

# Studying violence

Like light or force, violence is both a self-evident notion and difficult to clarify. Scientific use of the expression is equivocal.

Light is a type of radiation, and there are other types of radiation, such as magnetism or radio. There are lights of many colors; there are invisible lights. Light becomes sensitive when reflecting on objects, but objects are not light.

Violence is a type of reduction to the body, and there are other types of reduction to the body, such as sleeping. There are many kinds of violence, depending on the intensity, depending on whether it is just physical or just psychological, or a mixture; there is violence suffered but unknown to society, as sexual abuse has been for a long time. Violence becomes sensitive if denounced by someone, but the denunciation itself is violent; eventually morally discounted by a positive moral that is deemed useful.

Force is the cause of many actions, but there are many kinds of causes for the existence of such forces: kinetic and potential energies depend on velocity and relative position between bodies and nothing compares them with subatomic energies, although all share gravity.

Violence is a cause of many actions, but there are many other causes for the existence of violence: violence depends on the state of war or peace, exists to maintain the integrity of identities, freedom to seek care from people involved. Urban and modern security does not prevent wars, domestic violence or social violence, such as poverty.

There is always some knowledge to blend with ignorance to guide scientific studies. As light and strength, what are essential for the organization of experiences taken as environmental conditions; they do not question, they do not study directly. When one wants to study light or force directly, everything else that depends on light and force, practically everything that exists, depends on the conclusions that drawn from what are, in fact, the light and the force. Any change in knowledge about the nature of light and strength stirs all knowledge.

Something similar is happening with violence: the phenomenon mix with practically all material experience and life, the clarification of what violence implies all our perceptions and understandings of the world and life.

Violence is usually a moral reference, not a scientific one. It is about signaling something that should not have happened, something dispensable, avoidable. That only occurred by voluntary action of guilty ones, that is, intentionally violent agents. Violence is usually a semantic transvestite: an adjective disguised as a noun.

There are expressions, such as "violent aggressions", that distinguish from nonviolent aggressions; an expression that one do not use. One do distinguish nonviolent demonstrations from violent demonstrations, so often the journalistic evaluation of demonstrations main criterion: this implies a seconding or even concealment of the reasons and causes of the conflicts within which demonstrations are organized. The suspicion that any demonstrations can be violent, without warning, is a deterrent for demonstrators, especially the most fragile.

To point out forms of lawful violence, state violence performed by state agents, expressions are used that exclude the word violence; such as "the forces of order have been forced to disperse demonstrators" or, when it comes to criminal penalties, "justice was done."

Phrases like those that "police violence" refers to some officer engaged on violent action. The expression used as an accusation of abuse of authority, private use of the faculty of the use of legitimate violence by agents not authorized to do so, while in the exercise of their regular professional duties. When the public outcry demands it or the police department call for it, there are internal and / or criminal investigations against abusers, from where the state is always out, even when it pays lawyers and court costs. The state is never guilty of violence, except when the political regime changes and there are conditions of criminal prosecution to the highest representatives of the state. When a previous regime is already defeated, without any implication for the current state, there are members of elite in trial.

The common usage of the expression "violent" refers to the previous judgment of the morally negative quality of the action that one wants to denounce, distinguishing it from the good. Necessary violence not described as violent, because if this were the case it would be magically associated with negative and condemning moral stigma.

In order to analyze violence as a substantive, analytically isolated from the rest of the practical experience in which it is involved, in its different modalities, it is necessary an intellectual exercise of moral distancing and theoretical conceptualization: violence as a modality reduction to the body calling for better knowledge.

20.02.2019