What influences peoples' fear of terrorism?

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Enschede, June 2019

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Abstract

In a day and age of often occurring terroristic motivated events like the Madrid train bombing, Norway attack or the attack in Paris, people get increasingly fearful to visit public places or to fly. People's physical and mental health is affected by this. A previous study by Renn and Beninghaus (2013) provided an "integrative and systematic framework to study risk perception" (p.1) and was adjusted in the current study. The current study investigates 1) if and to what extent the factors 'perception of terrorism', 'self-efficacy', 'trust in the government' and 'prejudice' influence peoples' fear of terrorism and 2) if the 'perception of terrorism' has the biggest influence on fear of terrorism. A sample of 107 participants conducted an online survey. Results have shown that 'fear of terrorism' is highly influenced by the 'perception of terrorism'. Moreover, it was found that 'prejudice' also influences the 'fear of terrorism' to a small extent. For 'self-efficacy' and 'trust', results were found to be non-significant. This shows that the government should mainly focus on the perception people have about terrorism as it mainly influences peoples' fear. Additionally, prejudice should be reduced in order to diminish fear. Individuals seem to think that they themselves and the government are helpless against the "uncontrollable force" (terrorism). Therefore, interventions should also focus on the resilience of the citizen. Limitations and directions for further research are provided.

Keywords: terrorism, fear of terrorism, trust, self-efficacy, perception, prejudice

Introduction

Terrorism and its psychological consequences

Terrorist attacks as the Madrid train bombing in 2004, the Norway attack in 2011, the attack in Paris in 2015 and the Berlin Christmas market attack in 2016 have made European citizens acutely aware of terrorism ("Terrorism in Europe - Wikipedia," 2019). Even though most citizens never experience an attack as a victim, they are still intimidated.

Definitions about terrorism have changed over time and often include the words 'violence', 'law' and 'politics'. An actual example of the definition of terrorism is given by Oxford Dictionaries, namely: "The unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims" ("terrorism | Definition of terrorism in English by Oxford Dictionaries", n.d.-c). Power is named as the important concept that comes along with political change or aim. It is defined as the power to control and to conduct political change (Hoffman, 2006). Thus, terrorism is violence used for political change as seen in the various terrorist attacks during the last decade.

The terroristic motivated events and the ongoing fear of terrorism questions the impact that fear has on the psychological well-being of citizens. Being constantly fearful of the perceived threat of terrorism hinders people to continue with their daily lives and heavily impacts their mental health and quality of life. Marcus Aurelius (Aurelius, 170-180) once stated that "fear is derived from the negative appraisal of an event" (p.7). The feeling of fear is experienced as an unpleasant and transient emotion (Palmer, 2007). It combines cognition, physiology and behaviors and is either based in real life, fantasy or both (Palmer, 2007). Citizens fear increases because they cannot understand the invisible, uncontrollable power of terrorist attacks. This fear can lead people to be overly risk-aware and thus change their behavior (e.g. avoiding flights because of 9/11, Ito & Lee, 2005).

Fear does not just provoke behavioral changes but can also influence people's physical health. Marc Siegel conducted a study among Israeli women who fear terrorism and found that an enzyme correlating with heart disease was twice as high as normal. This assumes that fear influences peoples' cardiological health (Mueller, 2007). Additionally, it was found that the consequences of fear in severe cases can lead to "depression, anxiety and insomnia" (Bleich, Gelkopf, & Solomon, 2003, p. 2). Thus, fear does not only have influences on peoples' behavior but also on their physical and psychological health.

The fear that affects people's mental lives is mostly unrelated to actually being a victim but more on being subject to political manipulations (Palmer, 2007). Researchers suggest

that the fear of terrorism is often influenced by the consumption of news on mass media. A study by Nellis and Savage (2012) found that media exposure is related to greater fear for oneself and all others in the closer surrounding. Thus, fear is raised by the frequency of mass media use.

