

About the contributors

Alina Bezljaj is a researcher in the Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia). <https://orcid.org/0009-0004-8291-6801>

Ana Batričević, PhD, is a Principal Research Fellow at the Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research (Serbia). Her main fields of scientific research include: re-socialization of convicted persons, primarily through innovative methods including dog and horse assisted programmes; protection of human rights of prisoners, elderly persons and national minorities, as well as environmental conservation and the protection of both – animal welfare and human right to healthy environment. Besides other research methods, Ana applies documentary photography in her field researches and, through the transformative and reviving power of images she strives to make the findings of her research accessible not only to scientific community but also to broader public at photography exhibitions and online presentations. Ana has published several books, book chapters, articles in international and national peer reviewed scientific journals, participated in numerous scientific conferences and presented her work at many photography exhibitions in Serbia and abroad. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1727-4222>

Boris Kordić, PhD, is a Full Professor at Faculty of Security Studies, University of Belgrade (Serbia), teaching Psychology and Social Psychology. He graduated at the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade. In 2006, he defended his PhD thesis entitled “Assessment of suitability for psychoanalysis” at the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade. Since 2001 he has been university lecturer at Faculty of Security Studies, University of Belgrade. His scientific work is related to mentoring, career development, healing aspects of personality, dark side of personality, professional competencies, trauma response and resistance to trauma, as well as research of current problems of young people in society. He has published numerous articles in scientific journals and participated in scientific conferences. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0530-6135>

Branislava Popović-Čitić, PhD, is a Full Professor at the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, with a PhD in Special Education and Rehabilitation Sciences (Serbia). She is an expert in prevention science, with over 250 scientific and professional papers published in the field. She is active in the scientific-research community, as well as in field of prevention practice, with experience in developing and leading over 100 scientific-research and professionally-applicative projects. She is the President of the Managing Board of CEPORA – Center for Youth Development, a member of the Victimology Society of Serbia and the Pedagogical Society of Serbia, she is a member of the expert base of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Network of Children's Organizations of Serbia and the Regional Resource Center for Child Protection for Southeast Europe. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1076-5838>

Darja Tadič, PdD, is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Education, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia). <https://orcid.org/0009-0007-8787-2408>

Dimitrinka Jordanova Peshevska, PhD in Public Health and PhD in Clinical Psychology is Associate Professor at the University American College Skopje, Vice Dean of the School of Political Science and Psychology, and Head of the Department of Psychology (Republic of North Macedonia). She is an expert in health, clinical and developmental psychology. She is a system family counsellor and Emotionally focused couple therapist. Her special areas of expertise are health behaviours, mental health, public health, violence against children, family violence and dating violence. She has more than 25 years working experience in international and UN organization in social, health and educational area. She has been working at WHO Country Office Skopje (2000-2014) on implementing programs on violence against children, domestic violence, deinstitutionalization and development of community mental health services. She has been involved in policy/strategy development in the areas of mental health, violence against children, domestic violence, social inclusion, non-communicable diseases and other relevant policy and legal documents with the relevant ministries. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3499-3667>

Dragana Batic, PhD, is a Full Professor at the Faculty of security – Skopje, University “St. Kliment Ohridski” – Bitola (Republic of North Macedonia) where she teaches psychology in the first, second and third cycle of studies. As a psychologist in her multi-decade work, she dealt with the practical work with clients (psychodiagnostics and psychotherapy), research of psychological phenomena (through quantitative and qualitative researches), and transferring acquired knowledge through teaching, i.e. lectures, as well as through writing papers, books and textbooks. Before her academic work, she worked as a psychologist in the Center for Social Work. Her research deals with people who are traumatized: participants in war, refugees, convicted persons, child victims, children in prisons and correctional homes, women victims of violence, psychological consequences of the pandemic. She participated in numerous researches and projects, scientific and professional conferences in the country and abroad. She is one of the founders of the first psychological counseling center for students at the University "St. Kliment Ohridski"-Bitola, where individual and group psychotherapy are conducted. <https://orcid.org/0009-0002-1632-431X>

Eva Bertok, PhD, is a researcher at the Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana (Slovenia). She participated in research in the field of criminology and victimology and also worked as a hate speech analyst. Her recent research work concerns bullying in primary schools, prison climate, domestic violence, restraining orders, stalking, and violent crime in general. <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3757-2849>

