



The Green Mob

Car Culture in our
language - dissecting
frames and
narratives

12th December 2024

Welcome to this training session

1

Speaker



Interactive session



OUR SPEAKER



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Research Themes: Mobility Transition, Urban Sustainability Transformations, Citizen Participation, Local Democratic Processes. Former Board Member, Changing Cities e.V.

Imagine a Street...



Photo: N.Michalke

mobility transformation

=

political decision

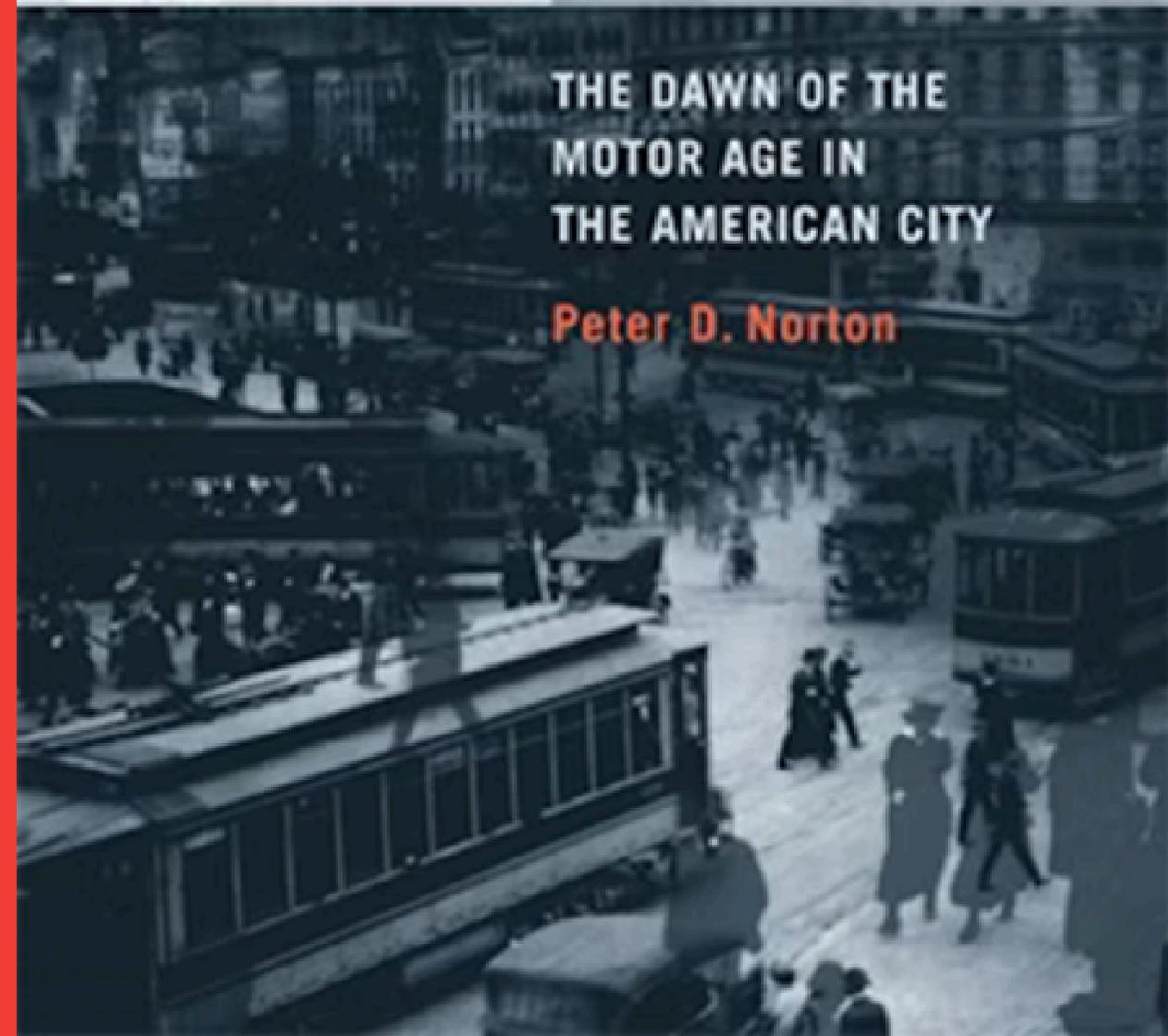


How streets became streets?