Theoretical background

Based on the information given, the Four Context Level Model of Risk Perception is used as "a structured framework that provides an integrative and systematic perspective on […] risk perception" (Renn & Benighaus, 2013, p. 1). Renn and Beninghaus (2013) pointed out four distinct context levels which are divided into two subsections (individual/collective manifestations). The current study adjusted the different layers and will focus mainly on the collective manifestations of Renn and Rohrmann's Model (2000). Each layer is embedded into the higher layer in order to show the interdependency between the layers (see Figure 1). The dependent variable in the original model is called 'risk perception', which in this study will be exchanged with 'fear of terrorism'.

Level 1 of Renn's Model: Heuristics of information processing. The first stage of Renn and Rohrmann's Model (2000) contains the different heuristics that people apply when they make a judgement. The individual's emotions, beliefs or other conscious perceptions are independent of these heuristics (Renn & Benighaus, 2013). Different cultures can have different heuristics and thus, different common-sense reasoning strategies. Surprisingly, the research found that heuristics are often used universally. When individuals gain knowledge and expertise, their intuitive judgements can be corrected or applied in suitable situations (Renn & Benighaus, 2013). Heuristics help select, memorize and process information in order to overturn one's own judgement about the threat (Renn & Benighaus, 2013).

The current study investigates risk perception which can cause long-term damages (Jenkin, 2006). Risk is more a concept than an actual empirical fact (Slovic & Weber, 2002), thus people personally evaluate the qualitative characteristics of a threat instead of investigating its objective characteristics. Reverse to perception, misperception exists which can lead to ineffective behavioral change. An accurate example of this could be September 9/11. Due to the attack on the Twin Towers, people stopped flying and instead used their cars more often (Blalock, Kadiyali & Simon, 2009). Unfortunately, this led to an increase in associated deaths due to car accidents.

In order to understand how people react in a certain situation (e.g. terrorist attacks), one has to estimate the specific factors that drive peoples' fear. Slovic (1987) found that people heavily rely on qualitative characteristics of the hazard, which can be divided into "Risk as feelings" and "Risk as analysis" (Slovic & Peters, 2006, p.1). Moreover, it includes an evaluation of probabilities and consequences an event could have. A theory explaining risk perception is called 'Psychological Paradigm' and explains that risk perception is subjective and influenced by institutional, psychological, social and cultural factors (Sjöberg, Moen & Rundmo, 2004). Moreover, a study by Lerner, Gonzales, Small and Fischhoff (2003) showed that in an American sample, fear increased risk estimates and plans for precautionary actions.

Overall, one can see that perception of risk is influenced by different factors as qualitative characteristics, probabilities and consequences. The current study will investigate if and to what extent 'perception of terrorism' has an influence on 'fear of terrorism'.

Level 2 of Renn's Model: Cognitive-Affective Factors. The cognition of risk (e.g. terrorist attack) is influenced by people's qualitative characteristics. These qualitative characteristics affect the way people perceive the risk to be serious (Renn & Beninghaus, 2013). A study by Rosa, Matsuda and Kleinhesselink (2000) found that people within the same culture can choose different cognitive routes. Thus, one can distinguish between two different levels, namely "cognitive factors and heuristics" (p. 12). Cognitive factors have been studied mainly, while emotions did not receive high attention in terms of risk perception (Renn & Beninghaus, 2013).

In the current study, the third layer contains the variable 'self-efficacy' (see Fig. 1). Self-efficacy is defined as people's beliefs on their ability to handle events in their lives. It is the groundwork for human motivation, emotional well-being and performance accomplishment (Bandura, 2010). People will just be willing to act if they perceive their actions to have a desirable effect. Ajzen's (1991) Theory of Planned Behavior also includes self-efficacy in terms of 'perceived behavioral control'. It states that people who are more confident in performing a certain behavior are more likely to perform it. While previous studies mainly focus on media and information processing of risks, this study will focus on the perceived ability of people adequately reacting when a terrorist attack happens and the influence this perceived ability has on fear of terrorism.

