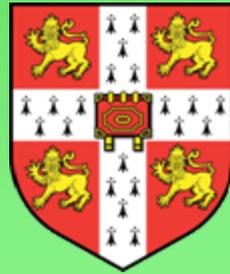


The Relationship Between Political Violence and 'Conventional Crime' in Northern Ireland



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Purpose of this Presentation

- Brief outline of my research
- Supplement information contained on poster
- Report current findings and highlight theoretical underpinnings

Aims

- Trace political violence and 'conventional' crime in Northern Ireland since 1969 until 2008
- Examine the relationship between political violence and 'conventional' crime
- Explore the changes in social indicators for social cohesiveness/social capital, collective consciousness etc
- Attempt to create a theoretical model for the affect of prolonged political conflict on crime and society

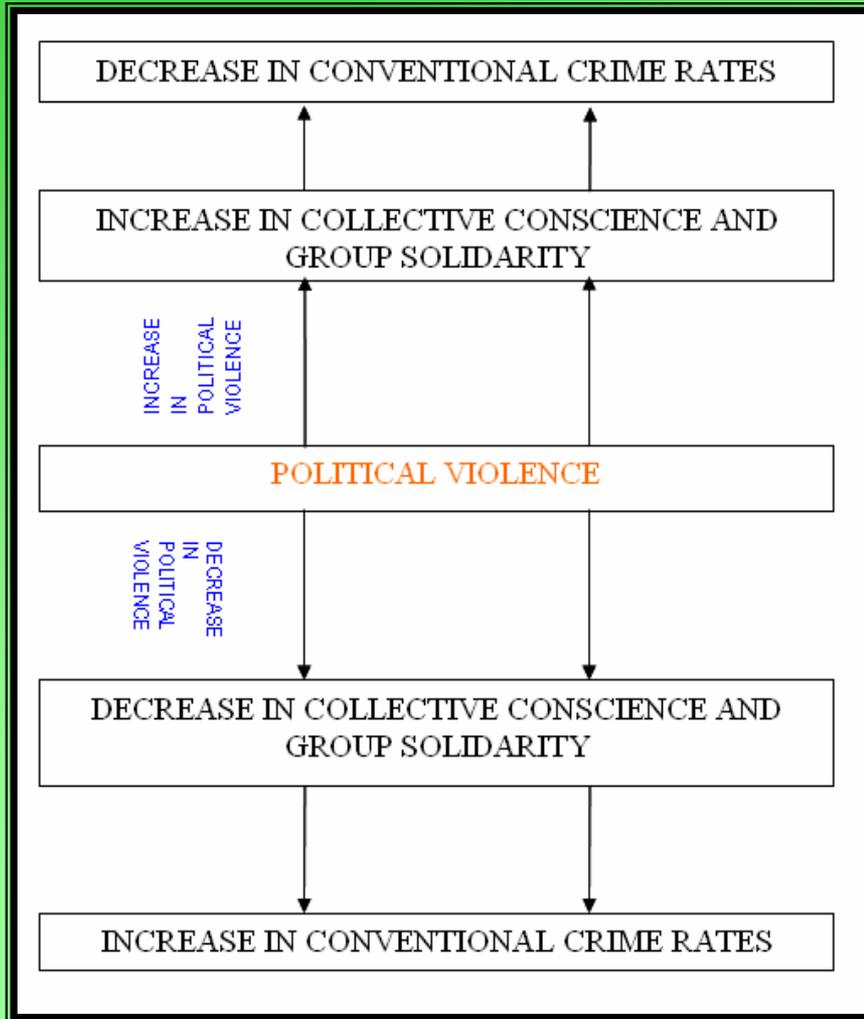
Why Choose Northern Ireland?