(Spoiler:
it wasn't an accident
or a coincidence...)



Fighting Traffic



THE DAWN OF THE
MOTOR AGE IN
THE AMERICAN CITY

Peter D. Norton

**Have you ever argued for
closing a section of a road?**





Photo: N. Michalke



Photo: N. Michalke



Lieferverkehr mit
Genehmigung
Mo-Fr 6-11h + 18-20h
Sa 6-11h
frei

 frei





<-- droga
droga rowerowa-->

?autostrada rowerowa?



Einbahnstraße



Fahrradstraße

Anlieger
frei

BFEY27

SRB LG 102

Fahrradstraße





**ROAD
CLOSED**

Diversion

➔

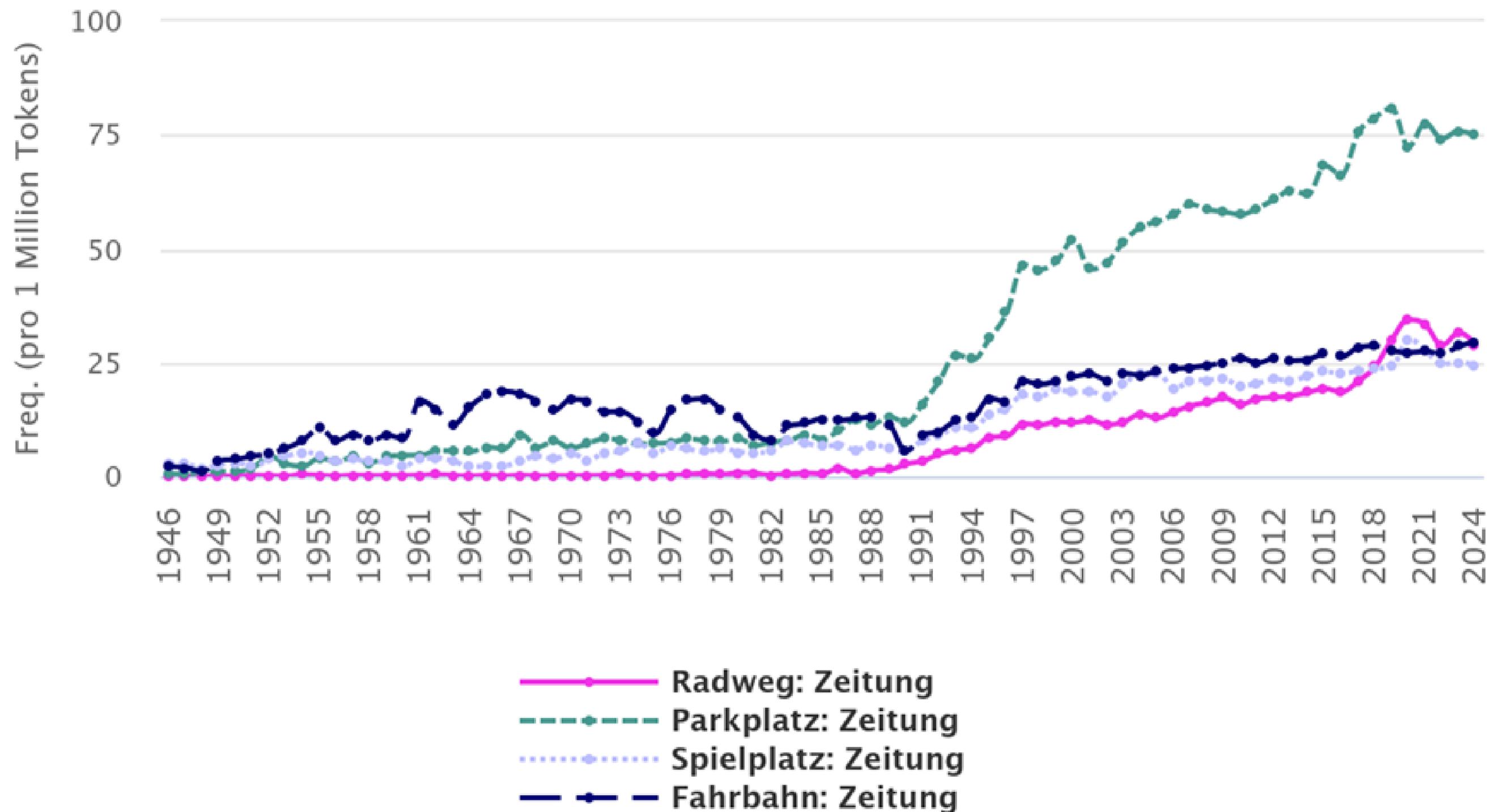


**Have you ever argued for
closing a section of a road?**

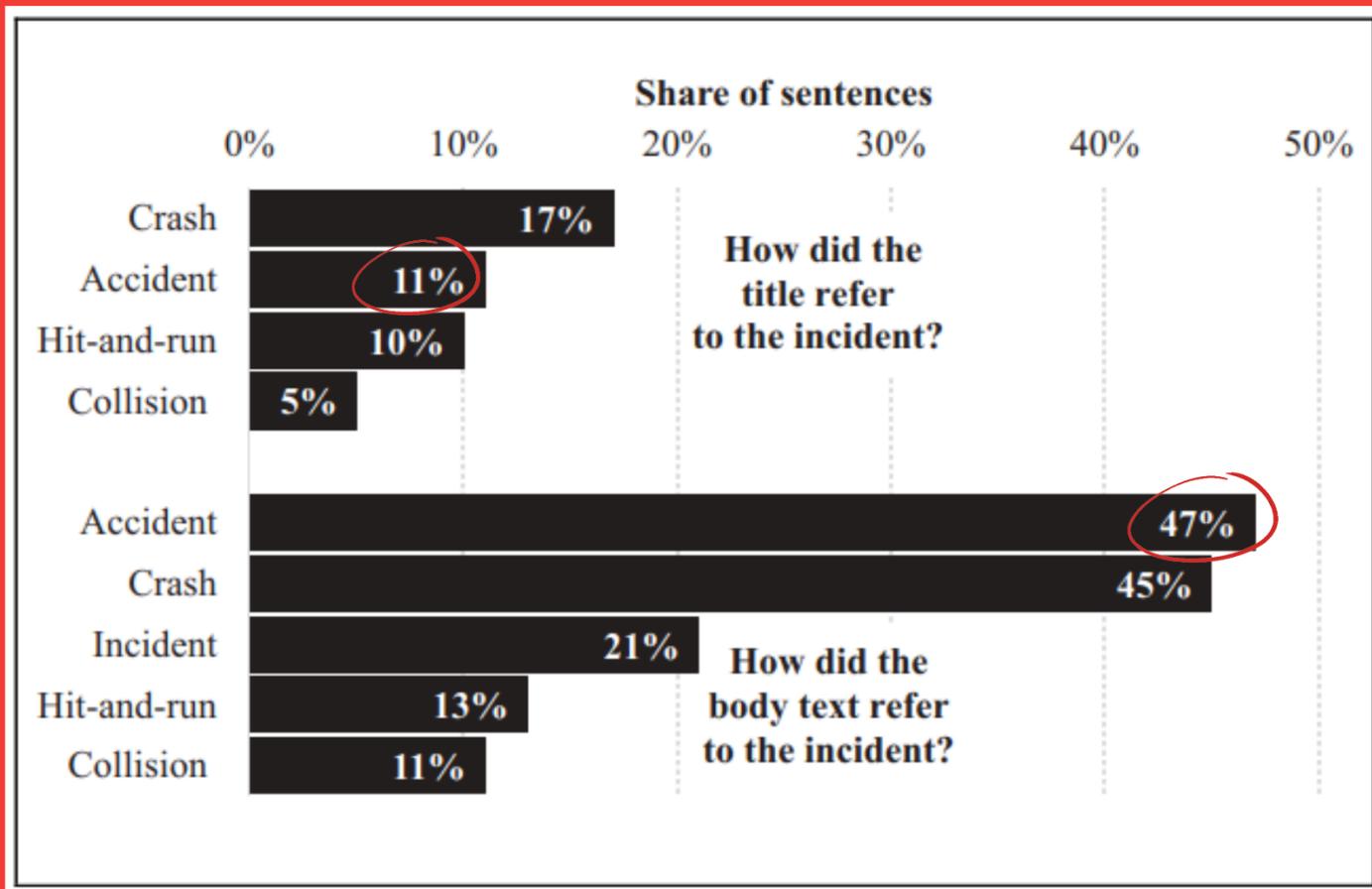
Instead, try arguing for opening a section of road.

