalists in all five cities thought the government does “TOO MUCH” for other groups.

Violence Questions: 11 items in Total

- I think violence is justified at times.
- My friends think violence is necessary at times.
- My group would be legitimate in using violence to resist another group.
- People who use violence against the government have reason to do so.
- The use of violence by some groups is seen as more legitimate than if used against groups.

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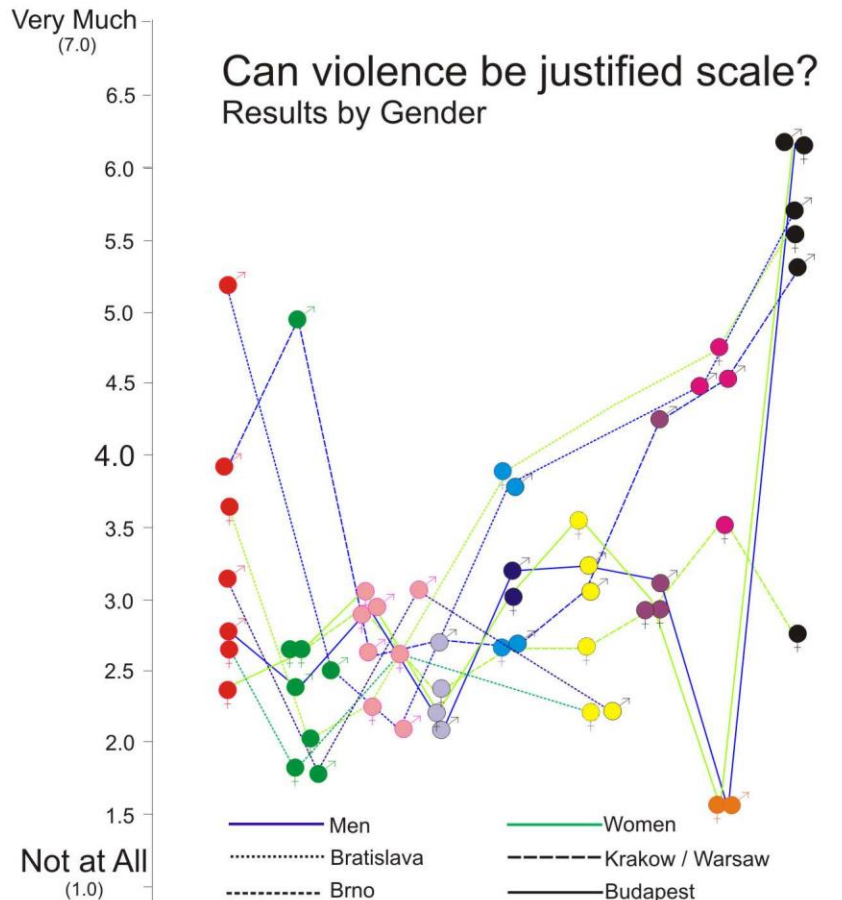
96% of Jobbik supporters in Budapest said those that use violence had a great deal of reason for doing so.

70% of all respondents in Budapest, and 67% of all respondents in Brno thought the world is becoming a more violent place.

88% of all respondents in Bratislava thought violence was legitimate if people were acting against the government because it was not doing its job.

Near all far-right respondents in all five cities thought physical force in the act of resisting the police, even when directed against the police, is justifiable.

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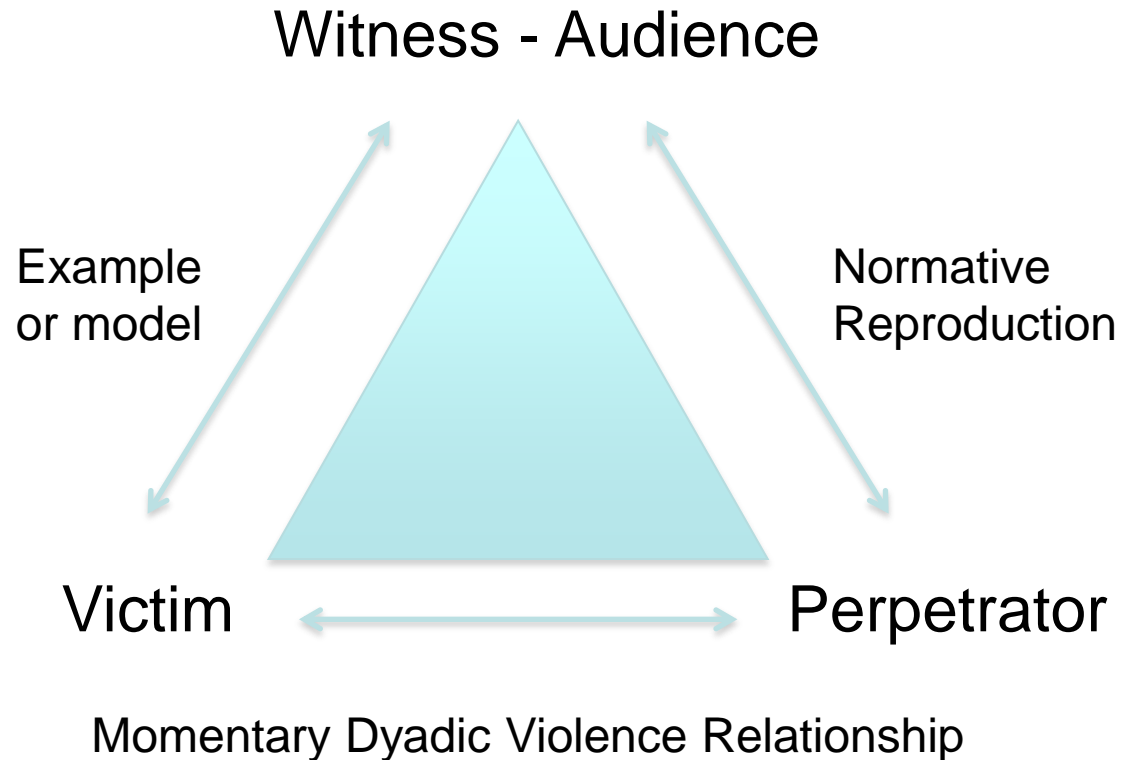
- Far-Left/Radical Socialist
- Environmentalist
- Gay / Feminist
- Religious (Cz/Slo)
- Baptist (Hu) Catholic (Po)
- Evangelical (Hu)
- Ethnic Polish
- Ethnic Jewish
- Civil Rights / Student
- Roma (Hungary)
- Ethnic Non-Polish
- Fidelitas (Hu)
- Far-Right (Cz/Po)
- Jobbik (Hu)

Gender did not matter in the expression of legitimacy for violence.

Violence justified as group value.



David Riches “Violence Triangle”



SIPR / British Council European Study of Youth Mobilisation

Can be found at:

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/intrel/esym/media/

Thank You



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