Ideas for Social Researches − Chapter 7 − Criminology

Author: Kamil Rafikov
ORCID: 0000-0002-7828-2488
Email: mailbox@kamil-rafik.com
This document is distributed under CC BY 4.0 license.
DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.3364008

Table of Contents

Ideas for Social Researches − Chapter 7 − Criminology....1
Integration of criminal circles with high technology businesses....1
Social attitude to teenage homosexual rapes in different cultures....2
Imaginary and real dangers of criminalized cities....2
Beard will not protect you....2
Decriminalization of family violence: global review....3
Sex crime inside and between extended families in the modern world....3
Sexual harassment in Russian universities towards students under 18 years old....3
Adaptation to copyright laws in recent immigrants....3
Immigration laws of the first world countries may provide preferential conditions for people who are deeper integrated with criminal circles....3
Prevention of crime in the business of surrogate motherhood....4
Inefficient usage of touristic advertisement budgets by governments of Uganda and Rwanda. 4
2,000 USD for asylum in EU....4
Risks and severity of robbery in developing countries....5
Using fake “nervous passenger” to distract airport security workers....5
Using WhatsApp messenger installed on smartphones of airport workers as attack vector against airport infrastructure....5
Risk of child sexual abuse by young female housemaids....5
Visual check-up by photo at border control posts in developing countries is often performed very formally....6
Trust and honesty in trans-national communication between organized criminals....6
Exceptional level of mutual trust in Ethiopian underground currency exchange market....6

Integration of criminal circles with high technology businesses

It is well-known that software development business accumulates a lot of financial streams; and it is well-known that software development business is the business of immigrants and diasporas in different countries. As a result of these two social phenomena, it is clear that software development business and organized crime sometimes go hand by hand. But I’m not sure that level of such interaction and its details have been researched enough. One of the most interesting aspects of such interaction is how low class and middle class intellectuals attracted by opportunities of high income communicate with organized crime.

To be completely correct you should understand that in mentioned period of time multiple businesses in developing countries were criminalized somehow; so, the case of high technology businesses should not be considered as something exceptional.

Dates: 2000’s. Locations: Russia.

Social attitude to teenage homosexual rapes in different cultures

It is supposed that teenage homosexual rapes (performed by teenagers against other teenagers) are considered as a variant of normal behavior in societies with strict patriarchal cultures (many regions of the planet) and societies with criminalized mass culture (ex-USSR regions). Is it really true? Is such attitude changing?

Dates: 1990's, 2000's. Locations: Russia.

Imaginary and real dangers of criminalized cities

I have spent several weeks in Mexico City and explored by feet, in train, and in taxi its central and North Western neighborhoods since morning till night (after sunset, in train and taxi only). Many policemen and guards armed with machine guns have been observed; a lot of houses protected in all possible ways have been seen; but the only representatives of underworld whom I have met were several street prostitutes in central areas of the city. I have not been robbed or killed. Even amount and quality of graffiti were not frightening.

In the same way, I have not got into problems in my random walks through Buenos Aires and Valparaiso. (Although couple of times, I was on the edge of doing this.)

I look like Latino American, and I don't smile and don't relax much because I'm from Russia; and maybe it really helped. But another reason could be that some dangers of criminalized cities are imaginary, not real. This guess is supported by the blogger https://varlamov.ru/ who made a lot of photo reports from many ghettos around the world; he always writes that all these places are not so dangerous as locals describe.

Theoretically, I suppose that all such dangers may be even created in mass media by ruling classes to support the atmosphere of fear in the society. Or by large-scale security businesses.

What consequences such idea may have? If it will be supported by serious researches, it may affect multiple public policies in such cities.

Dates: 2017. Locations: Mexico City, Mexico.

Beard will not protect you

During 10 years of my life I had big beard; partially, it was used as a method to protect myself against psychological aggression and sexual interest from other males. 2 round-the-world trips were made in this period of my life. And it may be said that beard as a method of protection probably was not very useful; I was approached by gays many times in many countries. What practical consequences such observation may have? If you will research the topic of security for hitchhikers who need to come in close contact with many random people on the road, then you should not consider beard as the reliable method of protection. Also, it may be interesting topic to understand influence of the beard on chances of becoming victim of the crime (through interviewing imprisoned or former criminals).