Radweg · Parkplatz · Spielplatz · Fahrbahn – Verlaufskurve

Basis: DWDS-Zeitungskorpus



**Empirical Study:
Language Use and Reporting on
Traffic Violence**



Source: Ralph et al. (2019)

Crash vs. Accident

Concept/Phrase or Word-Stem (German Original)	Concept/Phrase (English Translation)	Frequency in Corpus	Frequency in Articles (N)	Frequency in Articles (%)
Crash, Accident, etc.				
unfall, unfälle	accident, accidents	462	184	80%
zusammenst*	collision	35	29	13%
crash	crash	8	5	2%
kolli*	collision/collide (word stem)	84	65	28%
prall	impact (as in "impact with or upon")	41	35	15%

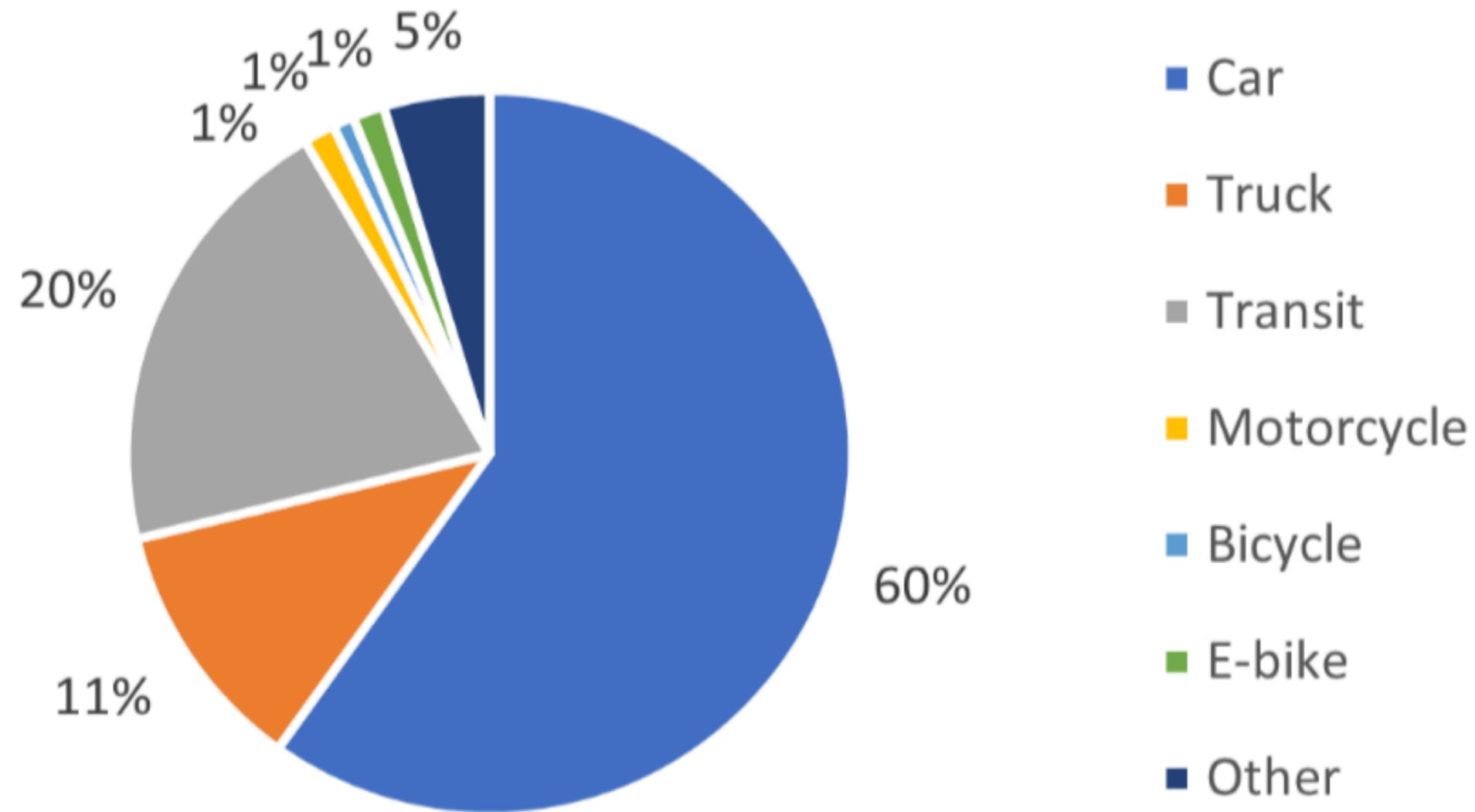
Source: von Schneidmesser et al. (Forthcoming)

