

GLOBAL JOURNAL OF HUMAN-SOCIAL SCIENCE: C
SOCIOLOGY & CULTURE
Volume 15 Issue 1 Version 1.0 Year 2015
Type: Double Blind Peer Reviewed International Research Journal
Publisher: Global Journals Inc. (USA)
Online ISSN: 2249-460X & Print ISSN: 0975-587X

Attitudes - Views of Social Groups on Factors Leading to Acts of Violence in Greek Sporting Events

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GJHSS-C Classification : FOR Code: 160899



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Results, as for factors forming violent acts they believe that those are sport management, the athletes and the social situation, while they offer no suggestion for possible ways of preventing/improving the phenomenon. The following are identified as basic elements of the existence of the social phenomenon of acts of violence in sports in Greece: a) politics, entrepreneur and structural/corporate involvement, b) the involvement of the Media, c) social/financial status of the social groups, d) institutional, organizational and administrative function of sports and e) social size concerning beliefs of a "fair" or "unfair" world.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The attitude of people – groups when concerning social events are connected to the perceived social reenacting as a result of discrimination due to origin, education, gender and age (Papastamos, 1996; Bourdieu, 2002). Such opinions are set by their origins as stereotypical, mimical reports and subjective definitions of social phenomena, such as acts of violence within Greek athletic events (Moschovici, 1999). The social extent of the phenomenon of acts of violence within Greek athletic events is reflected into the everyday lives of the citizens as an innate weakness of the political system. This serves unrelated purposes, as we illustrated in a previous project of ours (Konstantinakos, 2013). Political Interests, Financial and the Media form,

maintain and prolong the presence of the phenomenon in sports as a synthetic activity of collective identities and social learning (Braun & Vliegthart, 2008). Nowadays, Greek society is going through a particularly critical period. Acts of violence, which in the field of sports appear more easily and are often extended, are made easier.

The scientific research into violence in sports, as a social symptom requires a theoretical report, a research documentation by special scientists (Farsedakis, 2003). In the course of time, many acts of violence during athletic activities have been recorded, a fact which indicates the innate relationship between the two aforementioned characteristics as frequently inter-influenced (Stanley, 1981).

Violence as a social event is historically mentioned in various societies which function based on specific rules defining the way people functioned (Elias, Dunning, 1998). The definition of an activity as violent is a function of the current system of social values, since each society forms the relevant social perceptions according to its cultural level (Avgerinos, 2007). The concept of violent acts depends on the social, spatial and time framework. It is therefore directly linked to the indigenous relevant creators (Bodin, 2001). In the sociological approach of violence, apart from the term *individual* violence, the term *structural* violence is also mentioned.

This is a result of government or sport institutional administration which undertake the organization and administration of all the multi-element prevention and tackling mechanisms (Panousis, 1990). But, if violence is considered the result of the respective social phenomena then in order to deal with it the causes of those phenomena will have to be constrained regardless if that would sometimes result in the restriction of an individual's rights (Hogg & Vaughan, 2010).

In many sport events institutional violations are noted, just as with abuse after arrests which are sought to be covered behind the phenomenon of violence. (Kelvin, 1970). Regarding the factors which form violence and the interpretations mentioned in the social environment, they can be categorized as follows: a) the disappointment linked to expectations not being lived up to after results in sports (Dutton; Boyanowsky & Bond,

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2005; Staub, 2000; Linsley, 2006; Priks, 2010), b) the fan's - supporter's personal condition as a result of social or personal experiences and c) social education through the reenactment of violent situations as temporary or permanent attitudes received (Huesmann, Eron, Lefkowitz, & Walder, 1984; Bourdieu, 2002).

In sporting events, violence is usually evident in three areas; a) what occurs in the sporting field among the athletes, or among the athletes and the referees but also among the coaches and the rival athletes, b) what occurs in the stands, that is among rival fans/spectators and even police forces and c) acts of violence which occur outside sporting facilities (Avgerinos, 2007).

Another factor which we need to approach regarding participation in acts of violence is the fan's identity, how it was created, how it is linked to violent acts during sporting events and how it is socially reenacted depending on political/financial conditions (Eligio, 2004).

There is a greater possibility of "expectations not having been lived up to" among organized fans which are related to the success of their team, something which may be the cause of their participation in violent acts. A similar interpretation can be given for groups of youngsters linked by ideals and social characteristics and who will cause incidents regardless of what the event is (Moeller, 2001; Tittmar, 1992).

In order to research deeper into the social phenomenon of violence we need to utilize theoretical attributes to Habermas, Foucault and other post modern researchers who analyses and link sports to politics, globalization of societies, financial interests and the functions of contemporary capitalism (Zaimakis, 2011).

People from various social statuses take part in sporting events as fans, supporting their team and regardless of their origin and educational level, express themselves equally aggressively and violently since their collective presence minimizes their individual status (Marsh, Russer & Harre, 1978).

The purpose, of this project was to study the attitudes - viewpoints of social groups with different characteristics such as Race, Age and Education and their relevance to acts of violence in Sports.

Methodology, 403 individuals of different age, gender and educational level, of random social, professional and geographical areas were interviewed. a structured questionnaire which consisted of four questions and twenty-one sub-questions was filled in, following a detailed briefing in their area. Their answers were recorded and analyzed with the aid of statistical packet SPSS, regarding the relation of the dependant variables (questions) to the independent social variables of their Gender, Age, Education. The questionnaire was piloted, analyzed and its credibility - validity was checked, so that the final questions which were used would be credible and valid > 0.781 . The questions scan the

"attitudes" of the participants towards their beliefs related to the reasons and factors which contribute - influence acts of violence in sporting areas.

For the statistical processing of the data simple multivariate analysis was performed (MANOVA) on the sub-questions of each question of the questionnaire related to Gender, Age and Educational Level of the participants.

In order to detect statistically significant differences simple analysis of variance was performed (ANOVA) and Bonferroni post-ANOVA analysis. The level of statistical significance was defined as $p \leq 0.05$.