Level 3 of Renn's Model: Social and Political institutions. The third layer of Renn and Rohrmann's (2000) model is called "social and political institutions" (p. 12). On the one hand, researcher found fairness and justice to be important factors for evaluating risk perception. On the other hand, researcher focused mainly on the communication behavior of political and social institutions with the society (Clarke, 1991).

The third level of the current study also deals with "social and political institutions" (Renn & Rohrmann, 2000, p.12) and uses the variable 'trust in institutions' (see Fig. 1). Trust in general is defined as enabling people to simplify and understand difficult realities through symbolic systems (Hosking, 2009). If a terrorist attack happens, it influences people's trust in the system and can moreover lead to extreme distrust between ethnic and religious groups. A study by Sinclair and LoCicero (2010) found the fear of terrorism to be a statistically significant predictor of trust. The current study will investigate whether the trust in the government reversely also influences fear of terrorism.

Level 4 of Renn's Model: Cultural Background. The fourth level is called "Cultural Background". Most cultural differences in risk perception can be explained by the 'cultural theory of risk' (Renn and Beninghaus, 2013). Even though the theory is under critic, all critics agree "that specific culture-based preferences and biases are, indeed, important factors in risk perception" (Renn & Beninghaus, 2013, p. 13).

The fourth level of the current study includes the variable 'prejudice' (see Fig. 1). Prejudice is not made by nature but by nurture (Allport, Clark & Pettigrew, 1954). It threatens human's dignity and can destroy unity among people. According to Allport (Allport, Clark & Pettigrew, 1954), prejudice is "a hostile attitude or feeling toward a person solely because he or she belongs to a group to which one has assigned objectionable qualities" (p. 1). A study by Echebarria-Echabe and Fernández-Guede (2006) found that terrorist attacks lead to stronger prejudices not only against the outgroup (Arabs) but also against other outgroups (Jews). Moreover, they found an increase in conservative values, reduction of liberal values and an increase in authoritarianism. Therefore, the current study will investigate if the fear of terrorism is influenced by the level of prejudice.

The overarching research question that this study focuses on is: What exactly makes people fearful? This question raises the following hypotheses:

(1) Renn and Beninghaus (2013) state that all four layers are relevant in order to study risk perception. Therefore, this study will investigate if each of the four layers (see Fig.1) has an individual impact on the fear of terrorism.

(2) Renn and Rohrmann's (2000) model predicts that the closer the levels are to the dependent variable (Risk perception), the bigger is their influence on it. Therefore, the current study will examine if the first layer ('perception of terrorism') will have the biggest influence on the dependent variable ('fear of terrorism').

