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TEACHING AND RESEARCH IN CRIMINOLOGY IN THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

In Scandinavia, as in many European countries, criminology is a fairly recently recognized university discipline. The first formal academic program was established in Norway thirty years ago. Denmark and Sweden followed. Finland today has no equivalent university-affiliated institution, although there are other important research facilities.

Naturally, research on criminological subjects need not be conducted by criminologists. In all the Nordic countries, members of penal law faculties have long engaged in criminologically relevant research, as have the sociology of law institutes in Finland, Norway, and Sweden, as well as institutes of sociology and psychology. Researchers in departments of medicine, social work, anthropology, and history have also contributed.

There is no basis for estimating the percentage of criminological writings produced by "criminologists", most of whom were trained in disciplines other than criminology. The important points are that there is substantial criminological research

* I want to thank Professors Sveri, Lahti and Christie for having responded to the questionnaire of Professor Beristain. Dr. Snare and Professor Reiss have read the article and made useful remarks.

in Scandinavia and that most of the countries have created university-based research institutes.

Scientific endeavors are not, however, limited to the university. Government-sponsored organizations and research divisions of operating agencies have proliferated in recent years. In this paper, I describe the major teaching and research facilities in the universities and outside in the Nordic countries as well as the Scandinavian Research Council for Criminology.

It is impossible in a short space to give a complete coverage of the Scandinavian countries as far as both teaching and research in criminology are concerned. Excluding Iceland I will present a description of the current main features in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. Since the academic systems vary, for example with different types of degrees, it is hardly meaningful to present any courses in detail. As a general characterization it can immediately be said that criminology is taught at the universities in all the Scandinavian countries and, in addition, in police academies and schools of the departments of correction.

Denmark

The principal criminological research program in Denmark is the Institute of Criminal Science in Copenhagen. It was established in 1957 as part of the law faculty. The late Professor Karl Otto Christiansen was the first holder of the institute's criminological chair. He was succeeded in 1980 by myself, with a background in Swedish sociology and formerly professor in sociology of law at Lund University.

Apart from the full professor there are in the criminology section of the institute two tenured lecturers. In addition there are a few persons with three-year faculty scholarships and some researchers with funds from outside the university. Sociologists predominate, but by tradition psychology has been relatively more prominent in Danish criminology than in the rest of Scandinavia.

Unlike Norwegian universities, where doctoral certificates in criminology are awarded, Danish universities do not award criminology degrees. Criminology is not recognized as a separate teaching discipline in Denmark, although optional courses are regularly offered to law students. In addition the institute gives courses in related subjects such as criminal policy and witness psychology. Criminological courses can also be found in departments of sociology and psychology and at social work schools.

At the University of Aarhus, the Institute of Procedural and Criminal Science conducts research and offers optional courses in criminology.

Teaching in sociology of law was started by myself as an optional course for law students at the University of Copenhagen, but in 1989 became obligatory for all law students in addition to an introductory course in law and society, introduced as part of the new legal education.

Academic research profiles are more difficult to depict than those of semigovernmental or operating agencies. The subject matters of the former are diverse and their products are scattered, while the latter often set out their areas of interest

in published programs and annual reports. At the institute in Copenhagen, research topics range from crime development, youth and female criminality, theft, violence, rape, prostitution, and pornography to studies of public perceptions of crime and punishment, moral climates, evaluations of penal sanctions, sentencing and prosecutorial processes, and police effectiveness.

In 1971 the Danish National Crime Prevention Council was established by the Ministry of Justice. Its work has a practical orientation and concentrates on such subjects as technical crime prevention and public information. Substantial resources have been allocated to municipalities to aid in preventing child and youth criminality. Funding is given to local projects and for organizing cooperation between social services, the schools, and the police (the SSP-project). Scientific evaluations of some of these efforts have been initiated, but on the whole the Council's research activity is limited.

The Danish Ministry of Justice has also appointed a permanent research committee with a mandate to initiate, support, and publish work of policy interest, including fact gathering and evaluations undertaken by the Department of Prison and Probation. The annual budget is quite small, and does not allow support for larger research projects.

Finland

Finland has no institute of criminology and lacks a chair in the discipline. Criminology is not a special subject of instruction but is included in courses of criminal law and sociology at the universities. At Helsinki University the law students take an obligatory course entitled "Criminology and Criminal Policy", taught by Professor Inkeri Anttila from the 1950s to the 1970s and for which Professor Raimo Lahti has had the main responsibility since 1979. Although the course has a certain sociological orientation, there is a heavy emphasis on applied criminology.

