

Copie de la proposition de communication scientifique, soumise pour une participation au Congrès annuel de l'American Society of Criminology, Philadelphie, Novembre 2017.

TITRE : Violence in the Deep South: The Relation Between Homicide, Economic Inequalities, Culture and Social Control.

It is well known that the Southern states of the U.S. have the highest levels of violence in the nation. However, there is no real consensus about the fundamental causes of this violence. Several researches highlight the impact of the Southern culture on the level of violence, while others conclude of the importance of socioeconomic inequalities, particularly between races, or the importance of poverty.

The present research analyzes the gap between structural and cultural theories by integrating inequalities and culture in the larger spectrum of formal and informal social control.

In this logic, we compare the variation of a main dependent variable, the 2014 homicide rate in the five Deep South states, considered as the most representative of the Southern culture, with the homicide rate in the rest of the United-States.

This variation is analyzed according to: the Gini coefficient of the states; the percentage of people living under the poverty level; the number of people born in the South; the arrest and incarceration rates; the main religion in the states and the church attendance rates.

We discuss the results by addressing the importance of considering the more holistic social control system when focusing on homicide and inequalities.

Thématique : Area IV. Correlates of Crime / 12. Poverty and Structural Inequalities.