

Abstract zur Masterarbeit

**Die empirische Erforschung von Körperverletzung im Amt durch Polizeibeamte
– zum aktuellen Stand, Grenzen und Möglichkeiten**

von Hanna Meyer

This master thesis asks the question how research in Germany on the police use of excessive force can be carried out in the future in order to provide guidance concerning thematic areas, methodological approaches, instruments as well as data and theory. The need to raise this question results from the fact that police officers use force on a daily basis and from time to time in inappropriate ways as a result of inexperience or by purpose. At the same time research found evidence that the handling of criminal proceedings against police officers appear to provide complicated conditions for the victims to enforce their rights. Additionally, the German political climate seems to prevent in-depth research and therefore challenges objective discourse.

By analysing German research projects the thesis finds deficiencies of the current research mainly in the area of it's access to the field, the lack of data as well as the dispersion of research work. Due to the rich base of research abroad, selected US-American papers were analysed and opportunities for the research in Germany were developed. The results show that many ideas can be generated from existing work in the US, ranging from a stronger focus on the transactional characteristics of encounters to the operationalisation of traditional police culture and the use of systematic social observation methods. Surprisingly, the US research does not provide an answer on how to assess offenses that remain undetected by law enforcement agencies. This might indicate that there is a need for the development of new research instruments in Germany as well as internationally in order to gain insights into unexposed cases of police violence.