

**Interdisciplinary Institute for
Conflict and Violence Research**

University of Bielefeld ■ Postbox 10 01 31 ■ D-33501 Bielefeld

Mr. Dr. George Gerbner
Director of the Cultural Indicators Research Project
at the University City Science Center
Chair of the Cultural Environment Movement
Temple University
Philadelphia, PA 19104
U.S.A.

Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Heitmeyer
Telefon: +521 106-3164
Fax: +521 106-6415
E-Mail: ikg@uni-bielefeld.de

Prof. John Hagan Ph.D.
Fax: +847 491-9907
E-Mail: sociol@nwu.edu

Bielefeld, July 7, 1999

Dear Mr. Gerbner,

We are writing to invite you to participate in the development of an international handbook designed to fill a gap in the scientific literature on violence.

Violence is obviously not a problem that is restricted to any particular time or place. Yet there are too few efforts to coordinate, compare and synthesize our knowledge of crime and violence across temporal and national settings. The goal of the handbook we are developing is to encourage and extend our understanding of violence by bringing together the work of the very best scholars who are today working on this topic in all parts of the world. The handbook will be interdisciplinary as well as international. Although we anticipate that the largest number of contributions may come from sociologists and criminologists, we expect that the representation will be quite diverse.

Our initial plans are to publish the handbook in two languages, German and English. The translation work will be undertaken at the University of Bielefeld, with the book appearing in Germany under a publication agreement with Westdeutscher Verlag (Opladen/Wiesbaden), and in the United States with Westview Press (New York).

We are hopeful that you might be willing to contribute an article of about 9.000 words (approximately 50.000 signs) on the topic of

Learning Violence Through the Media

The article should generally give an account of the current "state of the art". We would need


to receive the manuscripts as soon as possible, at any rate, not later than by April 2000. We can offer you a modest fee of 600 American Dollars (to be payed after the acceptance of the manuscripts by the two editors).

We very much hope that you will accept this invitation. We would, in any case, be grateful for an immediate response. Once we have received a positive response we will be glad to send you a contract that covers the publishing procedure as well as the fee.


Please respond to the Bielefeld address.

Looking forward to a good and productive cooperation, we remain

Yours sincerely:




John Hagan



Wilhelm Heitmeyer

To: ikg@uni-bielefeld.de
From: George Gerbner <ggerbner@nimbus.temple.edu>
Subject: FOR PROF. DR. WILHELM HEITMEYER
Cc:
Bcc:

X-Attachments:  1 page bio

Dear Prof. Heitmeyer:

I received your letter and invitation of July 7. (I seldom check my mail at Temple University during the summer; hence the delay in response.) I will be pleased to contribute an article on "Learning Violence Through the Media." May I send the article by e-mail as an attachment? Please let me know. And use my home address for regular mail, which is:

234 Golf View Road
Ardmore, PA 19003, USA

Sincerely yours,

George Gerbner

To: ikg@uni-bielefeld.de
From: George Gerbner <ggerbner@nimbus.temple.edu>
Subject: Re: Handbook
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Dear Prof. Heitmeyer:

On 8/9/99 I sent you the following message:

Dear Prof. Heitmeyer:

I received your letter and invitation of July 7. (I seldom check my mail at Temple University during the summer; hence the delay in response.) I will be pleased to contribute an article on "Learning Violence Through the Media." May I send the article by e-mail as an attachment? Please let me know. And use my home address for regular mail, which is:

234 Golf View Road
Ardmore, PA 19003, USA

Sincerely yours,

George Gerbner

I received no response; hence the further delay.

So let me repeat my question: May I send the article by e-mail as an attachment?

One further question has to do with the contract: Can the remuneration of \$600 be sent by check or cashier's check in U.S. dollars, drawn on an American Bank? Bank transfers are troublesome. U.S. banks are so provincial that they charge a great deal and take a long time for international transfers.

Please let me have your answers. I intend to sign and return the contract promptly.

Sincerely yours -

George Gerbner.

Dear Mr. Gerbner,

>

>Some weeks ago I sent you an author-contract concerning your
>article in the Handbook on Violence Research. Up until today we
>have not received the signed contract from you. Can you sent it
>back as soon as possible?
>Best regards
>W. Heitmeyer

To: ikg@uni-bielefeld.de
From: George Gerbner <ggerbner@nimbus.temple.edu>
Subject: Re: Handbook
Cc:
Bcc:

X-Attachments:

>Dear Prof. Gerbner,
>
>sorry, that I didn't give you an answer concerning your question. Of
>course, you can sent the article by e-mail as an attachment. No
>problem.
>And the remuneration of the \$ 600 can be sent by check, of course.
>
>Best regards
>
>W. Heitmeyer

University of Bielefeld

Northwestern University
Department of Sociology

1810 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, IL 60208

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Prof. John Hagan Ph.D.

Fax: +847 491-9907

E-Mail: sociol@nwu.edu

Bielefeld, October 11, 1999

Dear Mr. Gerbner,

I am glad to be able to tell you that our common project, the handbook of violence research, is on its best way to become a success.

We have meanwhile closed the list of authors which comprises 66 scholars from 11 different countries. In the name also of John Hagan, I would therefore like to thank all of you for your generous support. Given the encouragement which we have enjoyed, we have indeed reason to look forward to a productive and successful cooperation.

