

CRIMINOLOGY AROUND THE WORLD

If you have news, views, reviews, or announcements relating to international or comparative criminology, including new books or conference announcements, please send it here! We appreciate brevity (always under 1,000 words), and welcome your input and feedback. – Vesna Markovic at vmarkovic@lewisu.edu

The Bialystok School of Criminology (BSC)

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From the left: Dr. E. W. Pływaczewski,
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The Faculty of Law of the University of Białystok, specifically the Department of Criminal Law and Criminology, is one of the leading Polish academic entities conducting extensive research in the field of criminology (Pływaczewski & Filipkowski, 2009). International activity of the Department has been recognized in the annual rankings in which the Faculty receives high scores every year.

Medical criminal law as an area of interest has been developing intensively at the Białystok School of Criminology (BSC) in recent years. This activity has been undertaken within the framework of the Academic Forum - Legal and Medical Aspects of Human Health since November 8, 2014 when an academic network agreement was signed. The Forum consists of the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, two leading Polish medical universities: the Medical University of Białystok, the Silesian Medical University in Katowice, and the Faculty of Law represented by the BSC as the leader of the Network. The research and development cooperation performed as a part of the network covers mostly broadly defined fields in the area

of both legal (i.e., social and life) sciences, including criminal law, criminology, forensic sciences, health care law, civil law, medical sciences, and health sciences, through organizing regular meetings, symposiums, and academic conferences (Pływaczewski, 2018).

Moreover, in May 2016, the BSC held the 1st Poland-wide Forum of Young Criminologists as a regular event. The purpose of the Forum, first initiative of its kind in Europe, was to integrate young scientists (including lawyers, criminologists, sociologists, educators, psychologists, and physicians) who represent various fields of study and provide them with the opportunity to exchange professional information, experiences, and research achievements in the area of criminology. The first edition Forum was titled "Contemporary crime and social pathologies from the standpoint of interdisciplinary criminology research" (First National Forum of Young Polish Criminologists, 2016). The second edition was organized in 2018 as an international conference with participation of young criminologists mostly from Europe. The title was: "The Criminality of 21st Century – Opportunities and Challenges for Criminology"

As a direct result of the BSC's work, 30 doctoral dissertations have been written under the supervision of professors E.W. Pływaczewski, E.M. Guzik-Makaruk and K. Laskowska. These three professors were reviewers in 60 doctoral programs and several habilitation proceedings, as well as in a number of proceedings to grant the title of professor. Representatives of BSC are authors of 14 monographs, editors of 30 monographs by more than one author, as well as authors of 200 academic articles, including 40 in foreign non-Polish journals. Their participation as authors (or co-authors) in monographs and other non-serial publications includes 310 items, 90 of which are publications in foreign (non-Polish) languages.

Further, each year scientists of the BSC organize conferences and scientific seminars with participation of well-known criminologists from all over the world. Our guest speakers have included K. Chockalingam, O. Ebbe, Ch. Eskridge, Y. Gilinskiy, J. Greene, M. Habersfeld, R. Kuzuhara, J. Liu, G. Kaiser, H.J. Kerner, K.-L. Kunz, A. Minaar, I. Marshall, A. Raine, S. Redo, J. Sarnecki, H. J. Schneider, L. Sherman, H. Strang, K. Yamanaka, and M. Yokoyama.

For years, BSC's members have presented at prestigious annual congresses and conferences including the American Society of Criminology, the European Society of Criminology, and other international conferences. Some of the issues undertaken by young criminologists were presented at the 17th Annual Conference of the ESC in Cardiff, UK. What should be noted, is that there was more representation of the Faculty of Law of University in Białystok than of any other Polish law institutions. In 2017, BSC's achievements were presented at separate sessions during the 73rd Annual Meeting of the ASC in Philadelphia, PA and most recently at the 18th

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Annual Conference of the ESC in Sarajevo.

One of the most recent initiatives (2016) of BSC was the creation of the International Centre for Criminological Research and Expertise (ICCRE). The aims of the ICCRE include *inter alia*: cooperation with government bodies, private sector entities, and non-governmental organizations in Poland and abroad; preparing experts' opinions for the needs of government bodies, private sector entities and NGOs in Poland and abroad; and publishing and popularizing activities. The purposes of the ICCRE also include conducting and coordinating inter-disciplinary studies on criminology, initiating and coordinating the participation of the University in research consortia both nationally and internationally, as well as organizing conferences, seminars and obtaining research grants.



Prof. K. Laskowska and Prof. E. M. Guzik-Makaruk receiving professorial nominations from the President of Poland Andrzej Duda (Warsaw, 2017). From the left: Dr. E. W. Pływaczewski, Prof. K. Laskowska, The President of Poland A. Duda, Prof. E. M. Guzik-Makaruk, Dr. E. Jurgielewicz-Delegacz.

The research conducted by the BSC is based on the concept of interdisciplinary cooperation developed over recent years, called the matrix of excellence in scientific research. This research model is the result of the evolution of BSC's activities on the national and international levels in connection with other entities from the public and private sectors, and recently also with non-governmental organizations. The first concepts of the matrix were presented during the 3rd European Security Research Conference (Paris) in 2008 (Pływaczewski, 2009) and then during the XII United Nations Congress on Prevention of Crime and Justice (Salvador, Brazil) in 2010. There, the achievements of the BSC and the Polish Platform for Homeland Security received the highest marks by official delegations of over one hundred countries and representatives of the international scientific community (Pływaczewski, 2010).

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