

Hate Speech, Institutions and Hate Crime:

Teressa May's anti-immigrants interviews and stop-and-search evolution across the UK regions

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Abstract

Can individual political agency, biased with taste for discrimination, create significantly impactful narratives that can sway the behaviour of important institutions such as the police force without officially changing the law? This paper studies the case of Theresa May's hostile rhetorical legacy on immigrants, recorded in a press database, and its temporal association with the rise of stop-and-search policy practice among people of colour in the United Kingdom in the period of her being in political power. A difference in differences methodology is employed to delve into the causal direction between political hate speech and the tendency to rising hate crime of the institutions. Specifically, the paper delves into the type of regional milieu in which the hate speech was most impactful. The results reveal the role of the Tiebout-Hirschman-Rothschild mechanism for making places more vulnerable to hate speech instigating hate crime by the institutions.

Keywords: *hate speech, hate crime by the institutions, UK, stop-and-search, Tiebout-Hirschman-Rotschild mechanism*

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