

Euro
Crim
2016



16th Annual Conference of the
European Society of Criminology
21-24 September 2016 in Münster, Germany

ABSTRACTS



THE EVERYDAY LEGITIMACY OF STATE VIOLENCE AND SOCIAL INJUSTICE: THE NEOLIBERAL RATIONALITY AND ITS MARKET-MIMICKING LANGUAGE ON HUMAN DIGNITY

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One of the most serious problems related to the current neoliberal hegemony is the reconstruction of economics, states and the rule of law alike. Deflected from any kind of democratic commitment, state sovereignty is repeatedly endangered by the neoliberal rationality and its economization code. This narrowing of state's regulatory and democratic expectations relies more on soft power than on hard power (Brown, 2006; 2015) namely on specific languages, symbols and repertoires. Neoliberal rationality and its market-mimicking languages have often been associated with violence exercised on the behalf of (or sponsored by) states. Such acts include the elimination of "dependency cultures" through fiscal reforms and changes in social policies that are oriented toward the protection of the most vulnerable; the intensification of social inequality; cyclical financial meltdowns; tremendous environmental impacts; the commodification of every human need; and the financing of everyday life (Chossudovsky, 2003; Brown, 2015; Howard and King, 2008; Klein, 2015). Our argument in this paper proposal is that neoliberal rationality has become increasingly powerful, ethereal, and hegemonic because it has displaced and instrumentalized state powers, while at the same time it has relocated and translated human dignity and social justice into a market-mimicking framework. As Clarke (2008) posits, neoliberalism's most remarkable achievement lies within a double dynamic of translation: different repertoires are decoded in the light of neoliberal rationality, reassembled for audiences and subjects, and then legitimized when everyday languages translate the neoliberal paradigm, its goals, and contradictions. State oppression, violence and social injustices are then uncritically established and made vulgar, routine. Key to this appropriation are the ideological keystones and the languages used to justify social injustice and market-mimicking models of social organization (cf. Jost, Blout, Pfeffer and Hunyady, 2003). We seek to shed light on the micro-discourses that echo and reflect the neoliberal rationality and that justifies different social injustices allocated to states such as the continuously dismantlement of the welfare-state in different countries of the global north.