

# Knowledge transfer, dissemination and participation in the field of child protection

An overview

Assistant Professor Dr. M. Rassenhofer Vienna, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019



# ,Knowledge itself is power.'

Sir Francis Bacon (1597)

# ,An investment in knowledge always pays the best investment.'

Benjamin Franklin (1758)

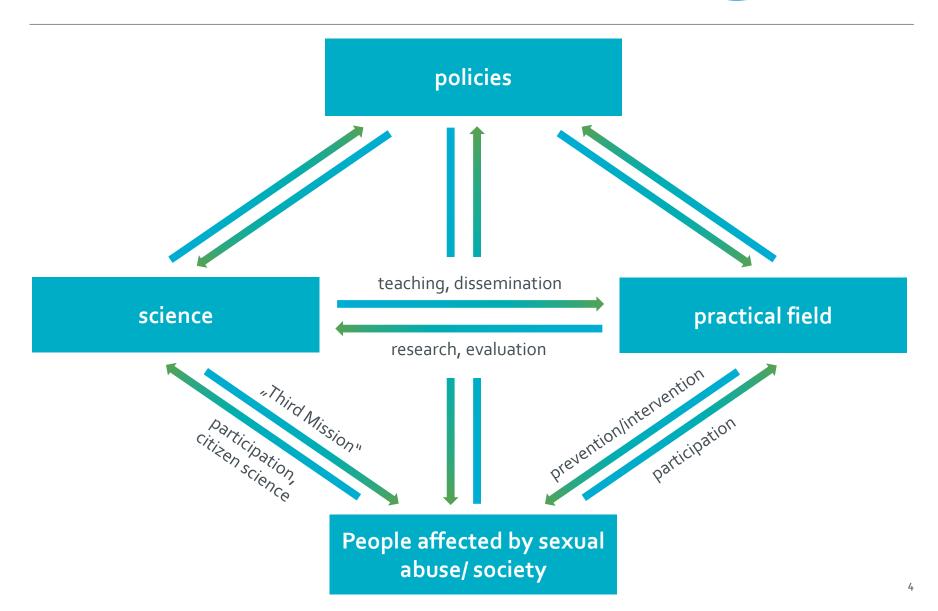
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2016		
Wissens- und		
Technologietransfer		
als Gegenstand		
institutioneller Strategien		
Positionspapier		

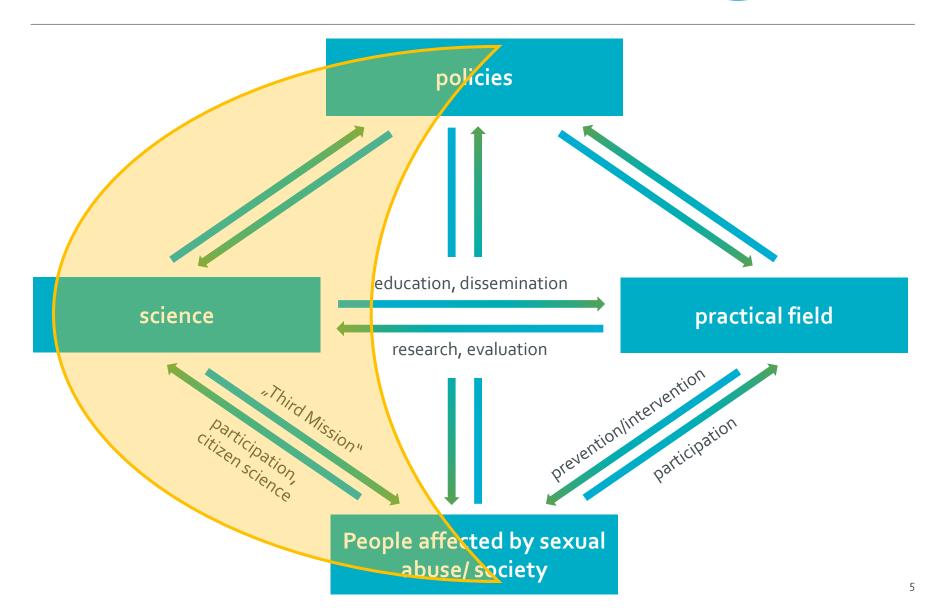
## Knowledge transfer in the field of child protection