Causal Attributions (% of Articles)

	Active Travel	Car & Truck Drivers
didn't see	2%	12%
nature	0%	2%
lost control	1%	1%
victim behavior	13%	1%

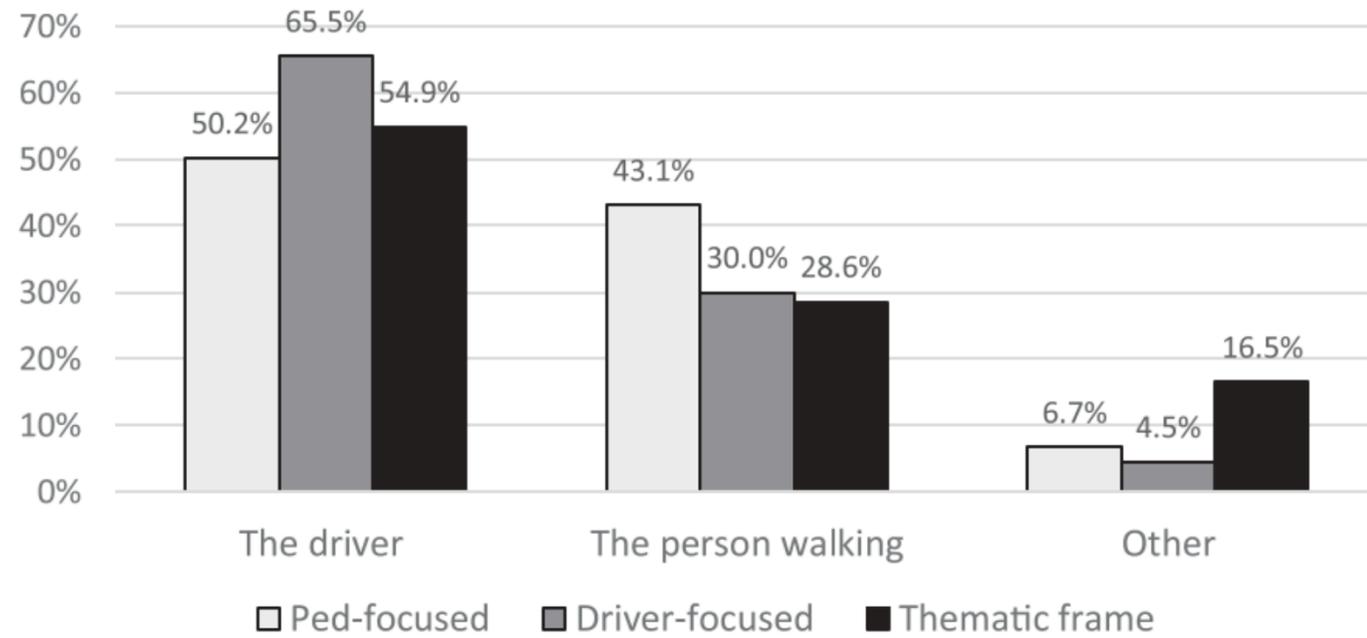
Uses of Metonymy by Vehicle Type

Occurred 212 times in 229 newspaper articles



