

Hate at the Scene of the Crime: Interrogating Place in Hate Crime Analysis



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Where Hate Happens: A Review

While agencies continually provide data relating hate crime to specific locations, researchers continually fail to critically examine this relationship. To more thoroughly examine hate crime's elements, I ask how an anti-religious motivation affects where an offender chooses to commit a hate crime.

To clarify, *hate crime* refers to "a mechanism of power intended to sustain somewhat precarious hierarchies, through violence and threats of violence. [Such violence] is generally directed toward those whom our society has traditionally stigmatized and marginalized"¹.



Public Parochial Private

Social Domain Illustration

Routine Activity Theory & Social Domain

Routine Activity Theory explains delinquency or crime as the general result of three distinct elements: "(1) motivated offenders, (2) suitable targets, and (3) the absence of capable guardians against a violation"². In this context, criminals behave "in accordance with a rational assessment of the costs and benefits of their behavior"³. Eck adds a fourth criteria into the framework, "a facilitating place without an attentive manager"⁴.

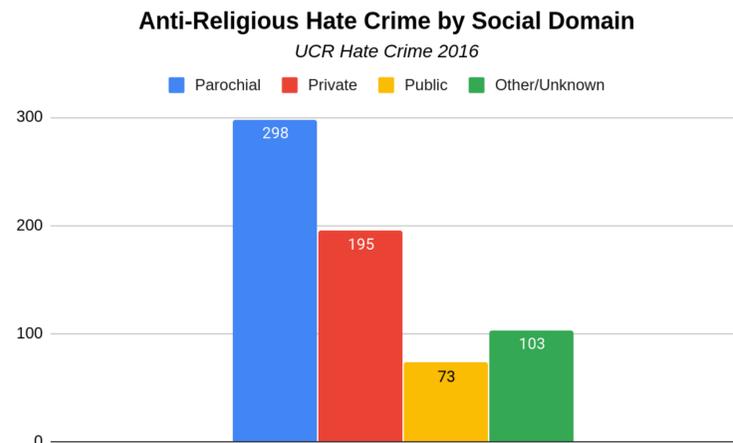
I use Hunter's classification of social orders and their domain as *public*, *parochial*, or *private*⁵.

- *Public* orders are formalized and ritualistic and domains include bureaucratic places.
- *Parochial* orders are based on interpersonal networks and institutions. Their domains include churches, stores, and schools.
- *Private* orders are based on kinship, intimacy, and friendship. The most common domain is the private residence.

Data & Method

Using the 2016 UCR Hate Crime (N = 4956) and National Crime Victimization Survey (N=287) datasets, I classify locations according to their domains, adding a fourth "unknown/other" category. I then run cross-tabulations and a multinomial logistic regression to determine:

1. Whether reported anti-religious crime or anti-religious victimization is associated with spatial domain.
2. Whether the above are more likely to occur/be reported in parochial spaces than other ones.
3. Whether there is any relationship between anti-religious hate crime and overall violence.



Results

- Cross Tabulations reveal a significant but weak association between reported anti-religious hate crime and spatial domain.
- Cross Tabulations show support for anti-religious hate crime occurring in parochial spaces. Put another way, about 45% of reported anti-religious hate crimes occur in parochial spaces.
- Regressions show no significant findings regarding public spaces, but show that both non-violent anti-religious offenses and violent non-anti-religious offenses are less likely to be reported in private over parochial spaces.
- Neither crosstabs nor regressions show support for a relationship between anti-religious hate crime and overall violence.
- Due to a small sample size, no significant data was found regarding victimizations.

Domain	Model 1 ^a			Model 2 ^b		
	Violent, Anti-Religious Offense	Nonviolent, Anti-Religious Offense	Violent, Non-Anti-Religious Offense	Violent, Anti-Religious Offense	Nonviolent, Anti-Religious Offense	Violent, Non-Anti-Religious Offense
Private vs. Parochial	.718(.346)	--	--	.618(.346)	.758(.103)*	.426(.101)**
Public vs. Parochial	1.074(.432)	--	--	1.089(.433)	.900(.148)	1.143(.116)
Other vs. Parochial	2.831(.340)*	--	--	2.976(.342)**	1.657(.138)*	.836(.145)
LR Chi-Square(df)	12.124(3) *			127.342(9)**		
Cox and Snell	.002			.025		
Nagelkerke	.020			.031		
McFadden	.019			.015		

N = 4956
^a Other Offense Reference Category
^b Nonviolent, Non Anti-Religious Offense Reference Category
 *, p < .05, **, p < .001
 OR- Odds Ratio, SE - Standard Error, LR - Likelihood Ratio, df - degrees of freedom

Multinomial logistic regression (UCR Hate Crime 2016)

Conclusions

Anti-religious hate crime and spatial domain share a significant association. My findings show that anti-religious hate crime constitutes a rationalized threat. However, the exact logic behind place selection remains unclear. Record discrepancies, conflicting priorities between agencies, and other datasets' inadequacy in addressing elements that official hate crime reports overlook exacerbate this ambiguity. Future research relating hate crime to places should utilize purposeful sampling of victims and detailed discussion with them on *where* offenses occur.

Acknowledgments

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References

Images courtesy of Pexels.

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