## Knowledge transfer in the field of child protection







# Berliner Morgenpost

KRIMINALITÄT

# Canisius-Kolleg: Missbrauchsfälle an Berliner Eliteschule

An dem von Jesuiten betriebenen Canisius-Kolleg in Tiergarten sind über Jahrzehnte hinweg Schüler von Lehrern sexuell missbraucht worden. "Mit tiefer Erschütterung und Scham habe ich diese





# SPIEGEL ONLINE DER SPIEGEL

**Odenwaldschule** 

# Pädagogen teilten "sexuelle Dienstleister" fürs Wochenende ein

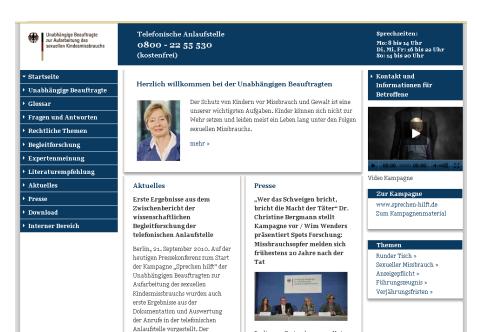
Nach der langen Reihe bekanntgewordener Missbrauchsfälle ringt die katholische Kirche um ihre Glaubwürdigkeit. Sie ist jedoch nicht die einzige Institution, die solche Vorkommnisse vertuschte. Jetzt wurden auch an einer bekannten hessischen Privatschule Fälle von sexueller Gewalt bekannt.

# German reappraisal process since 2010



# Round Table "Child Sexual Abuse in Relationships of Dependence and Imbalance of Power in Private and Public Institutions and in Families"





