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In the line of fire: firearm violence in Europe

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Propositions related to thesis ‘In the line of fire – Firearm violence in Europe’:

1. There is no need for a theory on firearm violence, but a theory is needed to account for the *modus operandi* in violence.
2. The availability of legal firearms does not determine the *prevalence* of lethal violence in Europe, but the *nature* of lethal violence committed with firearms
3. Firearm homicides should not be equated with firearm violence.
4. Firearms are not necessary to kill a person, but they enable new opportunities for violence and empower perpetrators who might otherwise lack the means to commit such acts.
5. Firearms and firearm violence in Europe is researched too little, and through too few disciplinary lenses.
6. Firearm violence cannot be understood fully through quantitative approaches; insight from firearm users – and thus qualitative research - are necessary to understand weapon choice and the meaning of weapons.
7. Combining criminologists' research with practitioners' real-world experience deepens the understanding of firearm violence, offering a comprehensive view of its causes and dynamics
8. The biggest hurdle we need to overcome in the study of (armed) violence in Europe is creating a system that captures detailed, reliable and comparable information on both lethal and non-lethal violence.
9. Open Science is the future of academic research and education.
10. Firing at a shooting range should be a prerequisite to studying firearm violence.