II. STATISTICAL PRESENTATION OF THE RESEARCH

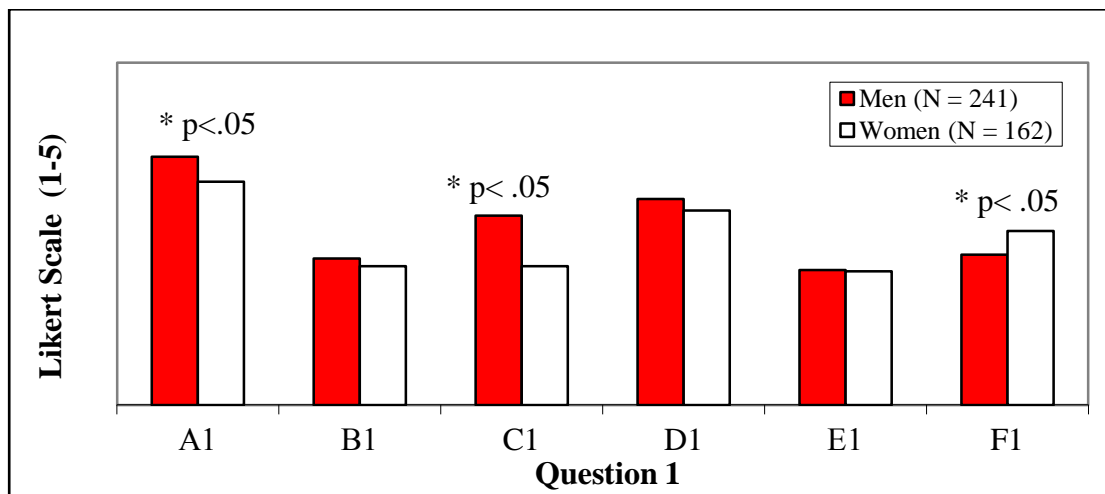
a) Results

i. Gender

241 men (59.80%) and 162 women (40.20%) took part in the research

In "QUESTION 1. Reasons for watching sporting events", simple MANOVA analysis showed a statistically significant difference regarding the sub-questions according to gender (Wilks' $\lambda = .924$, $F_{6,396} = 5.399$, $p < .001$, partial $\eta^2 = .076$). The analysis of variance (ANOVA) showed statistically significant difference for sub-questions A1 ($F_{1,401} = 5.582$, $p = .019$, partial $\eta^2 = .014$), C1 ($F_{1,401} = 16.464$, $p < .001$, partial $\eta^2 = .039$) and F1 ($F_{1,401} = 4.098$, $p = .044$, partial $\eta^2 = .010$). For sub-questions B1 D1 and E1 no statistically significant differences were noted ($F_{1,401} = .494$, $p = .482$, partial $\eta^2 = .001$; $F_{1,401} = 1.367$, $p = .243$, partial $\eta^2 = .003$, respectively). From the findings it is evident that **men** show interest for Sporting Events (A1), are Passionate for the team they support (C1), as opposed to women who regard Relief from daily routine as a less significant factor. (F1).

The average values and important findings are depicted in **Graph 1**.

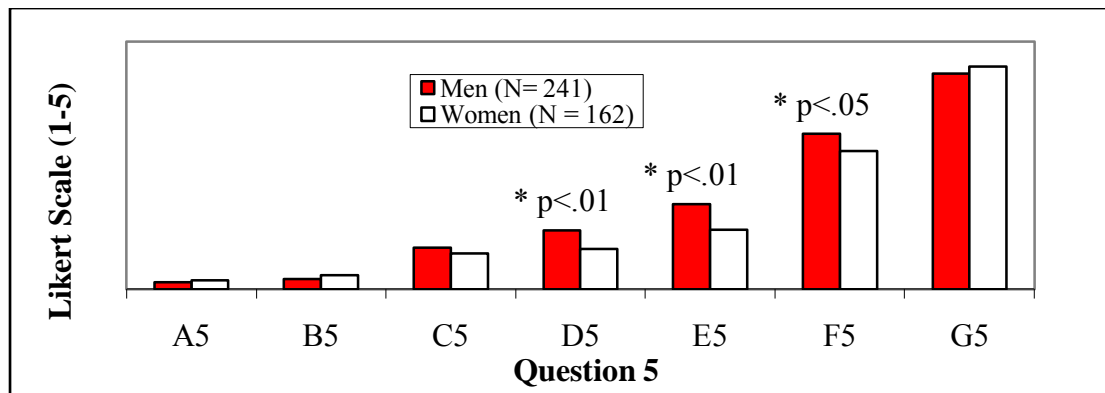


Graph 1 : Reasons for watching a sporting event

In "QUESTION 5. In which sports are riots most likely to occur"

simple MANOVA analysis showed a statistically significant difference regarding the sub-questions according to gender (Wilks' $\lambda = .940$, $F_{7,395} = 3.594$, $p = .001$, partial $\eta^2 = .060$). The analysis of variance (ANOVA) showed statistically significant difference for sub-questions D5 ($F_{1,401} = 7.205$, $p = .008$, partial $\eta^2 = .018$), F5 ($F_{1,401} = 5.604$, $p = .018$, partial $\eta^2 = .014$). For sub-questions A5, B5, C5 and G5 no statistically significant differences were noted ($F_{1,401} = .675$, p

$= .412$, partial $\eta^2 = .002$; $F_{1,401} = 1.790$, $p = .182$, partial $\eta^2 = .004$; $F_{1,401} = 1.018$, $p = .314$, partial $\eta^2 = .003$; $F_{1,401} = 1.886$, $p = .170$, partial $\eta^2 = .005$, respectively). From the findings it is noted that **men** regard Basketball (D5), Volleyball (E5) and Polo (F5) as sports where riots are most likely to occur, whereas there are no statistic significance in the answers given by the women. Of course, for both, Football (G5) received the most answers. The average values and important findings are depicted in **Graph 2**.

