

Prof. George Nikolopoulos

Department of Sociology – Section of Criminology

“Comparative Criminology”

The subject of this course is the comparative study of criminality between social formations which differentiate by their level of development or between social groups which differentiate by their culture or race. The course is organized into three main thematic units depending on the criterion of comparison:

1. - Comparison of criminality rates using the criterion of development: criminality in the developed and the underdeveloped countries;
2. - Comparison of criminality rates on the basis of cultural differentiation between social groups, using the Th. Sellin’s “culture conflict” theory for the study of the criminality of migrants populations (case study: the practice of female genital mutilation exercised by migrants in western societies) and the phenomenon of organized crime in U.S.A. (theory of “alien’s conspiracy” vs. A. Block’s alternative theory);
3. - Comparison of criminality rates using the criterion of race (biological determinism in criminological theory and research vs. liberal conceptions).

Selected Bibliography

- Thorsten SELLIN, *Culture conflict and crime*, Social Science Research Council, New York, 1938.
- David NELKEN, Whom can you Trust? The Future of Comparative Criminology, in D. Nelken (ed.), *The futures of criminology*, Sage, London, 1994, pp. 220-243.
- David NELKEN, Understanding Criminal Justice Comparatively, in M. Maguire, R. Morgan, R. Reiner (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology*, 2nd edition, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1997, pp. 559-573.
- David NELKEN (ed.), *Comparing legal cultures*, Routledge, London, 2017.
- R. BEIRNE, D. NELKEN (eds.), *Issues in Comparative Criminology*. Aldershot, England ; Brookfield, Vt., USA : Ashgate/Dartmouth, 1997.
- G.R. NEWMAN, *Comparative deviance: Perceptions and law in six cultures*, N.Y., Elsevier, 1970.