

## Limits of self-control in the explanation of crime

Sergej Flere, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Pedagogy, University of Maribor, 2000 Maribor, Slovenia

Possibilities of explaining delinquency by low self-control, as proposed by Gottfredson and Hirschi (1990) and as operationalized by Grasmick et al. (1993) and Vazsony et al. (2001) was studied on a sample of 1,200 Maribor university students. On the basis of a factor analysis, low self-control proved to be a two component phenomenon, with low loadings in some items. A summational instrument of low self-control was composed. It proved to explain general delinquency modestly, whereas odds ratios indicated a significant link between low self-control and deviance. Sex and religiosity remained important determinants, the latter as a deterrent. Masculine attributes according to Bern remained a moderate independent determinant. The impact of gender was not included either by masculinity or by self-control, via a test of robustness in regression analysis.

Key words: low self-control, social control, Travis Hirschi, criminality

UDC: 316.624