

# Impact of (forensic) expert opinions according to the Istanbul Protocol in Germany—results and insights of the in:Fo-project—reply to commentary of C. Cattaneo and L. Franceschetti

M. Jühling, L. M. König, H. Gruber, V. Wolf, St. Ritz-Timme & F. Mayer

Article - Version of Record



## Suggested Citation:

Jühling, M., König, L. M., Gruber, H., Wolf, V., Ritz-Timme, S., & Mayer, F. (2023). Impact of (forensic) expert opinions according to the Istanbul Protocol in Germany—results and insights of the in:Fo-project—reply to commentary of C. Cattaneo and L. Franceschetti. *International Journal of Legal Medicine*, 137(6), 1941–1941. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00414-023-03064-4>

Wissen, wo das Wissen ist.

This version is available at:

URN: <https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:061-20250224-115141-2>

Terms of Use:

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

For more information see: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>



# Impact of (forensic) expert opinions according to the Istanbul Protocol in Germany—results and insights of the in:Fo-project—reply to commentary of C. Cattaneo and L. Franceschetti

M. Jühling<sup>1</sup> · L. M. König<sup>1</sup> · H. Gruber<sup>1,2,3</sup> · V. Wolf<sup>1,3</sup> · St. Ritz-Timme<sup>1</sup> · F. Mayer<sup>1</sup>

Received: 3 July 2023 / Accepted: 10 July 2023 / Published online: 21 July 2023  
© The Author(s) 2023

We would like to thank our esteemed colleagues for their helpful remarks and further clarification. When taking into consideration the similarity in average injury age and examination conditions in both studies, using the IP scale in a consistent and reproducible manner seems all the more challenging—even when done so by medical examiners with a high level of experience and forensic expertise. This inevitably leads to two important conclusions: first, forensic examinations and injury documentations should be performed as early as possible, to mitigate a time-dependent loss of distinctiveness; second, in cases, in which this is not possible, a refined, standardized procedure for the evaluation of completely healed torture sequelae is needed.

We therefore wholeheartedly agree that this underlines the need for further research and would like to take this opportunity to call for a broader approach across borders. Closing this knowledge gap will require international cooperation of all experts in this field—as few as they may be.

**Funding** Open Access funding enabled and organized by Projekt DEAL.

**Open Access** This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons licence, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons licence, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons licence and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

**Publisher's note** Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

---

✉ F. Mayer

<sup>1</sup> Institute of Legal Medicine, University Hospital Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany

<sup>2</sup> Department of Psychology, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

<sup>3</sup> Psychosocial Center for Refugees Düsseldorf e. V., Düsseldorf, Germany