

## Critical Psycholawgy: Dialogue at Modern Times Between Legal and Psychological Sciences

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<https://www.kent.ac.uk/law/research/clc-2016/papers.html>

Links between psychology and law rightly raise more and more scientific awareness. The human being, as the common object of this two fields, is studied from both an individual and a social perspective. This stream is an invitation to build an interface and exchange between clinical psychology<sup>1</sup>, cross cultural psychology, justice and law through a critical perspective. This critical approach<sup>2</sup> can be reached with a psychoanalytical lecture of society<sup>3</sup>.

Indeed, this stream aims at enlightening Law by opening a dialogue with respect to social ties within a legal emergency legislative culture, migrants rights, post-colonial laws, counterterrorist justice. The violence/criminality and colonialism/migration proposed topics are in keeping with a transversal approach. In this approach, the researches belong to an always renewed process, linking psyche, culture and society.

### Violence and criminality at modern times

Violence and criminality are breaking news. Legal, Social and sanitary treatments are, all over the world for victims and authors, one of the main stakes for public policies and institutional practices. Moreover, professional practices are always actualized under legal securitarian policies and their praxeological, judiciary and clinical applications. Multidisciplinary answers in criminology articulate the justice and health domains, as for the care organization in forensic, social counselling, legal monitoring and relapse prevention.

Through this topic, our goal is to question how clinical psychology and cross cultural psychology can enlighten the understanding of criminal and violent subjects and consequently provide them support. Our specific approach is focused on understanding people involved in criminal activities by taking into account their singularities but also the conscious and unconscious dynamics that underlie these criminal/violent behaviours<sup>4</sup>. Finally, this means to understand how the historical, cultural and political contexts these subjects are involved in, are related to the emergence of those violences, victimization, delinquencies and criminalities, considering the complexity of present and past situations.

Witnesses of historic violence through clinical testimonies: from colonialism to migration Delinquency, usually considered from a legal perspective, may also be regarded as a postcolonial reaction<sup>5</sup>. Within some of the European countries, we witness an increase of gangs phenomenons, violences and risky behaviours from “racialized” youths who are designated under the stranger status<sup>6</sup>.

By considering their History we may highlight some senses and significations from their delinquency behaviours.

As a result of the various colonial histories<sup>7</sup> of the second part of the 20th century, the important migration waves raise the question of the migrants’ intercultural temporality. What perspective can

bring the clinical psychology and the cross cultural psychology, with respect to the legislation and the migrants' life course? When the migration was forced to avoid violence and armed conflicts, as for asylum applying migrants, how can an identity process emerge without any legal recognition? How to move forward from the trauma experience while the trauma recognition is a prerequisite to a legal status? In case of a chosen migration, such as for economic reasons, the question of settling permanently in the host country or returning to the country of origin is constantly renewed. It is now time to provide those populations with adequate institutional and care programs that respect intercultural temporality.

This stream is an invitation to an interdisciplinary dialogue to open discussions in a world in perpetual motion.

We are looking for papers on those topics:

Psychocriminology, Critical Psychology,  
Psychoanalysis, Post-colonial and Critical historical studies.

Keywords: Clinical psychology; Cross Cultural Psychology, Violence, Criminality, Interculturation

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