

Binghamton University

The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB)

Research Days Posters 2022

Division of Research

2022

Reporting the Holocaust: a Trend of Insufficient and Subjective Reporting

Jeremy Goodman

Binghamton University--SUNY

Follow this and additional works at: https://orb.binghamton.edu/research_days_posters_2022

Recommended Citation

Goodman, Jeremy, "Reporting the Holocaust: a Trend of Insufficient and Subjective Reporting" (2022).
Research Days Posters 2022. 60.

https://orb.binghamton.edu/research_days_posters_2022/60

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Division of Research at The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). It has been accepted for inclusion in Research Days Posters 2022 by an authorized administrator of The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). For more information, please contact ORB@binghamton.edu.

Reporting Devastation

PRESENTER:
Jeremy Goodman

BACKGROUND: To be a Jew in Europe in the 1930-40s meant a lot of things. In some places it meant you couldn't work certain jobs, in other places it meant you didn't have certain rights and as the political climate intensified it could even have been the reason for your death. It is estimated that millions of Jewish people and those who dared to help them were killed in those few years or sent to concentration camps and death camps. How did reporting of the Holocaust vary in different countries and how might that have impacted our view of Jewish persecution at the time, and modern-day holocaust recognition?

METHODS:

- Adding to Wardle's definition of disinformation with an emphasis on incomplete narratives.
- Applying Marwick and Kuo's theory of disinformation and how it is utilized to uphold existing structural inequalities and racial divisions (Marwick and Kuo, 2021).
- Analyzing raw data from newspaper articles in different countries and what was being reported on both during the Holocaust and in the years that followed.
- Applying Wolfgram's theories of the different psychological and social psychological processes that facilitated the production and spread of these incomplete narratives.

Incomplete narratives at the time of the Holocaust were rooted in anti-Semitism and German state-censorship; it spread easily to other countries' news-media due to different psychological processes of avoidance and externalization

What do you see in this image?



A Closer look:

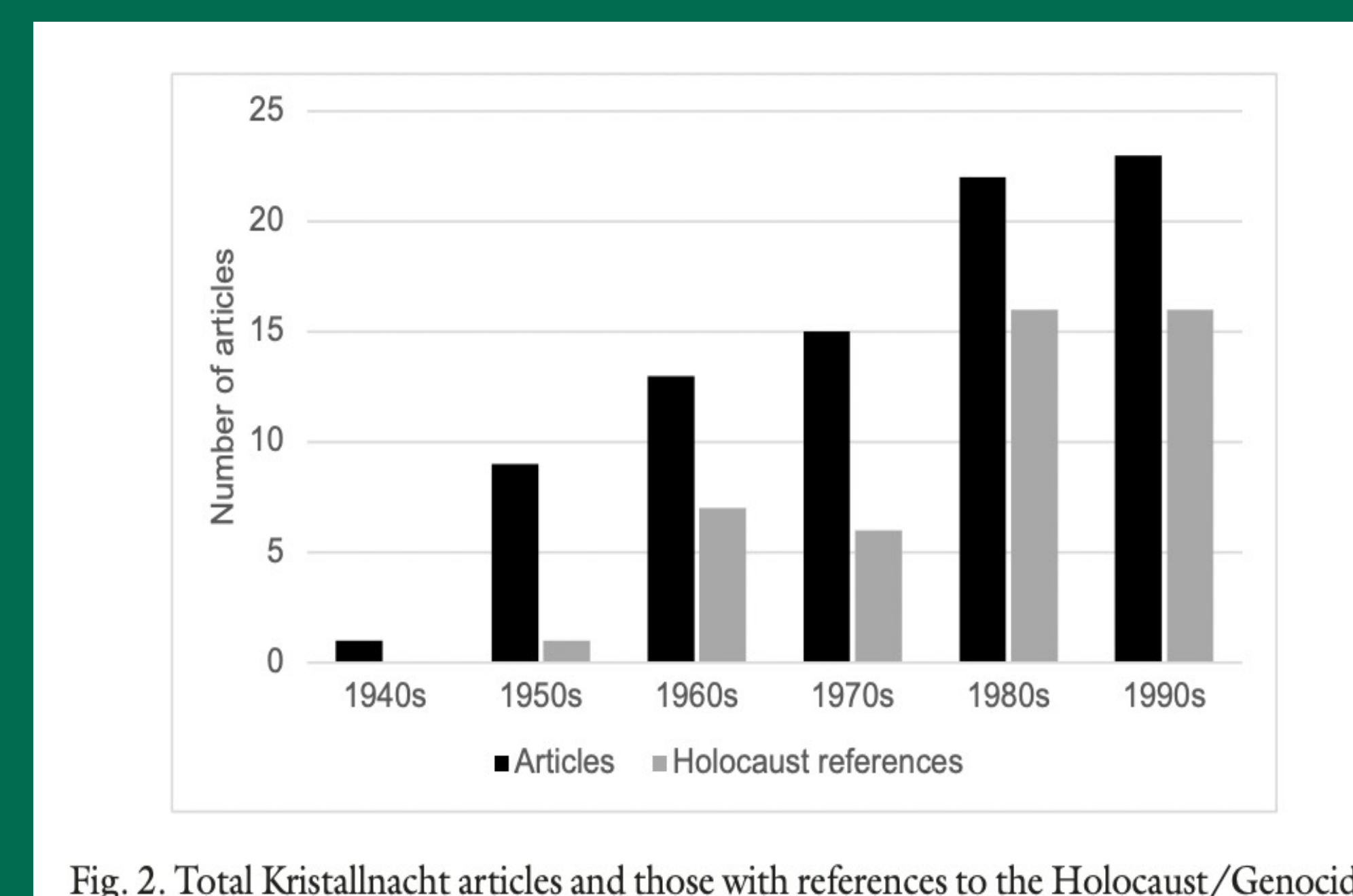


Fig. 2. Total Kristallnacht articles and those with references to the Holocaust/Genocide