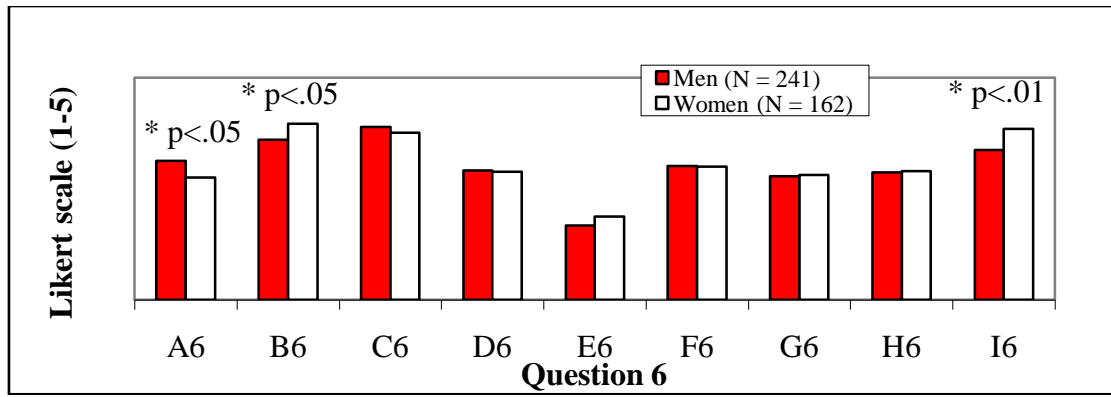


Graph 2 : Sports during which riots are most likely to occur

In "QUESTION 6. What are the factors which lead to acts of violence during sporting events"

simple MANOVA analysis showed a statistically significant difference regarding the sub-questions according to gender (Wilks' $\lambda = .933$, $F_{9,393} = 3.127$, $p = .001$, partial $\eta^2 = .067$). The analysis of variance (ANOVA) showed statistically significant difference for sub-questions A6 ($F_{1,401} = 6.006$, $p = .015$, partial $\eta^2 = .015$), B6 ($F_{1,401} = 6.477$, $p = .011$, partial $\eta^2 = .016$) and I6 ($F_{1,401} = 9.956$, $p = .002$, partial $\eta^2 = .024$). For sub-questions C6 ($F_{1,401} = .815$, $p = .367$, partial $\eta^2 = .002$), D6 ($F_{1,401} = .027$, $p = .870$, partial $\eta^2 = .000$), E6 ($F_{1,401} = 2.146$, $p = .114$, partial $\eta^2 = .005$), F6 ($F_{1,401} = .008$, $p = .927$, partial $\eta^2 = .000$), G6 ($F_{1,401} = .023$, $p = .880$,

partial $\eta^2 = .000$) and H6 ($F_{1,401} = .026$, $p = .871$, partial $\eta^2 = .000$) no statistically significant differences were noted. From the findings it is noted that **men** regard the Media (A6), whereas women the Fans (B6) and the Type of Sport (I6). The average values and important findings are depicted in **Graph 3**.



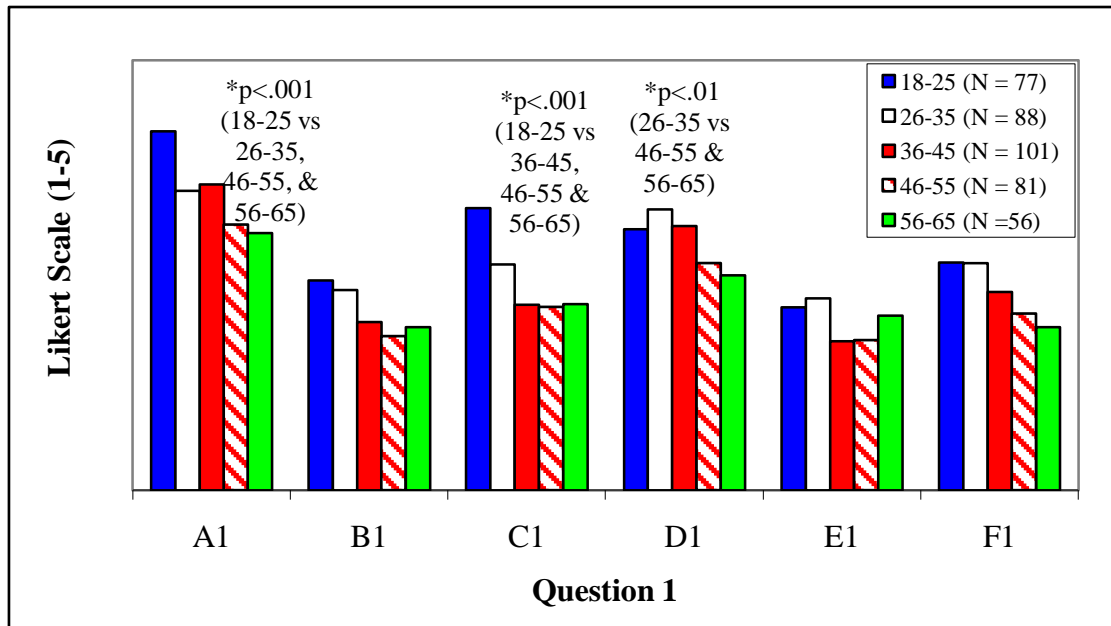
Graph 3 : Factors which lead to acts of violence during sporting event

ii. Age

77 individuals aged 18-25 (19.11%), 88 individuals aged 26-35 (21.84%), 101 individuals aged 36-45 (25.06%), 81 individuals aged 46-55 (20.10%) and 56 individuals aged 56-65 (13.90%) took part in the research.

