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# AKADEMIE DER POLIZEI HAMBURG

Forschung · Praxis · Wissenschaft ·  
Ausbildung · Training ·  
Fortbildung · Sicherheit  
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Studium · Entwicklung  
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## High inspectors

### Police perspectives on drugs and drug-related crime

„Drugs and organized crime between virtual and real drug trafficking“ (DROK), a German-Austrian research project sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)



# Methods and Sample

- 18 respondents
  - 6 narrative expert interviews with teachers (5 former police officers)
  - 9 written questionnaires with teachers (7 former police officers)
  - 3 narrative expert interviews with current drug squad officers
- Participative observations of political events
- Police representatives' statements published in the press (e.g. by the Hamburg police commissioner)



Ralf Martin Meyer



# Objectives

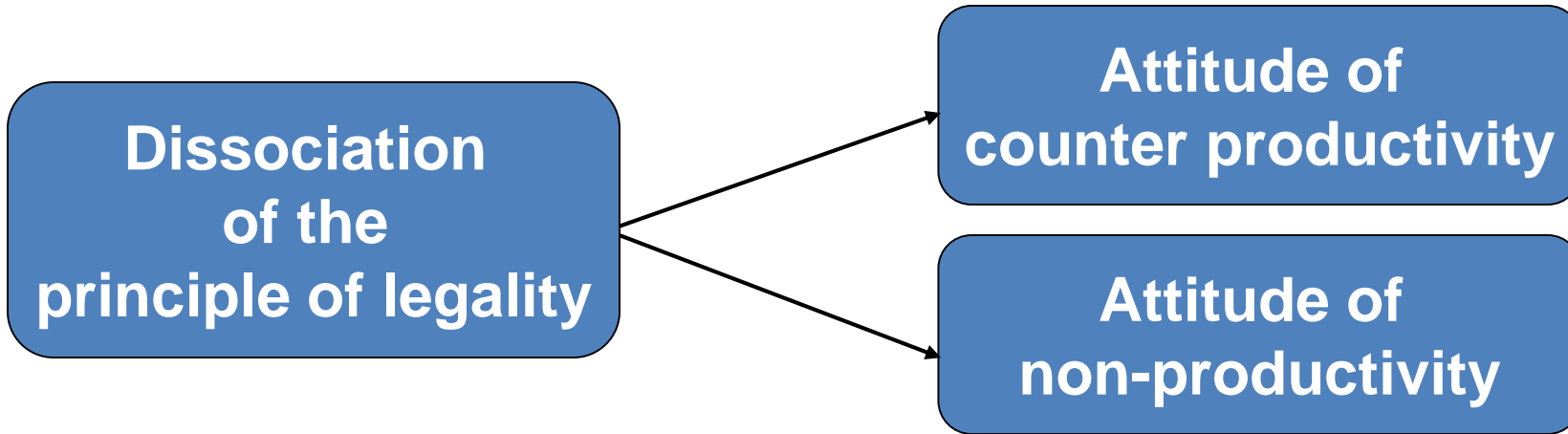
1. Drug squad officers everyday-knowledge
2. Effective policing strategies from the police officers' point of view

## Previous research:

Stock, Jürgen / Kreuzer, Arthur (1996): Drogen und Polizei – Eine kriminologische Untersuchung polizeilicher Rechtsanwendung



# Police officers with a critical view





# The divided police

Dissociation  
of the  
principle of legality

Attitude of  
counter productivity

1. „we produce crime“
2. „drug users are sick persons“
3. „you can get drugs on every schoolyard“



# The divided police

Dissociation  
of the  
principle of legality

Attitude of  
non-productivity

1. „we work for the trash can“
2. „we cannot eliminate drug scenes“  
„we lost the war on drugs“



# The divided police

**Ambiguity**



Attitude of  
counter productivity

Attitude of  
non-productivity

1. To identify with the job as police officer
  2. Critical evaluation of the police strategy
- Intensifier:** the principle of legality





