

JUVENILE CRIME: PROFILES, CAUSES, AND EVOLUTIONS

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So far, for decision makers and people concerned by juvenile crime (social workers, researchers and the public at large), there was a real need for a clear and accessible book able to give an insight into theoretical knowledge of juvenile crime, a critical analysis of available data, a precise diagnosis of the criminal activity and a ranking of its different causes. A French economist specialised in security topics and a teacher working with children and youths with learning disabilities give their joint contribution to this societal debate.

What is juvenile crime today? How to measure its different forms, despite the limits of available data? What are its causes? What are its evolutions? What kind of adapted and efficient solutions should be planned? The urgency of these questions is such that the problem has to be reconsidered globally and without ideological preconceptions.

Not only do the many theories that exist often seem to be disconnected from reality, but neither the data available nor witness accounts make a synthetic and objective approach possible. However, this challenge is taken up in this book thanks to a discipline which is widely used in research abroad, but curiously has so far remained ignored in France: the modelling of criminality. This book presents the modelling in a manner that the non-specialist will find accessible and pleasant, and above all, it is enriched by elements missing in the current criminological literature. Namely, not only are the different theories simply presented, but also the way in which official data are or not elaborated and used, causes are organised into a hierarchy by order of impact, female juvenile criminality is analysed separately and the careers of criminals are identified.

- The first part of the book is an accessible presentation of the main criminological theories and French or Anglo-American surveys. .
- The second part is first of all a reading guide for the criminal dataset : those which are accessible and their interpretations.
- The second part then presents, step by step, two different way of using the data : the economic modelling or the dynamic analysis called “trajectories” (how do cities become subjected to different forms of criminality or how can rid themselves of such crimes).
- Finally, the third part is based on a concrete application of these tools thanks to the exploitation of a unique dataset by municipality in France: 242 cities observed during 5 years. Notably, this makes it possible to measure causes of juvenile crime by type of crime (male or female, violent or not, repeated or occasional, committed alone or in a group), to compare their impact, and to classify them by order of impact. Nothing equivalent has been attempted at this level yet.