- Access to data
 - Official crime data
 - Records/data for events of political violence
 - Victimization reports
- Clear period of study
 - Identifiable onset and peace process
 - The ‘aftermath’
 - Period of social change and ‘transition’
- Access to practitioners
 - Advice on interesting areas

Key Questions

- 1. Did the rates of conventional crime significantly decrease after onset of politically motivated attacks in Northern Ireland?**
- 2. Did the number of politically motivated attacks significantly affect the conventional crime rates in Northern Ireland per year?**
- 3. Has there been a significant increase in the rate of conventional crime following the Northern Ireland conflict?**
- 4. Do social indicators reflect an increase in social cohesion or solidarity during the period of political violence?**
- 5. Do social indicators reflect a decrease in social cohesion or solidarity during the period of political violence?**

Theoretical Model



1. As political violence increases, social cohesiveness etc also increases, consequently reducing the level of 'conventional' crime
2. As political violence decreases, social cohesiveness etc also decreases, consequently increasing the level of 'conventional' crime

Supporting Literature

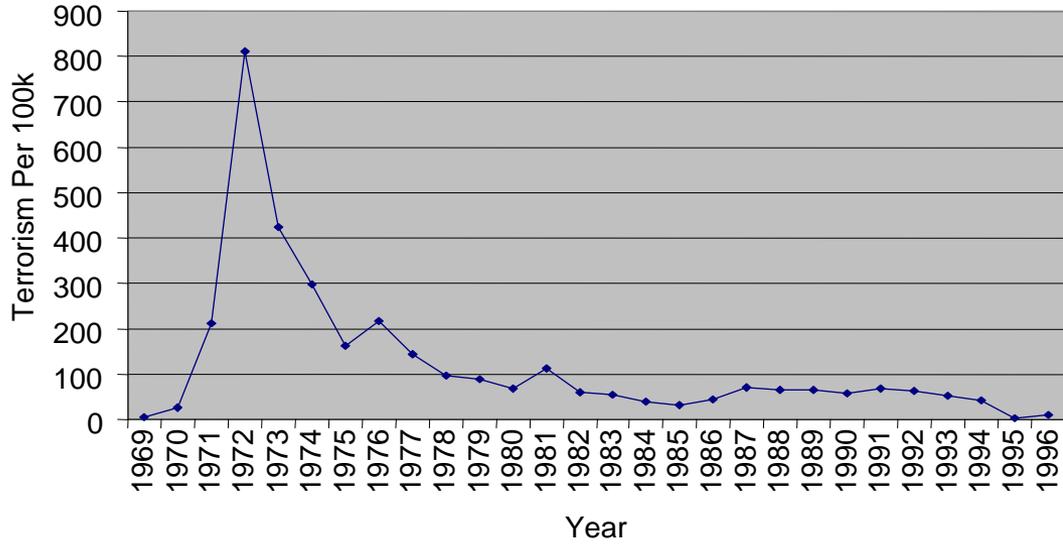
- In support of the theoretical model:
 - Ruggiero (2006) argues that a latent effect of political violence is the reinforcement of feelings of unity and conformity
 - Brewer, Lockhart, and Rodgers (1998) found that local crime management in Belfast is rooted in social processes such as the survival of community structures, neighbourliness, extended family and kinship patterns, and legitimate authority afforded to community representatives.
 - Brewer et al. further suggest that political violence has protected some areas of Belfast from various forms of social breakdown, with a positive effect on crime management.

- Durkheim (1893) argued that the source of high crime rates in organic societies is the result of ‘anomie’ (meaning normlessness) which was the product of rapid social change associated with modernization.
- International Crime Victimization Survey for nations in ‘transition’ highlights the increase in crime during periods of rapid social change.
- LaFree and Drass (2002) found considerable support for the ‘modernisation hypothesis’ with seventy percent of industrialising countries experiencing large increases in homicide rates.
- LaFree and Tseloni (2006) also report an increase in democratisation and a simultaneous increase in violent crime for the majority of the countries they observed.