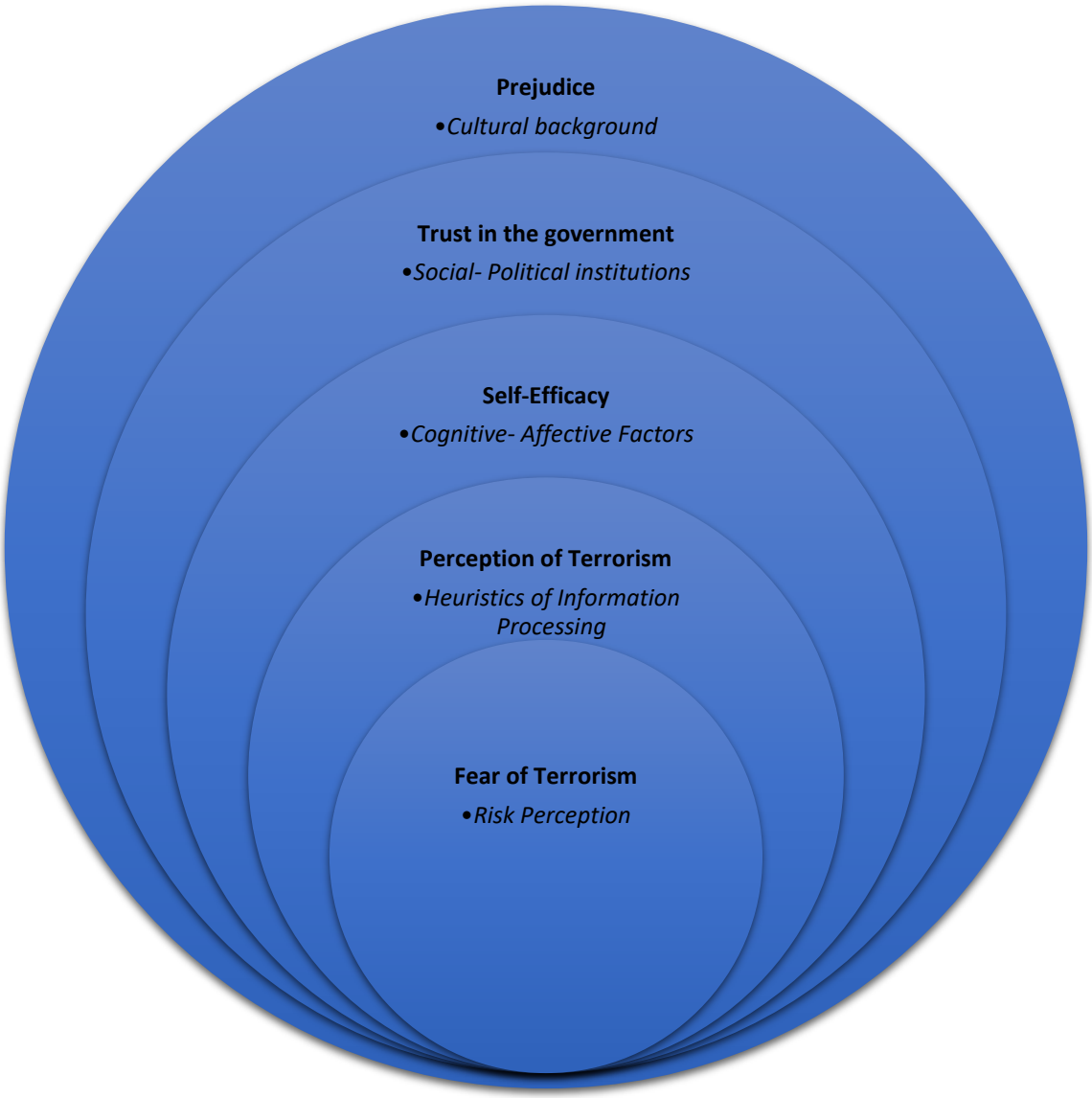

Figure 1. Adjusted Four Context Level (Original model by Renn & Rohrmann, 2000).

Note: Names in bold are layers of the adjusted model, while names in italic are layers from the original model.

Methods

Design and procedure

This study is an online-based survey, conducted in April 2019. The survey was designed using Qualtrics.de. Informed consent was required in order to conduct the survey. If participants withdraw informed consent, the study immediately ended. After that, information was collected based on respondents' demographic background, namely their gender, age and nationality. Afterward, the items were provided (see Appendix). All participants volunteered and were recruited using Web-based sampling methods as the SONA system (a university-based website for students in order to get credits) or via an anonymous link shared on Social Media (WhatsApp, Facebook).

Participants

A convenience sample of 137 participants was drawn in this study, whereby 23 participants had to be excluded based on the exclusion criteria (N= 114). Exclusion criteria were an age below 18, insufficient English proficiency and not being a European citizen. The sample consisted of 77 female-, 36 male-, and one participant of diverse sex. The age of the sample ranged from 18 to 51 years, with a mean age of 23 ($\overline{x}$= 23 years). The majority of the sample were German (74 participants, 65 %), followed by 23 Dutch participants (20 %) and 17 participants from another European country (15 %).

