

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

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## 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.

