

Natalija Lukić: Zelena kriminologija

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(Green Criminology)

The book *Green Criminology* (orig. *Zelena kriminologija*) by Natalija Lukić is an original manuscript written in Serbian. The book provides a comprehensive overview of important and relevant topics in the developing field of green criminology as a scientific discipline, an analysis of environmental crime as a more or less new form of crime, and a national survey about environmental crime and green criminology in Serbia.

The book is organised into eight chapters: Introduction to green criminology, Environmental crime and its forms, Green criminology and theoretical explanations for environmental crime, Forms of social reaction to environmental crime, Study of environmental crime in Serbia, Research results, Analysis of verdicts in criminal proceedings on environmental crime, and Analysis of media reporting about environmental crime.

In the first chapter, the author writes about green criminology, its development, and “green” crimes as a subject of green criminological analysis and research. She also emphasizes environmental crime and its typology, and discusses the goals and tasks of green criminology. The second chapter presents the phenomenology of environmental crime. The author introduces and follows different typologies of environmental crime presented by green criminologists and international (police) organisations such as the United Nations and Interpol. She stresses the lack and need for a unified definition of environmental crime and green criminology, which would make scientific studies and comparative analysis much more accessible. This chapter is an excellent guide to empirical research and the significance of (green) criminological studies and the data collected. The third chapter consists of a theoretical explanation of environmental crime, where the author finds that traditional criminological theories are not sufficient in the majority of environmental crime cases and have to be combined with other theories such as economic theories. Forms of social reaction to environmental criminality are essential and the gist of the fourth chapter. The author writes in detail about informal social control, formal social control and prevention measures. There are fascinating presentations about how state regulatory agencies, the police, public prosecution and courts in Serbia respond to the occurrence of environmental crime.

Lastly, the author emphasizes the importance of controlling transnational environmental crime because globalisation has removed many obstacles and opened an almost free channel for criminals to trade. The fifth chapter presents an introduction to the research on environmental criminality in Serbia, where the author explains the subject of the study, objectives, and research methods. The last three chapters present the most crucial part, where the findings and results of environmental crime analysis and research in Serbia are presented. In chapter six, statistical data about environmental crime reveal the prevalence of criminal acts and the characteristics of the perpetrators. The author additionally analyses the differences between reported and convicted perpetrators. Furthermore, she presents the pronounced criminal sanctions and differences between natural and legal persons. The seventh chapter offers the findings of the in-depth analysis of court judgments of environmental crime cases, focusing on types of crime, perpetrators and punishment. Finally, in the last chapter, the author presents a media reporting analysis in Serbia for 2021–2022. The results reveal that newspaper and electronic media in Serbia rarely write about environmental crime but much more often about ecological damage.

The book is a new achievement in green criminology literature in the Balkan countries, especially Serbia. The author presents past and contemporary perspectives on green criminology, environmental crime, environmental victims and offenders in general from a Serbian national perspective. The book deals with the current content of environmental crime and green criminology. Furthermore, the book reflects her experience as a scientist and professional. Her description and discussion on environmental crime issues and responses in the informal and formal sphere offer answers and give guidelines on dealing with this “new”, still little-known form of criminality. The book also reflects the author’s ability to convey important messages to any reader. Environmental (i.e. green) issues deserve more attention in the existing social and legal structure, as the prevailing legal responses to crime and criminals often forget the victims of environmental crime and the environmental harm caused. The media reporting analysis, showing that the media in Serbia write almost nothing about environmental crime, also confirms this.

The material is appropriately documented, cited, and valuable both for didactic purposes and for the general public, especially for experts in the field of formal social control who encounter the issue of environmental crime almost daily in their work. Both the title and the book bear witness to the author's many years of work in this field and her maturation as a scientist and university teacher in the field of law and criminology. The publication is properly structured, didactically appropriate, equipped with a series of examples from practice, and is also equipped with illustrations and graphs. Terminologically, the work is properly written, the writing style is appropriate, the author's writing flows smoothly and the thoughts are conveyed clearly. I believe that this monograph in the field of environmental crime and green criminology is an excellent study material that contributes to the modern didactics of working with students, and discusses current ideas, views and issues regarding environmental crime. It also highlights the role of (green) criminology, and the preventive aspect of responding to environmental crime is also addressed, along with other repressive and preventive perspectives. The book also testifies about the desire of the author to offer the reader the best that is available in the literature, to place the findings in a concrete social context, where the worst consequences of criminal activities in the area of ecology occur, and tackles the issue holistically and rounds this off with social responses against ecological crime, be they state (formal), civil society (informal), group or individual.

In my opinion, this book, with its multi-disciplinary flavour, will undoubtedly serve as a useful and relevant reference text for law, criminology, victimology and criminal justice students. However, its greatest strength lies in its accessibility, in terms of the organisation of chapters, and easy readability for a large number of practitioners working in the government as well as the non-governmental sector, dealing daily with environmental crime and harm. Finally, the book is comparable to other similar works in the Balkan region and beyond.

Education and awareness of the possible consequences are just some of the many but significant factors in the prevention of environmental crime. Natalija Lukić's book entitled *Green Criminology* represents just that, a tool for training and raising awareness of the importance of environmental protection, which is of vital importance nowadays, in the 21st century. As the author points out in the conclusion, no amount of property damage can compare and reflect the ecological damage that occurs due to environmental crimes. If everyone thought about the consequences of their actions and imagined how their actions would affect the lives of others, including their descendants, and if most of the false

rulers of the planet were not driven by the pursuit of profit and comfort, we would not need to wonder what we will eat and what we will breathe in the next century.

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