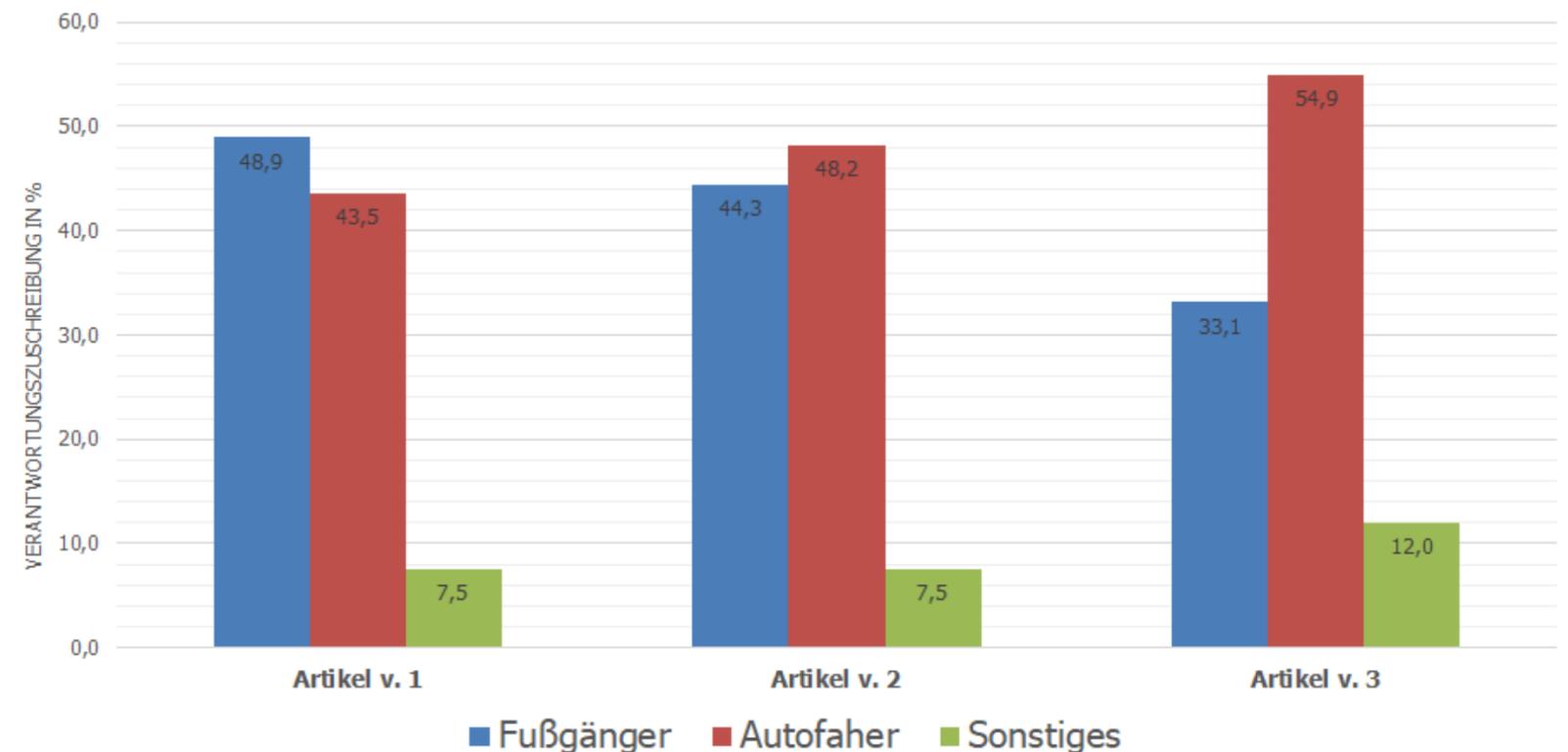
Reception: Blame Attribution

Share of blame attributed to driver, pedestrian, or "other" based on article version seen by respondent



Source: Goddard et al. (2019)

Zu welchem Anteil sind die Beteiligten für den Unfall verantwortlich?



