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"Crime and narration. The creation of (in)security in everyday life"

This ethnographic account follows the circulation of everyday narration on crime and violence at the interface of private and public spheres, in family, neighbourhood and community communication and media discourse. Narrative forms, such as modern legends, moral panics or chain letters, are seen as models for the way that people manage and socialise personal experiences of crime and insecurity, but also perpetuate collective fears through story telling. In contemporary contexts of securitization and post-truth these paradox effects are highly intensified, multiplied in digital live-worlds and visibility regimes, where headlines and stories fluctuate between claims of factuality and atmospheres of uncertainty and irreality. Case studies show how issues of safety and security interleave to create a suggestive and ideological quality to everyday narration, and how personal concerns for our bodies, families, our livelihood and social inclusion are short-circuited with state and institutional interests and global insecurity. In consequence the subjects of the society of security are set into a state of permanent risk awareness, fear of exclusion, anxiety and suspicion.