In later years sociology of law has become an obligatory subject for law students and this subject is taught primarily by Professor Paavo Uusitalo.

Criminological research in Finland can be carried out within the disciplines of criminal law and sociology of law but largely takes place outside the universities. There are two major institutions, both semigovernmental in nature.

In 1974 the National Research Institute of Legal Policy in Helsinki replaced the former Institute of Criminology which had been in existence for about a decade. The institute is financially and administratively linked to the Ministry of Justice, but established legislation guarantees its independence. A governing board composed of scientific experts and senior civil servants takes care of appointments and makes major policy decisions. This semi-independent organization consists of a criminology unit with five permanent research officers. Professor Inkeri Anttila was the first director, followed on her retirement in 1980 by Patrik Törnudd.

The institute's mandate is related to government information needs, as noted in a memorandum: "While the Research Institute is expected to sponsor and carry

out research dealing with legal policy in general, the needs of the Ministry of Justice are given priority. The research program will thus favor research topics relevant to the legislative plans of the Ministry". Research initiatives, however, come to a large extent from the research staff, and the institute determines the manner in which the studies are carried out, but attempts are made to relate research activities in one way or another to decision-making.

The institute's long-term interests encompass projects dealing with crime causation and the quality of crime statistics. Examples of current interests are crime consequences and victimization, family violence and child abuse, urban crime, the ecological correlates of crime, and research relating to a comprehensive reform of the penal code.

The other Finnish research entity, the Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI), was established at the end of 1982. It functions under the joint auspices of the United Nations and the government of Finland. Its position resembles that of the Research Institute of Legal Policy with which it collaborates closely and from which came most of its research staff. Professor emeritus Inkeri Anttila was appointed the first director and is now replaced by Dr Matti Joutsen. The HEUNI's official purpose is "to provide for the regular exchange of information and expertise in crime prevention and control among various countries of Europe with different socio-economic systems"; a task the institute pursues through conferences, coordination of materials, publications, and research.

Finland also has a few small research units directly attached to the Ministry of Justice, working within the law and prison departments. Their work naturally is mostly applied research, as in the other Nordic countries. It is designed to have immediate practical relevance, and descriptive studies tend to rely on current data.

Norway

The Institute of Criminology and Criminal Law of the University of Oslo was founded within the Faculty of Law in 1954. The institute's initial function was to develop criminology as an auxiliary discipline to criminal law and criminal policy. Over time the focus of the institute's criminological section has shifted from this original task; its most characteristic trait today is the critical stance taken by much of its staff toward the functioning of the criminal justice system. Research projects center on the study of deviance and social control.

In the late 1960s this institute became the first in Scandinavia to offer a graduate degree in criminology. Enrollment increased steadily during the 1970s and has been particularly high in the last years. As many as 200 social science students annually complete a year's study of criminology. A small number, typically ten to fifteen, continue for another semester. About a dozen students have finished full graduate training, complete with thesis. Teaching, including offering elective courses to law students, occupies a major portion of the staff's energies.

Most of the current staff are sociologists by training. Since 1966 the criminology chair has been held by Professor Nils Christie. In the last years Cecilie Höigard has

become a full professor and Ragnar Hauge has held a position as half-time professor. In addition, there are three tenured lecturers and one-and-a-half positions as scientific assistants, tenable for a maximum of six years. This gives the Oslo institute by far the largest university-based staff of any criminology program in the Nordic countries.

Affiliated penal jurists and social researchers at the Institute of Sociology of Law, headed by Professor Thomas Mathiesen and earlier by the late Professor Vilhelm Aubert have also contributed substantially to Norwegian criminology and sociology of law. Courses in sociology of law are also obligatory for the law students.

Direct governmental involvement in criminological research is limited. The Ministry of Justice operates a small research division under the directorship of Kare Bødal, mostly doing prison surveys. Since 1981 Norway also has had a Crime Prevention Council, but its activities have hardly included research or funding of scientific projects.

Sweden

The Institute of Criminal Science/Department of Criminology in Stockholm has ties to both the law and social sciences faculties. Professor Knut Sveri, originally from Norway and the only lawyer among the three Nordic professors of criminology, has held the criminology chair since its creation in 1964.

Formal teaching began in 1971, and since then half a dozen students have received doctorates. The department consists of the professorship, one-and-a-half positions for lecturers, and one position as research assistant (often two persons share one position). Researchers with outside grants are also affiliated with the institute.

Stockholm University offers a full teaching program in criminology, from basic courses to doctoral courses. Degrees obtained, however, will be general and not specific to criminology. Optional courses in criminology are offered to all Swedish law students. In addition, criminology is taught to students in sociology, psychology, and legal psychiatry.

