

Fear of crime in Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina –
results of comparative studies

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Sociological and socio-demographic variables in general prevail in research and theories about the fear of crime. Although these research studies have contributed a lot to the understanding of the fear of crime, we are still very far from a complete understanding of this phenomenon in contemporary society. The paper presents two independent research studies about the fear of crime, carried out in Slovenia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The results indicate a higher level of fear of crime among women, among people who feel physically less capable, the unemployed and among people who are often absent from their home in the late evening hours. In the frame of the socio-psychological model it was established that there are great differences between the two research samples in that respondents from Bosnia and Herzegovina more frequently perceive themselves as possible targets of crime and emphasise more than Slovene respondents, jealousy as a possible motive for crime. Mistrust of strangers is more pronounced in the Slovene population as well as the conviction that they can chase away a potential assaulter and avoid dangerous places. Analysis of items in the socio-demographic model shows a higher level of exposure to potential victimisation, more communication in the social environment and a greater fear of the natural environment, such as forests, in the Bosnian sample.

Key words: fear of crime, socio-psychological model, socio-demographic model, comparative research study

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