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SKETCHES ON THE NECESSITY OF STUDYING CONTEMPORARY/CLASSIC THEMES OF THE BASIS OF CRIMINOLOGY

Introduction

Numerous questions related to the basic tenets of criminology as an independent science, such as subjects, methods, ideological starting points of criminologists in interpreting the empirical results of the research, are at first glance standard topics, which are the starting points of criminological literature.

From the very beginnings of thinking about crime and the criminals, not only from the criminal law point of view, there was, first of all, heterogeneity, ambiguity in the concept of crime and the criminals in general. Experts from various other sciences, psychologists, biologists, doctors, anthropologists, sociologists, who used the knowledge of their sciences and scientific disciplines as a source for interpreting and explication the various facts that stood out by observing a criminal phenomenon, or the criminal himself, first began to deal with criminological issues.¹

Practicing criminology, as well as any other social science or scientific discipline, involves a clear, precise definition of the subject and purpose of theoretical and empirical research, as well as the application of appropriate methodological procedures, in order to find out the subject under study. Various questions in the fields of sociology, criminology, penology, victimology, as well as answers to them, are covered by some

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¹ See: M. Kostić, *Contemporaneity of the learning of Enrico Altavilla*, in: "Archibald Reiss Days". *Thematic conference proceedings of international significance, Belgrade, 7-9 November 2017*, vol. 1, issue 1, Belgrade 2017, pp. 45-46.

of the leading ideas of the intellectual tradition in the west, primarily about the nature of scientific knowledge and the ways to reach them.² Otherwise, there is a constant need in science for a clear account of the histories of the development of human thought, and the associated continuous “exuberance” of human research, which makes it extremely difficult to “put one’s knowledge securely on the first step, as a leader, in intellectual history”.³

Generally speaking, defining the term of a science, even criminology, is impossible without a precise definition of its subject, as well as the methods used to study its subject. Criminology deserves its status as an independent, theoretical, empirical, social and interdisciplinary science⁴ in its own subject and methods used in research. However, as more scientific, related disciplines deal with the same subject of research, a particular phenomenon in the outside world, so too many of them use the same methods in studying that phenomenon. Therefore, in science there is a question of a clear distinction between two separate, independent sciences, which have the same subject and method of research. As Ž. Horvatić highlighted (1981), from an orthodox perspective, it might be required that only “a particular subject and specific methods are the conditions for the formation of a particular scientific discipline”.⁵

However, in social sciences, such as sociology, criminology, dealing with related, often conditioned, “intertwined” phenomena, regardless of the similarity of subjects and the use of identical methods in their study, there are other criteria “that justify the formation of specific and independent scientific disciplines”.⁶ Certainly, this kind of demarcation, as well as the justification of the attributes of independence that science bears, can be observed if a clear distinction is made between the epistemological and methodological standpoints, related to one

² Ibidem.

³ See: D. Oldroyd, *The Arch of Knowledge*, New York 1986, p. 1, <http://books.google.com/books?>, [access: 17.10.2011].

⁴ Science involves the use of the systematic methods of empirical research, data analysis, theoretical thinking, and logical evaluation of arguments, to develop a corpus of knowledge about a particular problem. According to this definition, as pointed out by E. Gidens, sociology or criminology are special sciences. E. Gidens, (2005). *Sociologija*, Belgrade, p. 656.

⁵ See: Ž. Horvatić, *Elementarna kriminologija*, Rijeka 1981, p. 22.

