



Victimology in Bosnia and Herzegovina – State of the Art

Sandra Kobajica, MA

Development of victimology in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- can be traced through development of the criminological scientific research, overall functioning of higher education and criminal justice system in the post-Dayton period;
- overview of undergraduate and post-graduate university programmes, production of textbooks, initiation scientific conferences and pursuit scientific research projects;
- position of victim in criminal justice system.

Victimology related courses at public universities in BiH

Core | Elective

University	Faculty	Undergraduate studies / Course	Postgraduate studies /Course
Sarajevo	Law (1946)	Law / Victimology	Criminal Law/ Juvenile Restorative Justice
Banja Luka	Law (1960)	Law/ Criminology	Criminal Law/ Victimology
East Sarajevo	Law (1994)		
Mostar	Law (1971)	Criminal justice and security management/ Victimology	Law/ Criminology with Penology
Bihać	Law (1998)	Law/ Criminology	Criminal Law/ Criminology with Penology
Tuzla	Law (2004)	Law/ Victimology	Criminal Law/ Juvenile Criminal Law
Zenica	Law (2005)	Criminal Law/ Victimology	Criminal Law/ Juvenile Criminal Law

UNSA: Victimology tradition at the Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology and Security Studies

1993	The establishment of the Faculty of Criminal Justice Sciences
1994	Victimology became a core course for undergraduate students
2004	First victimology chrestomathy prepared by Balić, H., & Adžajlić-Dedović, A.
2004-2010	Hasan Balić, Ph.D., became the first professor of Victimology at the University of Sarajevo
2007/2008	Faculty recharged curriculum and introduced new departments – Criminal Justice, Criminology and Security studies
2007/2008 – (ongoing)	Victimology is broadened by a few more core courses: Victimology II Restorative Justice, Victimology III and Applied Victimology

Scientific research projects in the field of criminology and victimology (1995 – 2017)

- under the influence of new “west oriented criminology”;
- victimological research focus was directed to the victims of war, especially victims of sexual violence and victims of torture;
- 1997-2003: growing problem of human trafficking;
- other victimological relevant research interests: domestic violence, intimate partner violence, self-reported juvenile delinquency, alternative measures, fear of crime.

Scientific research projects in the field of criminology and victimology (1995 – 2017)

- Adžajlić-Dedović, A. (2003). Prostitution in BiH;
- Adžajlić-Dedović, A. (2004). The Long Rode to Justice – Case Study;
- Obradović, V. (2004). Trafficking in Women in BiH;
- Adžajlić-Dedović, A. et. al (2005). Domestic Violence • Developing Study in BiH;
- Adžajlić-Dedović, A. et. al (2007). Police and Domestic • Violence in BiH;
- Budimlić, M. et al. (2007). Enforcement of Alternative • Measures for Juveniles: Legal, Institutional and Practical Issues;
- Budimlić, M. et al. (2007). International Self-Reported • Delinquency (ISRD2);
- Muftić, L. & Bouffard, L. (2008). Bosnian Women and • Intimate Partner Violence;
- Muratbegović, E. (2008). Fear of Crime – Case Study: • Canton Sarajevo;
- Muftić, L. & Deljić, I. (2012). Exploring the Overlap • Between Offending and Victimization Within Intimate Partner Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Maljević, A. (2014). International Self-Reported • Delinquency (ISRD3);
- Muftić, L. (2014). Securing the border in Bosnia and • Herzegovina: the impact of training on officers, knowledge and experiences related to sex trafficking;
- Muftić, L. & Cruze, J. (2014). Policing Intimate Partner • Violence in Post-conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Mujanović, E. et. al (2016). Trafficking in Human Beings • in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Nash, J, Mujanović, E. & Winfree, T. (2011). Protective • Effects of Parental Monitoring on Offending in Victimized Youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Handbooks & Conferences

1. Ramljak, A., & Halilović, H. (2004). *Victimology*. Sarajevo: Faculty of Criminal Justice Sciences.
 2. Ramljak, A., & Petrović, B. (2005). *Victimological dictionary*. Sarajevo: Association of criminal justice practitioners in BiH.
 3. Ramljak, A., & Simović, M. (2006). *Victimology* (2nd ed.). Banja Luka: University Apeiron.
 4. Ramljak, A., & Simović, M. (2011). *Victimology* (3rd ed.). Bihać: Faculty of Law
 5. Adžajlić-Dedović, A. (2015). *Restorative justice*. Sarajevo: Office Shop.
 6. Adžajlić-Dedović, A. (2015). *Victimology*. Sarajevo: Logico.
- International Scientific and Professional Conference of Victimology “Ambassadors of Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina” (2015)
 - advocating improvement of social, economic and procedural policies for victims in BiH;
 - Hasković, E. (Ed.). (2015). *International Review of Victimology “Ambassadors of Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina*. Sarajevo: Logico
 - A second Conference will be organized In November 2017.

Protection of victims' rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Criminal Procedure Code of BiH – „injured party“ is a person whose personal or property rights have been threatened or violated by a criminal offence;
- Criminal Code of BiH – „victim“ is a person who has been used to carry out criminal offence of human trafficking by using force or other forms of coercion;
- Law on Protection of Witnesses under Threat and Vulnerable Witnesses of BiH – „vulnerable witness“ severely physically and mentally traumatized by the circumstances under which the criminal offence was committed, which makes him/her extremely sensitive.

Law on Protection of Witnesses under Threat and Vulnerable Witnesses of BiH: Protecting Measures

- psychological, social and professional assistance;
- changing the order of presentation of evidence at the main trial considering the rules prescribed by the CPC of BiH;
- enabling testimony by using technical means for transferring image and sound;
- the removal of the accused when there is a justified fear that the presence of the accused will affect the ability of witnesses to testify fully and correctly;
- only for the injured and the witness of the criminal offense of organised crime and war crimes.

The rights of the injured party in criminal proceedings

- to file charges regarding the criminal offence which has been committed;
- to submit a request for a restitution claim;
- to be informed if the investigation is not going to be conducted or is being suspended and has the right to appeal such a decision;
- the right to be questioned as a witness;
- for victims of crime in BiH: it is not anticipated that compensation would be paid from the budget;
- the issue of settlement of a claim can be set up in litigation.

Restorative justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- the institute of mediation;
- the Association of Mediators of Bosnia and Herzegovina - introduction of mediation, creation of a legal framework and promotion of the mediation;
- the institute formally established in 2004 by the adoption of The Law on Mediation Procedure;

Mediations	Regular procedure	Prior institution of a court procedure
2015	3	1200
2016	1	1900

Conclusion remarks

- a not so rapid development of victimology in BiH;
- quite marginalized position of victimology by government structures – so far development is due to personal efforts and enthusiasm of some individuals;
- the activities that are aimed at the identification of post-war difficulties and monitoring of the situation of the protection of humans, that is victims' rights are of particular importance for the victims of crime in BiH.



Thank you for your attention !

Sandra Kobajica, MA

Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology and Security Studies,

University of Sarajevo

skobajica@fkn.unsa.ba