

## CRIMINOLOGY AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR THE FORMULATION OF PUBLIC SECURITY POLICIES

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### ABSTRACT

Oral cancer represents a serious public health problem, with high rates of morbidity and mortality, especially in developing countries. Although its early detection is decisive for prognosis, diagnosis still occurs in advanced stages in most cases. Primary Health Care (PHC), due to its capillarity and preventive nature, is the ideal scenario for the early identification of potentially malignant lesions and oral cancer. This article proposes an integrated approach among PHC professionals, emphasizing the importance of systematic clinical examination, health education, and continuing education. The methodology involved a narrative review of the literature in international and national databases, addressing early detection strategies, barriers faced in clinical practice, and current public policies. The results highlight the need for standardized protocols, specific training, and educational campaigns as pillars for the effectiveness of early diagnosis. The discussion emphasizes that strengthening PHC is essential to change the current epidemiological scenario of oral cancer in Brazil and in the world.

**Keywords:** Oral Neoplasms; Primary Health Care; Early Diagnosis; Health Promotion.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The research presented here is guided by the understanding of the use of Criminology as a theoretical and practical contribution in the formulation of public policies for the prevention and repression of crime. To this end, this study follows some steps reported below.

Initially, the research deals with the conceptualization of Criminology, as well as how this science developed and was established in the criminal sciences, being today a source of recurrent study among legal studies. Then, there is this same effort more with regard to the topic of the origin and establishment of the concept of public policies as a whole.

Then, the study emphasizes the central issue of the theme, where it seeks to demonstrate how Criminology effectively supports the creation of public policies for the prevention and repression of the practice of crime, as well as how this same science provides bases for crime control.

The study is based on qualitative research, where there is an extensive bibliographic research related to the theme, being based in its entirety on previously published scientific materials, and, therefore, supported by the scientific force and dissemination of democratic knowledge.

## 2 CRIMINOLOGY: CONCEPTUAL ASPECTS AND PURPOSES

This support arises, within the so-called Enlightenment century, from the need to understand and explain the emergence of delinquent acts, with the use of extreme violence or injury to the material property of citizens.

Thus, as a set of knowledge, and building itself as a science, Criminology is based on some aspects that provide the foundation, as well as general support, to measures for the prevention and control of crime and criminality. These elements can be listed as follows: origin and propagation of crime, its motivations and consequences; the need for social control in order to avoid the criminal act; identification of criminal profiles; means of carrying out the rehabilitation of criminally convicted persons; prevention of means of exclusion and escalation of social inequality in order not to foster crime (GARCIA, MOLINA, GOMES, 1997).

As a method of approaching and gathering knowledge of scientific knowledge, Criminology has empiricism as its tool, that is, from the real experience of the fact, this science obtains the ability to analyze what happened and discuss them. At the same time, by performing wound analysis, Criminology broadens its range of action, by offering opportunities to know the context that gives rise to the criminal phenomenon, as well as providing data in space and time on the frequency of crimes committed (NUNES, TRINDADE, 2013).

On the other hand, it is possible to verify another context of action where Criminology thrives: the Interdisciplinarity of scientific knowledge about the criminal phenomenon. Thus, the study of Criminology makes use of the cooperation of a set of scientific knowledge that the study of medicine, social sciences and natural sciences have already grouped together and, therefore, can collaborate with analyses that the science of Criminology seeks in its work to understand the criminal phenomenon in its entirety.

As far as theoretical work is concerned, Criminology extends to analyses of concepts of crime and criminality itself. The crime as a legal fact is established according to the penal codices that each nation promulgates or grants, and has by definition a more rigid form, with no room for great inventiveness (GARCIA, MOLINA, GOMES, 1997), although Criminology also seeks the empirical conceptual aspect of the criminal fact.

On the other hand, criminality concerns a collection of punishable conducts, as well as the offenders who are agents of these same conducts, who have already been convicted, that is, convicted of their acts, can offer case studies widely used by the study of Criminology.

In more in-depth terms, Criminology is considered the primary source of research on what is called the criminogenic phenomenon. In other words, Criminology seeks to understand how criminogenic factors manifest themselves and expand, and, consequently, establish themselves in the social environment (PIRES, 2017).

It is also noteworthy that Criminology is a science that is firmly supported by the social sciences, such as: sociology, anthropology, etc., since it is understood as a scientific knowledge that studies not only the criminal individual, but also the environment that produces the delinquent, his political and economic, and especially social context.