Source: von Schneidmesser et al. (Forthcoming)

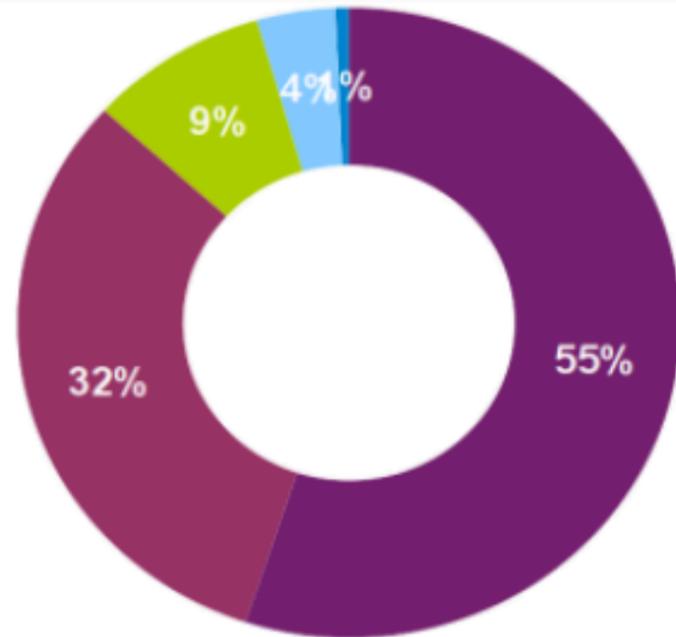
1) Name the actors involved, as people

2) Refer to Agents first

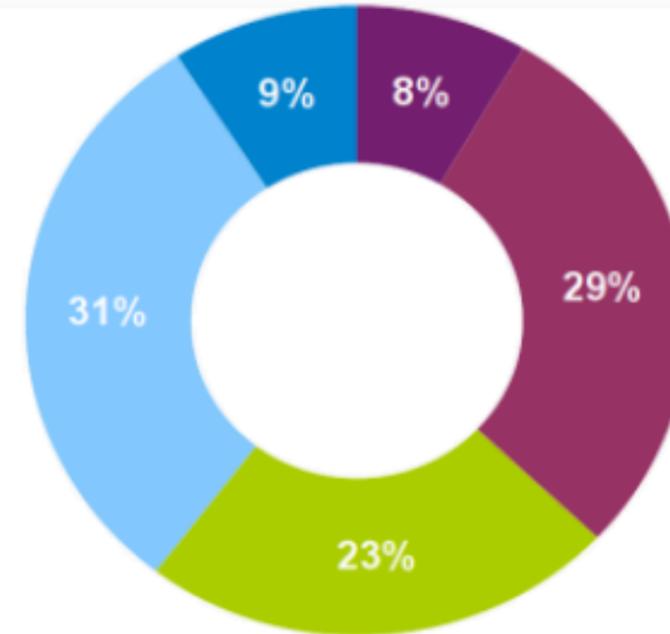
**3) Include crash statistics &
information on infrastructure**

