

SUMMARIES

FERENC IRK

Green Criminology: attitudes, hot spots and trends

Representatives of the increasingly symbiotic political and economic interests look for short term benefits, when they are available, and so the damage that will occur in the medium to long term is often overlooked. Their approach is usually characterised by earlier reflexes and decisions that are based on outdated knowledge. In many places – including Hungary – this attitude is helped by public indifference over environmental damage and the weak protection of environmental interests. For decades, foreign researchers have been dealing with damage to the natural environment. Academics working in the field of environmental criminology developed the principles of a green, environmental and ecoglobal approach. The study outlines the main principles. It compares environmental crimes with two other types of offences (street crimes and traffic offences), and it presents a few of their same, similar or different characteristics. Finally, the author proposes a definition of green criminology, which can be considered as synonymous with environmental or ecoglobal criminology.

ESZTER SÁRIK

Criminological theories interpreting religion

The aim of the current study is to interpret the significance of religion/religious attitude as a sociological, social and psychological phenomenon in the context of criminology. Religiosity is a complex phenomenon, although in postmodern societies it has lost most of its functions. Religion kept its last bastions in the field of psychology, and it proves to be extremely important when it concerns giving meaning to life. Although it has lost its ability to give a consistent explanation to the World, and has been unable to keep its hegemony at the institutional level, it is unique in terms of providing the lone individual, otherwise left on their own, with a meaningful aim in life. This study – in the light of the aforementioned – attempts to find the role of spirituality and religion in the framework of criminology, and presents research findings on religion as an effective factor in crime prevention.

JÓZSEF KÓ

ENYÜBS (official crime statistics) from a criminological aspect

The study examines the particularities of ERÜBS-ENYÜBS crime statistics system. Within the framework of research, in addition to the problems already known, it could be ascertained that the data contained in the ENYÜBS have a time lag, which causes a change in the data compared with the actual values. Crime statistics have a 1-2 year delay in reacting to changing trends. If there is no change of course, the change in the statistical data and the calculated values better reflect the actual situation to within a few percent, but the rate of the changes during the deviation may exceed 15%, which is already considered a significant difference. The difference is expected to be shown in the trend analysis. Changing patterns that can be seen in the statistics really reflect the situation 1-2 years ago. The final conclusion of this analysis is that ENYÜBS data are not simply a reflection of the criminal situation or show changes in it, but they also reflect the activities of the investigating authorities.

ORSOLYA BOLYKY

Judicial evaluation of defendants' pleas in homicide cases

Homicide has one of the highest detection rates among criminal acts. Homicide offenders are usually caught and arrested a short time after the crime, and so the main focus of the investigation is not on discovering the perpetrator of the homicide but to identify the motives for and background to it and to investigate the criminal responsibility of the offender. In other words, the investigations mainly focus

on the degree of culpability. Defendants' pleas develop accordingly: denial of guilt is the most common defensive strategy. The current study concentrates on the effect of confession on sentencing, and on the correlation between the quality of their defence and punishments. It also attempts to examine the frequency and content of those legal defences which refer to state of mind and, over and above, the judicial evaluation of the aforementioned factors.

ANNA KISS

The efficiency and effectiveness of Hungarian criminal procedure

The essay deals with the potential form a king criminal procedures faster and simpler. In the past, the aim was to develop a system that observed the disciplines of a fair procedure. Nowadays, however, this aim has been replaced by a more pragmatic way of thinking, which considers its main task as averting practical difficulties. As such, the main purpose of the present modifications is to make the procedures faster and simpler. The situation of the courts of justice, which are at the limits of their functioning abilities, may really be made easier by making the procedures less complicated. However, simplified procedures without any guarantees being considered do not pay in the long run; the ability to discover and prove the facts also plays a role and the state's obligation under international law to respect and guarantee human rights also limits the available options.

ILDIKÓ RITTER

Remix – The new psychoactive substances and criminal proceedings

Drug use, even recreational drug use, is nearly as old as humanity itself. However, as the circumstances of drug use and the characteristics of drug users changed, social perceptions of it also changed over time. The appearance and extremely rapid spread of new psychoactive substances posed challenges to the societies and the justice systems which play a central role of managing the phenomenon, worldwide. A single European regulatory system does not exist; there are only EU directives that seek to ensure that national measures should at least rest on a common basis. The new regulation related to psychoactive substances is not based on social consensus and does not fit easily into the Hungarian legal system. In spite of this, or even as a result of this, regulating the issue is complicated, constantly changing and full of anomalies. In the legal and social environment – according to the results of criminological research conducted in 2015 on domestic regulation and law enforcement to combat the abuse of new psychoactive substances – the anomalies in the legislation will continue to appear when applying the law.

GABRIELLA KÁRMÁN

Art forgery in the Hungarian criminal justice system

Art forgery represents only a narrow, yet a very peculiar segment of all criminal code offences, since forgery and the related crimes – according to the affected sectors and professionals, including penal authorities – constitute a specific and complicated problem. Moreover, the assets affected by crimes against cultural goods, the extent of harm caused and the other crimes related to theme qually justify research in this subject and the investigation of the comprehensive treatment of the phenomenon, including the analysis of the efficiency of the penal "toolkit". According to professionals, the recurrent problems of proof often originate from the anomalies of the treatment and study of works of art. As such, the establishment of a targeted toolkit, cooperation between the areas concerned and the creation of organisational solutions is needed.

PETRONELLA DERES

Perceptions of an OKRI study on criminal usury

In Hungary, the fight against usury within criminal law goes back to the 15th century, while there lated legal regulations appeared in the 19th century through Act XXV of 1883. Although criminal

usury is flourishing in our times as well, there have been relatively few comprehensive research studies in this area, and the existing ones mostly examined the topic from a sociological perspective and focused in particular on the period before the current “21st century” regulations against criminal usury. The present study examines criminal usury within Hungary from the aspect of legal enforcement. It focuses on an analysis of criminal documents on all final judgments in the period between 2009 and 2015 from the perspective of criminology, regarding the characteristics of criminal proceedings.

LÁSZLÓ TIBOR NAGY

The ustawka and its place in criminal law

Due to the increased policing of behaviour inside stadiums, organised hooligan actions have become increasingly common. Their special manifestation is in the so-called *ustawka* (a pre-arranged fight). The football hooligans organise their clashes in advance, looking for locations that are far from private supporters and the police, in a so-called “fair” fight. The *ustawka* is widespread, primarily in Poland and Russia, but has also appeared in other countries such as Hungary. Although taking part in the fighting is voluntary, it is fraught with serious dangers. The study examines the characteristics and prevalence of the *ustawka*, as well as its place in criminal law and control by the authorities.

ÁGNES SOLT

Men, women and juveniles in prison

Despite the fact that most inmates adjust successfully to prison life, there remains a significant difference between groups of male, female and young prisoners, with regard to prison social life and routines. Our research not only compared groups of male, female and young inmates but we also looked at the status of inmates within the social hierarchy of the prison. Based on both qualitative and quantitative research, this study analyses the behaviour and value patterns of inmates. Through assessment of inmates’ interactions with one another, as well as their interactions with staff members, we gained an understanding of prison subculture. These findings support the development of gender-specific correctional programming that takes the distinct needs of men, women and young inmates into consideration.