Let me give you a short overview about the current state of preparation. We have established a project committee that is in charge of the editorial work as well as of organizing the translation. You can certainly imagine that a careful translation will take some time. To make sure that the entire book manuscript can, in the autumn of 2000, be submitted to the publishers, that is, Westview Press (New York) and Westdeutscher Verlag (Wiesbaden), we have to insist on the end of april 2000 being the "deadline" for handing in the articles.

Whether this schedule can actually be kept, of course, depends on the cooperation of all participants. I suppose it is in our common interest to be able to have the book finished as soon as possible in both its English and German versions. We would therefore be grateful if some of you could manage to submit their articles even prior to the above mentioned deadline.

In order to "seal" our cooperation formally, we have set up a contract between you and the University of Bielefeld. This contract defines, among other things, the author's fee. As is customary with German publishers, the Westdeutscher Verlag will send a free copy to each author and gives authors the possibility to purchase additional copies at a price reduction of 30 percent. The conditions with Westview Press are different. Authors are entitled to purchase copies at a price reduction of 40 percent.

Enclosed with this letter you will find three copies of the contract. Please, sign all copies, fill in your bank account and send all of the copies back to me (as soon as possible). Subsequently, you will receive a copy signed by the Chancellor of the University of Bielefeld. So much for the "formal part" of this letter.

As soon as possible, we will send you a complete list of all scholars involved in our project. This list will give you an opportunity to communicate with colleagues who are working on subjects close to your own in order to avoid overlaps.

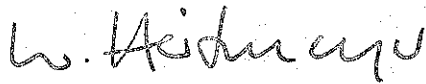
If you need more information, please, don't hesitate to contact John Hagan or myself. We are highly interested in making the handbook a success story.

So much for today.

With best wishes, also in the name of John Hagan,

I remain

Yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'W. Heitmeyer'.

W. Heitmeyer

To: ikg@uni-bielefeld.de
From: George Gerbner <ggerbner@nimbus.temple.edu>
Subject: Re: Handbook
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Dear Prof. Heitmeyer:

I am mailing signed contract. Let me know when received.

Best regards,

George Gerbner

X-Confirm-reading-to: ikg@uni-bielefeld.de
X-PMrqc: 1
Date: Fri, 04 Feb 2000 08:50:37 +0100
From: ikg <ikg@uni-bielefeld.de>
Subject: Handbook
To: ggerbner@nimbus.ocis.temple.edu
Reply-to: ikg@uni-bielefeld.de
MIME-version: 1.0
Priority: normal
Status:

Dear Mr. Gerbner,
Thank you for the signed contract.
Best regards
W. Heitmeyer

X-Confirm-reading-to: ikg@uni-bielefeld.de
X-PMRqc: 1
Date: Tue, 11 Apr 2000 17:02:42 +0000
From: ikg <ikg@uni-bielefeld.de>
Subject: handbook
To: Ggerbner@nimbus.ocis.temple.edu
Reply-to: ikg@uni-bielefeld.de
MIME-version: 1.0
Priority: normal
Status:

Dear George Gerbner,

Thank you very much for the draft version of your article and your kind willingness to go through a discussion about it. We discussed it recently within the "editorial committee," that is, against the background of the specific topic ("learning violence through the media") as well as the framework of the handbook in general.

As a result of that internal discussion, I have to say you that we see a number of serious problems.

First, it seems to us that there is a general misunderstanding concerning the topic, since the "learning" of violence essentially includes a process. This process of learning should be addressed with regard to the relevant theories in psychological and sociological approaches. That is, we would like you to present the relevant theories as pointed out in the conceptual framework of the handbook that we had sent you earlier.

The general purpose of the handbook is to give an overview of the "state of the art" in the respective academic disciplines and thus to sum up the current situation of research on violence in general. In your draft, however, you primarily embark on a critique of the mass media from a political perspective (a critique, by the way, which I share to a large degree). Surely, this political point of view should have a place in the article (e.g., in a specific section).

You will certainly understand that the editors have to make sure that the handbook forms a coherent whole and that the individual articles are comparable in their general structure. That is why we have sent the general framework to all participants.

Now, the question comes up, how to proceed? Would it be possible for you to undergo some changes which, to be frankly, will be major ones? What would the time frame be, if (as we very much hope) you are willing to do that extra work? Please, let me know what your opinion is.

With best wishes, I remain sincerely yours:

Wilhelm Heitmeyer

University of Bielefeld

Northwestern University
Department of Sociology

1810 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, IL 60208

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E-Mail: ikg@uni-bielefeld.de

Prof. John Hagan Ph.D.

Fax: +847 491-9907

E-Mail: sociol@nwu.edu

Bielefeld, 07.01.2000

Dear Mr. Gerbner,

First of all I would like to wish you all the best for yourself and your work in this New Year. I assume that it will become busy like every year.

Now I am writing to you concerning the handbook. The preparation is well done so that we are waiting with great interest for your article. May I remind you of the deadline at the end of April.

For your information I send the list of participants and addresses. Please note that you have not sent back the signed contract. Could you do it as soon as possible?

Looking forward to a good cooperation and best wishes - from John Hagan too -


W. Heitmeyer