



# BALKAN CRIMINOLOGY

## Mapping the Victimological Landscape of the Balkans

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# PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- State of play in our joint mapping mission
- Victimology in the context of Balkan Criminology
- Working hypothesis of a Balkan *Victimology*
- Goals for the 2017 conference
- Focuses for the country surveys
- Food for thought
- Discussion



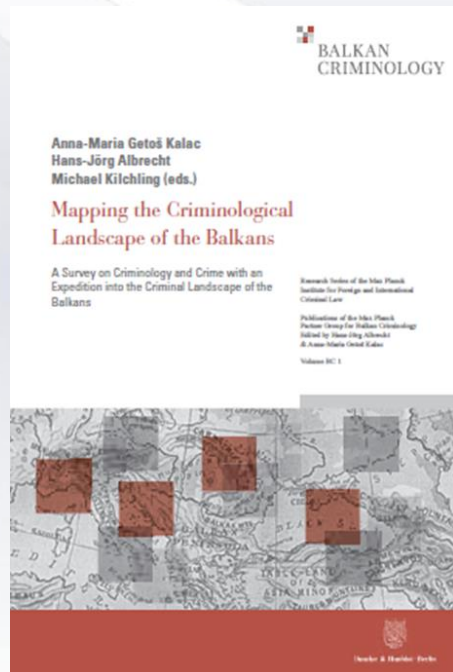
# STATE OF PLAY IN OUR JOINT MAPPING MISSION

- MPPG 5 year life span in relation to mapping mission
- Where are we now? Where should we be?
- Prolongation until March 2019 (+14 months)
- What can we realistically achieve by May 2018 and end of 2018? Importance for MPC!
- Fast track the Balkan Criminology Quadrilogy
- Finalise Balkan Homicide Study data collection, start analysis and publication production
- MPPG Scientific Report – input from BCNet Partners