⁶ Ibidem.

science. The epistemological standpoint entails establishing the constitutive principles of the scientific activity, that is, what science seeks to achieve, while the methodological viewpoint relates to how and in what way "the scientist really adapts his behavior to the ideal requirements of the activity in which he participates".⁷

1. The development of criminology as an independent science

As early as 1964, translating Jean Pinatel's "small" criminology from the French language, Dr. Dragoljub Dimitrijevic correctly observed that "on a broader scale, crime and the fight against it cannot be perceived and solved through natural sciences and medical treatment, nor by the scope of the descriptive sociology".⁸

Pinatel states that as the founders of criminology should be identified: Cesare Lombroso, 1836–1909), a military physician whose work *Criminal Man* (1876) is seen as the basis of criminal anthropology and criminology in general; Enrico Ferri, 1856–1929, who wrote *Criminal Sociology*, which came out of the press in 1881 under the title *New Aspects of Criminal Law*; and Rafaele Garrofolo (1851–1934), who published his *Criminology* textbook in 1885. In this sense, Pinatel writes that the International Congress of Criminal Anthropology testifies to its development, held in Rome in 1885, then in Paris (1889), Brussels (1892), Geneva (1896), Amsterdam (1901), Turin (1906). and Cologne (1913).⁹

A brief overview of the development of criminology as an independent science, through various criminological directions, will indicate the importance of the methodological procedures applied, determined in accordance with the subject of the research. Thus, the natural sciences were at one time dominant in criminology, precisely under the influence of anthropologically and biologically oriented criminology, where special importance was given to the inheritance of criminal dispositions, and methods were applied that allowed measuring hereditary burden, examining the relationship between inherited and acquired dispositions, etc. That is

⁷ See more: M. Đurić, *Problemi sociološkog metoda*, Belgrade 1962, p. 32.

⁸ D. Dimitrijević, *Predgovor*, in: Ž. Pinatel, *Kriminologija*, Sarajevo 1964, p. 4.

⁹ Ž. Pinatel, *Kriminologija...*, p. 7.

why, for example, Gall began his work on brain anatomy in Vienna, where he practiced medicine 1785–1805. When his work was declared inadmissible from a religious standpoint in 1805, he left Vienna and worked at several German universities. In addition to Lavater and Giambattista Della Porta, he is one of the founders of physiognomy in criminology. Their concepts, though abandoned, nevertheless represented the forerunners of the anthropological direction in criminology, and their significance is that they took on the methods of the exact sciences and studied the criminals individually, as patients.¹⁰

Again, at the turn of the century, a group of psychiatrists, including Aschaffenburg and Näcke, rejected the existence of a “moral defect” and took a much more complex stance on the interaction between inheritance and the environment. They established the “Aschaffenburg Paradigm”, which dominated the view that many criminals suffer from a general mental abnormality (described in terms of degeneration, *Minderwertigkeit* or psychopathy), making them much more susceptible to living a criminal lifestyle, under adverse external circumstances - not because that these abnormalities were directly criminogenic, “but because they had developmentally impeded their careers in social and economic life”.¹¹

Since the Weimar Republic, the Aschaffenburg paradigm has become dominant. Virtually every biologist-oriented criminologist in the period between the two world wars, including those most dedicated to the study of genetic factors, such as Lange and Stumpfl, agreed that, with the exception of rare cases of “gemütlos psychopaths” congenital or genetic factors that were involved in criminal behavior did not consist of some criminogenic “moral defect” but of various abnormal traces that are not hereditarily criminogenic but could develop criminogenic potential, in some combination and under certain external circumstances.

The most important contribution of the Aschaffenburg paradigm was in the complex consideration of the interaction between inheritance and environmental influences, which promoted the emergence of methodological and conceptually closer definitions. In fact, Aschaffenburg accurately described the division of causes of crime into two large groups: social

¹⁰ See: S. Konstantinović-Vilić, V. Nikolić-Ristanović, M. Kostić, *Kriminologija*, Niš 2009, pp. 268–269.

¹¹ F.R. Wetzell, *Inventing the Criminal: A History of German Criminology 1880–1945*, Chapel Hill 2000, p. 297.

causes and individual causes. The first group considers only the external conditions of "general fluctuation affecting crime reporting"; the second group of conditions always leads, when examining an individual's personal inclination into crime, to the "bilge" from which the individual originated, which "leads directly back along the path to the social causes" of the crime.¹² Schumfl had a much greater grasp on the methodological issues of twin studies than in his Lange papers, until the Exser criminological study of 1939, which represented a visible improvement over the standard work of Aschaffenburg in 1903. This growing determination of the methodology has added to the complexity of the biologist's immeasurable work. As their understanding of the interaction of inheritance and environment became more complex, their goal, which was to identify criminogenic genetic factors and to distinguish between repairable and irreversible, became even more "elusive".¹³ Later, when the development of criminal sociology took place, first on European and then on North American soil, all research methods and techniques that were otherwise dominant in sociology were adopted.