In "QUESTION 1. Reasons for watching sporting events", as far as age is concerned simple MANOVA analysis showed a statistically significant difference regarding the sub-questions (Wilks' $\lambda = .856$, $F_{24,1372} = 2.612$, $p < .001$, partial $\eta^2 = .038$). The analysis of variance (ANOVA) showed statistically significant difference for sub-questions A1 ($F_{4,398} = 7.012$, $p < .001$, partial $\eta^2 = .067$), B1 ($F_{4,398} = 2.720$, $p = .029$, partial $\eta^2 = .027$), C1 ($F_{4,398} = 6.153$, $p < .001$, partial $\eta^2 = .058$), D1 ($F_{4,398} = 3.814$, $p = .005$, partial $\eta^2 = .077$) and F1 ($F_{4,398} = 3.073$,

$p = .016$, partial $\eta^2 = .030$). No statistically significant differences for sub-question E1 ($F_{4,398} = 1.703$, $p = .149$, partial $\eta^2 = .017$) were noted. Post-ANOVA Bonferroni analysis showed that (a) for sub-question A1, the age group 18-25 had higher values than those of age groups 26-35, 46-55 and 56-65, (b) for sub-question C1, age group 18-25 had higher values than those of age groups 26-35, 46-55 and 56-65, and for sub-question D1, age group 26-35 had higher values than age groups 46-55 and 56-65. From the above it is evident that younger people believe that the basic reasons for watching a sporting event are their interest in the sport, their passion for their team and recreation-entertainment. The remaining pairs showed no statistic significance. The average values and important findings are depicted in Graph 4.



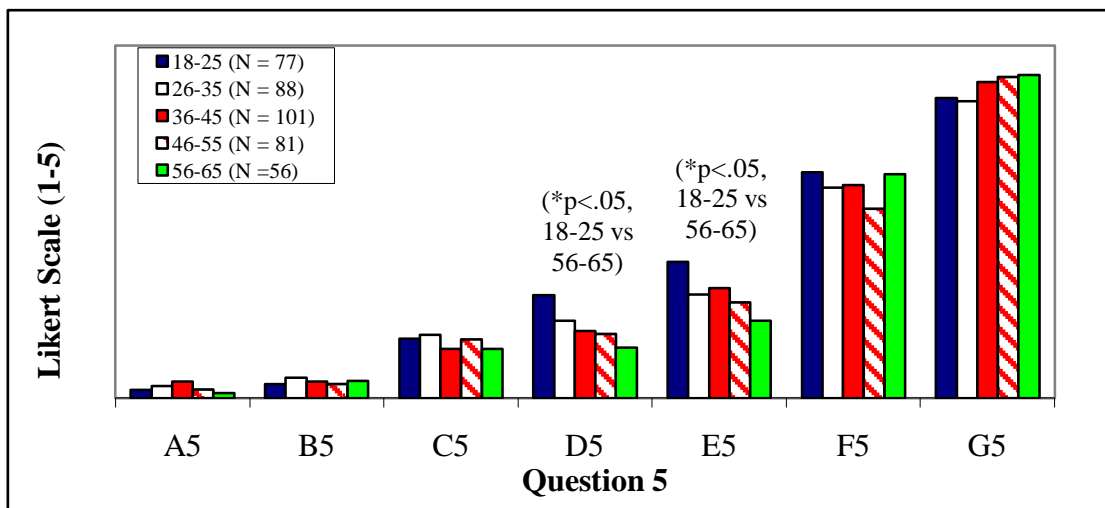
Graph 4 : Reasons for watching sporting events

In "QUESTION 5. In which sports are riots most likely to occur",

simple multivariate MANOVA analysis showed a statistically significant difference regarding the sub-questions regarding age (Wilks' $\lambda = .865$, $F_{28,1415} = 2.077$, $p < .001$, partial $\eta^2 = .036$).

The analysis of variance (ANOVA) showed statistically significant difference for sub-questions D5 ($F_{4,398} = 2.999$, $p < .019$, partial $\eta^2 = .029$), E5 ($F_{4,398} = 2.715$, $p = .030$, partial $\eta^2 = .027$) and G5 ($F_{4,398} = 2.654$, $p < .033$, partial $\eta^2 = .026$). No statistically significant differences for sub-questions A5 ($F_{4,398} = 1.263$, $p = .284$, partial $\eta^2 = .013$), B5 ($F_{4,398} = .255$, $p = .906$, partial $\eta^2 = .003$), C5 ($F_{4,398} = .560$, $p = .692$,

partial $\eta^2 = .006$) and F5 ($F_{4,398} = 1.539$, $p = .190$, partial $\eta^2 = .015$) were noted. Post-ANOVA Bonferroni analysis showed that for sub-question D5 and sub-question E5, the age group 18-25 had higher values than those of age group 56-65. The remaining pairs showed no statistic significance. From the above it is evident that younger people (18-25 years old) compared to the group of older people (56-65 years old) have different opinions as to "in which sports are riots most likely to occur" only for Volleyball and Polo (D5, E5). However, it is worth noting that all age groups agree that football is the sport during which riots are most likely to occur. The average values and important findings are depicted in Graph 5.

