

Summaries

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The reconstruction of program theories; available methods and an application on the World Bank's anti-corruption program

C. Klein Haarhuis en EL. Leeuw

In this article, two approaches are discussed regarding the reconstruction and evaluation of the theories underlying policy programs and other forms of policy. The 'policy-scientific' method is focused on interviewing, argumentational and document analysis. The 'strategic' method is focused on strategic assessment, group dynamics and dialogue. The policy-scientific method is then applied to the World Bank's anti-corruption learning program for developing countries. The creators of this program believe that workshops for a select gathering of participants, where bottom-up (societal) strategies are taught in combination with top-down (political-administrative) strategies, ultimately help reduce corruption. This program theory is then evaluated on its scientific validity using existing theories and findings. The overall program theory is relatively sound. However, program success will strongly depend on the *context* of application. Furthermore, no support was found for the assumptions that workshop results will affect the rest of society, and that awareness of the corruption problem will cause societal action.

On sanctions, effectiveness and accreditation

PH. van der Laan

Politicians and administrators tend to prefer rather 'tough' solutions over 'soft' options when dealing with offenders. Different from what their intuition tells them such interventions are not very effective. Systematic reviews show that such programs may 'produce' more instead of less re-offending. Other types of interventions may,

however, lead to better outcomes. Large meta-evaluations, and in particular the development of the method of meta-analysis through which large numbers of intervention programs could be studied using one single effect size, have resulted in a series principles or conditions that should be met by interventions in order to be more effective. It has also led to clear standards for evaluation research. These so-called What Works-principles in combination with proper research can be used to judge, in advance, the potential effectiveness of programs. By doing this systematically penal intervention programs can be formally accredited by government or other bodies. This can make penal practice more evidence-based and evidence-driven.

The program theory behind the quasi-compulsory approach of criminal harddrug addicts

M. van Ooyen-Houben

Criminal recidivism among harddrug addicts is a major burden on the Dutch criminal justice system. Voluntary treatment of addicted offenders is ineffective because they are not reached and have high rates of drop out. That's why quasi-compulsion is used: an arrested addict gets a choice between treatment or detention; when he chooses treatment, his prosecution and detention are suspended. Quasi compulsion should get addicts into treatment, keep them there, and improve their living situation, so that they will commit less crimes. To gain insight in this approach, the underlying mechanisms and outcomes – the program theory – were made explicit. By doing this, it becomes clear that the quasi-compulsory approach consists of three successive steps, in which external pressure should be taken over by internal motivation and which take place in different contexts with different theoretical mechanisms. This makes quasi-compulsion a complicated process.

On the rationality of supranational punishment

R.H. Haveman

On a supranational level criminal law has attained a dominant position in the debate on how to respond to atrocities committed in the world even though it is only ten years since the *International Criminal Tribunal for the (former) Yugoslavia* (ICTY) was set up. This is not only remarkable but also alarming. The use of criminal law must be an *ultimum remedium*, used only in extreme cases to reach goals and solve problems defined in advance, if only for the sake of the far

reaching authority of criminal proceedings. The debate on 'the' response to large-scale violation of human rights should be rationalized. Should we be so happy with the supranational prosecuting tribunals? Every intervention should be 'tailor made'. A 're'-defining of situations where atrocities are taking place or have been carried-out shows an automatic widening of the amount of potential interventions that they bring with them, that *together* could give an effective answer to the atrocities carried-out. A criminal prosecution response is one of these, but not more than that, and maybe only offers a relatively small contribution.

Community policing; knowing and to be known

C. Wiebrens

Following the reorganisation of the Dutch police (1990-1994) community policing has been introduced in most of the 25 regional police forces. The main ideas concerning community policing in The Netherlands stem from the 70's and 80's and still reflect the societal problems, solutions and perceptions of that period. The Dutch way of community policing aims at organizing the police in such a way that the police is accessible and known to citizens and society. Community policing takes a problem oriented approach to crime and neighbourhood problems, where the police is co-operating with (decentralized) other local organisations (service integration). This approach, it is assumed, eventually leads to a reduction of crime and neighbourhood problems. The article takes a closer look at some of the assumptions underlying community policing in The Netherlands. It is hard to discern a clear theoretical pattern, empirical evidence with regard to the effects of community policing is scarce. There is no clear relationship between the approach and possible effects. This is to be regretted as present criminal policy with regard to urban problems rides on the tail of community policing and as such, lacks sufficient empirical evidence.

Policing and speed limit violations; an enforcement measure's evaluation

L.T. Aarts, Ch. Goldenbeld and I.N.L.G. van Schagen

Many disciplines aim at the implementation of measures aimed at the reduction of social risks and unsafety. Ideally, this implementation is carried out according to structured method. Such a structured, or ideal, method consists of: 1) a formal description of theoretical elements of the measure 2) the translation of the theoretical elements into practical objectives and guidelines, and 3) the empiric evaluation of the effects of the measure in terms of underlying processes and extent of the results. This article discusses the implementation and evaluation of a traffic safety measure as an example that approaches the implementation according to the ideal method. In this example a structured implementation of intensified police enforcement to reduce speeding, proved to be successful in obtaining increased compliance with the speed limits and improved road safety on rural roads.