

Editorial Note

The Católica Law Review presents its Vol. VIII, No. 3, 2024, which focuses on Criminal Law. This volume comprises seven articles, a case law commentary and a book review.

To ensure both quality and impartial assessment, all articles – whether from invited authors or those responding to the call for papers – underwent rigorous blind peer review. This process was conducted by distinguished academics with no affiliation to the Portuguese Catholic University.

The papers address diverse and pertinent contemporary topics, ranging from the suspension of prison sentences in the General Regime of Tax Offences to the concept of psychological violence and the evolution of harm. Additional subjects include matters concerning criminal agreements, the expansion of Enemy Criminal Law, environmental criminal protection, sexual offences, and the tension between press freedom and judicial secrecy. This volume also includes a review of a book with an interdisciplinary perspective combining biology and social sciences in analysing human behaviour and its causes.

Professor Anabela Miranda Rodrigues (Faculty of Law, University of Coimbra) examines, from a constitutional point of view, the prison sentence suspension system within the RGIT, concluding that reform is necessary. Gabriel Mateus de Albuquerque (Faculty of Law, Catholic University) explores Enemy Criminal Law and its potentially expansionist tendencies, which may undermine liberal Criminal Law's foundations, 'predicated upon the dignity of each human being'. Professor Jonathan Herring (Faculty of Law and Exeter College, University of Oxford) contemplates the evolution of harm in criminal law – from physical and property damage to considerations of personal injury and essential relationships harm. Professor Jørn Jacobsen (University of Bergen) analyses psychological violence, emphasising contextual significance and the inadequacy of generic criminalisation of this type of violence.

Professors Nereu José Giacomolli and Juan Marcel Montiel Santander (both of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul) examine evidentiary challenges and procedural safeguards in "plea bargaining", investigating the requisite degree of voluntariness for sound decision-making. Marcela Valente da

Costa (Faculty of Law, Portuguese Catholic University) scrutinises sexual fraud legislation, advocating its expansion to encompass additional forms of deception that compromise victims' sexual autonomy. Sónia Fidalgo (Faculty of Law, University of Coimbra) discusses the innovations introduced by Directive (EU) 2024/1203 of the European Parliament and Council regarding environmental protection through criminal law, contemplating implementation challenges whilst emphasising adherence to the principle of legal certainty.

The volume concludes with Pedro Garcia Marques's (Faculty of Law, Portuguese Catholic University) case law commentary on the press freedom versus judicial secrecy debate, and Manuel Simas Santos's (Supreme Court of Justice) review of 'Behaviour – Human Biology at its Best and Worst' by Roberto M. Sapolsky – a work of particular relevance to penalists and criminologists interested in delinquency causation and culpability concepts.

Conceição Cunha
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