

ALTEROPHOBIA AND HATE CRIME

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About the Presenter

- ★ Chartered Psychologist with, and Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society; Chartered Scientist with the (British) Science Council
- ★ Director of Research, and tenured Professor (Assistant) in the Psychology of Education at the School of Education, Trinity College Dublin; visiting lecturer at the University of South-East Norway
- ★ Author of the forthcoming *Marginalisation and Aggression, from Bullying to Genocide: Critical Educational and Psychological Perspectives* (Sense, 2016 / 2017), and *Using Psychology in the Classroom* (Sage, 2012); co-author of *Dealing with Bullying in Schools: A Training Manual for Teachers, Parents and Other Professionals* (Sage, 2004) and *Cyber-Bullying: The Irish Experience* (Nova Science, 2011); authored and co-authored numerous scholarly articles, chapters and conference papers, mainly on the subjects of school bullying and violence
- ★ Regularly called upon to provide training and presentations to various groups within schools and the broader community in Ireland and occasionally abroad

Defining 'Alterophobia'

- ★ Alterophobia may be defined as '*prejudice directed towards members of alternative sub-cultures, including those who are, or are perceived as being, goths, punks, emos, skaters and fans of heavy metal, and those who listen to any type of alternative music*' (Minton, 2012)
- ★ The prejudice is held to be '....based on the way they look and that their musical and other interests differ from the mainstream' (Alterophobia Blogspot, 2011; in Minton, 2012)
- ★ At present, the term 'alterophobia' must still be considered to be a neologism: it has no Oxford English Dictionary entry, but does have a Wiki Categorisation (since November 2015); only 971 results on Google Search undertaken on 23.5.16
- ★ Deliberately modelled after other forms of prejudice that utilise a '-phobia' suffix, e.g. homophobia, transphobia

Research Addressing 'Alterophobia' (I)

★ Alterophobic Bullying (Minton, 2012)

- ★ In May 2010, sample of 820 fifth-year (age ca. 16 – 17 years) secondary school students (341 male (41.4%), 483 female (58.6%)), at nine schools covering the entire geographical area of the Republic of Ireland, completed a very simple, short questionnaire
- ★ Items on group / sub-cultural membership (self- and other-perceived); frequency of having been bullied, and having bullied others; which groups are more likely to be bullied, and which are more likely to bully others
- ★ Definitions supplied for 'Chav', 'D4', 'Mosher / Rocker', 'Goth', 'Emo'; 'None' and 'Other' options were supplied
- ★ Low general membership of sub-cultures; statistically significantly more likely to perceive that one is identified by others, rather than to self-identify, as a member of a sub-culture
- ★ Statistically significantly more likely (than the sample mean) for Moshers / Rockers and Emos to report having been bullied (proportion of self-identified goths in the sample too small to calculate result)
- ★ Sample reported that members of alternative sub-cultures (goths, emos, mothers / rockers) are more likely to be bullied than are members of mainstream sub-cultures (chavs, D4s)
- ★ Sample reported that members of mainstream sub-cultures are more likely to bully others than are members of mainstream sub-cultures
- ★ Recommended that alterophobia should be investigated further; alterophobic bullying should be taken seriously, and mentioned specifically in schools' anti-bullying policy statements

Research Addressing 'Alterophobia' (II)

★ Leicester Hate Crime Project (2012 - 2014)

- ★ ESRC-funded two-year study involving on-line and hard-copy surveys, in-depth, semi-structured face-to-face interviews, and personal and reflective researcher field diary observations that permitted engagement with over 4,000 members of established and emerging communities
- ★ subculture and 'dress and appearance' emerged as a significant contributory factor in (especially multiple-causal factor) experiences of hate crime victimisation
- ★ see Chakraborti, Garland & Hardy, 2014

★ Alterophobia and Alterophobic Bullying elsewhere

- ★ A focus of '*Munchgruppen*', a collaborative research group (Trinity College Dublin / University College of South-East Norway) - various conference presentations (2013 to date)
- ★ In Russia - Evgeny Shorygin - papers in 2015
- ★ In UK - undergraduate psychology thesis in 2015

‘Alterophobia’ and Street Crime (I)

★ The Murder of Brian Deneke (USA, 1998)

- ★ 19 year-old punk) killed in a deliberate hit and run attack in Amarillo, Texas
- ★ The driver (Dustin Camp, a 17 year-old football playing ‘jock’) was found guilty only of voluntary vehicular manslaughter, sentenced to ten years probation and given a \$10,000 fine (Lyons, 1999; Yardley, 1999)
- ★ At trial, Camp’s defense attorney characterised punks as aggressors (referring to them as ‘armed goons’) and emphasised Camp’s wholesomeness, Christianity and ‘normalcy’ (Lyons, 1999)
- ★ Subsequently, Camp’s underage-drinking related parole violations led to his being given an eight year sentence in 2001, from which he was paroled in 2006 (Packard, 2007)
- ★ Numerous tribute gigs and concerts have been held for Brian Deneke since his death (Lutz, 2000; Packard, 2007)