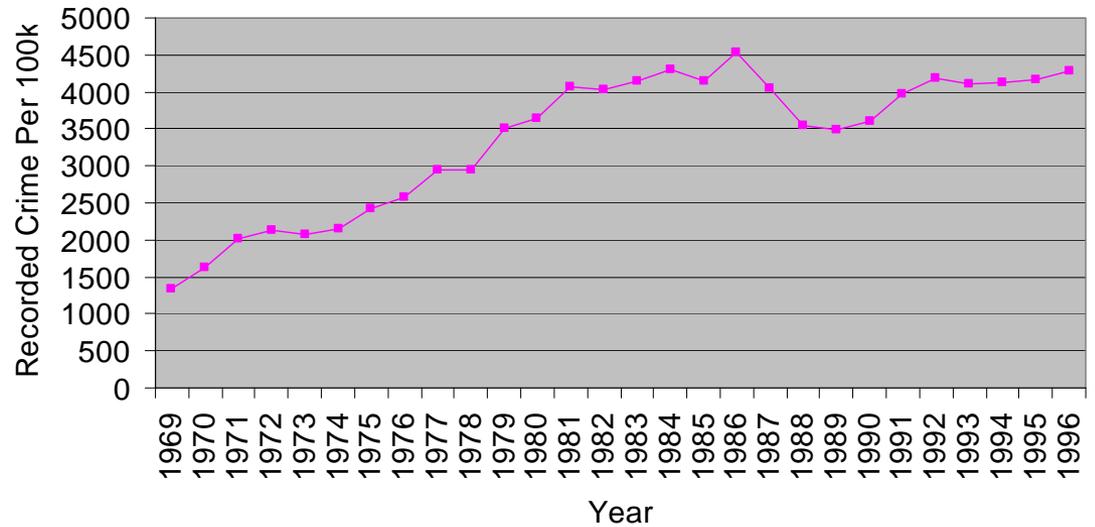
Data and Analysis

- PSNI
 - Official recorded crime data
 - ‘Terrorist’ incidents
- Northern Ireland Office
 - Victimization studies
- Northern Ireland Census Bureau
 - Social indicators data

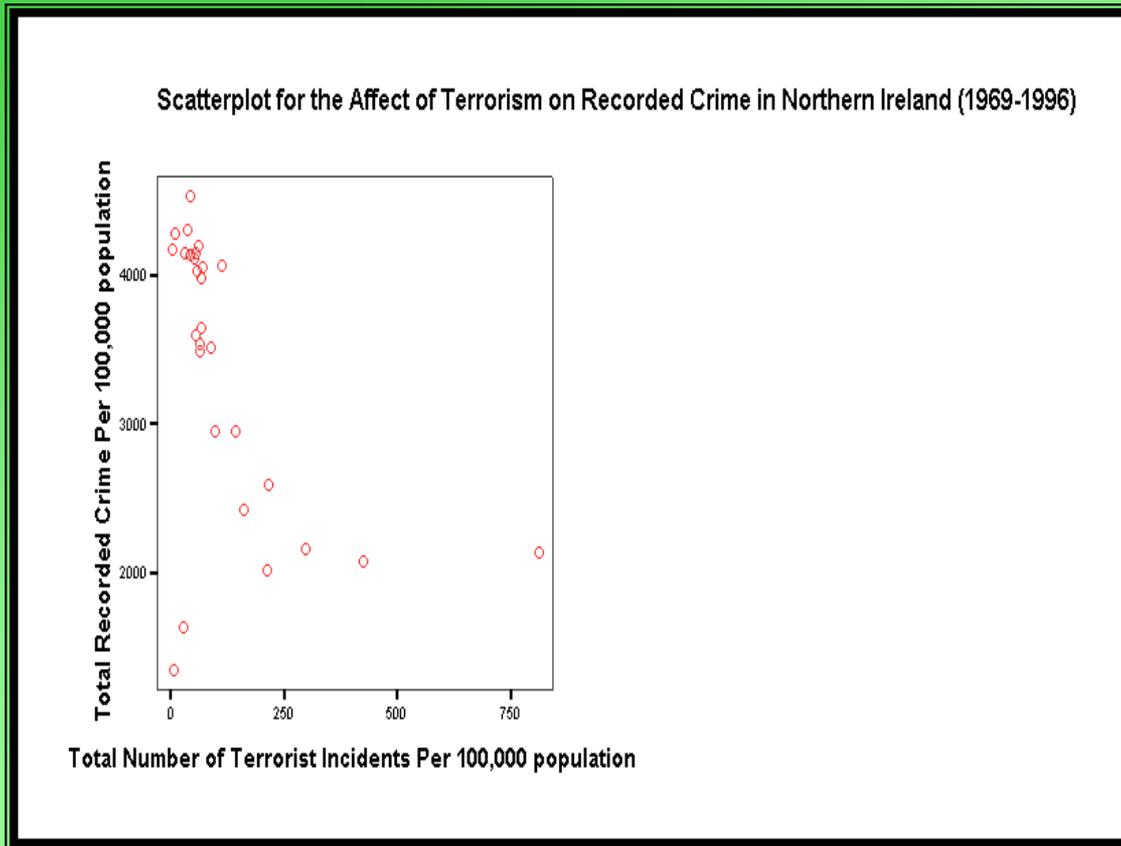
Terrorism Per 100,000 Population (1969-1996)



