

THE ROMANIAN FOOTBALL SUPPORTER:  
SPECTATOR, ULTRAS OR HOOLIGAN?  
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE VIOLENT  
AND NON-VIOLENT BEHAVIOUR OF THE DINAMO  
AND STEAUA TEAMS' SUPPORTERS

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ABSTRACT

Violence on football stadiums represents an important problem today and we talk about vandalism, aggression, hooliganism, delinquency. The football related problems bring two very interesting phenomena: 'ultras' and 'hooligans'.

The main objective of this study was the analysis of violence on the football grounds, the people's behaviour and attitudes in concrete situations related to the topic, trying to obtain a general image interviewing representative groups: common supporters, members of the gallery and police forces. In order to conduct this research we used the methods of interview and observation. For a better quality of the obtained data, the choice of some representative groups for the theme (common supporters, members of the gallery or gendarmes) was very important. Thus, we tried to emphasize the relationship between the supporters' condition and the degree of implication in acts of violence, as well as the relationship between supporters' condition (spectators and members of the gallery) and the perception of violence on the football grounds. One interesting conclusion of the research was the differentiation of spectators and members of the gallery depending on the ways used to support the favourite team and how each of the three investigated groups identifies the culprits and responsibility for the acts of violence.

*Keywords:* football supporter, ultras, hooligans, gallery, violence.

INTRODUCTION

There are dramatic images that often appear in the media, which show how a stadium full of people, gathered to support their favourite team, could turn into a fighting ring. We all know a lot of cases when innocent people were victims on the stadium, being seriously injured or even killed in the supporters' fights. It is the

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