Introduction — Historical Perspective

After the Second World War since the beginning of the communist regime the significance of criminology has been marginalized. Systematic and intensive development of empirical research and theoretical studies on criminological issues in Poland began in earnest in the latter half of the 1950s. Directly after World War II, as research facilities were being rebuilt, criminological projects and studies were undertaken, only to stop after few years. During the years of regression (1950–1956) caused by the prevailing dogmatic approach to criminological issues and the
definition of criminality as a relic of the capitalist system, there were only a few publications, mostly concerned with crime statistics\(^1\).

After 1956 a painful process of rebuilding the discipline started. It took many years and during the 1960s and 1970s the Polish Academy of Science in Warsaw, constituted practically the only criminological centre of importance in Poland at that time. It should be stressed, that as a result of the communist rule, Poland had no chance to undergo the process of liberalization and reform of criminal justice and penal police that took place after the Second World War in western Europe, and included abolition of the death penalty, decarceration and the development of new alternatives to imprisonment\(^2\).

The oldest research unit of the Institute of Law Studies of Polish Academy of Sciences (Polish abbreviation — PAN) is the Department of Criminology. It was set up in 1955 upon initiative of Professor Stanislaw Batawia, an eminent scholar and the founder of Polish school of criminology. The Department initially dealt mainly with the problems of juvenile delinquency and in later years it focused on the influence of the processes of social and demographic issues on crime and also alcoholism. Works of Department till today are issued in the journal *Archives of Criminology* which is the oldest Polish criminological journal published since 1960. The founder and the editor-in-chief was Professor Stanisław Batawia. In the journal appears monographic studies result of criminological research on crime and the articles especially about: criminal and penal policy, functioning of criminal justice, victims, victimization, crime, juvenile delinquency, criminology theory etc.

The main centres of criminological research — next to the Department of Criminology of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the University of Warsaw\(^3\) — were:

- the Penitentiary Research Centre at the Ministry of Justice, established in 1961 — (renamed in 1967 on the Centre for Crime Studies) and
- the Bureau of Studies on the Issues of Crime of the General Prosecutor’s Office established in 1968, which had 8 research centres located at some provincial prosecutors.

The criminological works are published in almost all law magazines in Poland, as well as in numerous journals dedicated to sociology, psychology and pedagogy. In past there were few magazines related to criminology, we will mention only the oldest:

- as we already have mentioned, since 1960, the Department of Criminology of the Polish Academy of Sciences publishes *the Archives of Criminology* (until 1969, only 4 volumes have been published),
- the Centre for Criminal Investigation at the Ministry of Justice published, since 1963, a quarterly *Penitentiary Review* — renamed in 1971 as *Penitentiary and Criminological Review* (ceased to be published in 1973), in which criminological problems occupied the forefront position,
- the *Archives of Forensic Medicine and Criminology* which is the official journal of the Polish Society of Forensic Medicine and Criminology, published since 1968 and it also announces criminological works.

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\(^3\) Headed by Stanislaw Batawia, whose team deserves — the name of the Batawia’s School.
— and the last one but not least is the *Criminological, Criminalistic and Penitentiary Studies* published since 1974 till 1989.

In the 60’s of twentieth century criminology was introduced to a law learning programs, mostly as an optional course. Only some law faculties in Poland introduced it as an obligatory subject. We would like to emphasize that, the criminology was not taught at all faculties of law, but the situation has changed in 1968. Since that time, the Legal Studies Program has provided hours of criminology for students who completed legal studies with a specialization in criminal law.

In 1972 at the University of Warsaw was appointed independent Institute of Social Prevention and Rehabilitation. The Institute conducted a broad interdisciplinary research in the field of social pathology, which also includes criminological issues. Scientific institutions of criminal law and criminology at all universities were engaged in the criminological studies in communist Poland.

In the meantime, the Interior Ministry founded the Academy of Internal Affairs which was operating in the years 1972–1990 — with the status of an academy. Within the frame of Academy the Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology had functioned. Professor Brunon Hołyst worked there as an associate professor since 1973. Professor Hołyst is a pioneer of victimology and suicidology in Poland, he is also interested in criminology and forensic sciences.

