Criminal Justice in an Age of Populism

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Call for Papers

For several decades at the end of the second world war, the formal direction of criminal justice policy seemed set in stone: human rights had to be given protection under the rule of law from abuses of state power. Hence the range of prohibitions on mechanisms and strategies that threatened this principle such as retrospective legislation and indeterminate sentencing. The new democracies that emerged in the 1970s to the 1990s were expected to conform to these expectations as illustrations of their commitment to uphold individual freedoms. But this did not prove to be ‘the end of history’, as Francis Fukuyama once wrote. Populism has since made a resurgence, initially in the Anglophone countries but, thereafter, in much of European society, threatening democratic modes of governance. It has also re-emerged in other regions such as Latin America. While it was initially concentrated in the penal arena, rewriting much of the post war understandings there, populism has since become associated with and exploited issues of immigration, national identity and economic decline. This special issue thus examines the rise of populism in the 21st century, the variations it takes and its implications for criminal justice and penal policy in modern society. It will address matters such as defences against populism; the circumstances under which populism may take positive and productive forms; the attempts of would-be autocrats to usurp and extend special powers in place to control Covid 19; and the implications of the rise of populism for the way in which issues of rights and the rule of law are now understood.

Basic information

1. *Archives of Criminology* is the leading Polish criminological journal, published by the Institute of Law Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences.
2. The publication will be available with *open access*.
3. Timetable of the call:
30 August 2020 – deadline for abstracts’ submission (150 – 300 words)
31 March 2021 – deadline for full papers’ submission.
31 January 2022 – publication of the issue.

4. The full length of a paper should be between 7,000 and 9,000 words (including footnotes and references).
5. Abstracts should be submitted through the online form only: http://ankietyinppan.pl/index.php/118925?lang=en

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