Institute of Criminology
Faculty of Law
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Preface

Dear reader,

This booklet is intended to give you a brief introduction to our Institute of Criminology at the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen, which was founded in 1477.

What is Criminology? First it is important not to confuse criminology with criminalistics. Unlike the police, we do not solve crimes, but deal with every aspect of delinquency on a scientific basis.

We ask questions like:

- How does delinquency develop in society?
- What kind of person becomes delinquent, and why?
- With what kind of countermeasures should the state react?
- What can be done for crime victims?

In order to answer these and other questions you need not only law experts but also professionals from other domains like sociology, psychology and education just to name a few.

The Institute of Criminology is part of the Faculty of law. It also has a long tradition and goes back to the founding year of 1962 which makes it the oldest institute of its kind in Germany. However we hope to always keep up with the times.

But enough said! My staff and I hope you will enjoy reading this booklet, and if you have any questions do not hesitate to ask, we are happy to hear from you!

Kind regards,

Prof. Dr. Jörg Kinzig
Head of the Institute
History of the Institute of Criminology – in brief

1962 - 1986
(under the leadership of Hans Göppinger)

Founding of the Institute of Criminology

The Institute of Criminology (IfK) was founded in 1962 at the Eberhard Karls University in Tübingen, as the first criminological research institute in Germany. Founder and first head of the institute was Hans Göppinger who also was full professor for criminology. He was trained in, and represented, the two areas which influenced German criminology foremost up to the seventies: criminal law and psychiatry.

Research focus of the era Göppinger was the “Tübinger-Jungtäter-Vergleichsuntersuchung” (TVJU; Tübingen’s Comparative Study of Young Delinquents). This study aimed to gain empirically validated basic knowledge about the delinquent as an individual for the first time.

The findings led to conclusions regarding the scientific concept of criminology altogether, as well as the practice of criminal justice.
1986 – 2011
(under the leadership of Hans-Jürgen Kerner)

In October 1986 Hans-Jürgen Kerner took over the position as head of institute. He continued the work on the TJVU to further study the participants’ ongoing lives along with their (re-)offences to draw conclusions about recidivism in general and its long term development. In addition the data was successfully related to those of international developmental studies which smoothed the way for a comparative analysis.

The change of the leadership also brought a re-orientation and widened spectrum of research areas at the institute. Work now focused on issues concerning criminal prevention, juvenile delinquency and the effects of social changes on delinquent behavior amongst others. All in all Kerner’s research concentrated on the individual and individual dispositions and values.

since 2011
(under the leadership of Jörg Kinzig)

Jörg Kinzig has headed the Institute of Criminology since 2011. Besides maintaining the institute’s traditions he also focuses on criminal sanctions, where he deals with the question of how the state should react reasonably to serious crimes. One example is a study evaluating the electronic monitoring of high risk offenders. More research projects dealing with current criminal policy issues (i.e. acquittal following pre-trial detention, violence in football) complete the range of topics.
Organization of the Institute of Criminology

- **Head of institute**
- **Prof. Dr. Jörg Kinzig**
  institute management
  research and teaching

- **Senior Professor**
  **Honorary Professor**
  **Assistant Professor**
  **Research & Student Assistants**
  carrying out scientific research projects
  teaching
  teaching and research assistance

- **Administration Management Library IT**
  managing day-to-day business at the institute and library
  financing, planning and arranging congresses and events
Research

- Criminal Proceedings and Sanctions
- Prison/Reentry Programs/Aid for Ex-offenders
- Violent Crimes
- Sexual Delinquency
- Developmental Criminology and Research
- Juvenile Criminology
- Sense of Security/ Fear of Crime
Teaching

In addition to the research activities the head of the institute and his staff have their teaching assignments, like lectures, seminars and case discussions. The courses are not solely attended by law students, but also by psychology, sociology and education majors. During those courses the students are given a deeper understanding of criminology, criminal and sanctions law, the penal system and juvenile law.

When teaching criminology we focus upon specific research methods, crime statistics and theory of crime. At the same time we also cover specific forms of crime, like violent and property crimes or a specific group of offenders, e.g. offences committed by seniors or women.

In the field of criminal law the students gain insight into crimes against persons and legal interest of the general public as well as theft, property offences and forgery. Another lecture about the penal system discusses its organization and the rights and duties of prison inmates.

Courses on juvenile law deal with the system of the Juvenile Court Act and its distinctive characteristics compared to the general criminal law.
Library

The institute library is currently equipped with about 47,000 books and subscribes to 70 periodicals.

The library mainly contains literature on criminology and criminal policy concerning the following topics: general criminology, penology, crime statistics, police research, psychiatry, psychology, sociology and measures to fight against crime (i.e. law enforcement, prison system, caring for ex-offenders).

The collection of articles at the Institute of Criminology includes about 9,000 special prints from national and international journals relevant for criminological research. At present the criminological database (KrimDok), cooperatively run with the university library, includes 200,000 entries of publications on criminology and related domains in German and other languages.

Since mid-2014 digitalized publications as well as other electronic documents have also been made available (DigiKrimDok). The range of access is continuously expanding.
Criminological Information Service

In close cooperation with the university library Tübingen the Institute of Criminology runs the Criminological Information Service (FID Kriminologie) which is sponsored by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the federal state of Baden-Wuerttemberg.

Purpose of the 2014 established “FID Kriminologie” is to ensure the national supply of literature in the field of criminology. This newly implemented service is structured to meet, as accurately as possible, specific needs and requests in the field of criminology.

According to the motto „in the Interests of Research“ it is important to provide researchers with easy access to special literature and useful information. The primary search tool to all the criminological relevant information (books, articles, other documents) uses the KrimDok database which is cooperatively managed by the institute and the university library.
Cooperations

University Library Tübingen
Partner in managing the “FID Kriminologie”,
Publishing “Tübingen Writings and Material for Criminology”
(TÜKRIM)

Study Group on Criminology and Criminal Policy
Organizes talks in the field of criminology addressing the scientific community, criminal justice, police, probationary services and interested members of the general public.

Scientific Association of Tübingen Criminologists
Coalition of alumni and other supporters of the Tübingen Institute of Criminology
Members of staff
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