Dates: 2010's.

Decriminalization of family violence: global review

As I remember, family violence has been decriminalized in Russia several years ago. It would be interesting to collect global trends on this topic, and to describe underlying reasons of decriminalization with prognosis for the future for every country where it happens.

Sex crime inside and between extended families in the modern world

It is supposed, that sex crimes performed inside extended families (by one family member against another) or between persons from separate families are underreported and resolved/punished with use of "internal family justice" only. Cross-nation study would be desired. To avoid looking as "fight against traditional cultures" the research should include a comparative study covering sex crimes inside/between nuclear families and sex crimes between member of extended family and member of nuclear family.

Dates: 2010's. Locations: India, Latin America.

Sexual harassment in Russian universities towards students under 18 years old

In Russia (at least when I was young), and maybe in other countries currently, graduation from high schools and admission to universities happens around getting 16-17 years old. Age of consent to sexual relationships in Russia is 16, as I remember. That's why immediately after starting studies in universities some students become objects of sexual interest from some teachers who may be even 20-30 years older (including same sex sexual interest). The phenomenon of sexual harassment in university is rather widespread over the whole world; so, the only interesting particularity in this case is the combination of age of students by the time of admission and rather liberal attitude to sexual relationships between teachers and students in Russian society. It may need deeper research.

Dates: 1990's. Locations; Kazan, Russia.

Adaptation to copyright laws in recent immigrants

It is well-known that in many developing countries the attitude to copyright laws considering usage of multimedia content and software is very relaxed. It would be interesting to check how much time it takes to change this attitude in migrants from these regions relocated to developed countries.

Immigration laws of the first world countries may provide preferential conditions for people who are deeper integrated with criminal circles

As you can guess, in many developing countries businesses are controlled by people who are close to criminal circles. So, significant portion of upper middle class in such countries is somehow criminalized too. At the same time, immigration laws of developed countries targeted at attracting highly qualified professionals give preference exactly to these social circles. That's why, instead of getting "clean" intelligent youth from poor social circles, these developed countries get "people with connections". Certainly, from some point of view it is reasonable approach, because these people are used to be pressed down very hard, and they will just do their work after arrival to the first world as "working horses" without trying to jump to the top and competing with locals. And

speaking reasonably, it is obvious that "working horse" cannot be "clean". But I'm not sure that all people in the first world share this point of view; so, revisal of immigration laws may be needed.

Dates: 2000's. Locations: Russia.

Prevention of crime in the business of surrogate motherhood

In informal communication, it has been found that low-educated low-income females living in tropical African countries have information about opportunities of extremely high payments for surrogate motherhood services in the 1st world. Considering that no reputable 1st world surrogate motherhood agency will ever use services of females living in Sub-Saharan Africa, it may be supposed that there is a fertile ground for multiple severe crimes involving these females; that's why preventive work may need to be performed by social support agencies and law enforcement agencies.

Dates: 2019. Locations: Kampala, Uganda.

Inefficient usage of touristic advertisement budgets by governments of Uganda and Rwanda

There is a lot of road billboard advertisement in Uganda and Rwanda that invites foreign tourists to enjoy natural curiosities of both countries. But it is obvious that such advertisement can be seen only by people who are already came to these countries. So, it is obvious that such advertisement has zero effect.

Dates: 2019. Locations: Uganda, Rwanda.

2,000 USD for asylum in EU

In informal communication, the following information has been found about corruption in migration services of Uganda:

- after refugee stays in a foreign country over 10 years, UN officials may consider this person as a candidate for obtaining asylum in EU, or another part of the first world (with paid relocation);
- the lists of people who stayed in Uganda over 10 years in refugee status are provided to UN by local authorities;
- it is possible to include yourself and your family into these lists for a bribe, even if you stayed in Uganda in refugee status less than 10 years; the cost is 2,000 USD per family;
- some refugees hardly understand the sense of bribery, and hardly understand possible consequences in case if this fact will be discovered after arrival to the first world country; it means, that legal investigation of this situation should not be too harsh towards refugees.