The point of view of Sutherland, Cressey, and Luckenbill (1992) is interesting in their work, *Principles of Criminology*. They argue that criminology encompasses three interdependent areas that focus on the processes of law-making, law-breaking, and response to law-breaking, thus specifying areas: 1) criminal law sociology – the intention to systematically analyze the conditions under which the criminal law system is developed and to explain the varied course of action and procedures used in the police and courts; 2) the sociology of crime and the social psychology of criminal behavior – the intention to systematically analyze the economic, political and social conditions in which crime is generated or prevented; and, 3) the sociology of punishment and correction – the intention to systematically analyze the course of action and crime control procedures. Thus, the scientific determination of the subject of criminology lies in the development of the essence of knowledge in relation to these three processes.¹⁴

¹² See: G. Aschaffenburg, *Crime and Its Repression*, Montclair 1968, p. 15.

¹³ F.R. Wetzell, *Inventing the Criminal...*, p. 298.

¹⁴ E.H. Sutherland, D.R. Cressey, D.F. Luckenbill, *Principles of Criminology*, New York 1992, p. 3, https://books.google.rs/books?id=wqRQqXKuU7sC&printsec=frontcover&hl=sr&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false [access: 21.08.2016].

From today's point of view, issues related to: criminality, delinquency and deviance can be identified as the subject of criminological study. Criminality, in the narrower criminal sense, would encompass all the crimes committed in a particular area and within a specific timeframe of observation; on the other hand, the broader concept of a criminal phenomenon would refer to all criminal offenses committed in a particular area and over a period of observation (criminal offenses, misdemeanors, economic offenses, disciplinary violations of work responsibilities, domestic violence, i.e. all behaviors for which it is positive sanctioned by state law); and, deviant behaviors, as exception from a generally accepted cultural standard, in a particular space and within a certain time series of observations, with criminality being the most severe form of personal deviation.¹⁵

This thinking corresponds to the explanation given by Pinatel in 1960, at least as far as American criminology is concerned. Specifically, Pinatel even then pointed to the assimilation of criminology and penology into the United States, which was taken from a 19th-century French school. Criminology includes two major chapters: criminal etiology and penology. Every crime prevention program involves knowledge of the forms, forms and conditions of crime, and in order to determine the methods of treatment of offenders, the dominant characteristics of their personality, that is, their structure and development, must first be learned.¹⁶

Moreover, in criminology, there is not only the mere sum of established facts having a quantitative meaning, but they are placed in a particular system and are subject to scientific analysis, applying: analytical and synthetic, inductive and deductive method, as well as materialistic, historical-dialectical method. This kind of study of these facts, at the level of concreteness of occurrence of phenomena, is precisely the essence of scientific knowledge. Nevertheless, empirical monitoring and recording of phenomena is not an end in itself. Such a process does not end only at the level of describing facts, without a previously constructed theoretical concept, whose basic starting points are the interpretation and verification of theoretical assumptions, with the aim of discovering the laws that govern the phenomenon under study.¹⁷

¹⁵ M. Milutinović, *Kriminologija*, Belgrade 1989, p. 34.

¹⁶ Ž. Pinatel, *Kriminologija...*, p. 16.

¹⁷ L. Aranudovski, *Kriminologija*, Stip 2007, pp. 104–105.