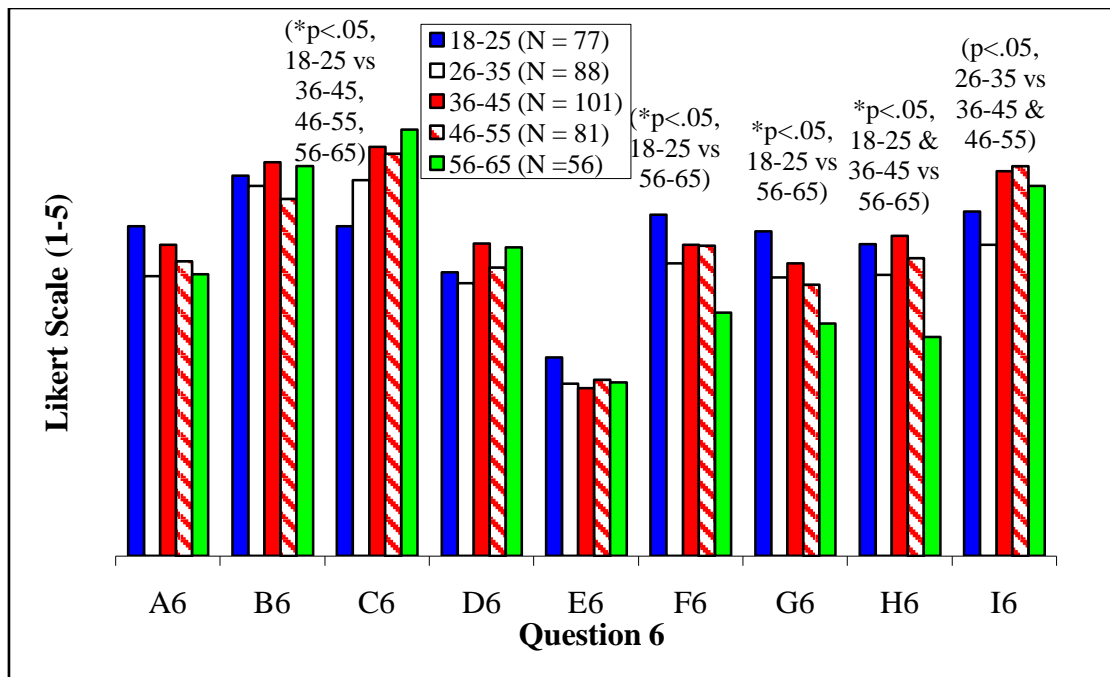


Graph 5 : In which sports are riots most likely to occur

In "QUESTION 6. What are the factors which lead to acts of violence during sporting events",

simple MANOVA analysis showed a statistically significant difference regarding the sub-questions as far as age is concerned (Wilks' $\lambda = .789$, $F_{36,1463} = 3.127$, $p < .001$, partial $\eta^2 = .058$). The analysis of variance (ANOVA) showed statistically significant difference for sub-questions C6 ($F_{4,398} = 6.346$, $p < .000$, partial $\eta^2 = .060$), F6 ($F_{4,398} = 3.481$, $p = .008$, partial $\eta^2 = .034$), G6 ($F_{4,398} = 2.637$, $p < .034$, partial $\eta^2 = .026$), H6 ($F_{4,398} = 3.759$, $p < .005$, partial $\eta^2 = .036$) and I6 ($F_{4,398} = 4.064$, $p = .003$, partial $\eta^2 = .039$). No statistically significant differences for sub-questions A6 ($F_{4,398} = 1.424$, $p = .225$, partial $\eta^2 = .014$), B6 ($F_{4,398} = .941$, $p = .440$, partial $\eta^2 = .009$), D6 ($F_{4,398} = 1.160$, $p = .328$, partial $\eta^2 = .012$) and E6 ($F_{4,398} = .605$, $p = .659$, partial $\eta^2 = .006$) were noted. Post-ANOVA Bonferroni analysis showed that (a) for sub-question C6, the age group 18-25 had higher values than those of age groups 26-35, 46-55 and 56-65, (b) for sub-questions F6 and G6, age group 18-25 had higher values than those of age group 56-65, (c) for sub-question H6, age groups 18-25 and 36-45 had higher values than age group 56-65 and (d) for sub-question I6, age group 26-35 had higher values

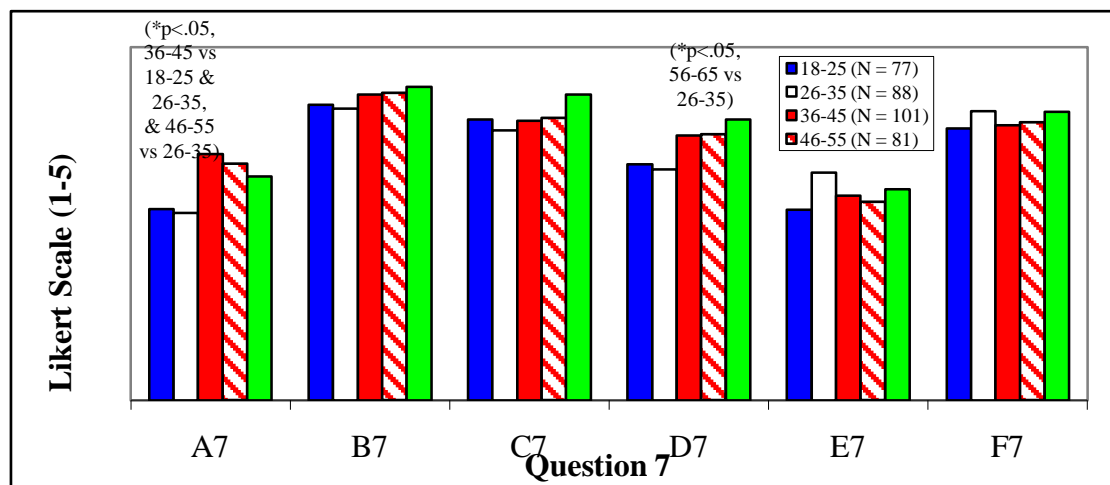
than age groups 36-45 and 46-55. From the above it is evident that younger people believe that the teams, the social, political and financial situation, as well as the type of sport are responsible for the acts of violence. The remaining pairs showed no statistic significance. The average values and important findings are depicted in Graph 6.