‘Alterophobia’ and Street Crime (II)

★ The Murder of Sophie Lancaster (UK, 2007)

- ★ 20 year-old gap-year student who, along with her boyfriend, was attacked by a gang of teenagers in Lancashire England. Both were kicked comatose; Ms Lancaster did not recover
- ★ It was reported that at the time that those attacked had been dressed in the ‘goth’ style, and that this that had ‘provoked’ the attack (Butt, 2007; Wainwright, 2008)
- ★ In sentencing two of the teenagers for Ms Lancaster’s murder, Judge Anthony Russell QC commented that, ‘....this was a hate crime against these completely harmless people targeted because their appearance was different to yours’ (BBC News, 2008)
- ★ UK charity ‘The Sophie Lancaster Foundation’ founded and began its activities (see next slide)

The Sophie Lancaster Foundation (I)

- ★ Following the attack on Sophie and her partner, Sophie's mother, Mrs Sylvia Lancaster, received offers of support and donations - so a charity was set up to:
 - ★ create a lasting legacy to Sophie
 - ★ provide educational group-works that will challenge the prejudice and intolerance towards people from alternative subcultures
 - ★ campaign to have the UK Hate Crime legislation extended to include people from alternative subcultures or lifestyle and dress
 - ★ work in conjunction with politicians and police forces to ensure individuals who are part of subcultures are protected by the law
- ★ The S.O.P.H.I.E. campaign has been very well supported by musicians of all genres, including the Bloodstock, Download, Whitby Goth and Rebellion Punk festivals, and members of alternative subcultures
- ★ Has developed the S.O.P.H.I.E. educational resources, and a training programme, at both the primary and secondary school levels, also for youth groups, young offenders institutions and prisons
- ★ In 2014, Sylvia Lancaster was awarded an OBE for 'Community Cohesion, Especially In Reduction Of Hate Crime'
- ★ Held the world's first Alternative Hate Crime Conference in Lancashire in November 2014

The Sophie Lancaster Foundation (II)

★ An Irish Dimension

- ★ I invited Sylvia Lancaster to Ireland in October 2011, and there I arranged for her to meet and speak with various politicians and colleagues. Sylvia gave input into the Erris Anti-Bullying Initiative (Co. Mayo), and a guest lecture in Trinity College Dublin
- ★ We have trained seven teachers in Northern Ireland and Ireland in the use of the S.O.P.H.I.E. Educational Resource (November, 2012)
- ★ We will continue to give the SLF all the support we can from Ireland

★ 'Black Roses'

- ★ Developed as a radio programme for BBC Radio Four, which combines interview material with Sylvia Lancaster with the poetry of Simon Armitage; became a stage-play, and now an award-winning film (the Royal Television Society; 'Black Roses' won the 'best single drama or drama series' award; Julie Hesmondhalgh won the 'best performance in a single drama or drama series (female)' award) (screened on BBC4, 11th October, 2015)
- ★ 'Black Roses' events involve the showing of the film, with a Q & A session afterwards
- ★ **Coming to Ireland this year (2016) - most likely at Trinity College Dublin in October / November - get in touch with me for details!**

★ Please see:

- ★ www.sophielancasterfoundation.com
- ★ <https://www.facebook.com/thesophielancasterfoundation/?fref=ts>

‘Alterophobia’ and Hate Crime

- ★ Sylvia Lancaster met with the then UK Justice Minister, Jack Straw, in May 2009, to discuss the need to update the legislation
- ★ Sylvia Lancaster has been a member of the Cross Party Independent Hate Crime Advisory Group to the UK Government since 2010
- ★ In 2013, Greater Manchester Police became the UK’s first to monitor and record hate crimes and incidents against people from alternative subcultures
- ★ Eleven other UK police authorities have since followed their example (Bedfordshire, Durham, Hampshire, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire, West Mercia and West Yorkshire)
- ★ The SLF took a key role in both Leicestershire NHS’s and Warwickshire Police’s Hate Crime Awareness Week events in 2015
- ★ Ireland has yet to criminalise the hate element of crime; however, ‘alterophobia’ was reflected in the recommendations made by the Hate and Hostility Research Group at the University of Limerick, regarding legislative reform in this area (see Haynes, Schweppes et al., 2015)
- ★ The campaign continues....

Thank you for listening

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