Recorded Crime Per 100,000 Population (1969-1996)

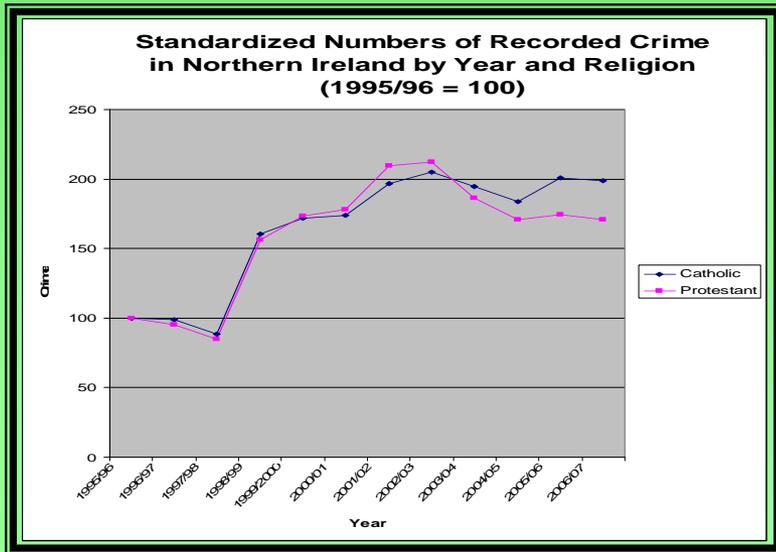
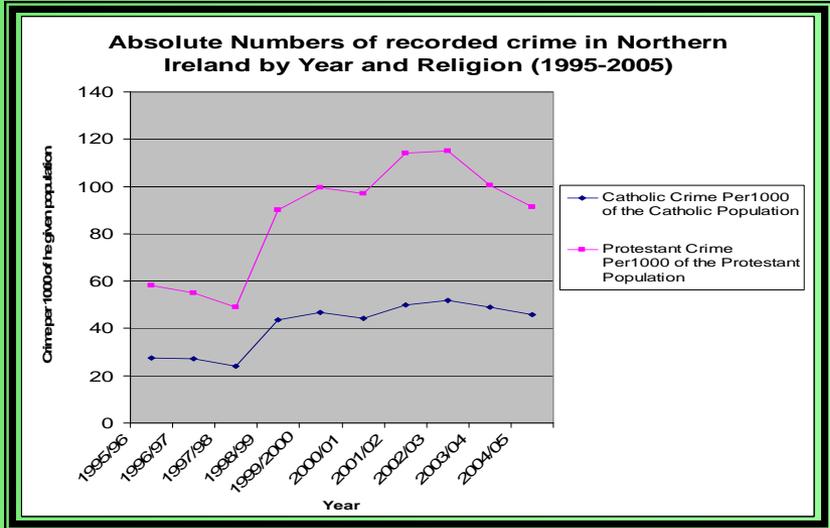


Initial Observations



Initial Observations

- Recorded crime data from 1995-2005 was calculated by religious group, highlighting a higher number of recorded crime from the Protestant community.



- When numbers are standardized to compare the change amongst the two groups, we see a similar pattern between the two groups, with a more prominent decline in Protestant crime following 2003.

Particular Time-Periods of Interest

- Periods of particular interest might be:
 - 1998-2008
 - Good Friday Agreement
 - Revision of recorded crime counting rules
 - Disarmament
 - 1986-1996
 - Dip in crime, couple with slight increase in political violence
 - 1969-1975
 - Onset and peak of violence

Next stages

- Further data analysis:
 - Study of national level data for 1969-2008
 - Observation of data from regional levels where available
 - Identification and analysis of social indicators
 - Correlations between particular crimes and political violence
 - Time Series Analysis

Bibliography

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Durkheim, E. (1893). *The Division of Labour in Society*. Translated by George Simpson. New York. Free Press.

LaFree, Gary., Drass, Kriss. (2002). Counting Crime Booms Among Nations: Evidence for Homicide Victimization Rates, 1956-1998. *Criminology*. 40: 769-799.

LaFree, Gary., and Tseloni, Andromachi (2006). Democracy and Crime: A Multilevel Analysis of Homicide Trends in Forty-Four Countries, 1950-2000. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 605. 26-49.

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