Professor Brunon Hołyst headed also the Institute of Crime Issues at the General Prosecutor’s Office. It was created in 1974 with the decree of the Prime Minister. In 1990 this Institute and the Institute for Forensic Research (IBPS) at the Ministry of Justice were merged into the Institute of Justice of Warsaw.

In 1978 was established The Department of Criminology at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Jagiellonian University. For the first few years it existed within the structures of the Institute of Penal Law. In 1981, as this Institute was dissolved it became an independent department. The broad spectrum of research on issues of science criminology in many institutions, centres and academic institutions was an eloquent proof of the dynamic development of criminology in Poland at that time.

**Białystok School of Criminology**

Currently, as is commonly known — in the US the criminology is a part of the departments of sociology, while in Europe the criminology as an academic course and as a science — mainly is a part of the law faculties. This brings us to the next point — the history of Białystok School of Criminology, which was established in 1994 at the Faculty of Law in Białystok.

The roots of Białystok School of Criminology date back even to early 1990’s when the Professor Piotr Hofmański took charge of Institute of Criminal Law, but since

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4 For example, the pioneer of victimology in India is Prof. K. Chockalingam. See: Chockalingam K (Ed. and co-author), Readings in victimology. Towards a victim perspective in Criminology, Ravi Raj Publications. Madras, 1985.

5 It is good to know, that the Faculty of Law at the University of Białystok is one of the youngest law schools in Poland. Since 1972 it had existed as a Branch of the Warsaw University and in 1997 it became the independent University — the University in Białystok and the independent Faculty.
1994 Professor E.W. Pływaczewski was the head of the Institute of Criminology and Problems of Organized Crime, then in 2002 the name changed into the Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology. Since that time until today the head of the whole Department of Criminal Law and Criminology (previous name was the Department of Criminal Law) is Professor E.W. Pływaczewski. Within the structure of the Department there are two departments they manage Prof. Ewa M. Guzik-Makaruk (Department of Criminal Law) and Prof. Katarzyna Laskowska (Department of Criminology) and Forensic Laboratory with a manager — Prof. Wojciech Filipkowski. It is the largest personally Department at the Faculty of Law with 15 Academics.

In 1994 — the scholars from the Department of Criminal Law — had the opportunity to present the achievements and current directions of scientific research in a special volume, which was published by *Temida 2* — the publishing house. The publication of that monography, initiating a new publishing series, was connected with the assumption that in the future it will also include studies by authors representing other universities, including foreign centres. This idea was realized in the next volume, which included scientific studies of authors representing such countries as Australia, Austria, China, India, Japan, Germany, Switzerland, Great Britain, Italy, as well as Poland and the United Nations (Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, United Nations Office at Vienna). Since the second edition — the editor of that book is Professor Emil W. Pływaczewski, meanwhile the group of editors was extended — and since seventh edition — both Professor Emil W. Pływaczewski and Professor Ewa M. Guzik-Makaruk are the editors of it. It is worth to mention, that in may this year there was the first international conference of contributors to the publication series entitled *Current Problems of the Penal Law and Criminology. Aktuelle Probleme des Strafrechts und der Kriminologie*. The title of it was *Criminology and Penal Law in XXI Century — Opportunities and Challenges*. We believe that 2020 we will organize the second one.

The huge involvement on criminology at the Faculty of Law at University of Białystok, have resulted in the fact that, starting in the academic year 2014/2015, criminology which so far has been a supplementary course in legal studies, is nowadays obligatory to all law students but also will become a new field of study. Students can study criminology in 3-year undergraduate studies and then 2-year graduate studies. Faculty of Law University of Białystok is one of three public universities in Poland that offers both undergraduate and postgraduate studies in criminology in Poland. These other universities are Gdańsk University and Police Academy in Szczytno, where Białystok School of Criminology had a huge impact on the development of criminology.

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9 The foreign authors submitted papers in either German or English, while Polish authors — in Polish. Eventually, all the papers were published in their original language versions. Each paper written in German or English had a summary in Polish, and those written in Polish had summaries in English, German, or French.
It should be also stressed that the Faculty of Law in Białystok has the right to confer doctoral and postdoctoral degrees. Unfortunately the Faculty doesn’t offer the doctoral studies in the field of criminology. Some of our students interested in that science prepare interdisciplinary PhD thesis and they get a doctoral degree in law. At the moment, at our Faculty there are few doctoral students who graduated in criminology, but they do PhD in law.