Materials and Questionnaire

Fear of Terrorism. The items for 'fear of terrorism' were based on a previous study conducted by Sinclair and LoCicero (2007). Respondents were e.g. asked to express "If they have difficulties keeping the threat of fear out of their minds" (see Appendix). The study included 4 items that were rated on a 7-point Likert-scale, ranging from 'strongly agree' (1) to 'strongly disagree' (7). Cronbach's alpha of the previous research by Sinclair and LoCicero (2007) was above 0.7 ($\alpha > .70$). Cronbach's alpha in the current study is 0.76 ($\alpha > .70$), which is comparable to the previous study.

Perception of Terrorism. The 'perception of terrorism'-scale was inspired by previous empirical work by Lemyre, Turner, Lee and Krewski (2007). Respondents were e.g. asked to indicate to what extent they perceive terrorism to be a threat to Europe (see Appendix). The scale ranged from 'none at all' (0) to 'A great deal' (10) and contained three items.

Cronbach's alpha from the previous study was not indicated. In the current study, Cronbach's alpha is 0.75 ($\alpha > .70$), which is significantly high.

Self-Efficacy. The 'self-efficacy'-scale is based on items provided by Ter Huurne and Gutteling (2008). An example question from the questionnaire is "I would be able to protect myself from the possible consequences of a terrorist attack" (see Appendix). Answers could be given on a 7-point-Likert scale ranging from 'Strongly agree' (1) to 'Strongly disagree' (7) on four different items. The study by Ter Huurne and Gutteling (2008) provided a Cronbach's alpha of 0.73 ($\alpha > .70$), whereby the current study computed a Cronbach's alpha of 0.81 ($\alpha > .70$).

Trust. The items for the 'trust'-scale are based on previous work by Ter Huurne and Gutteling (2008) as well. Respondents were e.g. asked to indicate if they think that "the government is concerned about the safety and health of the citizens" (see Appendix). Answers of the four distinct items could be given on a scale ranging from 'Strongly agree' (1) to 'Strongly disagree' (7). Cronbach's alpha in this study ($\alpha = .85$) is comparable to the previous study by Ter Huurne and Gutteling (2008) ($\alpha = .81$).

Prejudice. The items for the 'prejudice'-scale were newly developed. People were e.g. asked to indicate if "As a result of terrorism, [they] became less tolerant of people from different cultural backgrounds (e.g. Arabs)" (Appendix). The answer scale provided seven different possibilities to answer each of the three items, ranging from 'Strongly agree' (1) to 'strongly disagree' (7), indicating that the higher the score (e.g. 7), the more prejudice one has and vice versa. Based on the inter-item correlation, one of three was deleted (see Appendix). Therefore, there was no reason to do factor analysis with the two remaining items and instead the inter-item correlation of the two remaining items was calculated. The correlation between the two items was fairly high (0.55).

Results

Descriptive Statistics

As can be seen in Table 1, the computation of mean scores and correlations revealed that respondents have a moderate level of fear of terrorism ($M = 4.13$, $SD = 4.90$). 'Fear of terrorism' moreover correlates highly with 'perception'. Those who perceive terrorism to be a high threat, are also more fearful. Looking at the mean score of 'prejudice', the mean score is above moderate *(*$M = 5.39$, $SD = 3.86$) which is rather high compared to 'perception of terror-

ism' (M=3.94), indicating that on average, respondents have more prejudice than they perceive terrorism to be a threat. Respondents feel slightly above average confronted with the fear of terrorism (*M* = 4.13, *SD* = 4.90). Furthermore, they seem to be moderately engaged in 'self-efficacy' (*M* = 3.94, *SD* = 4.57). Level of 'trust in organizations' is below average (*M* = 3.50, *SD* = 5.17), indicating that people have lower trust in organizations.