2. Different Methods/Techniques in Criminology

The dilemma, formulated by the question, what is more important in terms of obtaining scientific results, applying qualitative or quantitative research on a criminal phenomenon, almost goes beyond the need to clarify and make a valid argument, precisely because it depends not on such a dilemma but on what is posed as the subject of criminological research, and at what level (macro or micro) the criminal phenomenon is observed.¹⁸

The path to discovery is important, both for criminology, as an independent science, and for the practice of criminal justice. The value, appropriateness and necessity of using a qualitative method are subject to discussion. Because of their unique contributions – a depth of understanding of the phenomenon, as the primary goal – that can be provided by applying qualitative methods, it is debated among criminologists how often these methods can be used, and if research is conducted under these rules, how can this contribute to the creation of criminal justice knowledge and practice.¹⁹

Due to the diversity of data retrieval, the way data are collected and analyzed, and how data and data analysis shed light on the subject matter of the research, the knowledge gained through qualitative research is “much more informative, richer and offers increased understanding, compared to ones collected through quantitative research”.²⁰

In the criminological literature it is emphasized that qualitative research is directed towards the essentiality of a criminological phenomenon, its peculiarities, determining the characteristics of: events, people, interactions, cultural settings and experiences. Also, Berg, 2001, as one of the leading proponents of qualitative research in criminology, explains:

Quality refers to which phenomenon, where, when and how it occurred – to its essence and its environment. Therefore, qualitative research refers to the meaning, concepts, definitions, characteristics, metaphors, symbols and descriptions of things.²¹

¹⁸ See M. Kostić, *Contemporaneity of the learning of Enrico Altavilla*, in: “Archibald Reiss Days”..., p. 47.

¹⁹ Ibidem.

²⁰ R. Tewksbury, *Qualitative Versus Quantitative Methods: Understanding Why Qualitative Methods are Superior for Criminology and Criminal Justice*, *Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Criminology*, 2009, vol. 1(1), pp. 38–58, (here: p. 38), http://www.jtprcrim.org/January_Articles/Qualitative_Vs_Quantitative_Richard_Tewksbury.pdf [access: 25.10.2011].

²¹ Quoted in accordance with: ibidem, p. 39.

Nevertheless, quantitative research is considered to be a more *scientific* approach in dealing with the social sciences. The focus is on applying specific definitions, carefully operationalizing what specific concepts and variables mean. Qualitative research methods, on the other hand, draw more attention to interpretation, with clearly visible: views, contexts, environment, as well as a broad understanding of the concept.²²

Qualitative research achieves a true understanding of the social aspect of how crime occurs and how the state structure and processes related to it respond to the crime committed, in a culturally based context.

However, the results of criminological research, in which qualitative methods have been applied, are very rarely published. According to 2005 data, for example, less than 11% of scientific articles in criminology, published in high-ranking journals in criminology and criminal law, contain research results obtained using qualitative methods, while less than 15% were published in lower-ranking magazines.²³

In explaining qualitative research, in fact, one clear statement is neglected – the data does not need to be expressed in numbers at all, numerically. The frequency of distribution of an occurrence, as well as the forecasting, does not need to be displayed. Data can take the form of: words, images, impressions, gestural expressions or tonality, which all, in fact, represent real events or reality, as it is seen symbolically, or in a sociological sense. Qualitative research uses “unfounded” logic to arrive at what is “really real” – the quality, meaning, context or image of reality in which people truly act, not how they say they act in that way. The point of the unstated logic is that there are no “step-by-step” rules, in which researchers should not use already established methods or established rules, terms, procedures, which, overall, will make their research “pure and connected” (what it looks like when it is published in magazines).²⁴

Therefore, there is a difficulty in defining qualitative research because it does not cover the same terminology as usual scientific. The simplest definition is that qualitative research involves non-quantitative data collection and analysis methods (Lofland and Lofland, 1984). Another way of determining this is to focus qualitative research on “quality”, a term that

²² Ibidem.

²³ Cit. prema: ibidem, p. 40.

²⁴ *Qualitative Social Science Research Methodologies*, <http://www.drtomoconnor.com/3760/3760lect06.htm> [access: 25.10.2011].

refers to the essence or ambience of something (Berg, 1989). Then, qualitative research encompasses the subjective methodology of both himself and the researcher as an instrument of inquiry (Adler, Adler, 1987).

