

In/adequacy of («social») anger in criminal law and criminology

Saša Kmet, LL.B., Young Researcher, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law, Poljanski nasip 2, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Emotions are a particular dimension of human existence that affects a human being as an individual, as well as his social life, including the legal system, and they are therefore of the utmost importance for human life. Anger is one of the strongest emotions in appealing to change an addressee's harmful behaviour, because of its powerful influence on social relationships and the individual himself.

Exploration of in/adequate expressions of anger establishes (taking into account a few exceptions) that the ideological foundations of criminal law, criminology and penology (thus valid institutions of law) are built and operate under same circumstances that determine the social dynamics of anger on an individual and inter-personal level. In modern societies, which defend the "rule of law" not "role of power" (anymore), "social" anger towards an offender who threatens or harms important and protected social value(s) is expressed through mechanisms of prosecution agencies and criminal justice authorities. However, the expression of "social" anger restricts the offender's human rights and liberties, so a great deal of caution must be used.

Key words: emotions, anger, criminal law, criminology, values

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