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Book of Abstracts

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Criminology as *unitas multiplex*:

Theoretical, epistemological and methodological developments

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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that was presented on December 2014 and from my own cases where real people suffers real torture and its convicted in real jails for many years.

5.1 MEASURES OF CRIME AND METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES

Chair: Jing Cao

0372 - THE TRANSITION OF CRIME RATES IN BEIJING, CHINA: A LOOK AT INTERNATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS SURVEY FINDINGS 20 YEARS LATER

Jing Cao (China)¹; Jan Van Dijk (Netherlands)¹; Donny Lazary (Canada)²

1 - INTERVICT; 2 - Justice Canada

Under the guidance of Dr. Jan van Dijk, the International Crime Victims Survey (ICVS), a standardized instrument for examining experiences of victimization worldwide, was administered in Beijing, China, in 2014. This represents the second time that the ICVS has been conducted in the nation's capital, with the first ICVS having taken place in 1994. The primary purpose of this forthcoming presentation is to provide descriptive results of the 2014 findings in comparison to those revealed from the 1994 sweep. This project will also contrast findings of the current study to main city ICVS averages. The results that are portrayed were obtained using the Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) methodology; however, this study also featured a Computer Assisted Web - Based Interviewing (CAWI) pilot format, which yielded similar methodological flaws to other CAWI ICVS versions deployed previously in Europe. Based on the sample of 2,010 CATI respondents draw from six urban districts of Beijing, overall victimization rates have increased in Beijing throughout the past 20 years, with property crime victimizations being reportedly higher than most other main city averages and violent crime victimizations remaining comparatively lower. In addition, bicycle theft victimization remains a particular area of concern 20 years later. Results also indicate that Beijing residents are not as dependent on police or social services as other cities, which is reflected in their collective attitudes toward criminal justice experiences and lack of reporting to police. In interpreting the findings of this study, theoretical explanations of crime, namely opportunity theory and responsive securitization theory, are applied within China's unique culture. Ultimately, this presentation presents a rare glimpse at criminogenic factors within 21st century China, and offers unique insight into the state of victim's rights in Beijing.

0373 - MEASURING CRIME ACTS SEVERITY AND CALCULATING CRIME INDEX - CASE OF SLOVENIA

Nace Čebulj (Slovenia)¹; Matevž Bren (Slovenia)¹

1 - University of Maribor

There is widespread agreement in criminology that some crimes are more severe than others, but there are no exact definitions of crime severity and no perfect methods for measuring. Perceptions of crime seriousness have been studied since the 1960s, when Sellin and Wolfgang introduced alternative measure of crime seriousness, the one that should reflect public opinion, and suggested that the widely used crime rates should be combined with measures of the seriousness of each criminal offense to construct a crime index. Sellin and Wolfgang used the method of magnitude estimation to obtain seriousness weights. Since their prelude numerous research contributions to measuring perceptions of crime seriousness have been published. Besides the magnitude estimation method the most significant approaches to measure crime severity have been scenario-based methods, economic approaches, such as individual's willingness to pay for specific crime control programs, Thurstone method of scaling, a developmental approach and item response theory scaling. In Slovenia there has not been any research in this field yet. The only measure of seriousness of criminal acts is thus the severity of penalties which might be imposed for these offences, which are listed in Criminal Code of the Republic of Slovenia.

In 2000 Kwan et al. constructed a weighted crime index for Hong Kong. Perceived seriousness of fifteen crime typologies was assessed by the Thurstone's method of paired comparisons. The same method was used in our project. The data were collected via online survey with all possible pairs of fifteen crimes. For each pair the respondent had to choose the more serious crime between the two in a pair. About 300 Slovenian respondents contributed to over 100 comparisons for each pair of crimes. Finally the crime index was constructed using seriousness weights of the fifteen crimes and Slovenian police data of all crime events in 2008-2013. The weights and the index were then compared to those in Hong Kong.

0374 - TOWARDS A MULTIDIMENSIONAL MEASURE OF THE COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCE OF CRIME

Johanna Schönhöfer (United Kingdom)¹

1 - University of Leeds

Scholars agree that crime, punishment and prevention are of profound social significance. They play a pivotal role in the politics of contemporary societies, affect the everyday lives in many communities, and frequently fuel public discourse. However, attempts to quantitatively assess penal policies, punitiveness, and pervasiveness of crime in society often remain one-

dimensional. The lack of a comprehensive measurement for the collective experience of crime is problematic as it impedes systematic comparative research on how crime, its control, and its relevance as conveyed by politics relate to wider social parameters such as social solidarity or generalized interpersonal trust. The presentation contributes to existing research by introducing a multi-dimensional approach to conceptualize the collective experience of crime in society consisting of: (1) indicators of crime such as homicide and assault rates; (2) the strength of police forces and the private security sector; (3) the criminal justice system's punitive reaction; (4) politicians' emphasis on law and order policies; and (5) individual punitive attitudes. The paper presents a statistical portrait of a sample of 17 European countries and investigates changes in the dimensions constituting the collective experience of crime between 1990 and 2010.

0375 - CROSS-CULTURAL ADAPTATION AND ONLINE ADMINISTRATION FORMAT OF SELF-REPORT MEASURES – METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES AND IMPLICATIONS

Paula Cristina Martins (Portugal)¹; Sílvia Mendes (Portugal)¹; Gloria Fernández-Pacheco (Portugal)²

1 - University of Minho; 2 - University Fernando Pessoa

With globalization and the formation of European Union, studies aiming to explore cross-cultural phenomena have been gaining increasing relevance in social sciences. The growing number of multinational research projects has been showing their complexity, where cultural and linguistic differences stand as prominent, along with issues as equivalence, generalisation, and construct validity. The nature of assessment instruments and their mode of presentation and administration have proven to be key topics as well.

In this presentation, we intend to discuss the process of cultural adaptation and translation of the International Self-Report *Delinquency* (ISR-3) questionnaire from English to Portuguese, analysing different guidelines recommended for cross-cultural adaptation of self-report measures.

Additionally, we will bring to the centre of discussion the challenges of online administration, and resulting limitations regarding comparisons both with previous data (ISR-2), collected using the *traditional paper-and-pencil* format, and other results obtained through different modes of *questionnaire administration*.