In fact, everyone has their own, favorite definition. Researchers who apply the historical-comparative method believe that qualitative research always involves a historical context, and sometimes a critical stance on the “persistence” put in front, in order to arrive at the “in-depth structure” of social relations. However, most often, qualitative research is based on the basic, accepted by the researcher, the theoretical view, from which it starts.²⁵

We will list some of the methodological procedures applied in qualitative research, which are not commonly cited in domestic criminological literature, with the notion that sometimes, in foreign sources, no distinction is made between research methods and techniques used to learn the micro-level criminal phenomenon. Therefore, of these procedures, the following are stated: participation-observation; ethnography; photography; ethnomethodology; interview with a dramaturgical approach; sociometry; natural experiment; case study; unobtrusive measurement; content analysis; historiography and secondary data analysis.²⁶

Participation – observation is a process in which the researcher delves into the study of people from whom he must not be different. This is usually done in secret, the identity of the researcher is hidden by another name, without revealing the real purpose of his stay in that environment. This process takes place as: full participation (the researcher engages in deviant, illegal activities and seeks to directly influence the group); participant as observer (researcher engages in deviant, illegal activities but has no direct influence on the group); the observer as a participant (the researcher participates in a single deviant or illegal activity and then does not participate in any other criminal activity); full observation (the researcher, as a member of a criminal group, does not participate in any deviant or criminal activity). What is key to all these actions is that the researcher must act on two levels: to become an insider and, at the same time, to remain an outsider. He must avoid becoming too involved in the group, that is, not be a “natural part” of him, in the sense that he stops researching and becomes, almost, a lifetime member of the criminal group. In criminologically empirical terms, this would mean that the researcher loses his or her

²⁵ Ibidem.

²⁶ Ibidem.

objectivity and starts glorifying criminals. Gangs; groups that commit hate crimes; prostitutes and drug dealers were studied using this method.

Ethnography is the process of describing the culture or lifestyle of a people. The point is that every person is a reflection of their culture and that all gestures, symbols, songs, statements of one person, as a member of that culture, have implicit meaning for all other persons belonging to that people.²⁷ An ethnographic approach involves observing and keeping notes. In doing so, the researcher should follow some instructions, such as: write down everything immediately and discuss nothing before writing it down; the rules and sequences of events should be carefully monitored, as well as the duration of the sequence; perceived should be separated from one's own feelings or thoughts.

Photographing or filming is, in fact, an ethnographic process conducted with cameras. An ethnographic film can be shot about the homeless, for example. This technique is often called *spoken history*.

Ethnomethodology is a study of common knowledge and is an ethnographic technique, established by sociologist Harold Garfinkel in the late 1960s. It involves the active role of the researcher, with violation of the standard routine of groups in one nation, with the aim of establishing what strengths and in which all the members of the group mobilize to reestablish the effects of a cultural norm. The idea behind this procedure is not to break the law or even the norms of social organization, but to break the rules in a group with small, somewhat ridiculous acts, which will therefore make the researcher an eccentric. Then the researcher is in a better position to understand the fragile and fluid processes of social control, as well as the rules that people use to preserve restrictions in their culture.²⁸ This method, despite its vast theoretical potential, is not often used. Since 1989, researchers have been applying it under the name sociolinguistics.

Interviewing through the use of dramaturgy, or, simply, dramaturgy, is a technique of doing research by playing roles or acting out one's preferences, in some symbolic interaction or form of social performance. Dramaturgy or sociodrama was propagated by Erving Goffman in the early 1960s.²⁹ The protagonists are: an entire group or part of a group or

²⁷ Ibidem.

²⁸ Ibidem.