Graph 6 : What are the factors which lead to acts of violence during sporting events

In "QUESTION 7. Ways of dealing with violence", simple MANOVA analysis showed a statistically significant difference regarding the sub-questions as far as age is concerned (Wilks' $\lambda = .897$, $F_{36,1463} = 1.811$, $p = .010$, partial $\eta^2 = .027$). The analysis of variance (ANOVA) showed statistically significant difference for sub-questions A7 ($F_{4,398} = 5.168$, $p < .001$, partial $\eta^2 = .049$) and D7 ($F_{4,398} = 3.859$, $p = .004$, partial $\eta^2 = .037$). No statistically significant differences for sub-questions B7 ($F_{4,398} = 1.011$, $p = .401$, partial $\eta^2 = .010$), C7 ($F_{4,398} = 1.490$, $p = .204$, partial $\eta^2 = .015$), E7 ($F_{4,398} = 1.105$, $p = .354$, partial $\eta^2 = .011$) and F7 ($F_{4,398} = .570$, $p =$

.685, partial $\eta^2 = .006$) were noted. Post-ANOVA Bonferroni analysis showed that (a) for sub-question A7, the age group 18-25 had higher values than those of age group 36-45, and age group 26-35 had higher values than those of age groups 36-45 and 46-55, and (b) for sub-question D7, age group 26-35 had higher values than those of age group 56-65. From the above it is evident that younger people believe that the Media and training of the referees are ways of dealing with violence. The remaining pairs showed no statistic significance. The average values and important findings are depicted in Graph 7.



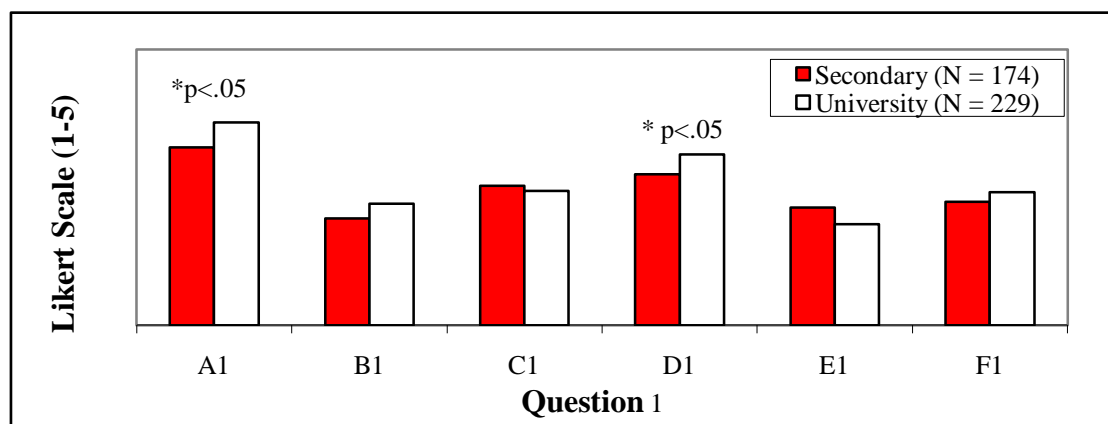
Graph 7 : Ways of dealing with violence

III. EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

Of the individuals who participated in the research 174 of them had completed secondary level education (Senior High School) and 229 of them were Technological Institution and Universities graduates and holders of post-graduate degrees.

In "QUESTION 1. Reasons for watching sporting events", simple multivariate MANOVA analysis showed a statistically significant difference regarding the sub-questions as far as educational level is concerned (Wilks' $\lambda = .939$, $F_{6,396} = 4.320$, $p < .001$, partial $\eta^2 = .061$). The analysis of variance (ANOVA) showed statistically significant difference for sub-questions A1 ($F_{1,401} = 8.78$, $p < .003$, partial $\eta^2 = .021$) and D1 ($F_{1,401} = 6.35$, $p < .012$, partial $\eta^2 = .016$). No statistically

significant differences for sub-questions B1 ($F_{1,401} = 2.83$, $p < .093$, partial $\eta^2 = .021$), C1 ($F_{4,398} = .256$, $p < .613$, partial $\eta^2 = .001$), E1 ($F_{1,401} = 3.22$, $p < .073$, partial $\eta^2 = .008$) and F1 ($F_{1,401} = .991$, $p < .320$, partial $\eta^2 = .002$) were noted. The differences in sub-questions A1 and D1 are due to the larger number of people who had completed University level ($M = 3.94 \pm 1.20$, $M = 3.48 \pm 1.13$ respectively) as compared to the individuals who had completed secondary level education ($M = 3.58 \pm 1.24$, $M = 3.19 \pm 1.12$ respectively). From the above it is evident that the group of people with a higher level of education believe that interest in the sport and the derived recreation-entertainment are significant factors. The average values and important findings are depicted in **Graph 8**.