Obviously, such situation may be widespread in the other third world countries.

Dates: 2019. Locations: Uganda.

Risks and severity of robbery in developing countries

In all my travels, I was in dangerous situations that could end with the robbery just three times in 30+ countries:

- in Buenos Aires (Argentina), I was tracked by two suspiciously looking Native Americans when I accidentally entered wrong area of the city;
- in Belgrade (Serbia), I was tracked on empty street by a heavy large man when I returned to hostel at the late night;
- in Addis Ababa (Ethopia), a heavy large man jumped on me from behind when I stood on street corner and explored map on my smartphone.

So, it may be possible to state that risk of being robbed in developing countries is rather low, and mainly caused by tourist's incorrect behavior, but if it really happened, then there is a high risk of being also physically harmed.

Dates: 2011 − 2019.

Using fake "nervous passenger" to distract airport security workers

Sometimes, I behave nervously before the flight and in 50% of cases of such nervous behavior (in 5 of 30+ airports used by me), security workers of the airport gave too much attention to me. Obviously, such attention is just demonstration of absence of professionalism, because it happened in provincial airports mainly. And it may be used by real criminals to distract airport security workers for performing illegal actions by another passenger who behaves quietly. (I have even read on one Internet forum about case when quiet female passenger coming after "nervous" male passenger brought knife on board.)

Dates: 2007 − 2019.

Using WhatsApp messenger installed on smartphones of airport workers as attack vector against airport infrastructure

It has been noticed that some airport workers use smartphones with WhatsApp messenger for internal business communication. (It should be noted that WhatsApp messenger is widely known for its vulnerabilities; it may function like Trojan software in fact.) Obviously, it can be used as attack vector against airport infrastructure.

Dates: 2019.

Risk of child sexual abuse by young female housemaids

In informal communication, it has been found that young female housemaids may perform long-term sexual abuse of children of any sex (in the format of mutually pleasant sexual play or full sexual relationships). I'm not sure that such issue have been ever researched well.

Dates: 2000's.

Visual check-up by photo at border control posts in developing countries is often performed very formally

During 8-9 years passed since the issue date of my travel passport, I have changed significantly: I became less thick, the beard has been cut to the minimum, head hair have been shaved almost completely, all head and beard hair became a little pale and not curly. At some border control posts the officers spend up to 5 minutes to compare my face with the photo in passport, but in many others no serious visual check-up is performed; it means that theoretically any person may use any non-biometric passport for crossing borders.

Dates: 2018 − 2019.

Trust and honesty in trans-national communication between organized criminals

In informal communication with an intercity taxi driver in Badakhshan province of Tajikistan, it was found that it is possible to find drug dealers in every village on the border with Afghanistan. And 15-20 times per year armed Afghan drug dealers cross the border (by low-water parts of mountain river separating both countries) to kill their Tajik partners who failed to pay them money for shipments of drugs. In conjunction with this information, it would be interesting to perform research on the role of trust and honesty in trans-national communication between organized criminals. It is well-known that there are some internal laws within different criminal communities, but how they are used and applied in trans-national communication?

Dates: 2019. Locations: Badakhshan province, Tajikistan.

Exceptional level of mutual trust in Ethiopian underground currency exchange market

In informal communication with a taxi driver in Addis Ababa, the following facts about underground currency exchange market have been found:

- underground currency exchange market is thriving because of lack of foreign currency in the country;
- underground currency exchange office may be located in a dirty city area in a standard wooden one-floor building that looks like ordinary street shop or toilet; up to 100,000 USD may be stored in cash by person working there; but there is no risk of robbery;
- all communication with an office is performed through taxi driver who can handle sums up to 10,000 USD in cash;
- street policemen don’t try to control this business by taking percentage from operational activity; sometimes raids are performed to close such offices, but usually owners of offices are notified in advance about planned raids by top-level police officers for a bribe.

Questions: do upper level policemen perform protection for this business to eliminate risks of robbery? if not, what are the reasons explaining high level of trust between all players on this market that allows to handle large amounts of cash without risk of being robbed?

Dates: 2019. Locations: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.