(Wolfgram, 121)

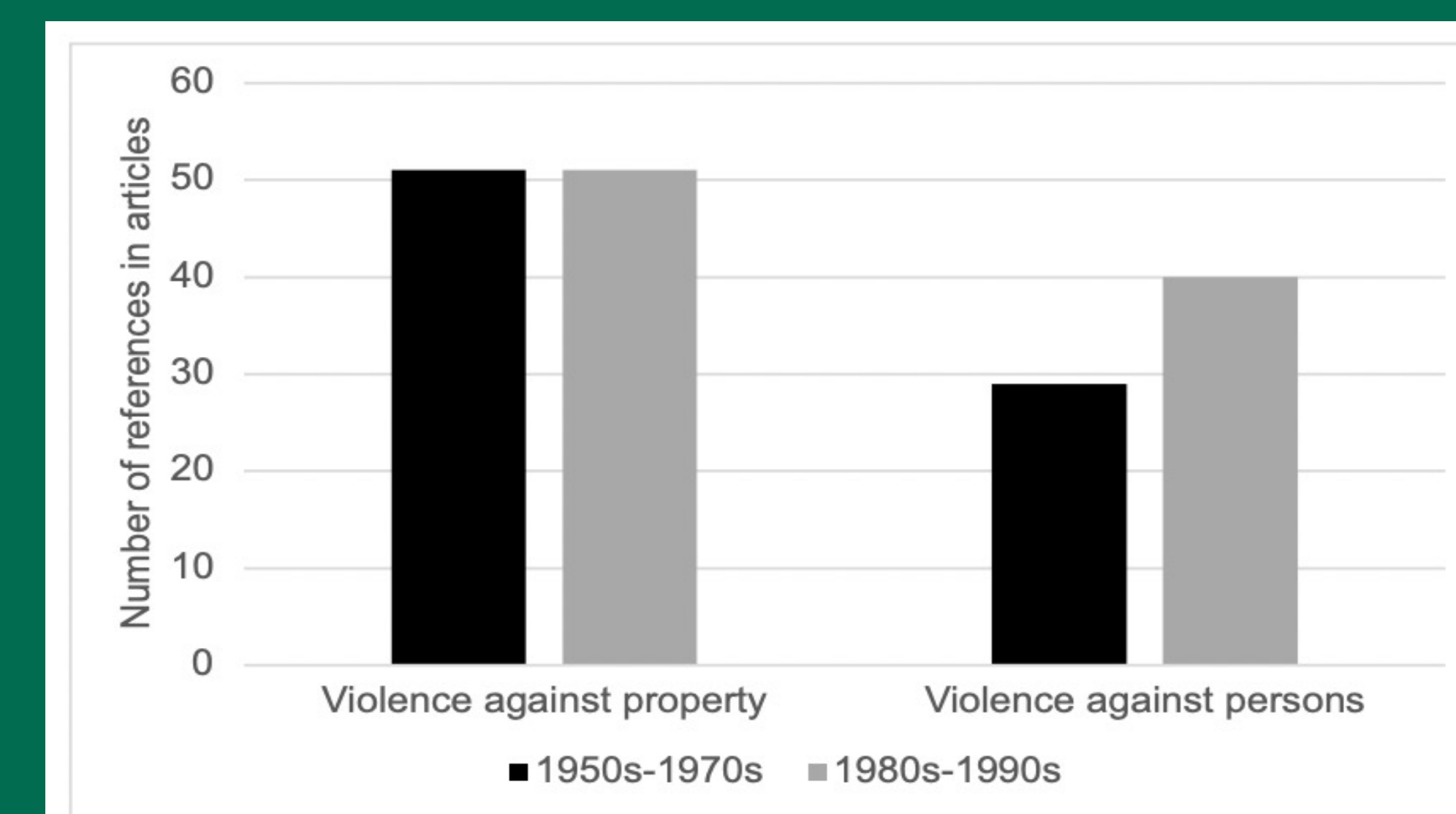


Fig. 6. Increasing awareness of the Holocaust shifts attention toward violence against persons in the 1980s.

(Wolfgram, 125)

THE RESULTS:

- **Sweden-** There was some state-censorship, possibly due to their neutral status in the war.
- **Finland-** An ally of Germany, there was a lack of reporting specifically about Jews and Jewish suffering.
- **Britain-** A country in the allied forces, the news focused on Germans as the perpetrators and often didn't emphasize Jewish people as the victims.
- **United States-** Specifically the *New York Times* whose editor was a Jewish man; often avoided the topic of Jews so as not to give the situation "special treatment."
- **Germany-** A lot of state censorship and as seen in the graphs, this resulted in little to no reporting of the actual violence.

CONCLUSION: We see today how different news outlets vary in reporting on events, so what was the difference here? Is it plausible to say that an entire collection of countries on all sides of the war were anti-Semitic? I believe anti-Semitism is at the root of the narrative production which Kristallnacht and the censorship in Germany exemplifies perfectly. The trend with other countries' reporting seems to be about how the story was framed and what details were left out or not emphasized. According to Wolfgram's psychological and social psychological processes, we have the urge to see ourselves and our groups as good. In an effort to uphold this idealistic view of our own people, we reject the idea that we might be harming others (Wolfgram, 117). It becomes easy for important details to fall through the cracks of our conversations, and slowly dissipate altogether.



Take a picture to see the works cited