

PSYCHOSOCIAL ANTECEDENTS OF HATE CRIMES

HATE CRIMES ON CAMPUS

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Hate Crime

- Criminal action intended to harm or intimidate people because of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion or other minority groups status (Herek, et.al.,1999)
- Hate as a normative judgement
- Emotion, Disposition, or Syndrome (Stermberg,2005)

Source of Hate

- Hate involves anger with a self perception of powerlessness
- More likely when the transgressor perceives self as a superior than a subordinate (Fitness, 2000)
- Role of perceived loss of privilege

Duplex Theory of Hate

Sternberg, 2005

- Hate is closely related psychologically to love
- Hate is neither the opposite of love nor the absence of love
- Hate, like love, can be characterized by triangular structure generated by these stories
- Hate is a major precursor of many terrorist acts, massacres, and genocides

Triangular Structure of Hate

- Negation of Intimacy (Distancing) in Hate: Repulsion and Disgust
- Passion in Hate: Anger-Fear
- Decision-Commitment in Hate: Devaluation-diminution Through Contempt

Hate, Conflict, and Moral Exclusion

(Opotow, 1990)

- When hate becomes destructive, morals act as accelerant
- Moral exclusion results from moral justifications for doing harm
- Hate is relational and intrapsychic
- Emotions and Cognitions are the building blocks

Moral Exclusion

- Views those excluded as psychologically distant and unconnected with oneself
- Lacks constructive obligations or responsibilities toward those excluded
- Views those excluded as nonentities, expendable, and undeserving of fairness and the community resources and sacrifices that could foster well-being
- Condones procedures and outcomes for those excluded that would be unacceptable for those inside the scope of justice.

FBI hate Crime Definition

- Pre formed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of persons based on their race, religion, ethnicity/national origin, or sexual orientation.
- Perpetrator perspective that their actions are justified by their beliefs and values; some kinds of people are outside the scope of justice
- Inflicting harm is a justified and worthy goal

Hate Crimes on Campus

- Matthew Shepard, Jena 6, Noose incidents
- 1998 statistics based on 450 colleges and universities from 40 states
- 241 incidents of hate crime reported by 222 schools
 - 57% motivated by race
 - 18% motivated by anti-Semitism
 - 16% motivated by sexual orientation

Hate Crime vs Bias Incidents

- Bias incidents defined as acts of prejudice not accompanied by violence, threat of violence, property damage, or other illegal conduct
- May violate some campus disciplinary or harassment policies, but not rise to criminal hate crime statutes
- Temple University ruling for free speech

Cyber –Harassment & Hate

- E-mail
 - Organization recruitment example
- Texting
 - Free and anonymous websites
- Blogging
 - Free speech anything goes culture
- Juicy Campus.com
 - Gossip, hate speech and bullying peers

Campus Response Principles

- There is no such thing as a “local event” that can be contained
- Silence is *Acquiescence*



Possible Best practices

- Prepared news releases for anticipated events
- Bias Response Team, BART – e.g. The Ohio State University
- Comprehensive Campus website e.g. Miami University
- Campus Dialogues
- Alternative action campaigns e.g. University of Missouri

References

