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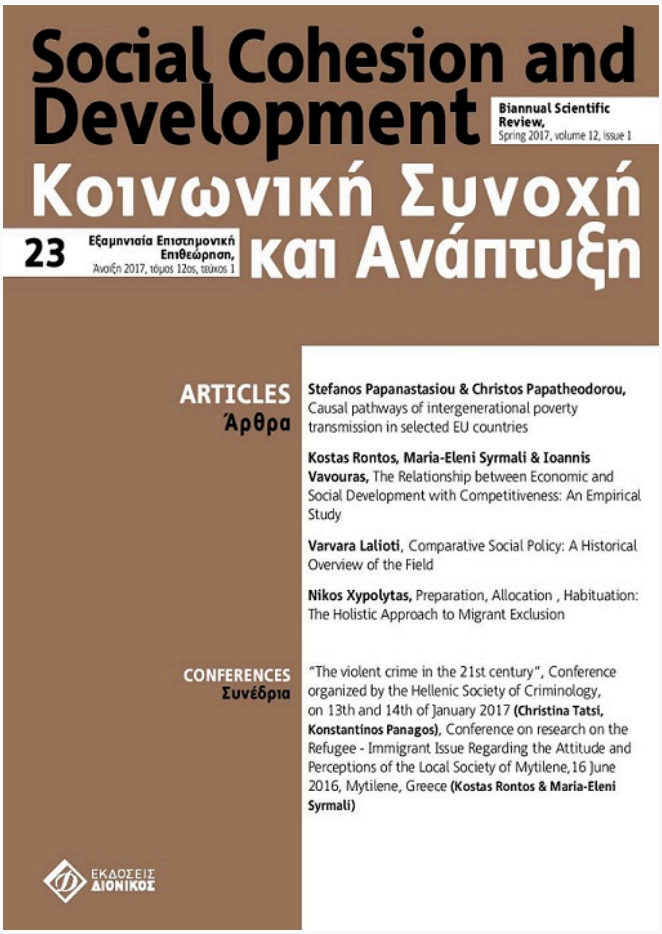

The violent crime in the 21st century

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"The violent crime in the 21st century",

Conference organized by Hellenic Society of Criminology, 13-14 January 2017, Athens Greece

On 13th and 14th of January 2017, the Hellenic Society of Criminology held a conference entitled "The violent crime in the 21st century". The conference took place in Athens, at the premises of the publishing company Nomiki Bibliothiki. Many experts in Criminology and relevant sciences participated during the five sessions of the conference. The Scientific Committee consisted of the members of the Executive Board of the Society, while the members of its Youth Action Team comprised the organizing committee.

More specifically, the conference began with the opening speech of Aliki Giotopoulou-Marangopoulou, Emeritus Professor in Criminology at Panteion University and President of Marangopoulos Foundation of Human Rights. In addition to that, the President of the Hellenic Society of Criminology Emeritus Professor in Criminology at Panteion University Jackques Farsedakis presented some greetings. Eytychios Fytrakis, the General Secretariat of Anti-Criminal Policy at the Greek Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights, extended his greetings too. The first session (entitled "About violence") focused on different and general aspects regarding the phenomenology of the violent crime, its causes and possible ways of combating it. In particular, Emeritus Professor Farsedakis, as well as Emeritus Professor Ioannis Panousis, set out the core introductory remarks on the general nature of violence. During the following, Professor in Criminology at Panteion University Christina Zarafonitou and Dr. Anastasia Chalkia presented the empirical study that was carried out in order to explore the attitudes of Greek university students towards violent crime, in comparison with the relevant attitudes of pupils (juvenile prisoners) in the special youth detention facility of Avlonas (the research was conducted in terms of the Postgraduate Course in criminology at Panteion University in the special youth detention facility and was scientifically edited by Professor Zarafonitou). The first session was concluded with the Assistant Professor in Criminology at Panteion University Vasiliki Vlachou presenting the points of convergence among the legislative initiatives for dealing with the violent crime and defending the civil fundamental needs.

During the second session, the scientific discussion dealt with cybercrime and terrorism. Dimitra Sorvatzioti, Assistant Professor in Criminal Law and Criminology at University of Nicosia, focused on the role of penalty as combating and preventing measure against the phenomenon of terrorism, while Police Officers Anastasios Papathanasiou and George Germenos presented criminal offences that take place in the deep-web. Then, the Political Scientist and PhD Candidate in Criminology at Panteion University Dora Giannaki presented the role of criminology in interpreting the phenomenon of violent youth radicalization; finally, Theoni Spathi, PhD Candidate at the Law School of National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, focused on cyberbullying as a special form of cybercrime.

