

CRIMINOLOGIES OF THE SOUTH

‘MERIDIAN’ PERSPECTIVES ON THE CRIMINAL QUESTION

International Conference of the journal Studi sulla questione criminale

Bologna, 11-12 September 2023

Department of Legal Studies

Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna

Call for abstracts

The debate on the so-called 'criminology of the South' has focused on the issue of epistemic power relations in the field of criminological research, the dominant theoretical and methodological approaches of which seem to be largely inspired by analyses and theories produced within a small group of countries in the so-called Global North. From this perspective, de-colonising and democratising criminological research largely means widening our gaze to include the dimensions that the criminal question takes on in other regions of the world, usually neglected by the criminological mainstream.

We are broadly sympathetic to the underlying inspiration that drives the debate on Southern Criminology, and we believe that we need to go deeper into overcoming a purely geographical dimension of the question, as Maximo Sozzo, Kerry Carrington and others themselves stated in their proposal for a 'Southern Criminology'. At the same time, if the proposal should not be read in purely geographical terms, what is the purchase derived from the use of the concept of the South? How should such concept be understood? Perhaps in that of a global political economy, as in the idea of a 'core' as opposed to a 'periphery'? Or by emphasising how much of the epistemic power of mainstream criminology depends on the economic, linguistic and cultural hegemony of English-speaking countries, some of which are geographically located in the Southern hemisphere and firmly anchored politically and economically in the North Atlantic area?

In therefore proposing a conference on 'meridian' perspectives in critical criminology to be held in Italy, we aim to a sort of 'bracketing' of the idea of a global dichotomy between North and South, and this for two fundamental reasons.

First, because the Italian experience is the experience of a divided society, where the history of the criminal question, if not of criminology tout court, is deeply intertwined with the 'Southern Question'. Italy sits exactly on the geographical threshold dividing the North and the South of the world, and its political, cultural and social history is profoundly conditioned by this ambivalent geographical location.

Secondly, because its peculiar location at the edge of the European space gives it a crucial role in the management of the migratory movements that develop around the geo-economic area of North-Western Europe.

The need for a 'meridian' perspective in criminology is undoubtedly that of a South that becomes capable of thinking itself, to paraphrase Franco Cassano, i.e. of claiming epistemic independence from the theoretical and interpretative paradigms of mainstream criminology. But a 'meridian' perspective in criminology can only be critical, in the sense of being an emancipatory thought that deconstructs the role that criminological knowledge has had, and continues to have, in fuelling and legitimising subalternity and oppression, wherever they are reproduced.

In the wake of these considerations, theoretical and empirical contributions will be considered (in the form of proposals of 'papers' and 'panels') reflecting on a wide range of issues such as, for example:

- Southern, post-colonial, de-colonial criminologies
- The Southern question and the criminal question in Italy
- Immigration, borders and rights
- The colour line, processes of racialization and the criminal question
- Crimes of the powerful and institutional violence
- War and colonialism
- Environmental criminology
- Feminist criminologies and gender
- Convict criminologies
- System crimes
- Security, democracy and rights

How to submit abstracts

Abstracts (in Italian, English, Spanish, French) should not exceed 300 words and should be accompanied by a title, the author's name, personal contact details (email address) and affiliation. Panel proposals, also accompanied by a title and containing the name and contact details of the organiser(s), must include at least three and up to a maximum of five contributions.

Abstract and/or panel proposals should be sent as an email attachment to: *ssqc.rivista@gmail.com*

Registration

At the time of registration, a fee will also be requested: €30 for PhD students and research fellows; €40 for researchers/assistant professors; €50 for professors. Students do not have to pay any fee. More details will be provided with the decision on abstracts.

Important deadlines

Call for abstracts opens: **20 March 2023**

Closing date for call for abstracts: **10 May 2023**

Decision on acceptance of abstracts: **30 May 2023**

Registration and payment: **30 June 2023**

Contact

For information write to *ssqc.rivista@gmail.com*