

# The global travels of knowledge on the criminal question:

North-South, South-South and South-South. 1850s-1950s

## ORGANIZED BY

- Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory.
- Crime and Society Program, Universidad Nacional del Litoral.

## COORDINATION

Prof. Máximo SOZZO (Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Argentina)  
Prof. Jorge NUÑEZ (Universidad de Buenos Aires/CONICET, Argentina)  
Dra. Raquel SIROTTI (Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory)

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Theme

This International Conference intends to discuss works related to the theme traditionally posed as 'circulation' -but also 'transfer' or 'transplant'- across borders of knowledge on the criminal question, understood in a broad sense as the complex set of problems related to crime and crime control. Although this topic has been prolifically explored in the history of different fields and disciplines -even in certain areas of law- giving rise to various approaches and discussions, the development of studies specifically related to knowledge on the criminal question is still relatively incipient. This International Conference tries to address various forms of knowledge produced on crime and crime control, from different discursive matrices and in different types of spaces. It proposes to carry out this task in a broad period, from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century, and at a global level.

Until now, the specialized literature on the travels of knowledge on the criminal question has focused on those developed from the Global North to the South, which frequently are built on and reproduce the asymmetry and dependence of the 'peripheral' with respect to the 'central' contexts. This has often led to presenting these processes as a mere 'adoption' by the 'southern' agents of problems, concepts and arguments previously generated in the 'northern' contexts. Without doubt, this is an important dimension of the history of these travels.

But we believe that it is necessary to make our approach more complex, appealing to the perspective of 'cultural translation', as it has been developing in social history and had important deployments in global legal history as well as incipiently in the history of knowledge on the criminal question. This implies reinforcing attention to the dynamics of 'adaptation' and 'rejection' that are also often involved in these travels and in whose framework a greater or lesser level of 'innovation' is generated by local agents in relation to the local context and problems, its past and present. This International Conference aims to contribute to restore this complexity to the travels of knowledge on the criminal question from the Global North to the South, but without losing sight of the centrality of the production and reproduction of global asymmetry and dependence.

But, in addition, this International Conference seeks to detect and explore other types of relevant travels across borders that have been relatively neglected in the specialized literature on the matter so far. On the one hand, the attempts to export problems, concepts and arguments on the criminal question generated in the Global South to the North. Although they didn't not happen frequently, it is possible to identify examples in this direction, especially towards the end of the period that interests us (1850s-1950s). On the other hand, we want to highlight the importance of South-South



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travels, between various peripheral contexts. Many times, these trips took place within a specific region and involved a previous connection with the Global North of a privileged scenario that functioned as an 'acclimatization chamber' for certain discourses and orientations. In this sense, this other type of 'intra-peripheral' travels could in turn built relationships of

asymmetry and dependency within the Global South. By trying to place these two other directions of travels of knowledge on the criminal question at the center of our attention, this International Conference seeks to make another significant contribution to radically change our research agenda on this topic.

Finally, this International Conference seeks to discuss works on these different types of travels of knowledge on the criminal question at a global level, including various types of discursive matrices from which they are produced. In this sense, we are interested in the knowledge produced by the "experts" who had a privileged anchorage in the academic field and beyond the way in which they identified themselves during this long period - criminal law jurists, criminologists, penologists, sociologists, psychiatrists, etc. But we are also interested in the knowledge produced by "experts" who were strongly anchored in the penal field (police, criminal justice, prison, etc.) and who, in addition to being preoccupied with academic debates, presented themselves as essentially

concerned with 'practical' issues related to the functioning of the different institutions linked to the power to punish. And finally, we are also interested in how 'subordinate' agents disputed and produced interpretations of problems, concepts and arguments related to the criminal question in different situations and settings.

In this sense, the International Conference aspires to bring together works that address the travels of knowledge on the criminal question from multiple methodological and theoretical frameworks, in a variety of scenarios at a global level, with different types of directions (North-South, South- North and South-South) and from different discursive matrices during the long period 1850s-1950s.

### Conference Characteristics

The conference will be hybrid. Presentations may be done in person or online. There will be simultaneous translation between English and Spanish so that the presentations can be made in either of the two languages.

### Paper proposals

Paper proposals can be written in Spanish or English and must have a maximum length of two pages, including the title, abstract and basic academic data of the author(s) - place of work, research project in which it is inscribed, undergraduate and postgraduate training, etc.

The deadline for submitting these proposals will be **May 15, 2022** and they must be sent to the email: [delitoysociedad@unl.edu.ar](mailto:delitoysociedad@unl.edu.ar)

The acceptance of these proposals will be communicated before **May 31, 2022**.

Final papers may not exceed 8000 words, including notes and references. They must be sent to the same email address until **August 1, 2022**.