The next sessions have dealt with different aspects of violent crime, and the different ways to tackle it. At the beginning, Nestor Courakis, Emeritus Professor in Criminology and Penology and National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, presented some introductory remarks in relation to *crimes of passion,* focusing on the conditions that facilitate such crimes, offenders' behavior after and before committing the offence and on how the criminal justice system agen-

cies deal with the phenomenon. Then, Dr. Fotini Milioni pointed out the *role of the community in tackling the domestic violence cases.* The next presentations dealt with sex offending; in particular, Dr. Ioannis Tzivaras presented a paper on *secondary victimization of sexually abused victims in the international criminal justice system,* while Dr. Konstantinos Panagos presented a comparative study on the social control of the sexual violence among prisoners in the USA and European jurisdictions in light of the modern criminal justice policies. Finally, Forensic Psychologist Erato-Maria Ioannidou pointed out that Hellenic Police psychologist's role in preventing and combating the sexual victimization of the minors on the Internet**,** while the Ret. Police Major General of the Hellenic Police and Professor of Policing at Open University of Cyprus Dr. Evangelos Stergioulis presented *the murder of Stephen Lawrence (1993) in the United Kingdom and its impact on the organization of the Metropolitan Police of London.* The session was concluded with three contributions, in relation to the explanation and prevention of the violent crime in light of the environmental criminology (presented by Dr. Apostolos Perperis), the historical development of the social attitudes towards sexual violence (presented by Elena Savva, PhD Candidate in Criminology at Panteion University) and the psychotherapist's role in recovering from rape trauma (presented by Psychologist and Postgraduate Student in Criminology Olga Tzouramani).

Following the tradition, at the end of the first day, the Hellenic Society of Criminology awarded the best theses written by postgraduate students in Greek universities during the previous academic year. The price was awarded to Mr. Eleftherios Karzis, alumni of the Postgraduate Program in Criminology of Panteion University, for his thesis entitled: *"The role of geographical profiling in dealing with recidivists".* Furthermore, Mrs. Stamatia Malarndri received an honorary mention for her thesis entitled "*The child abuse in contemporary Greece: Methodological points concerning the study of this phenomenon".*

The fourth session took place on Saturday morning the January 14th, and has dealt with a wider range of violent crimes. Athanasios Douzenis, Associate Professor in Forensic Medicine at the School of Medicine at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, presented on the connection of violence with the most severe mental disorders, as well as, Christos Tsouramanis, Emeritus Professor in Criminology at TEI of West Greece, reviewed empirical studies that point out the contribution of brain dysfunctions in committing violent crimes. Then, Effi Lambropoulou, Professor in Criminology at Panteion University, and Stella Aggeli, PhD Candidate at the same University, focused on organized violence in contemporary armed conflicts, and the Police Officer Vasiliki Sergianni paid attention to the 'imported' violent organized crimes against property in modern Greece. Finally, Dr. Fotios Spyropoulos presented the legal framework of bullying giving special emphasis on the amendment of article 312 of the Greek Penal Code by the article 8 of Law 4322/2015, while Euaggelos Chainas, PhD Candidate in Criminology at Panteion University, highlighted the forms and explanation of violence in sport facilities.

The last session focused on policy issues against violence from the perspective of the police officers, lawyers and experts in criminal justice proceedings. In particular, the Director of the Forensic Investigation Division at the Hellenic Police Pinelopi Miniati paid attention to *the contribution of the applied criminology to solving violent crimes,* while its Director George Papaprodromou focused on *the role of the Computer Crimes Unit of Greek Police in preventing and combating cybercrime.* Following that, George Chassapis, MA in Criminology and Police Officer, focused on the *criminological training of police officers in dealing with violent crimes,* while ex Police Officer Dr. George Papakonstantis presented the *particularities of illegal carrying weapons in Crete.* During the last session, Dr. Eudoxia Fassoula, Forensic Graphologist, highlighted the *contribution of*

graphology to the evaluation of the graphic tracks of the violent crimes and offenders. Moreover, Mr. Dimitrios Papadimitropoulos, Barrister and Associate Professor at the Greek Police Academy, underlined the practical issues that a lawyer has to deal with, when defending victims of domestic violence. At the end of the last session, the General Secretariat of the Hellenic Society of Criminology, Professor Zarafonitou, summarised the main conclusions of the presentations, underlining the submitted proposals for addressing the general phenomenon of violence in Greece.

The conference was concluded by the President's final speech, with Emeritus Professor Farsedakis underlining the need for organizing more relevant events in the future. The warm response of the scientific and student community and of the general public, as well, went beyond any expectation. The conference program can be found at the official website of the Society (www.hscriminology.gr), and the presentations are about to be published in the scientific journal "Criminology", which is issued by Nomiki Bibliothiki Publications.

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Conference on research on the Refugee - Immigrant Issue Regarding the Attitude and Perceptions of the Local Society of Mytilene,

16 June 2016, Mytilene, Greece

Since 2015, the North Aegean islands situated in Greece, and Lesvos in particular, have been hosting mass refugee and migration flows, consisting the main gateway into Europe for fluxes of people fleeing war and poverty amid the ongoing humanitarian crisis. The lack of basic infrastructure and the time-consuming processes of screening refugees and granting the claimed asylum, among other factors, escalate the matter not only among refugees but as far as the local society is concerned as well.

The Department of Sociology of the University of the Aegean taking into consideration the existing social changes and recognizing the intensity of recent refugee and migratory displacement, conducted extensive, primary statistical research during the period April-May 2016. The goal of the study undertaken was to examine the sociological aspects of the major repercussions, which were manifested by the refugee-immigrant phenomenon in the island of Lesvos, where the Department of Sociology of the University of the Aegean is located. More specifically, the scope of the study was to explore the views and attitudes of the local society of Mytilene regarding the refugee-immigrant issue and the way it has affected everyday life. Overall, the research questions addressed specify the impact of mass arrivals on local population, the effect on tourism, the prospects of tackling or perpetuating the problem in addition to the possible means for alleviating it.

The study adhered to the educational needs of the Postgraduate Programs of the Department of Sociology of the University of the Aegean for the academic year 2015-2016, namely "European Societies and European Integration" and 'Social Research on Regional Development and