vollständige Zwischenbericht wird

bei der 2. Sitzung des Runden

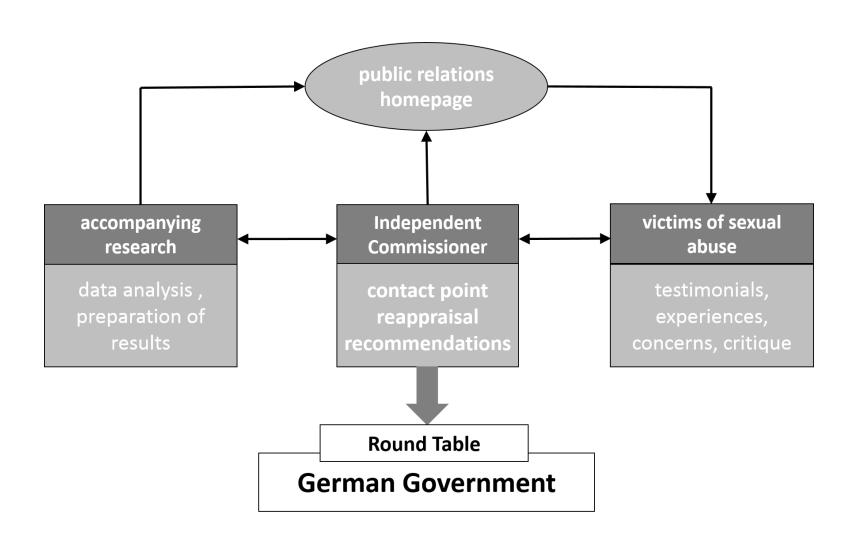
Berlin, 21. September 2010. Unter

dem Motto "Sprechen hilft!" startet

die Hnahhängige Beauffragte zur

Independent Commissioner for the Reappraisal of Child Sexual Abuse





# Media Campaign | "Speaking Helps"

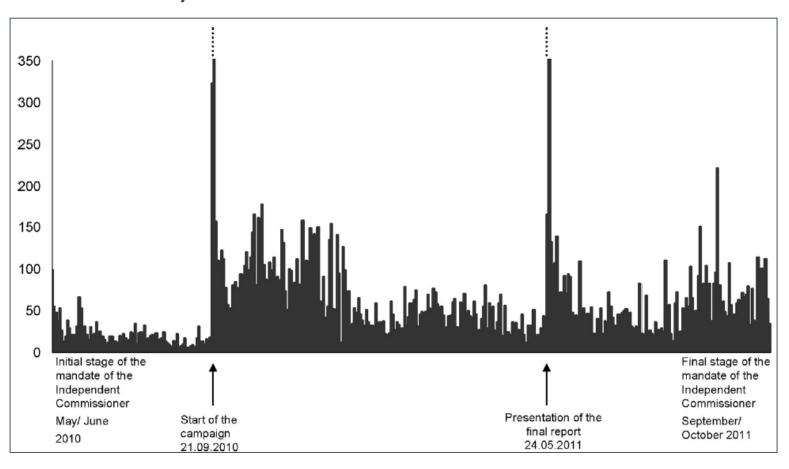








# Number of daily calls



#### Results

Kindesmissbrauch



#### Belastungen durch sexuellen Missbrauch und medizinische und therapeutische Behandlung

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect Child Abuse & Neglect



Erfahrungen und Forderungen von Betroffenen

Listening to victims: Use of a Critical Incident Reporting System to enable adult victims of childhood sexual abuse to participate in a political reappraisal process in Germany

Child Abuse & Neglect 37 (2013) 653-663



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University Ulm, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry/Psychotherapy, Steinhoevelstr, 5, 89075 Ulm, German

ARTICLE INFO Schlüsselwörter **Keywords** Sexueller Mis. Spröber et al. BMC Public Health 2014, 14:282 вмс

Gegenstand sexuellen Kin RESEARCH ARTICLE

Das Bundeskinderschutzgesetz

und Empfehlu Child sexual abuse in religiously affiliated and secular institutions: a retrospective descriptive formationen analysis of data provided by victims in a viese Datend dazu, das Wi government-sponsored reappraisal program sexuellen Mis in Germany

> Nina Spröber<sup>1\*</sup>, Thekla Schneider<sup>1</sup>, Miriam Rassenhofer<sup>1</sup>, Alexander Seitz<sup>2</sup>, Hubert Liebhardt<sup>1</sup>, Lilith König<sup>3</sup> ind Jörg M Fegert<sup>1</sup>

und Method

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Auswirkunger

der Stichprob

Erfahrungen

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Anliegen der

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pie- und Bera

rausforderung

Betroffener zu

Background: The disclosure of widespread sexual abuse committed by professional educators and clergymen in ernden Missb institutions in Germany ignited a national political debate, in which special attention was paid to church-run institutions. We wanted to find out whether the nature of the abuse and its effect on victims differed depending on whether the abuse had been experienced in religiously affiliated versus secular institutions

Methods: In 2010, the German government established a hotline that victims could contact anonymously to describe their experiences of sexual abuse. The information provided by callers was documented and categorized. Our analysis looked at a subset of the data collected, in order to compare the nature of the abuse experienced at three types of institutions: Roman Catholic, Protestant, and non-religiously affiliated. Non-parametric tests were used to compare frequency distributions, and qualitative data were analyzed descriptively.