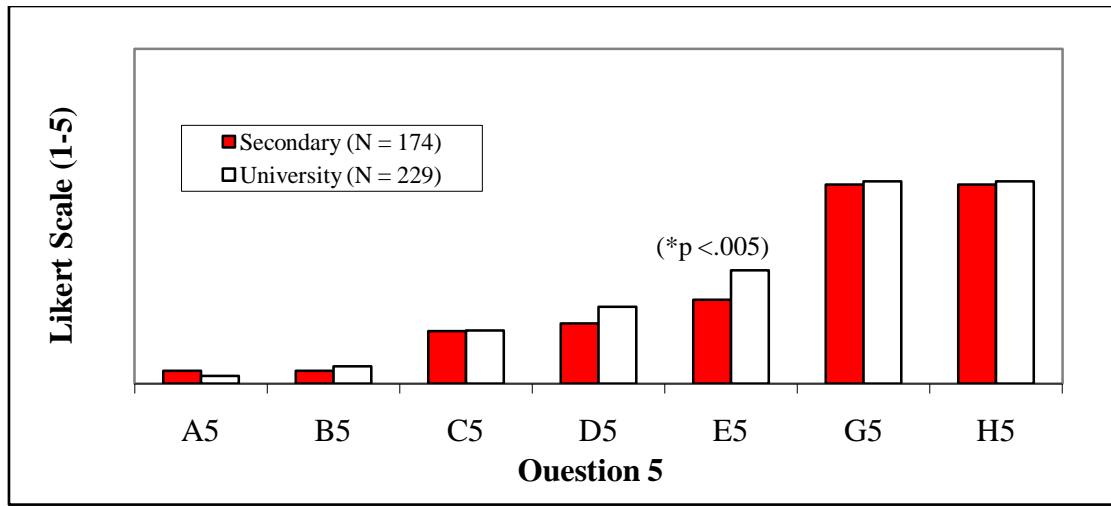


Graph 8 : Reasons for watching sporting events

In "QUESTION 5. In which sports are riots most likely to occur",

simple multivariate MANOVA analysis showed a statistically significant difference regarding the sub-questions as far as educational level is concerned (Wilks' $\lambda = .949$, $F_{7,395} = 3.053$, $p < .004$, partial $\eta^2 = .051$). The analysis of variance (ANOVA) showed statistically significant difference for sub-question E5 ($F_{1,401} = 7.90$, $p < .005$, partial $\eta^2 = .019$). No statistically significant differences for sub-questions A5 ($F_{1,401} = 2.08$, $p < .150$, partial $\eta^2 = .005$), B5 ($F_{1,401} = 1.08$, $p < .299$, partial $\eta^2 = .003$), C5 ($F_{1,401} = .004$, $p < .953$, partial $\eta^2 = .000$), D5 ($F_{1,401} = 3.28$, $p < .071$, partial $\eta^2 = .008$), F5 ($F_{1,401} = .094$, $p < .760$, partial $\eta^2 = .000$) and G5 ($F_{1,401} = .462$, $p < .497$, partial $\eta^2 = .001$) were noted. More specifically, it is evident that the group of people with a higher educational level believe that acts of violence may occur during Volleyball matches, even though Basketball and Football seem to be the most preferred answers chosen. The differences in sub-question E5 are due to the larger number of people who had completed University level ($M = 2.35 \pm 1.22$) as compared to the individuals who had completed secondary level education ($M = 2.01 \pm 1.24$). The

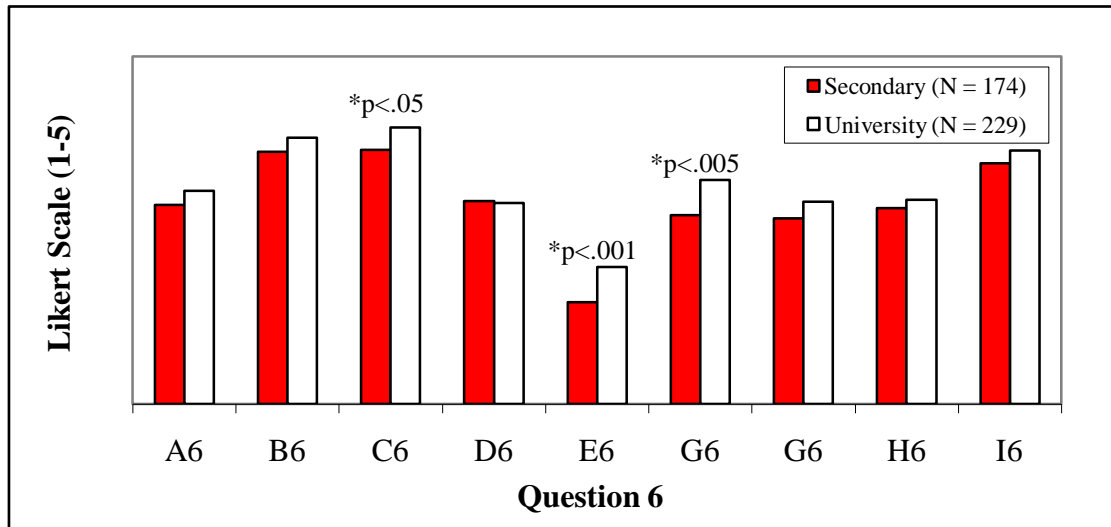
average values and important findings are depicted in **Graph 9**.



Graph 9 : In which sports are riots most likely to occur

In "QUESTION 6. What are the factors which lead to acts of violence during sporting events", simple multivariate MANOVA analysis showed a statistically significant difference regarding the sub-questions as far as educational level is concerned (Wilks' $\lambda = .928$, $F_{9,393} = 3.127$, $p < .001$, partial $\eta^2 = .072$). The analysis of variance (ANOVA) showed statistically significant difference for sub-questions C6 ($F_{1,401} = 6.43$, $p < .012$, partial $\eta^2 = .016$), E6 ($F_{1,401} = 13.69$, $p < .001$, partial $\eta^2 = .033$) and F6 ($F_{1,401} = 6.35$, $p < .012$, partial $\eta^2 = .016$). No statistically significant differences for sub-questions A6 ($F_{1,401} = 1.73$, $p < .190$, partial $\eta^2 = .004$), B6 ($F_{1,401} = 2.12$, $p < .147$, partial $\eta^2 = .005$), D6 ($F_{1,401} = .040$, $p < .841$, partial $\eta^2 = .000$), G6 ($F_{1,401} = 1.99$, $p <$

$.159$, partial $\eta^2 = .005$), H6 ($F_{1,401} = .051$, $p < .477$, partial $\eta^2 = .001$) and I6 ($F_{1,401} = 1.38$, $p < .241$, partial $\eta^2 = .003$) were noted. The differences in sub-questions C6, E6 and F6 are due to the higher values of people who had completed University level ($M = 4.18 \pm .94$, $M = 2.58 \pm 1.12$, $M = 3.58 \pm 1.24$ respectively) as compared to the individuals who had completed secondary level education ($M = 3.92 \pm 1.15$, $M = 2.17 \pm 1.04$, $M = 3.17 \pm 1.24$ respectively). More specifically, it is evident that the group of people with a higher educational level believe that the team management, the Athletes and the country's social situation are important factors which lead to acts of violence. The average values and important findings are depicted in Graph 10.



Graph 10 : Factors which lead to acts of violence during sporting events

IV. COMMENTS ON THE RESULTS

1. As far as gender is concerned, we see that men are more "fanatical", they are passionate about their teams as opposed to women who watch sporting events simply to relieve themselves from tension.

Also, men target Basketball, Volleyball and Polo because they have more intense visions for those sports when compared to women. But both genders showed preference to Football.