²⁹ Ibidem.

an individual representing a group. Sociodrama is not concerned with the inner world of the individual and his interpersonal relations, but with the relations that rule in groups and within groups (relations of authority in society, work organization, examination of social strata and relations between them).³⁰

Sociometry is the measurement of social distance between group members. It consists in evaluating the attraction and repulsion between individuals in a group, as well as the structure of the group, which is defined by feelings. The method was first established by the social psychologist, J.L. Moreno, 1934 and to this day always involves graphically describing the structure of group relations, which is called a sociogram.³¹ The basic method involves the use of paper and a pencil, as well as the requirement that each person in the group first write who they wish to have in different activities as partners from the group members, so it is relatively easy to determine who is a "star" and who is "isolated".³²

A natural experiment points to a situation in which a split between group members occurred, and the researcher was given the opportunity to study the process of differentiating social structure. Natural experimentation often occurs in political science, through monitoring changes in citizens' tax collection regulations, or when a federal state forces member states to change their social policies, jobs, education, or transportation policies. In historical-comparative research, a natural experiment occurs when a nation turns from communism to capitalism. Economists analyze the boom of private business, or recession, as a form of natural experiment.

The case-by-case or case-study method or historical method (the methodological procedure always described in domestic criminological literature as well as in the surrounding countries) is an analytically inductive method that provides scientific knowledge by examining individual cases of criminal behavior and delinquent.³³

Unobtrusive measurements are ways of collecting data in which subjects are unaware that they are the subject of study and are sometimes referred to as non-reactive measures. They usually contain covert, unusual

³⁰ See: J. Veljković, Z. Đurić, *Psihodrama i sociodrama*, Belgrade 2003, p. 68.

³¹ *Qualitative Social Science Research Methodologies...*

³² J. Veljković, Z. Đurić, *Psihodrama...*

³³ See more: S. Konstantinović-Vilić, V.-Nikolić Ristanović, M. Kostić, *Kriminologija...*, p. 74, L. Aranudovski, *Kriminologija...*, p. 114.

paths of cognition and data collection, which fall into one of two categories: “application” or “flushing”. The application is a reflection of everything that people leave behind (e.g. garbage). Wash means all that is in the environment of people, or in people, which is worn out, destroyed by human activity (e.g. old suit). Examination of graffiti and vandalism are examples of the application of unobtrusive criminal investigations.

Content analysis is an example of the technique for collecting and analyzing text content. The content of the text is determined by: words, phrases, sayings, passages in the text, pictures, symbols and words. This is often applied in the work of the intelligence or police services, when the diplomatic post is monitored, the phones are tapped, the contents of e-mails are read (e.g. counter-terrorism).

Historiography is a method of applying historical research, or collecting, or analyzing historical data. There are four types of historical records: primary sources, secondary sources, moving reports, and anew data collection.

Secondary analysis is a re-analysis of data originally collected by another researcher for other purposes than what the current researcher wants to achieve. There is little information in criminology and criminal law for this purpose. Uniform Crime Report, for example, can be analyzed in many ways, so often additional variables are added to an already existing data collection system. This technique is mostly quantitative, so qualitative parts are used as a validation of quantitative indicators.³⁴

Quantitative research methods usually refer to the measurement of criminological or criminal reality. In order to understand this process, it is necessary to define several terms. Terms are abstract notations that are based on reality and that can be defined by numerical values that make them variables. Variables are then studied to explore patterns: relation; the ways in which the two variables affect each other; cause and effect. At the most basic level, there is usually at least one dependent variable and one independent variable. The researcher seeks to predict the dependent variable. It is the independent variable that causes, determines the time dependent variable.

Causality is required to meet three criteria. The first is associativity. In fact, the dependent and independent variables must point to each other. The second criterion relates to timing. The independent variable must

³⁴ *Qualitative Social Science Research Methodologies...*

precede the time dependent variable. Finally, there is the issue of determining whether there are false relationships, that is, if the relationship between independent and dependent variables is not based on the variation of a third, unnoticed variable.