Table 1

Descriptive statistics and correlations

Variable	Mean / Items	*SD*	Fear of terrorism	Perception	Self-Efficacy	Trust	Prejudice
Fear of terrorism	4.13[1]	4.90	-				
Perception	3.94[2]	5.84	-.71	-			
Self-Efficacy	3.94[1]	4.57	-.16	.23	-		
Trust	3.50[1]	5.17	.14	.01	.03	-	
Prejudice	5.39[1]	3.86	.30	-.16	-.00	-.10	-
Gender	1.70	.48	-.38	.48	.04	.19	-.01

Note: [1] Seven-point scale, ranging from 1 to 7; higher scores indicating lower agreement.

[2]10-point Scale, ranging from 1 to 10; higher scores indicating higher agreement

Evaluating the Predictive Validity of each variable on fear of terrorism

A hierarchical linear regression analysis was conducted. 'Fear of terrorism' was added as the dependent variable, while the 'perception of terrorism', 'self-efficacy', 'trust' and 'prejudice' served as the independent variables.

Self-Efficacy and Trust. As shown in Table 2, 'self-efficacy' (β = -.03, n.s.) and 'trust' (β = .11, n.s.) are non-significant predictors of 'fear of terrorism', which is contrary to the expectations. The expectation was that 'self-efficacy' and 'trust' are relatively strongly predicting 'fear of terrorism' (see Fig. 1).

Perception of Terrorism and Prejudice. 'Fear of terrorism' is significantly predicted by the 'perception of terrorism' (β = -.74, $p \leq .01$) and 'prejudice' (β = .18, $p \leq .01$). This indicates that people who have a higher perception of the threat of terrorism also have a higher level of fear of terrorism. Additionally, the more prejudice people have, the more they fear terrorism to be a threat, even though the influence is fairly low (β = .18). This finding supports the second hypothesis which states that 'perception of terrorism' is the strongest predictor of 'fear of terrorism'. It also supports the expectation that 'prejudice' has a (fairly low) influence on 'fear of terrorism' (see Fig.1). Moreover, the results underline that 'self-efficacy'

(β =-.03, n.d.) and 'trust' (β =.11, n.s.) have no predictive capacity on fear of terrorism which is against the expectation (see Fig. 1).

Table 2

Regression of the independent variables

Modell	Regression coefficient B	Standardized error	Beta	T	Sig.
(Constant)	20.91	1.90		11.02	**.00**
Self-Efficacy	- .04	.07	-.03 [1]	-.52	.61
Trust	.10	.06	.11 [1]	1.70	.09
Prejudice	.31	.11	.18 [1]	2.84	**.01**
Perception	-.70	.06	-.74 [2]	-11.30	**.00**

Note: Loadings in bold significant at p<0.01, Dependent Variable: Fear of Terrorism

[1] Seven-point scale, ranging from 1 to 7; higher scores indicating lower agreement.

[2]10-point Scale, ranging from 1 to 10; higher scores indicating higher agreement

Additional results

Since the sample included more female participants (68 %) than males (31%), 'gender' was entered as an independent variable into the previous hierarchical regression analysis. As can be seen in Table 1, the 'perception of terrorism' and 'prejudice' influence 'fear of terrorism'. Controlling for gender, it was found that 'gender' has an influence on 'fear of terrorism' (r = -.38, $p \leq .01$) and the 'perception of terrorism' (r = .48, $p \leq .01$). This means that the fear and perception of terrorism are moderately influenced by the gender of the participants. However, Table 3 reveals that the contribution of gender on the explained variance (R^2 = .565) is not significant (*F change* (1, 97) = 1.657, n.s.).

Additionally, table 4 supports the fact, that 'gender' is not significant (β = -.10, n.s.) and thus, does not increase the predictive capacity of the model. However, the analysis also supports the finding that 'perception' is most influential on 'fear of terrorism'. Thus, the gender of the participant does not increase the predictive quality of the first model (s. Table 4). Therefore, no further analyses (e.g. splitting the sample by gender and making a comparison) are made.