As for influential factors, men believe that the Media are one of them, which is very important since it

can help interpret the relationship of owners/large shareholders of the Media with the sports teams.

On the contrary, women, being less fanatical and less knowledgeable of sports believe that the fans and the type of sport are most influential.

2. As far as age is concerned, which influences the way people think due to critical analysis and reenactment of experiences, it is only logical that the younger ones interpret social events differently and approach them differently just as they do with violence in sports. The younger people are also characterized by interest, passion and tension relief by watching sporting events, something which seems a perfectly reasonable approach. The highlighting of acts of violence in other sports as well other than football is notable and may have a twofold interpretation.

Either that they do not wish to declare that because they are "fanatics", or they think of it as something quite common and therefore unimportant. Of course, football gathered the most answers. The characteristic result as far as age is concerned is that the younger participants stated that the social and political situations are "responsible", whereas the older participants stated that the type of sport and the sport management are to blame.

It is also significant that the younger participants believe that the Media and referees' training are a means of preventing-improving acts of violence at sporting events.

3. As far as education is concerned, higher education graduates, as opposed to primary and secondary education graduates, believe that interest and recreation/entertainment are the most important factor in their relationship with sports. They also seem to agree with the result based on gender and age, that Volleyball and Polo are sports with frequent acts of violence. Of course, Football was the most preferred answer.

As for factors forming violent acts they believe that those are sport management, the athletes and the social situation, while they offer no suggestion for possible ways of preventing/improving the phenomenon.

V. DISCUSSION

From the very few existing research reports throughout the country on the phenomenon of acts of violence during sporting events, the need for temporal quest, recording and interpretation of social characteristics as significant influential elements of the phenomenon, is evident. The first significant research into the phenomenon of violence during sporting events in our country, was carried out by Professor of Criminology Mr. Panousis, "Perceptions of Students and

Staff of the Departments of Physical Education and Athletics of the Universities of Thrace, Athens and Salonica" (Panousis, 1990 & 1991). The recording of perceptions of social groups of students and professors of scientific institutions specializing in Sports show the "trends" they represent being directly involved with the social phenomenon of violence. As seen from the analysis of the research, their opinions, regardless of social background, are similar to the usual scientific analysis and also more general estimations that it is a serious social problem. (Hainas, 2007).

They allocate responsibilities to lack of socialization, commercialization of sports, fanaticism cultivated in various areas representation of private interests and they generally mark the direct relationship of the phenomenon to Greek social reality (Panousis, 1991).

Another relevant research was carried out by Professor Kourakis on organized fans of a very young age with differentiated characteristics "Violence in Greek football pitches: between theory and reality". The research was carried out by the University of Athens (Kourakis 1991 & 1997).

As seen from the study the individuals who participated are working people of a very young age (Ave. 20 years old), their parents are of good social and financial status and the basic reference point is "relief from tension" through participation in games.

This is consistent with the results of our research according to age. The study by Tsouramanis, (1988), on the topic "research into objective factors which lead to acts of violence during a football or basketball game" was carried out during the period of 1986-87 and was based on Neil Smelser's theory which refers to "added value" of facts. From this study, it was concluded that human behavior cannot be marked since it is "imponderable", and therefore it is not easy to prevent the reactions of fans (Hainas, 2007).

The next research is of interest, although it is focused on the social group of reporters, "Attitudes - Views of reporters on the phenomenon of acts of violence in sports", a sociological research of Greek reporters which showed that the differentiated "attitudes" they exhibit due to their origin, education, age and work, Television, Radio, newspapers (Konstantinakos, Douma, 2010).

The replies regarding the necessity or not of the presentation/viewing of the phenomenon via the Media are notable, since there are differences due to age, area of domicile and the medium where the reporters are professionally employed.

Also from the results of a study (Brady 2007) emerged only one association between media use and attitudes toward interpersonal violence. It is also estimated that training/education of all people involved in sporting events is a necessity, while the existing social/financial situation as an influence in the

phenomenon of violence is accepted. Other research approaches in our country are coming up with some notable reports on the attitudes of “fanatics” who identify themselves with their teams, as organizations which solely represent the team’s interest regardless of any other factor. Just as an indication of these we mention the studies of Kotarides and Papageorgiou “Fans and violent episodes during football meetings 1974-2003” (Kotarides, 2005). “Insanity and Illness. Perceptions and practices of sporting club fans in Greece” (Papageorgiou 1995 & 1998).

In international literature, from a comparative study carried out by Russel and Goldstein between fans and non fans in the Netherlands, phenomena of psychopathological and antisocial behavior are noted, with justifications for excitement and escape from daily routine through acts of violence (Hainas, 2007).

In the studies carried out by Levy, Gantz & Wenner the stereotype of the male hooligan with a granted involvement in acts of violence is accepted, mainly from individuals belonging to links of the relevant teams (Levy, 1989; Gantz & Wenner, 1995). Such interpretations/justifications for participation in acts of violence in sports are frequent in social research since they are accepted as social stereotypes which lead to exclusion, origin, unemployment, low educational capital etc (Tsoukalas, 2013). The media attention, unemployment and aggressive play on the pitch are significant explanatory factors for the occurrence of violence (Braun & Vliegenghart 2008).

The results of (Forbes et al., 2011) research “were consistent with the hypotheses that a collectivistic society and ingroup membership (CHINA) would be associated with more conflict-reducing behavior and less verbal and physical aggression than an individualistic society (USA) and outgroup membership”. In conclusion, the following are identified as basic elements of the existence of the social phenomenon of acts of violence in sports in Greece: a) politics, entrepreneur and structural/corporate involvement, b) the involvement of the Media, c) social/financial status of the social groups, d) institutional, organizational and administrative function of sports and e) social size concerning beliefs of a “fair” or “unfair” world (Elias & Dunning, 1998; Spaaij & Anderson 2010; Braun & Vliegenghart, 2008; Papastamos & Prodromitis, 2003; Wenner, 2003; Konstantinakos, 2012).

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