# The divided Police

**Strategies**



Attitude of  
counter productivity

Attitude of  
non-productivity

...to accept, to reduce or to  
eliminate the ambiguity



# Strategies

## 1. To look the other way





## 2. Focus on the fun factor





# Strategies

## 3. Drug prevention by the police





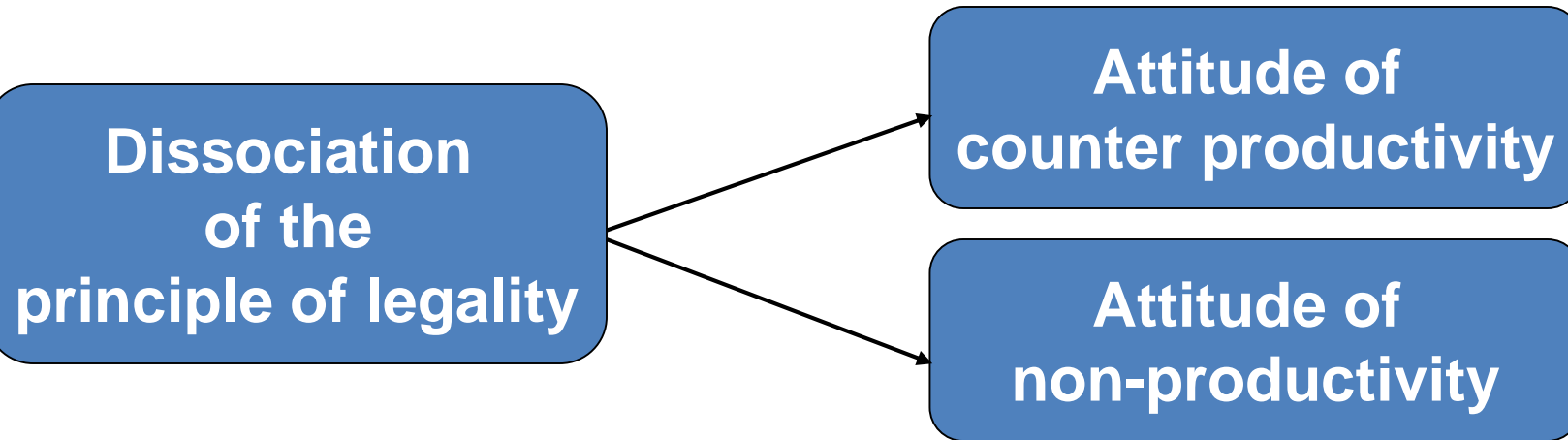
## 4. Proposals for a different approach

