

også stor bredde i den type kriminelle, den omhandler: fra indbrudstyre over checkbedrager og narkotikaforhandlere til lejemordere.

I dag, hvor både den empiriske og teoretiske kriminologi understreger, at den kriminelle karriere generelt set hverken er karakteriseret ved specialisering eller eskalering, er det godt at blive mindet om disse studiers eksistens.

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SUMMARIES IN ENGLISH

Hans Göran Franck: Prison Conditions in Council of Europe Member States. [Häkten och fängelser hos Europarådets medlemsstater]. Pp. 1-15.

There has been a clear deterioration in prison conditions in Council of Europe member states in recent years. The main reason for this deterioration is the overcrowding of prisons.

Increased criminality – especially the increase in violent and drug-related crimes – resulting in an increase in the number of convictions, but also higher penalty scales and heavier prison sentences by the courts, have led to a sharp rise in the prison population.

As a result of overcrowding it becomes more difficult, if not impossible, to pay special attention and give special treatment to specific and vulnerable categories of prisoners such as young offenders, mentally disturbed prisoners and foreigners. It also means that less attention can be given to individual prisoners. As a consequence they may more easily fall back into recidivism.

In conclusion, the article stresses the need to reduce reliance on the use of imprisonment and the length of prison sentences. More use should be made of alternatives to imprisonment including electronic control and intensive supervision, administrative and economic sanctions and measures. Some offences could well be decriminalised.

The social effects linked with detention form an extensive field of investigation.

Custodial penalties do not secure the principle of strictly personal penalisation. One family member's detention means that the whole family of the imprisoned person is subjected to certain secondary effects of the primary penalty.

Furthermore, when the penalty is imprisonment its effect extends beyond the prison term. The ex-convict stigma creates a major impediment in the occupational rehabilitation plan.

In view of the negative external repercussions produced by detention, a new Council of Europe report (96-03-13) emphasises a number of priority measures: limiting recourse to custodial penalties and developing introverted (prisoner-centred) and extroverted (rehabilitation-oriented) regulation of penalties.

Finally some Council of Europe instruments and texts should be better implemented or reviewed. Full support should be given to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Lev Samoilov: Ethnography of a prison camp. [Lejrens etnografi]. Pp. 16-32.

On the basis of personal experiences from a Soviet prison and afterwards a prison camp, the author treats various aspects of the sphere of criminal subculture. A detailed hierarchy of castes with specific rights, rituals, and duties connected to each level is described. Nu-

merous examples of notions and vocabulary used in the camps are given, some of these influencing daily language. Similarities in behaviour between punished people and archaic cultures are observed. The effects of the "camp culture" on the society as a whole are discussed.

Paulina Tallroth: The development of the German abortion law in comparison to the development in the Nordic countries. [Utvecklingen av den tyska abortlagstiftningen i jämförelse med utvecklingen i Norden]. Pp. 36-49.

The long-lasting discussion regarding the German legislation relating to abortion culminated in the early 1990's along with the German reunification. According to the doctrine in the Federal Republic of Germany, a fetus enjoys an independent, constitutional right of life beginning from conception and abortion has consequently been a matter of penal law. In the German Democratic Republic, the abortion law had been a liberal one, focusing on the woman and not the fetus. This latter law was declared to be in conflict with the German Constitution. A solution for the reunified Germany was found in 1995. According to this, an abortion performed due to a medical or penal indication is neither punishable nor unlawful. However, abortion is more commonly performed on the wish of the pregnant woman. If she has received professional advice, the formal criteria of the law are fulfilled and the abortion is unpunishable – yet, it is dogmatically and ethically unsatisfying that such an abortion still is considered unjustified.

Compared with the situation in Germany, the legislation relating to abortion has in the Nordic countries not been subject to major discussion recently. The Nordic abortion laws from the early 1970's show a much more pragmatic approach to the abortion issue: according to the doctrine there exists no life before the fetus can be assumed to be able to live outside the womb. Thus there is no conflict between an early performed abortion and the right to life. The Nordic abortion laws operate with pure time limits for an abortion (Sweden), with indications (Finland and Iceland) or with combinations of these concepts (Denmark and Norway). In practice, however, the result is an easily obtainable abortion as all Nordic countries strongly focus on the right of the woman to decide this issue.

Helgi Gunnlaugsson: Crime in Iceland: In Comparative Perspective [Kriminalitet i Island: Internasjonalt perspektiv]. Pp. 50-59.

This study attempts to locate criminality in Iceland within an international context. Using various methods, such as available official crime data and opinion survey results, an overview of the local crime situation is established. Even though by most international standards the Icelandic crime situation for serious offenses may appear relatively trivial, a deep concern for crime was found, especially regarding offenses related to substance use. This concern was moreover widely shared among the public, various legal authorities and in newspaper accounts. An attempt is made to explain this situation in terms of the criminological literature and by providing social and historic material about Iceland.

Ny litteratur

Jan Ahlberg: Invandrades och invandrades barns brottslighet. En statistisk analys. Brå, Stockholm 1996. ISBN 91-38-30588-7. 123 s.

Johs. Andenæs & Anders Bratholm: Spesiell strafferett. Utvalgte emner. 3. utg. Universitetsforlaget, Oslo 1996. ISBN 82-00-22544-5. 371 s.