■ Strongly agree
 ■ Agree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree

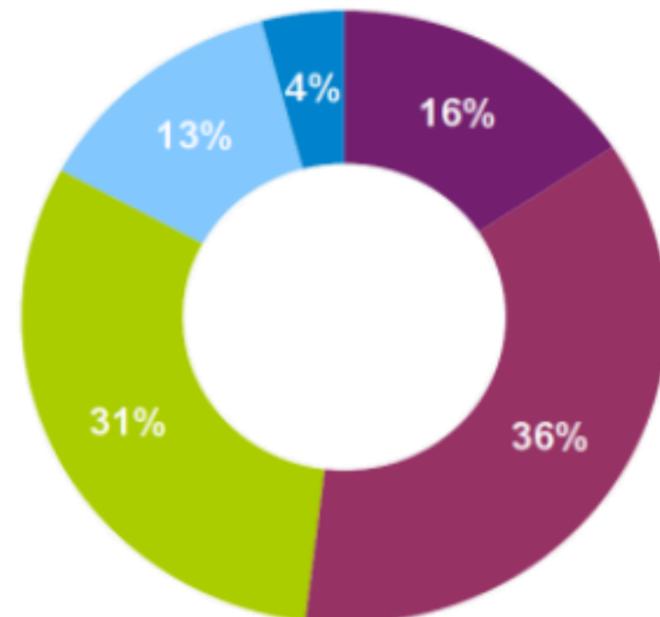
(Ai) If somebody leaves their **car** in the street and **it gets** stolen, it's their own fault for leaving **it** there and the police shouldn't be expected to act



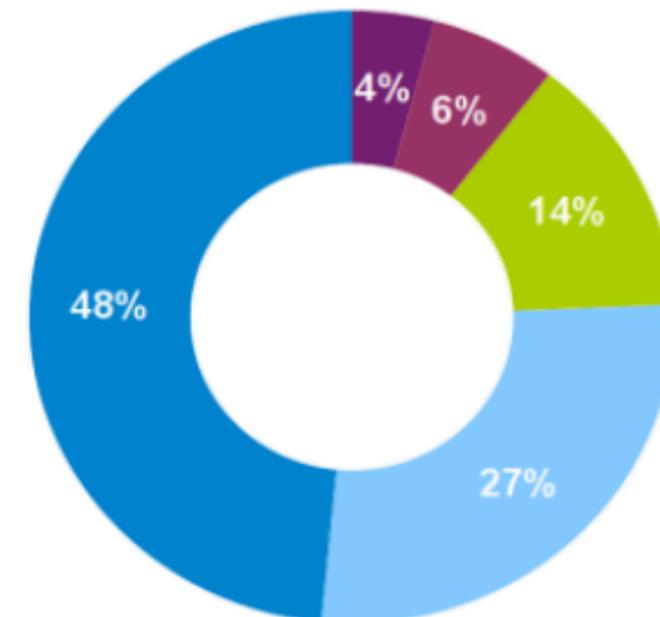
(Aii) If somebody leaves their **belongings** in the street and **they get** stolen, it's their own fault for leaving **them** there and the police shouldn't be expected to act



(Ei) People shouldn't **drive** in highly populated areas where other people have to breathe the **car** fumes



(Eii) People shouldn't **smoke** in highly populated areas where other people have to breathe the **cigarette** fumes



**Have you ever argued that city
space could be used for
something other than parking?**

**Have you ever argued that city
space could be used for
something other than private
car storage?**

Open Street

Road Closed

**Traffic Violence
Crash**

VS

Accident

(Private) Car Storage

Parking

What are some examples from your countries, language, or context that strengthen the automobile system?

Any Questions?





Feedback on the session

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ANNEX