Gorazd Meško, Ph.D., is a Professor of Criminology and Head of the Chair of Criminology at the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, University of Maribor (Slovenia). Professor Meško has been an Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Criminal Investigation and Criminology (Revija za kriminalistiko in kriminologijo), guest editor of a special issue of Policing - An International Journal on Rural Policing (2024) and co-

editor of the book *Rural Criminology - Continental Review* (Bristol University Press, 2025). In 2014, he received the Zois Award for the field of social science. He was the president of the European Society of Criminology (ESC) in 2018. He also received the Freda Adler Distinguished Scholar Award (American Society of Criminology, Division of International Criminology, 2022) and G.O.W. Mueller for his outstanding contribution to comparative/international criminal justice in the areas of scholarship, leadership, and service (Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, International Section, 2024). <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7466-0042>

Irma Kovčo Vukadin, PhD, is a Full Professor at the Department of Criminology at the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb (Croatia). She teaches several courses including Social Problems, Criminal enforcement law and penology, Crime and Media, and Human Trafficking. Before 2006, she worked at the Police College, where she held various positions including Vice Dean and Head of the Police College. At the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, she has served as the Head of the Department for Criminology and the Center for Lifelong Learning. Her academic interests mainly focus on criminology, victimology, and corrections, and she has published numerous papers on these topics. She has been a member of working groups for drafting laws and regulations at the national level, and an independent expert for the National Preventive Mechanism. She has long collaborated with the Directorate for Prison and Probation System of the Croatian Ministry of Justice and Administration and is currently the chair of the Ethics Committee at the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences. Irma serves as the editor-in-chief of the scientific journal *Criminology and Social Integration*. She also works with juvenile offenders and their families at the Center for Rehabilitation, which is an organizational unit of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences. She has obtained a certificate in family psychotherapy. <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2139-6748>

Lidija Bukvić is a Teaching Assistant at the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation (Serbia), in the scientific area of Theoretical and methodological approaches in the prevention and treatment of behavioral disorders. She is an author of over 70 scientific and professional publications, with her field of research interest primarily being prevention of behavioral problems, positive development, protective and risk factors. She has working experience in the social welfare sector as a family outreach worker. In addition, she has experience in participating in managing of over 60 local, national and international projects in the civil society sector, within the organisation CEPORA – Center for Positive Youth Development. She is a member of the expert base of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8161-1337>

Ljeposava Ilijić, PhD, is a Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research. Her research interests include penological and criminological topics, with a specific emphasis on the prison population, treatment in prisons, education and vocational training for inmates, the impact of education on reducing recidivism, adaptation to incarceration, and the deprivations experienced by convicted individuals. Recently, her research interests have expanded to include the

analysis of the consequences of penal populism and mass incarceration, the effects of neoliberal capitalism on the prison system, the philosophy within prison communities, and the investigation of the social and moral climate in prisons. She is also involved in assessing and improving the well-being and welfare of inmates in Serbian prisons. Her work addresses topics such as the quality of prison life and its significance on inmate behavior both during incarceration and after release. <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5090-1489>

Marina Kovačević Lepojević, PhD, is a Research Associate at the Institute for Educational Research (IER) in the field of education, and at the Center for Positive Development of Children and Youth (CEPORA) in the field of reducing inequalities and promoting equity in education and related fields (Serbia). Her research focus lies on exploring different factors that affect students' problem behavior, psychological well-being, and academic development, with a special interest in exploring the socioemotional learning (SEL) model of the positive youth development paradigm. In addition, important topics of her research work represent the topic of school mental health, mental health literacy of teachers and students, and related mental health issues. She is a member of the European Association for Research on Adolescence (EARA), and a member of the editorial board of journals *Journal of the Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research* and *Belgrade School of Special Education and Rehabilitation*. She completed Intermediate Level of RE&CBT Therapy (IAREBT) and Individual and Team Coaching at Koučing Centar (ICF - International Coaching Federation). <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4780-1716>

Martina Pleško has just started her scientific development by employment as an assistant at the Department of Criminology at the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb (Croatia) in January 2024. In September 2023, she completed her studies in Social pedagogy with a master's thesis entitled "Coping with stress and psychological well-being of prisoners", for which she conducted research with prisoners. She is a member of the project teams focusing on violence in the Croatian prison system and post-penal protection of prisoners. In 2024, she became a member of the European Society of Criminology. Her main scientific interest is penology. <https://orcid.org/0009-0004-1136-7809>