This leads directly to our next point — the description of the Białystok School of Criminology.

The best way to do that will be to show you what kind of research we conducted or what kind of initiatives we took. It needs to be emphasized that the Białystok School of Criminology has significant achievements in its research, which confirms its leading role in studies on terrorism, organized crime, money laundering and on broadly defined issues of homeland security in Poland. We conducted different various research projects, e.g.:

— *Legal and organizational-technical solutions in countering organized crime and terrorism with special emphasis on the problems related to trial evidence and the institution of immunity witness* which was conducted in the years 2002–2006 — by the way. The manager of this project was Professor Emil W. Pływaczewski,

— another project which was also headed by Professor Emil W. Pływaczewski, entitled *Monitoring, identification, and countering threats to citizens’ security* was conducted in the years 2007–2010, it was an integral part of the Polish Platform for Homeland Security (PPHS) — Scientific University Network,

— the next project, led by Professor Emil W. Pływaczewski, entitled *State-of-the-art technologies for/in the criminal process and their use — technical, forensic-science, criminological, and legal*, this project was implemented from 2011 to 2014,

— at the same time we conducted one more research project entitled *Elaboration of a system for detection of threats to the safety of blind and vision-impaired persons, with particular focus on road traffic. Criminal-law and technological aspects*, the project manager was Professor Ewa M. Guzik-Makaruk.

The outcomes of all these projects are described in various monographs volumes and many papers published in law and other professional journals. It is worth to mention that researchers from Białystok School of Criminology are also involved in other important Poland-wide projects.

Very important direction in research of Białystok School of Criminology is human organ transplantation. This topic is of interest to Professor Ewa M. Guzik-Makaruk. She is also a specialist in medical criminal law. Professor Katarzyna Laskowska and dr Magdalena Perkowska are interested in foreigners’ criminality and border criminality.


Special interest of Professor Wojciech Filipkowski are: criminal intelligence and the use of modern technologies by both public and private security sector. Dr Emilia Jurgielewicz-Delegacz conducts research projects on criminological aspects of traffic accidents or rural crime. Dr Diana Dajnowicz-Piesiecka focuses on the criminal law aspects of parental abduction. Dr Emilia Truskolaska’s interest is homelessness in comparative perspective, dr Ewelina Wojewoda is focusing on legal and criminological aspects of in-vitro fertilisation and dr Paulina Pawluczuk-Bucko is dealing with economic crime problems.

It should also be noted that the scholars from Białystok School of Criminology are members and experts in different Polish and international organizations, such as:
- the Institute of Forensic Research,
- the Polish Platform of Homeland Security,
- the European Agency for Law Enforcement Training,
- the National Science Centre,
- the European Commission (for example in 2018 dr Magdalena Perkowska was invited as an expert to take part in Workshop — Training Needs Analysis (TNA) on cross-border cooperation to counter migrant smuggling).

Białystok School of Criminology has also extensive international contacts and contacts with practitioners and that is why the Białystok School of Criminology is greatly strengthens by the structure of the United Nations. UN Senior Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Expert — Professor Sławomir Redo carried out at Faculty of Law, University of Białystok, fifth editions of Courses (in 2013, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019) — The United Nations and Crime Prevention. The main idea of such courses is to provide practical knowledge on ways and means of making crime prevention work.

Within the framework of international collaboration, the Białystok School of Criminology organizes a lot of seminars and conferences. E.g. due to the research network between Royal University of Cambridge, University of Białystok and Medical University of Silesia — called Academic Forum — Legal and Medical Aspects of Human Health, we were honoured to have Professor Lawrence Sherman

13 Dajnowicz-Piesiecka D, Porwania rodzicielskie w ujęciu prawnym i kryminologicznym. Warsaw, 2018, pp. 388.
14 The monograph about this topic will be published in Warsaw in 2020.
15 The monograph about this topic will be published in Białystok in 2020.
16 The monograph about this topic will be published in Białystok in 2020.
as a guest at our Faculty during the British-Polish Seminars. The forum is a venue for cooperation between legal and medical sciences. The activities of the Network are aimed to integrate the academic groups of the Network Members, to exchange their experiences, and to implement specific actions that promote the development of science.