Some elements should be highlighted regarding the application of Criminology in crime control (NUNES, TRINDADE, 2013):

- social appeal, in the sense that the conduct practiced by the agent must reflect maliciously not only against himself, but must also harm in some way the environment that surrounds him;
- It is not necessary to isolate the agent's conduct, placing him as the practitioner of an isolated act, once again, it must be considered the issue of the context, and the repercussion of criminal acts within a given society;
- Finally, the question of the repetition of the criminal act must be considered, in the same locations and repeatedly over time.

In historical terms, it has been said that Criminology appears in the eighteenth century in the middle of the Enlightenment, therefore, when Reason is in a privileged position within intellectual discussions. Therefore, a timeline demonstrates that from a usual and eugenic

finding, current Criminology is based on empirical evidence, privileging pure scientific knowledge, seeking to understand the criminal phenomenon with a view to collaborating with the prevention and repression of crime.

### 3 PUBLIC POLICIES: CONCEPTUAL ASPECTS

Before explaining what public policies are, it is necessary to understand, even if briefly, what a political system is. A political system is a set of structures, institutions, dynamics, actions, and processes that interact with each other and, across the boundaries of the system, with the environment, to allocate values with authority to a society, which is the most comprehensive social system, to achieve the goals, ends, and purposes of that same community, and to perform the functions that can be defined as politics.

It is therefore, conceptually, itself a subsystem of the broader, more comprehensive social system. This is generally regarded as an open system involved in exchanges with its environment, and an adaptive system, capable of adapting to changing circumstances, of regulating its own components (HÖFLING, 2001).

A political system is an open subsystem of the broader, comprehensive, and comprehensive social system within which we find several other essential political subsystems that influence each other, for example, the family, economic, cultural, religious, educational, legal, and other subsystems (BUCCI, 1997).

Within the broader context of the political system, therefore, public policy is a reasonably comprehensive concept, with the following characteristics (HÖFLING, 2001):

- Authoritarian, binding, legitimate, deliberate and with the ability to interact between government and community;
- It has a multiplicity of public decisions that are made by individuals who are in power for elected political positions action can be put into operational practice by public administrators and their subordinates, in order to achieve government goals and objectives postulated through society's demands;
- The formal decision typically encompasses at least three distinct aspects to guide and clarify everyone involved in the implementation. These three aspects are:
  - The formulation of goals in the clearest possible terms;
  - The nature of the action, formulated in terms simple enough to serve as a guide to state officials;
  - The amount of national power to be employed to achieve the goal (objective).

Public policy takes one or more of several forms, that is, specific legislation or detailed legislation or detailed regulations elaborated administratively within the parameters of more generalized legislation. Public policies can also take the form of official statements of the government's position on an issue. The importance of public policies and the elaboration of public policies in public administration stems from the very fact that no public activity can be carried out without the stipulation of a clear objective and an adequate policy (BUCCI, 1997).

In most contemporary states the supreme objective branches out into a multiplicity of subjectives. Therefore, in these states, there is a general policy that flourishes in numerous sub-policies, as a consequence. For the purposes of this study, it is stated that when an objective is achieved in the public sector, it is usually said that the policy has been defined (SOUZA, 2003).

The process of events that precedes the announcement of the goal is known as determination. Public policies are, therefore, those that are developed and adopted by political office holders, and implemented by government institutions and public officials (BUCCI, 1997).

In most contemporary states, the supreme goal can be stated as the advancement of the general welfare, but the supreme goal branches out into a multiplicity, again, of sub-goals. Therefore, in these states, there is a global public policy flourishing in numerous sub-policies, or smaller policies (SOUZA, 2003).

Finally, it must be stressed that whatever its political form, it must be well carried out. When comparing the merits of different types of politics, one must look back at the forms and ask to what extent they actually restrict or encourage the play that gives life to a more egalitarian and just society. These functions do not limit only who has political power; They also contribute to policy-making through dialogue in which everyone is involved. In both respects, they place the responsibility on those who interpret them.

#### **4 CRIMINAL POLICIES**

The most obvious candidate for an explanation of how criminal policy develops resides in the criminal phenomenon itself. After all, politicians, criminal policy experts, and practitioners in the criminal justice system, who create, shape, and interpret criminal policy, regularly articulate their concern for crime, as well as operate within an institutional framework explicitly justified as a response to crime, understood in various ways as harmful forms of behavior.

Of course, your knowledge of or perceptions of crime – a notoriously slippery concept, can be variously incomplete, distorted or self-serving. But the idea that crime does not

constitute an important problem that determines criminal policies would seem, at first glance, to be mistaken (CAMPOS, 2014).

As for another aspect, the cultural within a society, it is noted that cultural arguments are notoriously difficult to define, not least because they arise in many different aspects and forms. But a useful way to understand it if they differ from purely structural or institutional ones is to see that cultural explanations focus on the symbolic, affective, or communicative dimensions of punishment and policy-making, and seek to give us a better understanding of the conditions under which specific penal policies may be considered legitimate or adequate (CAMPOS, AZEVEDO, 2020).

