



The Behavioural and Cultural Foundations and Consequences of Violence

International Research Workshop
of the Institute of Social Sciences (ICS, Lisbon)
and the Households in Conflict Network (HiCN)

7-8 June 2010

ICS, Lisbon, Portugal

Violence and conflict are both fundamental options for human social interactions. At first sight, violence seems to be an archaic strategy for human behavior and cultural settings, with civilization having developed complex mechanisms and institutions for regulating the deliberate use of force. At second sight, however, we must acknowledge that violence is omnipresent in any society at many levels of analysis. ¶ It is, therefore, surprising that the social sciences have developed such different degrees of sophistication in measuring, interpreting and accounting for violence between people. From economics, with its almost complete ignorance of violence, via political science, sociology and social anthropology, developing a least recent interest in the theme even at the micro-level, to history and international relations, which of course have accounted for violence at the macro-level for a long time, there are a range of analytical traditions in explaining violence. ¶ The purpose of this workshop is to bring together researchers from different social science disciplines and countries and to compare current theoretical, empirical and methodological research perspectives of this intense topic.