The objectives of the Network are achieved by performing joint research in the field of medicine and health care, civil law, health care law, criminal law, criminology, and forensic sciences. The Network organizes regular meetings, symposiums, and academic conferences dedicated to the significant legal, criminological and medical problems of e.g. social exclusion.

Moreover, the Białystok School of Criminology is organizing another international seminars, like Polish-American-English (with Professors Lawrence Sherman and Heather Strang as key-speakers), Polish-Japanese (with Professors Keiichi Yamanaka and Minoru Yokoyama as keynote speakers), Polish-Swedish (during such meetings Professor Jerzy Sarnecki was the keynote speaker), Polish-Italian, Polish-American — Ukrainian — with the participation of Professor Chris Eskridge from the University of Nebraska, who is the Executive Director of American Society of Criminology.

The representatives of Białystok School of Criminology are also members of such scientific initiatives like: the Academic Forum — Legal and Medical Aspects of Human Health (which was mentioned before) and the Academic Forum — Podlasie — Warmia and Mazury. As a result of these initiatives, in May 2015 there was the international conference Legal, Criminological and medical aspects of social exclusion attended by over 200 people. The conference was attended by outstanding representatives of criminal law and criminology from countries of nearly all continents and the substantive patronage of the conference was exercised by the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS).19

It would be impossible not to include in our speech Current Problems of the Penal Law and Criminology. Aktuelle Probleme des Strafrechts und der Kriminologie which is a continuation of the series started by the book edited by Professor Piotr Hofmański nearly twenty years ago. Since the second edition — the editor of that book is Professor Emil W. Pływaczewski, meanwhile the group of editors was extended — and since seventh edition — both Professor Emil W. Pływaczewski and Professor Ewa M. Guzik-Makaruk are the editors of it.

The seventh edition of this book was published in 2017 and published with participants from all continents.20 The authors were many distinguished scientists, mostly representing criminal law and criminology, with internationally recognized status. Most of the articles in the monograph are in the field of criminology. The subjects discussed by the authors are very different and extremely up-to-date. They include, among others, human rights, internal security, social control of crime, use of modern technologies in criminal prosecution, including data mining, especially in prosecution of various forms of cyber-crimes. Contemporary criminology also

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concentrates on narcotic drugs and psychotropic agents, social exclusion, crime, and victimization. The authors also discuss such problems as discrimination, serial sexual murderers, traffic accidents, relationships between crime, punishment, and society, and crimes committed by foreigners. The broad spectrum of problems is supplemented by discussions on myths and facts related to trans-border crimes, fighting economic crimes, and sociocultural conditions of crimes.

National Forum of Young Criminologists

We want to underline the fact that we still develop different initiatives in the field of criminology. One of them is National Forum of Young Criminologists. It is a pioneering project at the national level, established by me and team from Department of Criminal Law and Criminology, University of Białystok. Thanks to this idea it was possible to create in Poland a research platform for the exchange of experiences of young criminologists.

The first edition of it took place in May 2016 in Białystok. It was held under the motto of Contemporary crime and social pathologies from the perspective of interdisciplinary research in criminology. The number of participants was about 80 young people who represent 22 research institutions across the whole Poland. In two days (splitted in to four panels) were presented 27 speeches. The result of the presented papers and the considerations taken during the Forum of Young Criminologists is a postconferencal monography entitled Contemporary Crime and Social Pathologies from the Perspective of Interdisciplinary Research in Criminology edited by Dr Emilia Jurgielewicz-Delegacz, Dr Diana Dajnowicz-Piesiecka and Prof. Emil W. Pływaczewski.

