

## Emergence of criminology: the "detection" of criminal evil in an individual

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Early criminology located the object of its studies in the criminal offender and started from the notion that the "problem" of crime lies in the individual. Considerations about crime in the 18th and 19th century were exclusively centred on the individual and/or his act, although there was an important distinction between two major criminological "schools" in regard to the notion of subject: on the one hand there was the classical criminological concept of a free and rational subject and on the other, the positivistic criminological concept of a (biologically, psychologically and socially) determined subject.

An individual, who either decides to commit a delinquent act after a freely performed cost-benefit analysis, or commits a crime because he was unable "to act otherwise", finds himself at the centre of the "criminological question", i.e., at the centre of substance which at a specific historical moment is particularly "worth consideration". The subject became the source of criminological and criminal law science in 18th and 19th centuries, the foundation stone from which emerged both disciplines and from which their doctrines, concepts, institutes etc. were formulated. In the middle of the 20th century, criminology moved away from this concept with radical criminology, for example, but has never completely renounced this ideologically attractive concept.

The paper deals with the historical conditions of the emergence of criminology as a specific scientific knowledge and its "hunt" for the "Criminal" as a source of criminal evil, which criminology also (co)created and has always maintained in good condition.

Keywords: criminology, theory, classical criminology, subject, history of criminology, positive criminology

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