

Taubner, S. and F. Juen (2010). Gewalt in der spätadoleszenz: Perspektiven der bindungsforschung. (Violence in late adolescence—Perspectives of attachment research.) *Psychotherapie und Sozialwissenschaft: Zeitschrift für Qualitative Forschung und klinische Praxis (Psychotherapy and Social Science: Journal of Qualitative research and clinical practice)*, 12, 59-77.

Author Abstract:

In this study we focus on violent adolescent offenders within an attachment perspective. Inner working models of attachment, arising as individualized expectations and pertaining to the satisfaction and regulation of needs and affects, should have strong impact on the creation of relationships and the way of regulation of affects. Securely attached individuals usually have confidence in the adequate gratification or in the competence of being able to satisfy their need of safety and closeness. Adolescents with avoidant attachment on the other hand expect rejection and consequently try to reduce the impact of others and the impact of attachment itself. As the need for closeness and intimacy is present too, dysregulation of affect appears as a consequence mainly in case of threat of the self. Avoidant and disorganized attachment should consequently be found more often in our sample of adolescent male offenders (n = 26) than in a matched control group (n = 15). Moreover, dysregulation should mainly appear in case of threat. To assess attachment representation we used the Adult Attachment Projective Picture System (AAP, George et al., 1999). Our hypothesis was mainly confirmed.