Milena Milićević, PhD, is a Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research in Belgrade (Serbia). Her research interests encompass the quality of life and the position of marginalised groups in complex systems, such as prisons. She is particularly focused on the possibilities of a longitudinal research approach. Milena is the Principal Investigator of the PrisonLIFE project. <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8344-5504>

Milica Kovačević, PhD, is an Associate Professor at the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation (Serbia), where she teaches the following courses: The Protection and Rights of Prisoners, International Standards in the Field of Responding to Juvenile Crime, Criminal Law, Juvenile Criminal Law and Juvenile Delinquency and Legal Reaction. She is a law expert. She gained experience in

the judiciary and public administration. Milica has been collaborating with the Center for Positive Development of Children and Youth (CEPORA) and participated in the design and implementation of several projects, including: *Diversity Revolution - From Values to Practice* and *Improvement of the support system for young people without parental care*. Main areas of her research interest include children's rights, human and minority rights, prisons, hate crimes, education and anti-discrimination practices. She has organized and conducted several surveys in the field of legal sciences. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0458-8193>

Natasha Peovska, PhD, is associate professor at the Faculty of Security – Skopje, University “St. Kliment Ohridski” – Bitola (Republic of North Macedonia). She is a coordinator for ERASMUS+ programme at the Faculty of Security-Skopje. Her research interest are focused on victims of crime, juvenile delinquency, theories of crime, criminal policy. She is particularly looking for innovative ways for improving the position of the vulnerable victims of crime in the legal system and in the society. Her scientific work is published in around 40 journals and conference proceedings. As a project coordinator and member of the project teams, she took part in managing, conducting a desk and field work in research projects related to juvenile victimization and delinquency, school violence, position of prisoners in Macedonia including the marginalisation and deviancy of children inmates in correctional facilities, the process of statistical presentation of crime, homeless paths etc. <https://orcid.org/0009-0004-2562-1660>

Olivera Pavićević, PhD, graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade in 1989 (Serbia). In 2008 she got PhD in Sociology of Culture at University of Belgrade – Faculty of Political Science. She started as Teaching Assistant of Ethics and Social Theory at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Belgrade. She has been employed at the Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research for 25 years, currently holding the position of a Senior Research Associate. In the past three years, she has been involved in the PrisonLIFE project. She has published several books, authored dozens of nationally and internationally significant papers, and participated in numerous scientific symposia and conferences. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4455-7236>

Rok Hacin, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Criminology at the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, University of Maribor (Slovenia). His research focuses on the legitimacy of criminal justice, police and policing, crime mapping, penal policy, and crime and penal statistics. He published numerous scientific articles in national and foreign scientific journals (European Journal of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Behavior, Policing, Revija za kriminalistiko in kriminologijo), as well as chapters and scientific monographs in national and international publishing houses (Routledge, Springer, Univerzitetna založba Univerze v Mariboru). In 2022-2023, he led a project entitled "Research in the field of professional competencies of prison workers and relations in prisons". In 2020, he won the European Society of Criminology Young Criminologist Award. <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2265-5422>

Sanja Ćopić, PhD, is an Associate Professor at the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation (Serbia), where she teaches Criminology with Juvenile Delinquency, Victimology, Women and Prison, and Violence Against Children. She was a researcher in the Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research (1995 to 2000, and 2002-2022), and the Institute of Social Sciences (2000-2002). She is a Senior Research Fellow as well. Sanja is one of the founders of the Victimology Society of Serbia (VDS) and serves as the Chair of its Executive Board. She is a member of the European Forum for Restorative Justice and the Criminology Section of the Serbian Association for Criminal Law Theory and Practice, where she currently serves as a member of the Presidency. Her research has mainly focused on violence against women, domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual violence, women in prison, victim services, legal protection of crime victims, restorative justice, alternative sanctions, gender equality, juvenile delinquency, and crime recording. She is Editor-in-Chief of the scientific journal on victimization, human rights, and gender, *Temida*. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6581-0210>

Sanja Petkovska, PhD, is a Research Associate at the Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research in Belgrade (Serbia). She conducts research mainly in the academic fields of sociology of (higher) education and social pathology while using the framework of critical social theory and qualitative methodology. After obtaining first academic degrees in Sociology and Adult Education from the Faculty of Philosophy, she has been awarded a doctoral degree from the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade in Serbia. Besides contributing numerous academic articles, policy analyses and academic presentations in Serbian and English language, she edited a collection of papers *Decolonial Politics in European Peripheries: Redefining Progressiveness, Coloniality and Transition Efforts* (Routledge, 2023). <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4414-6469>

