



# „Crime in Germany under the influence of global crises and conflicts?“

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Subjective sense of security and  
expectations of society

Abstract

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Perceived security and fear of crime and violence correlate only to a limited extent with the objective security situation. The subjective sense of security differs from the objective security situation in particular when security issues become the subject of political and media debates, as in the current public debate regarding (alleged) security threats posed by immigration. This contribution describes the psychological mechanisms which make the combination of discussions on violence and the topic of immigration extremely effective. These include categorization processes, feelings of negative interdependence and the conditioning of negative emotions such as fear and hatred. It is of particular importance to closely examine such psychological mechanisms as they provide information for developing effective intervention and prevention measures.