Results: Of the 1050 victims in our sample, 404 had been in Roman Catholic, 130 in Protestant, and 516 in non-religious institutions. The overall mean age at the time of reporting was 522 years, Males (59,8%) outnumbered females. Victims who had been in religiously affiliated institutions were significantly older than those who had been in secular institutions. Almost half the victims had been abused physically as well as sexually, and most victims reported that the abuse had occurred repeatedly and that the assaults had been committed by males. Patterns of abuse (time, type, and extent), and the gender of the offenders did not differ between the three groups. Intercourse was more frequently reported by older victims and by females. Similar percentages of victims in all groups reported current psychiatric diagnoses (depression anxiety disorders, PTSD). Significantly more victims from Protestant institutions reported having current psychosocial

Conclusion: The results suggest that child sexual abuse in institutions is attributable to the nature of institutional structures and to societal assumptions about the rights of children more than to the attitudes towards sexuality of a pecific religion. The exploratory data arising from this study may serve as a starting point for building hypotheses, a

Recent revelations about the scope and severity of past child sexual abuse in German institu tions set off a broad public debate on this issue, and led to the establishment of a politically appointed Round Table committee and an Independent Commissioner whose mandate were to reappraise the issue and develop recommendations for future policies. A media npaign was launched to publicize the establishment of a Critical Incident Reporting tem (CIRS) whereby now-adult victims of past abuse could anonymously provide tesmonials and let policy makers know what issues were important to them. Respondents could either call a hotline number or communicate by mail or email. The information col lected was documented and analyzed by a research team, and the results of interim report



Jörg M. Fegert | Miriam Rassenhofer Thekla Schneider | Alexander Seitz | Nina Spröber

Sexueller Kindesmissbrauch -Zeugnisse, Botschaften, Konsequenzen

BELIZ. JUVENTA

#### Informationen about

- severe cases of abuse
- High risk populations and rare phenomena
- Consequences of abuse and coping strategies

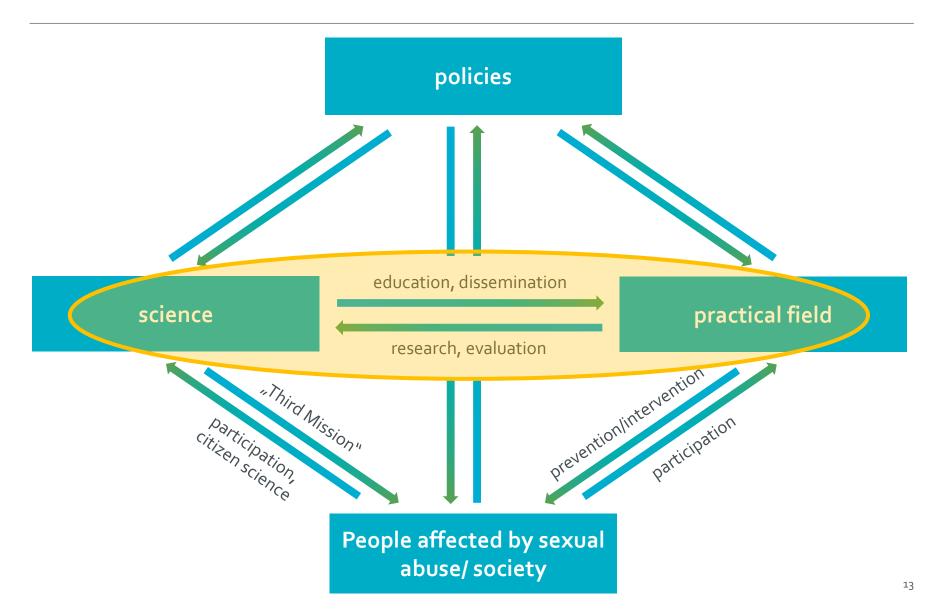
# Contribution to political and societal consequences

- Nation-wide child protection act
- Law for the strengthening of the rights of victims of sexual abuse
- Sensitization of the society for the issue of sexual abuse