Sladana Jovanović, PhD, is a Full Professor of Criminal Law and Criminology at the Union University Law School in Belgrade (Serbia). She started her professional career as the researcher at the Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research (1995-2023). She is one of the founders of the NGO Atina – Citizens Association for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and All Forms of Gender-Based Violence, and legal consultant/expert on various projects in NGO sector dealing with gender-based issues and violence against women (Autonomous Women’s Center, etc). Her professional work focuses on topics related to gender equality, violence against women and other vulnerable groups (children, the elderly) and victimization; more precisely – domestic and sexual violence, femicide, human trafficking, protection of victims and witnesses in criminal (and misdemeanor) proceedings, the issue of juvenile delinquency, and recently, criminal offenses related to employment and work. She authored and co-authored several books and numerous papers in national and international peer reviewed academic journals. <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8300-2594>

Tiana Ivanovska is a licenced psychologist and European Accredited Gestalt Psychoterapist, Founder of SebeSlozuvalka, private practice based in Skopje (Republic of North Macedonia). She is currently PhD Candidate on the Faculty of Criminology,

University “St. Kliment Ohridski” - Bitola. She is also active in social work and work with marginalized groups, mainly working with women victims of domestic abuse. Her main focus is working with traumatic and post traumatic conditions supporting people in overcoming trauma on both behavioral and emotional level. Her research interest is mainly focused on domestic violence, the long-term effect of violence on human mental health and other forms of abusive behavior such as bullying, mobbing, discrimination etc. Her special subject of interest is forensic psychology, psychological profiling, and clinical psychopathology. <https://orcid.org/0009-0002-9150-0985>

Vesna Stefanovska, PhD, is a Full Professor and a Head of the Department of Criminal Law and Criminology at the Faculty of Security – Skopje, University “St. Kliment Ohridski” – Bitola (Republic of North Macedonia). Her research and professional interest include: examining certain theories of crime, vulnerable groups in prison, the role of community and police in crime prevention, the media coverage of crime, restorative justice as more human and peaceful response to crime, especially against juvenile offenders, etc. She is a member of the Coalition “All for Fair Trial” and vice president of the Association for the Right of the Child. She was a secretary (2010-2013) of the National Council for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency within the Ministry of Justice. She initiated important research projects, including the marginalisation and deviancy of children inmates in correctional facilities, the process of statistical presentation of crime, the media coverage of crime, post penal protection of ex-offenders, homeless paths, etc. Her special subject of interest is criminology, theories of crime, crime prevention, restorative justice, juvenile justice and penology. <https://orcid.org/0009-0007-7037-9975>

Violeta Tadić, PhD, is a Research Associate at the Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research in Belgrade (Serbia). She is the laureate of the annual “Zagorka Golubović” Award from the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade, for the best engaged research work in 2023. During PhD studies she was a scholarship holder of the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technological Development and, in that status, was involved in the work of the Institute for Educational Research (IER) in Belgrade, where she served as a Junior Researcher from August 2020 to 2023, and participated in the research project “Assumptions for the Development of Positive Education in Serbia”, funded by the Ministry of Science, Technological Development, and Innovation (no. 200018/01-2023/47-03-451). During the summer semester of 2021, she was a demonstrator in the Social Psychology course at the Faculty of Security Studies. Her special academic interests are related to positive education, school safety, and youth behavioral problems. She has published numerous articles in scientific journals and participated in scientific conferences. <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-6060-8243>

Zorica Mršević, PhD, is a retired Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Social Sciences (Serbia), author of 24 books and over 400 scientific papers in the field of violence theory, gender equality, women’s human rights and those of other marginalized groups, and criminology. She served as Deputy Ombudsman of the Republic of Serbia for Gender Equality. She taught Comparative Feminist Jurisprudence at the University

of Iowa and Theory of Violence and Women's Human Rights for three years at the Central European University in Budapest. Currently, she teaches Gender Studies and Phenomenology of Violence at the Faculty of European Legal and Political Studies. In 2024, she wrote the Guidelines for the Use of the Law on Gender Equality for the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and participated in a gender equality promotion campaign in five cities, funded by the German development organization GIZ. She received the 'Anđelka Milić Award' in 2017 for her lifetime contribution to gender equality in Serbia. In 2020, she received the annual award from the Victimology Society of Serbia for her advocacy for the rights of marginalized groups. <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1968-9699>