

Review of: "Understanding the Patterns of Hate Incidents and Reporting Attitudes at a UK University"

Rakefet Erlich-Ron¹

¹ Beit Berl College

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

In an era of globalization alongside polarization and extremism, this is an important study that begins to diagnose the rates of hate incidents on academic campuses.

The study's discoveries mark a positive initial step toward comprehending the dynamics within campuses. Nevertheless, there remains a notable absence of attention given to the personal attributes of the participants. Factors such as a student's birthplace and their mother tongue play a crucial role in their comprehension and assessment of incidents of hate crimes. This is particularly evident in the case of a British citizen following Judaism or an Israeli-Jewish student studying in England, where these two variables hold significant weight owing to cultural and linguistic disparities. These factors greatly influence the interpretation of hate-related situations, let alone the reporting of such occurrences.

Considering the quantity of complaints, it's important to recognize the complexity of substantiating hate incidents. This encompasses perceptions of discrimination based on religious or ethnic backgrounds. It's crucial to understand that the extent of harm and what qualifies as such is subjective, contingent upon the victim's personal characteristics and how they perceive the incident as offensive. Detecting hate incidents is often challenging, primarily due to the difficulty in proving the perpetrator's intent, making it a struggle for victims to substantiate.