- Principle of opportunity
- Decriminalisation



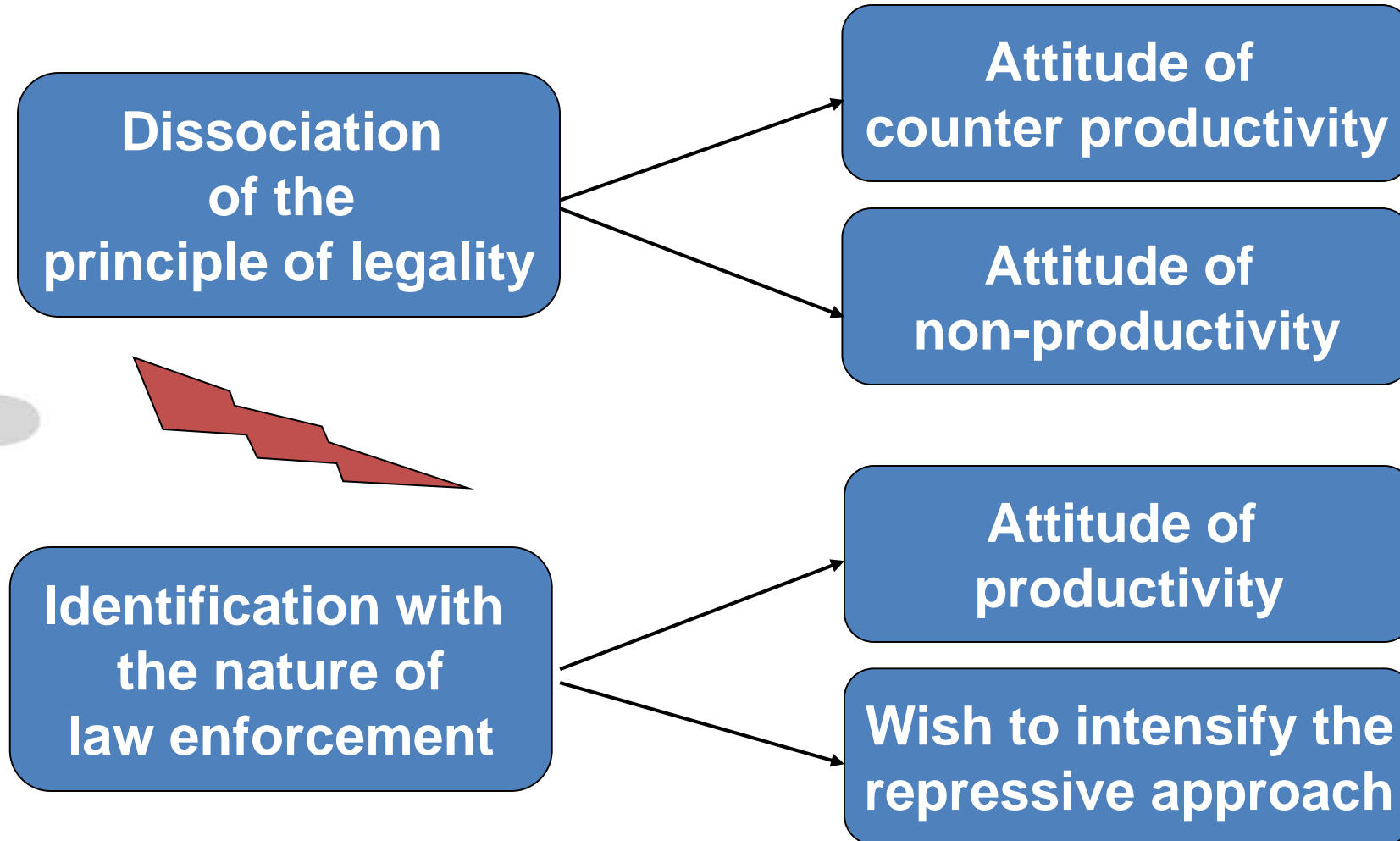


# Police officers with a critical view





# The divided Police





# Conclusion

1. The police perspective is divided (non- and counterproductivity vs. conforming to the police approach)
2. Established strategies that violate the principle of legality
3. Constant pressure to find an alternative approach to drugs and drug-related crime
4. Make better use of police resources
5. Perspective of street cops working close to the subjects





Thank you for  
considering my  
perspective





# References

- **Stock, Jürgen / Kreuzer, Arthur** (1996): Drogen und Polizei – Eine kriminologische Untersuchung polizeilicher Rechtsanwendung. Forum Verlag Godesberg, Bonn.
- [http://worldartsme.com/cops-and-robbers-clipart.html#gal\\_post\\_82196\\_cops-and-robbers-clipart-1.jpg](http://worldartsme.com/cops-and-robbers-clipart.html#gal_post_82196_cops-and-robbers-clipart-1.jpg)
- <http://www.museum-digital.de/data/san/images/201007/18013234494.jpg>
- [http://img.abendblatt.de/img/hamburg/crop206322471/3332606738-w820-cv16\\_9-q85/Cannabis.jpg](http://img.abendblatt.de/img/hamburg/crop206322471/3332606738-w820-cv16_9-q85/Cannabis.jpg)