There are numerous methods of quantitative research available to researchers, most of which fall under the heading of a *research process*, which can be freely defined as a research plan, which involves researching or answering the questions: who, what, where, when, why and how. These research methods include: examination; experimental and quasi experimental research; exploration through cross sections; longitudinal research; time series research and meta analysis.³⁵

Questioning is the most commonly used method of observation, within the social sciences, including criminology. Testing involves gathering information from a sample made up of individual elements, more precisely persons, through their answers to the questions asked. Technically, it can be done verbally, directly from the subjects, but also via: emails, phones, computers. Testing can be done using closed and open ended questions. Open questions require the respondent to answer a particular question, in their own words, while closed questions require the respondent to choose one of the offered answers.

Experimental and quasi-experimental research are, according to some researchers, the best ways to determine the cause and effect they cause. A real experiment must have at least three components: two comparison groups (experimental and control group); the change in the independent variable before determining the change in the dependent variable; randomly identifying two or more comparison groups.

Many experiments contain pre- and post-test procedures. The previous measures of testing the dependent variable preceded the experimental intervention, while the later measures of testing the outcome variable, as the experimental group received appropriate treatment. Randomness is what makes a comparison group, in a real experiment, a powerful source for identifying treatment effects. Classic experimental design exists when both groups have been tested previously, followed by intervention for only one experimental group and then tested for both groups.

³⁵ *Criminology and Criminal Justice Research: Methods – Quantitative Research Methods*, <http://law.jrank.org/pages/923/Criminology-Criminal-Justice-Research-Methods-Quantitative-research-methods.html> [access: 31.10.2011].

With the quasi experiment, there is no random selection in relation to the experimental and control groups, but is determined approximately by carefully selecting subjects from the two groups, using several key variables. The two basic types of quasi experiments are: first, the formation of the unequal control groups, consisting of an experiment group and a comparison group, which are formed before treatment is applied and are not determined by a random approach; and others, pre-and-post test designs, pre-and-post testing, without comparison groups.

Cross-sectional research involves group studies at one point in time, therefore a rapid cross-section of the studied phenomenon, and therefore refers to representative samples of groups, whereby the results or findings of the researcher are generalized.

Longitudinal studies occur as: panel studies and cohort studies. Both approaches apply over the same group, over a period of time, and generally relate to assessing within and between changes in the group. Panel studies follow the same group or sample over time, while cohort studies study a much more specific population as it changes over time.

Time series research usually involves variations of multiplied observation of the same group (persons, cities, areas), over time, or successive points in time. Usually one variable (such as crime rate) is analyzed in the periods of time that follow one after another. This methodological procedure is particularly suitable for studies on the implementation of new laws or social programs.

Meta-analysis is a recent research methodology. The research approach consists in quantitative analysis of what has come about in multiple studies. In applying meta-analysis, researchers need to combine the results of several studies and make a kind of summary, composed of empirical indicators of a cause and its effect on occurrence. A typical example of a meta-analysis would be to explore the relationship between a broken family and delinquency.³⁶

Finally, regardless of the specific subject and the method of criminological research applied accordingly, provided that a clear and precisely applied scientific track of the research activities, the researcher always has a clear goal: not only a superficial understanding of the criminal phenomenon, but of discovering that segment of social life in a new way. All acquired knowledge of the phenomenological and etiological indicators of

³⁶ Ibidem.

the phenomenon under study, but in the next research on the same or similar topic, will only have the character of hypotheses, which need to be verified. Only in this way can ever better, more effective methods of crime suppression policy be applied, since theoretical starting points will only gain empirical verification through research.

Conclusions

The very title of this paper, as well as its parts, including the closing lines, clearly indicate the author's intention for this to be just the beginning, an introduction to the discussion of basic essential issues of criminology, and its related disciplines, penology, victimology, with the aim of a renewed interpretation of already existing ones or attempting to establish a new "light" in these domains, but in completely changed contemporary social and economic circumstances.

In Serbia, in the first half of 2016, the topic of social position of social sciences, as well as the importance of studying social and humanistic disciplines at domestic universities, appeared on a small scale. Of course, this debate was provoked by a prosaic but objective example of how to fund scientific research in the field of socio-humanistic disciplines.