Since a few years back introductory courses in law and society are obligatory in the new legal education. Continuing courses in sociology of law are offered on an optional basis at Lund University.

The largest criminological research organization in Scandinavia is the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (NCCP or BRA in Swedish), which was established in 1974. This agency is linked to the Ministry of Justice and is headed by a seventeen-member board appointed by the government. In addition to secretariats that handle administration and information, the organization includes a policy-planning unit and a research division. The latter, with its own seven-member advisory group, is, in a Nordic context, a giant among dwarfs. The permanent scientific staff number around ten. Relatively substantial funds are administered, roughly split between intramural work at the research division and external studies.

The National Council for Crime Prevention functions on a much larger scale than do its counterparts in Denmark and Norway. Modern economic crimes and

the relations between narcotics and crime are some of the NCCP's principal areas of interest. Other focal subjects include general prevention and law obedience, youth and criminality, alcohol and criminality, preventive measures against crime, and institutional treatment of offenders.

Sweden's operating agencies also conduct criminological research. The National Police Board, the National Bureau of Statistics, and the city of Stockholm, for example, have conducted many criminological studies. During the last decade, resources for intramural research on "social problems" have been created within the ministries of social affairs and justice.

A research division within the Swedish National Prison and Probation Administration, headed by Norman Bishop, conducts investigations, supports outside studies of interest to the penal authorities, and acts as a "clearinghouse" for publication of results obtained in Sweden and abroad concerning correctional programs. Evaluation projects and systematic collection of statistical data receive high priority. Supplementary funding has been granted to the research and development unit for ongoing collection and analysis of information on prisoners' use of narcotics and on treatment programs.

Sweden is particularly known among the Nordic countries for its extensive official report writing. The documentation often contains large amounts of empirical material and related analyses. Noteworthy examples are the report on prostitution and the national rape survey done for the parliamentary Committee on Sexual Offences.

Scandinavian Research Council for Criminology

The Scandinavian Research Council for Criminology was established in 1962 to promote and coordinate criminological research within the member states. The national governments of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden provide funding and appoint the fourteen members of the executive council. The countries each have three representatives, of whom two are acknowledged criminologists and a third represents the respective ministry of justice.

Day-to-day administration is handled by a secretariat based in the country of the chairman. The chairmanship rotates between the countries with a term generally lasting three to four years. The first chairman, in 1962, was Professor Johs. Andenaes, one of the founders of the Council. The annual budget is about US dollars 150,000 and is used to initiate and coordinate comparative research, to fund individual studies, to arrange and sponsor various seminars, and to disseminate reports and newsletters.

The Council's limited resources do not permit full-scale support of major projects. Somewhat more than half of the annual budget is allocated for research grants to sustain pilot projects or to help fund a limited part of a larger undertaking. The Council has given particular emphasis to comparative studies and has initiated cross-national projects, for example, self-report studies and victim surveys.

Nine volumes of *Scandinavian Studies in Criminology* have been published under the Council's auspices since 1965. These volumes, published in English, and

three booklets prepared for the quadrennial U.N. world conferences on criminal policy (Aspelin et al. 1975; Bishop 1980; 1985), indicate the Council's ambition to facilitate Nordic involvement in the international community.

Since a major aim of the Council is to enhance communication and cooperation among the five countries, a series of "contact seminars" are sponsored at which researchers and officials who share common interests in specific criminal justice subjects meet to discuss current research and policy issues.

The Council also convenes an annual research seminar for criminologists from the five countries. About fifty people usually attend, representing the academic world, semigovernmental or governmental research institutions, the ministries of justice, and social work agencies.

Although the Scandinavian Research Council for Criminology serves as a common ground for Scandinavian criminologists, most of their work takes place in institutions based in the individual countries and funded by the separate national governments. For further information about the Scandinavian Research Council for Criminology see Bondeson and Kyvsgaard (1985).

Final Remarks

This summary has possibly a static quality that understates the interactions among researchers and policymakers in Scandinavia. These are countries with small populations, and people necessarily communicate across organizational boundaries. Experts from the universities are commonly consulted when policy reports or legislative reforms are under way and criminologists often work as committee members or scientific advisors.

For a fuller exposure of government influence on research as well as various research concerns in the Scandinavian countries I want to refer to Snare and Bondeson (1985), an article that has also been used as a basis for this presentation. For some earlier descriptions, see Christie (1971), Anttila (1974), and Wolf (1976). Lahti (1985) has later written an article on criminality, criminology and criminal policy, and a paper on more recent research trends has been presented by Törnudd (1987).

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