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Title: “**The Sociology Of Three Distinct Forms Of Contemporary Antisemitisms**”

Panel: Sociology and Social Sciences

The notion ‘antisemitism’ is often used un-discriminatorily. But as a matter of fact, it refers what is actually quite differing phenomena of anti-Jewish attitudes and actions. To regard them all as just varying expressions of the same underlying antisemitism Jewish tend to conceal the fact that in order to be met and confronted adequately they need to be described and analyzed in their specificity.

Based on that assumption we have analyzed two surveys of antisemitism in eight European countries and delineated three empirically distinct forms of contemporary antisemitism:

*Classic antisemitism*, i.e. antisemitism based on traditional antisemitic stereotypes about Jews. Those who manifest this kind of antisemitism are mainly found among political right-wingers. This kind of antisemitism mainly manifests itself in derogatory verbal personal or public remarks and acts of social discrimination.

*Aufklärungsantisemitismus*, i.e. critique of core Jewish practices such as, e.g. circumcision and accusations against Jewish representatives and individuals because of their adherence to such practices. Those who criticize these religiously based traditions are mostly persons who perceive themselves as progressive liberal left oriented. This kind of anti-Jewish critique is usually presented as comments in the public debate and sometimes takes the shape of proposing legal prohibition of the Jewish practices in question.

*Israel-derived antisemitism*, i.e. attacks on individual Jews or Jewish institutions emanating from hostility towards the State of Israel and/or anger due to actions taken by the Israeli state. Those who carry out such attacks are mainly found among Muslim extremists and partly among political left-wingers. This kind of antisemitism is more often than the other forms of antisemitism manifested by acts of violence towards Jewish institutions, symbols and persons.

Although there are persons who share all three sets of antisemitic attitudes, our data, however, do not suggest that there should be a significant correlation between them. Rather it is indicated that they are inspired by different underlying “philosophies,”

carried by different social groups, and manifested in different ways. While classic antisemitism and the negative stereotypes towards Jews implied in this mainly calls for educational initiatives, Israel-derived antisemitism and the violent actions towards individual Jews that often follows of that rather calls for police and legal control actions. The basic lesson of our findings is that in order adequately to combat 'antisemitism', different to each distinct form of antisemitism adapted and specific long-term policies have to be developed. By way of conclusion the perspectives involved in this will be elaborated.