Table 3

Model summary

Model	R	R^2	Adjusted R^2	Std error of the Estimate	R^2 Change	F change	df1	df2	Sig. change in F
1[a]	.747	.558	.540	3.344	.558	30.937	4	98	**.000**
2[b]	.752	.565	.543	3.333	.007	1.657	1	97	.201

Note: Loadings in bold significant at p<0.01, Dependent Variable: Fear of Terrorism

[a] (Constants), Perception, Self-Efficacy, Trust, Prejudice

[b] (Constants), Perception, Self-Efficacy, Trust, Prejudice, Gender

Table 4

Regression of the independent variables and gender

Model	Regression coefficient B	Standardized error	Beta	T	Sig.
(Constant)	19.63	2.03		9.69	**.00**
Self-Efficacy	-.01	.08	-.01 [1]	-.07	.95
Trust	.16	.07	.17 [1]	2.44	.02
Prejudice	.27	.09	.21 [1]	3.12	**.00**
Perception	-.55	.07	-.65 [2]	-8.18	**.00**
Gender	-1.02	.79	-.10	-1.29	.20

Note: Loadings in bold significant at p<0.01, Dependent Variable: Fear of terrorism

[1] Seven-point scale, ranging from 1 to 7; higher scores indicating lower agreement.

[2]10-point Scale, ranging from 1 to 10; higher scores indicating higher agreement

Discussion

The aim of this study was to investigate what influences peoples' fear of terrorism. More precisely, the factors 'perception of terrorism', 'self-efficacy', 'trust' and 'prejudice' were investigated in order to see if and to what extent they influence the fear people have of terrorism. A prior framework by Renn and Rohrmann (2000) was used and further developed to fit it to the research aim (see Fig. 1). In order to understand why people are fearful and what strips up this fear, the specific factors which influence 'fear of terrorism' were investigated. The government, police and fearful people can better understand and further react to the citizens' fear after finding out what drives their fear. This can be used to transform the energy (fear) into individual and societal resilience.

As shown in previous studies (Lerner et al., 2003) and replicated in this study, perception of risk plays a major role in predicting 'fear of terrorism'. The second hypothesis which predicted 'perception of terrorism' to be the most influential factor on 'fear of terrorism' is thus, supported (see Fig. 1). Accordingly, the higher citizens perceive terrorism to be a threat, the more fearful they become and vice versa. Fear is always triggered by an external or internal event. Without perceiving terrorism to be a threat, there would be no reason to be fearful. Therefore, the results are not surprising.

Moreover, it was found that people have higher prejudice than they perceive terrorism to be a threat. A previous study by Echebarria-Echabe et al. (2006) found that peoples' prejudice and conservative values increase due to terrorist attacks. The current study can only partly support these findings because the influence of 'prejudice' on 'fear of terrorism' in this model is fairly low. This means that people's prejudice only slightly influences the fear of terrorism people have. Contradictory to the expectations and the model of Renn and Rohrmann (2000), the current study still found prejudice to be the second strongest predictor of fear of terrorism.

The study also expected a relatively strong tendency for people to focus on their perceived ability to adequately react when a terrorist attack happens and the influence this perceived ability has on fear of terrorism. The 'Theory of Planned Behavior' by Ajzen (1991) found that higher confidence in the action that should be performed will raise the likelihood that the action will actually be performed. The current study found that 'self-efficacy' was a non-significant predictor of 'fear of terrorism', meaning that the perceived ability to adequately react in case of an attack has no influence on the fear people have about terrorism. Another explanation could be that people see terrorism as something uncontrollable by themselves. Thus, this study found 'self-efficacy' to have no influence on 'fear of terrorism' while the expectation was that 'self-efficacy' is the third most influential force on 'fear of terrorism'.

A prior study by Sinclair et al. (2010) found fear of terrorism to be a statistically significant predictor of trust. The current study found no significant relationship between 'trust' and 'fear of terrorism', meaning that the level of trust people have in the government does not influence their fear of terrorism. This is contradictory to the expectation that trust has a slight influence on fear of terrorism. Explanations for that could be that people may think that terrorism is an uncontrollable force. It is perceived as an event that cannot be influenced by higher forces as the government. Therefore, people's fear might be not influenced by trust in

the government as they perceive the government to be helpless against these uncontrollable events.