# VICTIMOLOGY IN BALKAN CRIMINOLOGY'S CONTEXT

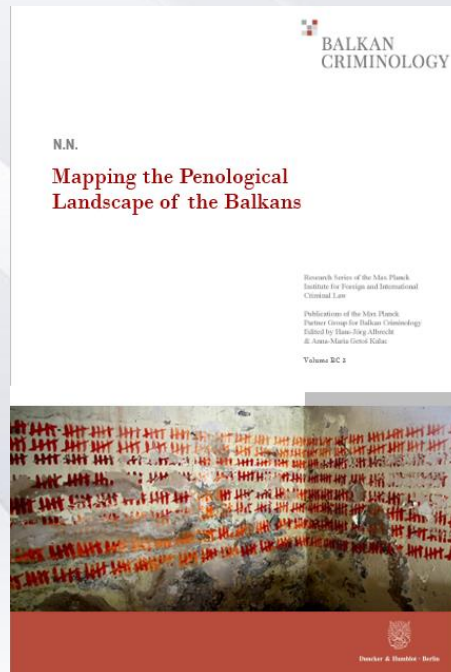
## Balkan Criminology Quadrilogy

Criminology



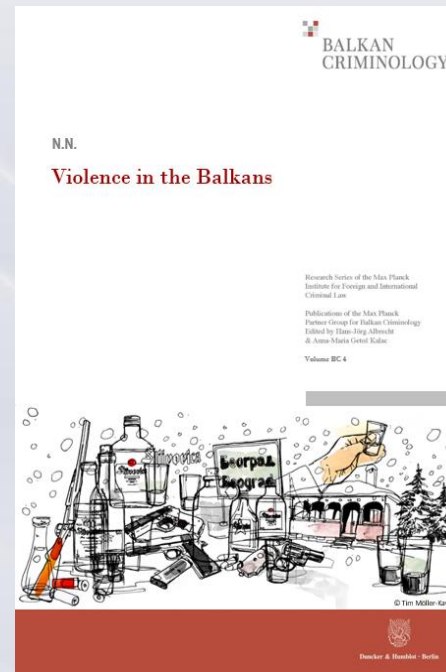
2014

Penology



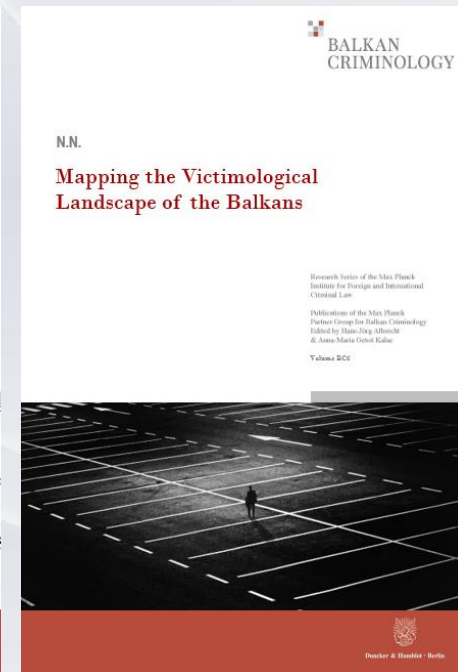
2017

Violence



2018

Victimology



2019

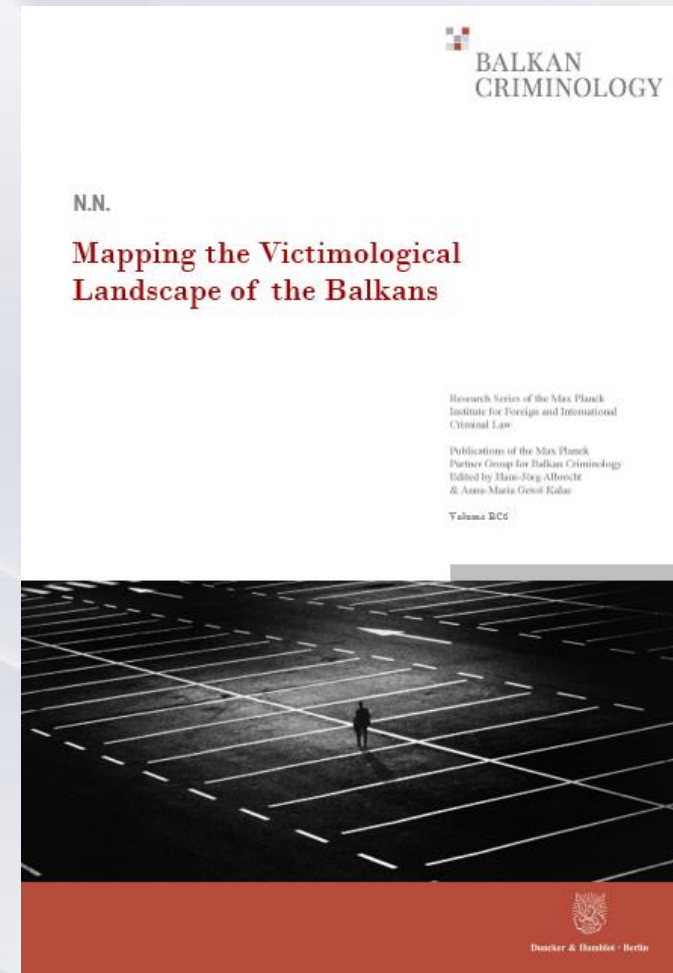


# VICTIMOLOGY IN BALKAN CRIMINOLOGY'S CONTEXT

## **Essential Reader for Balkan *Victimology***

Who ever is interested in  
victimology, victim protection,  
or victimisation in the Balkans  
should find our victimological  
mapping useful as a first point  
of reference

Make use of our advantages –  
national and local knowledge!





# WORKING HYPOTHESIS OF A BALKAN *VICTIMOLOGY*

- Communist/socialist heritage
- Repressive regimes, state violence, oppression
- The ‘victim myth’ essential feature of many national/ethnic identities in the Balkans
- Rather conservative cultures – reflected also in the criminal justice sector’s attitudes towards victims (e.g. Croatian example with the rape offense)
- Victim protection and awareness for victims’ rights has been imported with high speed (EU)





# WORKING HYPOTHESIS OF A BALKAN *VICTIMOLOGY*

- Mass victimisation in vast parts of the region due to armed conflict, with spread of victimisation to non affected neighbouring countries via refugees (e.g. Hungarians from Vojvodina)
- In most of the countries people have own experience with violent victimisation and/or personally know those affected
- Working hypothesis: just as crime in the Balkans is different in quality and quantity compared to other parts of Europe, victimisation differs and shows more similar features within the region than compared to the rest of Europe
- Victim protection and ‘what works’ in other parts of Europe does not fit the needs of the region



# GOALS FOR THE 2017 CONFERENCE

- Do we have a different understanding of the VICTIM in the Balkans? Who qualifies as a victim in your country? Legal ≠ Perceived ≠ Actual Victim
- Hypothesis of a Balkan *Victimology*
- Discuss and finalise authors' guidelines
- Specify focuses for the country surveys – critically inspect victim protection mechanisms, how they occurred (EU), and whether they are actually working in practice





# GOALS FOR THE 2017 CONFERENCE

- Suggest sort of ‘what works/could work’ in the Balkans (countries of the region)
- Discuss editorships for the ‘Violence’ and ‘Victimology’ book
- Determine guest authors for the ‘Violence’ and ‘Victimology’ book
- Settle on the topic for the 2018 Istanbul conference
- Balkan candidate for ESC Board 2018?



# FOCUSES FOR THE COUNTRY SURVEYS

- Legal vs. Perceived victim – who is actually seen as a victim in your country?
- Awareness on victim needs, victim protection and victim rights?
- Attitudes towards victim protection measures in the criminal justice system – who do they perceive as victims?
- What about the victim? Do they perceive themselves as such?
- Assessment of victim rights (and implementation!!!), reasons for discrepancy in guaranteed and granted rights?
- Victimology as a discipline? Victims in the media?



# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- Methodological issues – measure the attitudes?
- Joint survey or country specific approaches?
- Provocative hypothesis and questions?
- What do you think about current European and national trends in victim protection?
- **We should provide an added value** to the basic facts/analysis of the essential reader on Balkan victimology
- **Go beyond collecting ‘country reports’!**

# Thank you for your attention!



## BALKAN CRIMINOLOGY

[www.balkan-criminology.eu](http://www.balkan-criminology.eu) • [info@balkan-criminology.eu](mailto:info@balkan-criminology.eu)



# DISCUSSION

- Further added values?
- Did we miss something?
- Did we include regionally irrelevant aspects?
- What would you like to add/delete?