

Symbolic Boundaries and Collective Violence. Boundary Activation as a Key Mechanism of Collective Violent Behaviour

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TO CITE

Hartmann, E. (2023). Symbolic Boundaries and Collective Violence. Boundary Activation as a Key Mechanism of Collective Violent Behaviour. *Proceedings of the Paris Institute for Advanced Study*, 22. [https://paris.pias.science/article/SynE1_2015_14_symbolic-boundaries-and-collective-violence-](https://paris.pias.science/article/SynE1_2015_14_symbolic-boundaries-and-collective-violence-2826-2832/)

PUBLICATION DATE

29/04/2015

ABSTRACT

The Brains that pull the Triggers. 1st Conference on Syndrome E, Paris IAS, 28-29 April 2015 - Session 4 - The Individual and the Group: Mechanisms of Group Contagion

Symbolic Boundaries and Collective Violence
Boundary Activation as a Key Mechanism of Collective Violent Behavior

The proposed explanatory concept

Symbolic boundaries: shared representations that include and define some people, groups and things while excluding others.

Symbolic boundaries are collectively shared narratives that create social and institutional facts (e.g. rights, duties, social obligations etc.) by representing them as existing and by getting other people within these boundaries to recognize or accept them.