

Presentation title:

“Is it my gender or because I live here?” A multilevel analysis of regional influence on fear of crime, comparing woman and men in Germany

Speaker: Henrik Schwarze (Federal Criminal Police Office, Germany)

Co-authors: Nathalie Leitgöb-Guzy and Ina Bieber (Federal Criminal Police Office, Germany)

Fear of crime can play an important role in the daily routine of every person's life. Not only can fear of crime perpetuate insecurities, it can also lead to a specific pattern of behaviour, such as avoidance behaviour or social withdrawal. Fear of crime is a complex concept and can be measured on different levels. Numerous studies have already shown the influence on fear of crime by individual dispositions, values, own experiences with crime, or socio-economic variables like education or the size and income of the own household. Various studies further show the impact of context variables like crime rates or other regional indicators. In comparison, there are relatively few findings about structural indicators explaining the differences in a cognitive, emotional and conative dimension of fear of crime between women and men, like different patterns of avoidance behavior (e.g. avoidance of public transportation or public places during the night). To answer this question, two data bases are used for the analyses: individual data of over 45,000 participants will be used from the first wave of the recently established victimisation-survey “Safety and Crime in Germany (SKiD)”. The questionnaire includes three dimensions of fear of crime. The second data basis includes a number of regional indicators (e.g. unemployment rates, public transportation and health services, immigrational quotas or socio-economic composition). Both data-sets will be combined on a county level (Germany: Kreis) to use multi-level models for the analysis, trying to explain gender-differences in fear of crime, taking regional context into consideration.