Comparing the level of applied properties between the natural and social sciences, it is certain that the natural will prevail. As I. Vuković points out in his short essay, *Hobbies* (2016),

as in the old days, intellectual freedom was measured by deviation from the dialectical directive, so in modern times it is measured by deviation from market demands. And scientific advancement without freedom of thought has never been, nor will it ever be.³⁷

In support of this thinking, we also find the words of J. Babić, according to which

the major part of what the social sciences are concerned with is values, analysis and justification of values. They are about justifying what seems or should be done, not explaining how it can be done. In them, we are more concerned with

³⁷ I. Vuković, *Hobi fakulteti*, Kultura umetnost nauka, Politika, 30 April 2016, LX, no. 3, p. 4.

reasons than causes. While the natural sciences enable us to master nature and its endless diversity, the social sciences need to teach us to be better people, able to make a better world, by analyzing the reasons that will justify the values of the goals that are set and should be set.³⁸

Where did the inspiration for this work, titled in such a way, with these reflections, come from? Criminology is rich in knowledge about the phenomenological and etiological properties of crime. Its achievements in crime prevention are immeasurable. The reminiscence of its basic scientific postulates, as well as the achievements in the field of criminalization and decriminalization of certain behaviors, must be used in a way that will present to citizens the knowledge of crime as a human act, which cannot be completely eradicated, on the one hand, and whose recognition and investment by the state and individual efforts to prevent it, on the other hand, must be a priority for every state.

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³⁸ J. Babić, *Sluškinje vlasti*, Kultura umetnost nauka, Politika, 30 April 2016, LX, no. 3, p. 5.

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Summary

Dealing with criminology, as well as any other social science or scientific discipline, implies a clear, precise definition of the object and purpose of theoretical and empirical research as well as application of adequate methodological procedures, in order to arrive at a knowledge of the object under study. On display are some reminders of the development of criminology as an independent science, the basic qualitative and quantitative methodological procedures. As a special segment of the paper, the importance and role in addressing social and human sciences, as well as the differentiation of social and humanistic sciences is emphasized.

Key words: social and human sciences, criminology, methodology, researches

SZKICE NA TEMAT KONIECZNOŚCI BADANIA WSPÓŁCZESNYCH I KLASYCZNYCH TEMATÓW Z ZAKRESU PODSTAW KRYMINOLOGII

Streszczenie

Zajmowanie się kryminologią, podobnie jak innymi naukami społecznymi czy dyscyplinami naukowymi, wymaga doprecyzowania dokładnej i czytelnej definicji przedmiotu oraz celu teoretycznego i empirycznego badania, jak również zastosowania odpowiednich procedur metodologicznych po to, aby dojść do wiedzy o zjawisku będącym przedmiotem badania. Artykuł przypomina rozwój kryminologii jako odrębnej nauki oraz podstawowe jakościowe i ilościowe procedury metodologiczne. Szczególną część pracy stanowi podrozdział prezentujący znaczenie i rolę udziału nauk społecznych i humanistycznych oraz ich rozróżnienie.

Słowa kluczowe: nauki społeczne i humanistyczne, kryminologia, metodologia, badania

ОЧЕРКИ О НЕОБХОДИМОСТИ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЯ СОВРЕМЕННЫХ И КЛАССИЧЕСКИХ ТЕМ ИЗ ОБЛАСТИ ОСНОВ КРИМИНОЛОГИИ

Резюме

Изучение криминологии, как и других общественных наук или научных дисциплин, требует уточнения четкого и ясного определения предмета и теоретической и эмпирической цели исследования, а также использования соответствующих методологических процедур для получения знаний о явлении, являющемся предметом исследования. В статье напоминает о развитии криминологии как отдельной науки и об основных качественных и количественных методологических процедурах. Особая часть работы - подраздел, представляющий значение и роль участия общественных и гуманитарных наук и их дифференциацию.

Ключевые слова: общественные и гуманитарные науки, криминология, методология, исследования