Therefore, it is argued that the cultural dynamics around the elaboration of penal policies and punishment practices can help us understand how political preferences are shaped and how specific policies stabilize even under material conditions that may be considered unfavorable (COSTA, 2012).

Thus, for example, Campos and Azevedo (2020) point out that if Émile Durkheim was right in his somewhat innovative view that crime is a healthy thing precisely because it provides the occasion for an expressive reaffirmation, through the imposition of punishment, of the collective conscience that unites society, then we could expect criminal policy to reflect a need for popular legitimacy and expressive adequacy, rather than rational calculations of the prospects for deterrence, reform, or disempowerment.

In addition, long-standing links within certain groups to certain values can be expected to shape the perception of justice or otherwise appropriate penal policies, potentially explaining differences in criminal policy between countries with relatively similar criminal problems and policies (AZEVEDO, CIFALI, 2015).

These accounts and others like them are richly textured and suggest delineating attitudes toward punishment among the public and policymakers in different contexts. They perform less strongly, however, in generating robust explanations of the precise causal mechanisms through which these cultural differences are sustained over time and shape the decisions of public security penal policymakers (CAMPOS, 2014).

These weaknesses become particularly evident in the comparative context, where it is often possible to point to penal variations between countries that have relatively similar histories or cultural characteristics.

Cultural dynamics seem to be an important mechanism in the legitimization and stabilization of ideas about criminal policy; However, it is plausible that these dynamics are independent of the institutional structures through which social order is produced and political decision-making is framed. Will cultural differences not only be important in sustaining

institutions, but also – or rather, will they be produced or, at least, shaped by that specific institutional configuration? (COSTA, 2012)

At the other end of the spectrum of cultural approaches, we have a family of theories that claim that criminal policy is determined by material and structural forces within the economy.

In the capitalist economy in particular, punishment functions not only to sustain the regime of private property rights, but also to discipline a reserve army of labor—or, in more contemporary terms, to govern social marginality (PESSOA, LEAL, 2019).

Therefore, we would expect to see punishment increase during periods of unemployment and to see lower rates of punishment in times and places marked by high rates of employment: the more expendable a person's work is, the greater their chances of being punished. This first report also intends to explain the changing forms of punishment over time (PESSOA, LEAL, 2019).

Prison emerges in capitalism as an effective criminal mechanism that can store labor without destroying its potential value. In contrast, pre-capitalist societies in which life and work were cheap were marked by corporal punishment that sometimes inflicted lasting disability (AZEVEDO, CIFALI, 2015).

Secondly, punishment has a clear ideological function in the legitimization of the capitalist system, interpreting the conduct often produced by the injustices of capitalism as moral errors that deserve censure and sanction (COSTA, 2012).

Interestingly, the second of these accounts could be read as a cultural rather than a structural account, which operates at the level of how the meaning of punishment is conveyed and understood, although this affects the materiality of power relations.

Among the most contemporary conceptions of Criminal Policy, it constitutes a field of knowledge that proposes to state agencies scientific, concrete and adequate alternatives to confront crime. Acting as an effective link between criminal law and criminology, allowing the empirical results of criminological research to be assimilated and, eventually, converted into legal norms. (SHECAIRA, 2008)

In an interdisciplinary process, criminology provides the empirical and scientific basis of the system. Criminal policy, on the other hand, is responsible for transforming this knowledge into practical and viable measures, which can be adopted by both the legislator and state institutions. Thus, criminal policy "implies the strategies to be adopted within the State with regard to criminality and its control" (SHECAIRA, 2008).

## 5 CRIMINOLOGY AND PUBLIC POLICIES FOR THE PREVENTION AND REPRESSION OF CRIME

Considering that Criminology is a holistic knowledge in itself, it is necessary to review some areas where this knowledge is fine-tuned to foster the creation of public policies that aim to curb criminal acts, or even that prevent the encouragement of habits that lead to criminality.

Thus, it is necessary to highlight some points where Criminology as an established science is based to create its praxis, that is, its active practice. Added to this is the fact that it considers the creation of public policies that are attentive to this type of social deviation (BECHARA, 2008).

In a cultural sense, Criminology has gone from eugenic data, from prejudice and open racism, where, for example, only the facial shape of a certain person would lead him to criminal acts, to a scientific analysis based on cultural movements themselves, leaving aside anachronistic concepts (HASSEMER, 2013).

So, in cultural aspects, Criminology brings together the study of cultural movements that demonstrate the probability of high crime rates in a given cultural context, which can sometimes praise criminal conduct, or even treat this conduct as something natural, in the sense of normalizing it.