The second National Forum of Young Criminologists was held at the Faculty of Law, University of Białystok between 10 and 11 May 2018, under the heading Crime of the XXI Century — Opportunities and Challenges for Criminology. More than 100 young people, representing 15 Polish and 7 foreign (USA, Belarus, Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania, Spain, and Ukraine) research institutions participated in the event, giving 50 presentations (divided into eleven panels) in two days. Now we are finishing a postconferencal monography. The third edition of National Forum of Young Criminologists will be held in May 2020.
It is impossible to not mention about the latest initiative of Criminology School in Białystok. It is the creation of International Centre for Criminological Research and Expertise. This is first such an Institution in Central and Eastern Europe. Let's now take a look at the main aims of the Centre, which are:

— conduct and coordinate interdisciplinary scientific research in the field of criminology and in particular in areas such as: the security of citizens and the state, the most serious categories of crime and social pathology etc.

— organize conferences, seminars and research internships and also to cooperate with state authorities, private sector entities and non-governmental organizations abroad and in Poland referred to topic of criminology.25

The International Centre of Criminological Research and Expertise conducts interdisciplinary basic research and development works serving both internal security and justice. The Centre aims at entering into cooperation with the State authorities, private sector entities and NGOs, within the country and abroad, along with preparation of expert opinions at their request. It will also conduct publishing and popularizing activities.

Scientific projects and expertise have been carried out so far, including inter alia the following areas:

— legal, organizational and technical solutions to combating organized crime and terrorism;

— monitoring, identifying and counteracting threats to citizens’ security;

— legal and criminological aspects of implementation and the use of modern technologies aimed at protection of internal security;

— modern technologies in/for the Criminal Procedure;

— development of the system for detection of threats to the safety of the blind and visually impaired persons with particular consideration of the road traffic.

In this short article we were only able to mention the most important actions taken by Białystok School of Criminology, but our activities have much more broad-spectrum. This school is composed of young researchers, as well as experienced criminal law specialists and criminologists from the Faculty of Law, University of Białystok, working together on the most pressing issues of today’s criminology. We conduct both theoretical analysis and empirical studies that investigate

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25 For more information about Białystok School of Criminology, please see one of the most recent publication of Professor Emil W. Pływaczewski (creator of the Białystok School of Criminology), entitled Citizen Security — Human Rights — Sustainable Development, which largely refers to the achievements of the Białystok School of Criminology, as well as of the whole Polish criminology. The monograph has unique substantive values with regard to issues of the citizen’s security and social exclusion. It confirms the exceptional position of the BSK in the Polish criminology and domestic penal doctrine. See: Pływaczewski E.W, Bezpieczeństwo obywateli — prawa człowieka — zrównoważony rozwój. Polskie kierunki interdyscyplinarnych badań kryminologicznych nad bezpieczeństwem obywateli oraz w zakresie przeciwstawiania wykluczeniu społecznemu. Białystok, 2017.
problems of modern criminology. We have still a lot to do, we have a lot of new ideas and of course we are open to cooperation.

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Резюме. Статья о польской криминологии с исторической и современной точки зрения разделена на четыре части, т.е.: Введение — историческая перспектива, Белостокская криминологическая школа, Национальный форум молодых криминологов, Международный центр исследований и криминологических экспертиз. В заключительной
части статьи авторы подчеркивают, что деятельность Белостокской криминологической школы имеет гораздо более широкий спектр деятельности, чем описывается в статье. В Международном центре криминологических исследований и экспертиз проводятся междисциплинарные основные исследования и разработки как для внутренней безопасности, так и для судебной системы. Целью центра является развитие сотрудничества с государственными органами, организациями частного сектора и негосударственными институтами в стране и за рубежом, а также подготовка экспертных заключений по их запросу. Центр ведет научно-издательскую деятельность и занимается популяризацией науки. Представители Белостокской криминологической школы являются также членами таких научных инициатив, как Академический форум — Правовые и медицинские аспекты здоровья человека и Академический форум: Подльское — Варминь и Маузур. В результате этих инициатив в мае 2015 года была проведена международная конференция под названием «Правовые, криминологические и медицинские аспекты социальной изоляции», в которой приняли участие более 200 человек. Научные сотрудники Белостокской криминалистической школы открыты для сотрудничества, особенно с международными партнерами. Широкий спектр исследований по вопросам научной криминологии во многих учреждениях, в том числе, академических и научных центрах является наглядным доказательством динамичного развития криминологии в Польше.