## Knowledge transfer in the field of child protection





#### Education and dissemination



Zentrum für Traumaforschung Ulm



ulm university universität

Informationen \*

Forschung ▼

Veranstaltungen ▼

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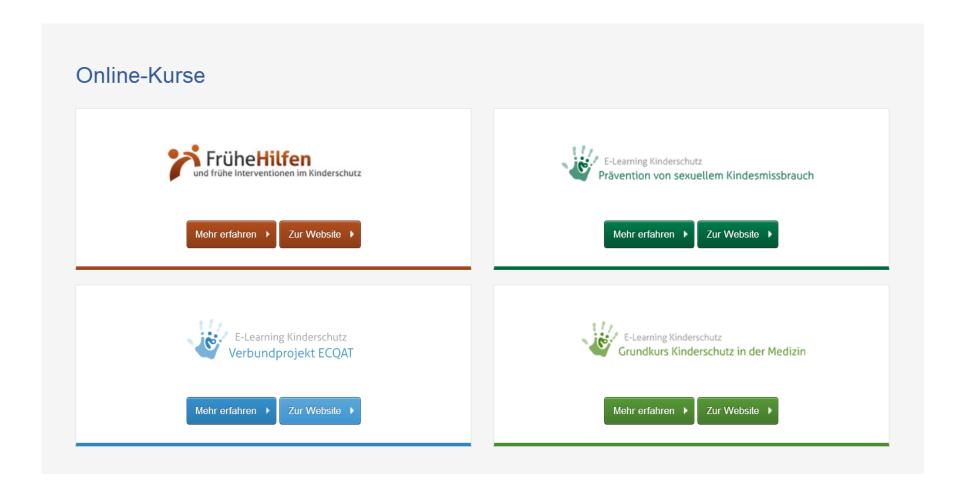




staltungen

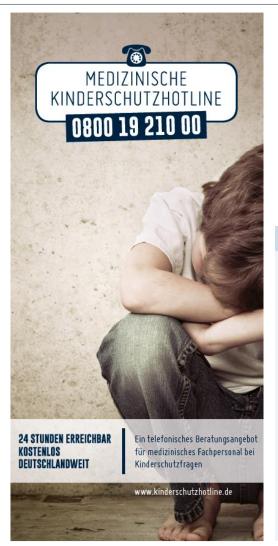






#### Dissemination | Child protection hotline







#### Box 12. Child protection hotline for health professionals in Germany [Medizinische Kinderschutzhotline]

A national child protection telephone hotline for health professionals, "Medizinische Kinderschutzhotline" (139), was established in Germany in 2017 to improve communication and data-sharing between health professionals and children's services. It is funded by the Federal Ministry for Families, the Elderly, Women and Youth and is staffed by trained physicians and other professionals all day, every day.

Staff provide advice on interpretation of injuries or behavioural problems, documentation of injuries, the legal framework regarding breach of patient confidentiality and information on how to discuss concerns with parents, and link health professionals to local support services. Cases are discussed anonymously and responsibility for the suspected case remains with the health professional making the call. Evaluation of the intervention found that the support

offered by the hotline and its interdisciplinary professional composition is valued by service users. Demand for the hotline is particularly high for professionals working in emergency medicine.

The hotline team has developed an e-learning course, funded by the Federal Ministry of Health, to increase training of health professionals in child protection. A feedback loop ensures difficult cases are discussed regularly by the hotline team and incorporated into the course, in addition to articles targeting health professionals.

Key elements of the hotline's success include high accessibility, wide publicity about availability and details of the service, and its targeting of the broad range of health professionals who have regular contact with children to raise awareness of child protection issues.

#### Conclusion



- Knowledge transfer in the field of child protection is based on a complex and dynamic interaction of several players.
- A suceeding knowledge transfer is a prerequisite for improvement of child protection and reduction of child maltreatment
- Participation of victims and the use of their expertise (,citizen science')
  represents an important aspect of knowledge transfer in the field of child
  protection
- E-Learning as an effective form of dissemination



# ,Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do.'

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Thank you for listening.