The latter situation comes from a demographic situation of poverty, where the State does not prevail, that is, the State does not provide public security coverage, access to global education, livelihoods such as housing, access to adequate food and the like (HASSEMER, 2013).

With this, economic and social issues come into play in order to create the need for cultural analysis that involves these two aspects. Now, Criminology as a multidisciplinary science enters the field of debate, as it is part of its essence to also understand, in addition to the criminal act, the environment that provides the means for them to be deliberately not only carried out, but also promoted (BECHARA, 2008).

Therefore, the help of Criminology emerges as a compass in the creation of public security policies aimed at reducing the crime rate. In purely statistical terms, aiming at results in expressive numbers, Criminology serves as a theoretical and practical contribution for the development of public policies that aim to confront the criminal act.

## 6 THE COLLABORATION OF CRIMINOLOGY IN THE FORMULATION OF PUBLIC POLICIES FOR THE PREVENTION AND REPRESSION OF CRIME

In this topic, it is necessary to understand in a more structured way the issue of the help of Criminology in the creation of public policies that not only work with numbers to reduce crime, but also deals with the topic in more depth.

This deepening can be found in the search for understanding how it is possible to reflect and create public policies that represent a force to fight crime. Therefore, it is necessary to find ways for Criminology to act as a contribution to the fight against the act that it studies.

In an inflection directed at the base text of the judicial order, we have what Castamann and Nigris (2018) provide:

The Federal Constitution of 1988 enshrined social rights as fundamental, and the constituent allocated such rights within the respective title (Title II "On Fundamental Rights and Guarantees", more precisely in article 6). As such, social rights (also called by most of the doctrine of second-generation rights) demand that the State act positively, that is, it requires that state measures be taken for the creation or maintenance of bodies and procedures that are indispensable for them to be effective. This positive action occurs, first, in the context of the formation and adoption of public policies appropriate to the purposes that are essentially intended by the executive and legislative houses (CASTAMANN and NIGRIS, 2018, p. 23).

More precisely, the authors follow:

Security, as enshrined in article 6 of the Magno Text, as a social right, is also conditioned in these terms, through state policies that manage and guide bodies, resources and procedures so that society can effectively have the provision of this fundamental right. It is not denied that this right has not been provided, much less the country's political problems, however, one cannot avoid the question: what is the possibility or need for a proactive criminological discourse in the formation or management of public security policies? (CASTAMANN and NIGRIS, 2018, p. 23).

Considering that the representation of public policies in the face of crime are elements that embody the set of social rights delegated to Brazilian citizens, it is possible to see how Criminology is deeply rooted in the State's performance in terms of criminal policies of public security and repression of crime.

Note what Gomes (2010) says:

A critical and committed approach to the Brazilian political-criminal system reveals the corrosion of these pillars, given the absence of convergent studies and practices in the field of crime prevention. There is a prolonged moment of vacuum in Brazilian criminal policy, which brings in its wake harmful consequences for the instances of criminal prosecution, for the Judiciary and, even if reflexively, for the balance and development of society. Brazil, in spite of the fact that it has issued international treaties and pacts in the criminal field, does not effectively develop any preventive action against crimes in its national territory (either at the state or federal levels). It is not uncommon to find doctrinal criticism regarding the use of preventive detention as a practical substitute for a non-existent criminal policy (arresting if not more to meet a

need of the process, but so that the agent does not continue to commit crimes). Such a picture is recorded in the context of ordinary and secular crime against people, with the total abandonment of violent aggressors and victims after serving their sentence (GOMES, 2010, p. 22-23).

It is understood that there is a long way to go for Criminology to be seen and adopted as a primary source in the repression of crime as a whole. The author cited above demonstrates pessimism about the will of the Brazilian legislator to promote efficient public policies in this area.

Therefore, between contrasts, where there is a fundamental text of the Brazilian legal system, and the disbelief of an author coming from the Public Prosecutor's Office, there are still no conclusions that elevate the debate on Criminology and its ability to infer in the representation of criminality.

## **7 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

This article was premised on the investigation of the application of Criminology in order to create and foster public policies that represent and combat crime. To this end, we sought to integrate subjects related to the theme with the contribution of a bibliographic review.

Thus, the option prevailed to start this study with the conceptualization of what Criminology is, and soon after the same conceptualization scheme applied to what is a public policy.

After these previews, there was an immersion in order to understand first how Criminology serves as a basis in the promotion of the creation of public policies that combat crime, and then how these same policies represent the criminal act.

It is concluded that the subject requires in-depth studies, as there is a conflict of interest and studies regarding the subject. In other words, it is suggested to deepen the subject in a timely manner, although it is far from definitive conclusions.

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