

SUMMARIES IN ENGLISH

Thor Norström: Sentencing of drunken driving offenders: effects of the 1990 law reform. [In Swedish: Påföljdsval vid rattfylleri: effekter av 1990 års reform av trafikbrottslagen]. Pp. 81-99.

On the 1 July 1990 the drunk driving regulations in Sweden were reformed. Besides a lowering of the BAC-limit to 0.02%, the reform meant new guidelines for assessment of the severity of the offence. Previously, BAC was the single determinant, now a more comprehensive assessment should be made; in particular the degree to which the offence had implied a traffic hazard should be considered. Further, mandatory jail for drunk driving offences of first degree was abandoned in favour of treatment. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the impact of the reform on court practice. The evaluation is made within a wider framework which focuses upon the effect of legal as well as extra-legal factors in the sentencing process. The empirical material comprises records from the preliminary investigations and register data pertaining to two probability samples of individuals who were convicted for drunken driving before (1987, N = 373) and after the reform (1991, N = 931). According to the results, the reform had a marked impact on court practice. Even though BAC was still decisive for the assessment of severity after the reform, traffic hazard was also of some importance, which was not the case before the reform. Further, there was a great reduction in the proportion that received jail sentence. The court's choice of sentence is above all determined by the legal factors of alcohol abuse and traffic hazard, while the effect of extra-legal factors (e.g. gender and ethnicity) seems to be minuscule.

Malin Åkerström: Ambivalence in family work: theoretical acceptance and accepting counter-rhetoric. [In Swedish: Ambivalens i anhörigarbete – teoretisk acceptans och acceptande motrhetorik]. Pp. 100-112.

Preferences concerning treatment regimes, models for training and education, and reforms are constantly in flux in the human service world. Practitioners' orientation towards one such case, the new so-called "networking" policy in Swedish juvenile treatment centers, is explored. The stance towards this new policy was of a more composite nature than the simple division of acceptance vs. non-acceptance, as sometimes described in sociological literature. Through the use of different methods the interrelatedness of acceptance of and reservations about the new ideas was captured. An enthusiastic embracement of the new theory occurred parallel with various reservations concerning the concrete, practical applications. An integration of the two seemingly opposing stances – opposition and acceptance – was achieved through different linguistic stratagems: reservations were couched in the framework of an accepting counter-rhetoric. Some reservations were strong enough, however, to warrant family work as "dirty work". A theoretical implication of this paper is thus that "dirty work" should perhaps not be viewed as a fixed aspect of any profession, but that its borders shift with changes in public policies, and in relation to how and to whom knowledge is presented.