

## **Classical criminology - reasons for its persistence**

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Classical criminology is a typically modern "paradigm" of thinking about criminal offences and ways of dealing (in)formally with them. Although classical criminology is often presented as diametrically opposed to positivist criminology, it must not be forgotten that these two most important "schools" of criminology have in common a number of characteristics, including a desire to establish the most effective system of prevention of acts considered to be the most dangerous. Furthermore, historical development has shown that classical and positivist criminology are not incompatible at the "operative" level; so it is not surprising, that modern criminal law is in fact a social institution comprising elements of both the aforementioned "approaches" to crime. The persistent popularity of classical concepts of a criminal offence, criminal offender and criminal sanctions is not difficult to explain, because these notions are deeply rooted in the ideology of the modern world system, i.e. the global capitalist system, based on the principle of the endless accumulation of capital.

In view of the fact that world capitalism is progressively reaching a situation of increasing agony, i.e., an extremely insecure phase of transition to a new world order (and actually nobody knows whether it will be the same, better or even worse than the capitalist/modern system), a classical paradigm also becomes more and more anachronistic (in fact no less than its positivist "antithesis"). This sociological fact has inevitably to be taken into consideration considering the renewed increase of confidence in classic ideas, i.e. the rise of a "neo-liberal" criminology that we have witnessed in the last decade.

**Keywords:** criminology, classical criminology, punishment, criminal sanctions

**UDC:** 343.9