

Presentation title:

Investigative Genetic Genealogy: A quantitative study on attitudes towards the method IGG

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The aim of this study was to contribute with an understanding of how Swedish citizens view the use of the investigative method "Investigative Genetic Genealogy". The aim was fulfilled by examining what attitudes Swedish citizens express towards IGG and the balance between personal integrity and criminal investigation within the context of IGG. For a more in-depth understanding of the shown attitudes, the aim was to examine if there were any differences in attitudes depending on individual factors. The Swedish citizens were represented by 297 individuals who, through a snowball sampling, were included in this study and their attitudes were investigated through an online survey. The material was analyzed through descriptive analyzes, partly through bivariate analysis in SPSS and partly through a qualitative thematic analysis. Håkan Hydén's "Circle of Motives" and David Garland's concept "the Collective Experience of Crime," were applied for the analysis of the result. The study found that the Swedish citizens included in this study generally displayed positive attitudes towards IGG, mainly in the case of more serious crime and in the identification of human remains, and generally showed attitudes in line with the fact that the need for criminal investigations outweighs the individual right to personal integrity, within the framework of IGG. Further on, the study found that one's gender, the perceived level of crime in Sweden today and the degree of trust in the Swedish police authority were variables that showed to be related to one's attitudes towards IGG, within the sample included in this study.