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**Presentation title:** The conjuncture of the narrative, the emotional and the digital in contemporary forms of hate crime and ideologically motivated violence

Recent social movement scholarship focusing on right-wing mobilization in the global north (mainly Europe and the US) has pointed towards at least three interesting insights, that are also relevant for contemporary criminological research on hate crime and ideologically motivated crime: First, scholars have emphasized the analytical significance of affect, emotion, narrative, conspiracy, and the imaginary when it comes to understanding the driving forces behind contemporary right-wing political mobilization and ideologically related hate crimes. Secondly, the significant role digital media technologies play in arousing and amplifying right-wing emotional dynamics, such as feelings of pride, hate, anger, nostalgia, fear, or love has been emphasized. Furthermore, social movement and affect study scholars have shown that the convention to distinguish sharply between online and offline realms of political mobilization is increasingly inept and misleading when it comes to recent right-wing practices of world-making, including violent hate crimes. Criminological research on hate crime cannot afford to ignore these trends identified by scholars from other fields and should find a way to address the interrelations of the emotional, the narrative, and the digital when theorizing about ideologically motivated crime and violence in contemporary societies. Drawing on the cases of two South African xenophobic movements, called “Put South Africans First” and “Operation Dudula”, which both emerged shortly after the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa in early 2020, this paper sets out to explore the distinct shape of xenophobic hate crime in post-apartheid South Africa. In its comparative design, this paper contributes to the literature on hate crime and ideologically motivated violence by highlighting the similarities, but also the differences, between hate crimes in South Africa and ideologically motivated violence in the United States and Europe.