

Chapter 4

Criminology as a Discipline in Modern Greece: Teaching, Research and Profession

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Although in Greece the publication of books of criminological interest began in the last decades of the 19th century, the subject of Criminology was introduced by Professor Konstantinos Gardikas first at Athens University in 1930 and, then, at Panteios School of Social and Political Sciences in 1932. Some years later, in 1938, the chair of Criminology and Penology was established at the University of Athens. The involvement of K. Gardikas along with three other European experts in the foundation of Interpol in 1923, also resulted in the creation of an important Branch of Criminological Services with many specialized research laboratories which is evolving constantly incorporating all of modern technologies. In our days, Criminology is taught mainly at the schools of Law and of Sociology. In spite of the absence of an autonomous Department of Criminology in the Greek universities, there is a special Section of Criminology in the Department of Sociology at Panteion University. In-depth concentration is obtained in the context of the postgraduate programs as well as through those for the Ph.D. Criminological research is conducted in the universities where some criminological laboratories or centers operate as well as in the National Center of Social Research and the Center of Safety Studies of the Ministry of the Interior; to name a few. The professional domain of criminologists has extended in recent years (administration of penal justice, prisons, agencies for drug addicts or juveniles and immigrants, prevention services). In spite of this, the job market is relatively limited in comparison to the needs of society.

INTRODUCTION

Although Greece was the second country in the world, after Belgium, where Criminology was taught

at a University Department before the Second World War (Farsedakis, 2007, p. 72), the evolution of this science was confined to teaching and it did not have the impressive post war development which was recorded internationally. The reasons for this are

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not different from the factors that influenced the overall socio-political evolution of the country. On this basis the institutional framework for higher education and scientific research was shaped as well as the conditions which criminologists are called upon to confront as professionals.

The present chapter will try to present, through brief retrospection, the structure of Criminology in contemporary Greece which consists of three dimensions: the teaching, the research and the profession. In this context, the most important difficulties which Criminology faced will be dealt with and an attempt will be made to offer a convincing interpretation for the reservation with which the professional existence of the criminologist was encountered in modern Greek reality¹.

THE TEACHING OF CRIMINOLOGY

Although in Greece the publication of books of criminological interest began in the last decades of the 19th century, (Spinellis, 2005, p. 32)², the teaching of Criminology³ began with Professor Konstantinos Gardikas (1896-1984), first at Athens University in 1930 and, immediately after, at Panteios School of Political Sciences, in 1932 (Spinellis, 1997, p. 77) where an independent Chair of Criminology and Forensic Sciences was created. Professor Gardikas was the first Professor appointed to teach this discipline (Farsedakis, 2008b). Some years later, in 1938, the chair of Criminology and Penology was established at the University of Athens and K. Gardikas was also the first who assumed its responsibility (Courakis, 2000).

It is noteworthy that Criminology was included in the first program of Panteios School of Political Sciences (3 July 1930), which was organized in five branches: (a) Political Sciences (b) Law (c) Economic Sciences (d) Sociology, Criminology and Penology and (e) Journalism, Geography and Philosophy (Twenty five years seniority- Eikosipentaetiris, 1957:15). Teaching at an academic

level evolved through different stages before reaching its present form whose major characteristics are the absence of an independent University Department of Criminology and its expansion, beyond the Schools of Law and Sociology, into different Social Sciences as well as in the Police Academy which will be noted below.

1) Panteion University

The only independent Section of Criminology is in the Department of Sociology at Panteion University, at which a post-graduate program also exists. The development of Criminology at Panteion University⁴ set forth important events, examples of which are noted below, which proved to be turning points in the history of the science in modern Greece:

- The above-mentioned commencement of the teaching of Criminology from 1932 and the development of an independent Course “Criminalistics and Criminology with elements of forensic medicine” which was taught by Professor Ioannis Papazachariou⁵ from 1942, who was also the vice-rector of Panteios Higher School of Political Sciences (1951-1955) (Twenty five years seniority-Eikosipentaetiris, 1957, p. 94).
- The significant contribution of Professor Alice Yotopoulos-Marangopoulos who occupied the chair of Criminology and Forensic Sciences in 1976, gave new impetus to the teaching of Criminology. Professor A. Yotopoulos-Marangopoulos brought together many new criminologists and transferred the study of Criminology to the newly created Department of Sociology which played a decisive role in the further development of the science. The Department of Sociology was established in 1983 and it constituted one of the three which were created in Panteios Higher School of Political Sciences after the legislative modification

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