Another surprising finding was that the relationship between 'gender' and 'fear of terrorism' was found to be non- significant. Contradictory, prior studies found gender to influence peoples' fear of terrorism. A study by Nellis (2009) found that gender is a significant predictor of fear of terrorism. It states that women show greater fear than men. These results are supported by another study by Wilcox, Ozer, Gunbeyi and Gundogdu (2009). An explanation for the discrepancy between the current and previous findings could be that the sample was more than half women, illustrating that gender may do not show any effect due to a gender screwed sample. Additionally, women in the current sample might be not as fearful of terrorism as women in previous studies. This could be due to geographical differences, e.g. women living in or closer to crisis areas.

Limitations & future directions

One limitation of this study is that the participants were mostly German and Dutch which reduces the generalizability of the data. As people from many countries are affected by the fear of terrorism, further studies should focus on a multi-ethnical sample in order to e.g. compare countries and their way of treating fear of terrorism.

Another limitation is the sample size and gender. The final sample size consisted of 107 participants with an average age of 23 which is not representative for neither the German nor the Dutch population. Age and nationality can have an influence on their individual assessment of the importance of terrorism. Therefore, in further studies, a higher sample size with a more balanced age should be chosen in order to increase the representativeness of the sample.

Thirdly, the layers by Renn and Rohrmann (2000) were broadly stated and not further explained. Due to the fact that this study developed some overarching variables for the different layers, it cannot ensure that the variables really cover what Renn and Rohrmann (2000) meant in their model. Furthermore, the study focused on technical instead of social risks. Therefore, further studies should investigate to what extent the overarching variables used in this study really cover the prior variables. Additionally, more studies on this model with a range of risk domains are needed.

Another limitation could be the time frame where the study was conducted. During the process of data collection, there was a terrorist attack on a mosque in New Zealand (Besley &

Peters, 2019). Even though it was a terrorist attack against the Islamic world, it still could have influenced peoples' responses in this study. Therefore, the study should be replicated in another time frame in order to see if responses can be replicated.

Conclusion

This study gave insight into the drives of fear of terrorism. The perspectives found in this study are important in order to provide a solution for the reduction of fear of terrorism for the general public. It could help the government to improve its risk communication behavior, producing interventions and increase the resilience of the citizens.

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Appendix

Survey Questionnaire items with reliability coefficients (α)

Items
Fear of Terrorism (α=0.76)
1. I have difficulty keeping the threat of fear out of my mind.
2. I frequently think about the threat of future terrorism.
3. I worry that terrorism will only get worse as time passes.
4. I worry that the threat of terrorism will never end.
Perception of Terrorism (α=0.75)
1. To what extent do you think that terrorism is a threat to Europe in general?
2. To what extent do you think that terrorism is a threat to you and your family?
3. To what extent do you currently worry about terrorism in Europe?
Self-efficacy (α=0.81)
1. I would be able to protect myself from the possible consequences of a terrorist attack.
2. I would be able to do what I have to do when I hear about a terrorist attack in my surroundings.
3. I would be able to react in the right way if an attack happens.
4. I would be able to get and make sense of information about these risks.
Trust (α=0.85)
1. The government is concerned about the safety and health of citizens.
2. The government communicates openly about terrorist attacks.
3. The government protects people like me from terrorist attacks.
4. When the government claims to do everything to minimize the risks for me as a citizen, I believe that.

Perception (correlation of 0.55)

1. I am more patriotic since terrorist attacks occurred*.
2. As a result of terrorism, I am less tolerant towards people from different cultural backgrounds (especially Arabs).
3. I believe that racial profiling is an effective strategy in combating terrorism, even if it means detaining innocent people.

Note: *Item was deleted