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SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF POLICE SCIENCES

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ABSTRACT

The police sciences are based on its interdisciplinary societal nature. The development of police sciences is determined by requirements, problems and challenges of internal security issues. The persisting change is one of the problems of activity of scientific community and institutionalizing the police sciences. Coordination between scientific community and police practice requires methodological function, internal communication (communication networks, communication channels) and practical application. Both theoretical and practical issues create methodological structure of efficient police sciences.

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The societal nature of the police sciences chiefly emanates from the fact that a scientific activity originates as the result of social requirements, is determined by the development of social practice, happens within a concrete social structure of society and is both a result and outcome of the entire process of global development of humankind.

For the purposes of this publication let us consider science as a system of rationally explained, logically consistent and mutually associated (verified) and verifiable statements (sciences, findings) formulated in a conven-

tional and comprehensible language. Science is a complete sum of findings—from various fields and aspects—of man's inner or outer world within a social time and space [1, p. 528].

Of crucial importance to the analysis of the social character of social sciences is the conclusion that these sciences originate, function and develop in concrete macro-structural, mezzo-structural and micro-structural) **social conditions** that determine, form, integrate and disintegrate them. The police sciences acquire their social character namely through these conditions.

The social character of the police sciences is asserted namely through:

- a) The social character of the **environment** as the sum of social resources, institutions and objective conditions as well as extra-scientific institutions and various conditions that generate the need of cognition and significantly impact police and scientific activities in the field of police and security.
- b) The social nature of the **process of cognition** as a form of general social effort.
- c) The social character of the **assertion of scientific findings** as the outcomes of the police sciences. The acceptance of the social factors in constituting police sciences is important inasmuch the pace of the scientific cognitive action will accelerate or slow down according to the intensity of their impact. In this connection we perceive police sciences as not only a scientifically cognitive effort but also a dynamically functioning system with a unique structure, functions and societal implications.

In the light of the above the outputs of these sciences are not the result of an isolated, individual activity but they are social by virtue of their contents, existence and impact on social subjects.

POSITION OF POLICE SCIENCES IN TRANSFORMATION PROCESSES IN SOCIETY

Similarly to the other scientific disciplines, the development of the police sciences will be influenced and determined by the development of society as a whole as well as by the specifics of internal factors ensuing from the relatively autonomous functioning of scientific cognition. The development of the police sciences depends upon the dynamics of the society as well as on the dynamics of social transformation.

Considering the socially determining factors of constituting the police sciences it is necessary to recognize the fact that the success or

failure of social transformation is to be judged in terms of real transition to a developmental trajectory that best corresponds to the current state of European integration.

One of the critical and indispensable conditions of embarking on this trajectory is the **optimal level of internal and external security**. If a society is perceived as a set of basic and mutually overlapping phenomena—personalities, social relationships and culture—it becomes obvious that qualitatively relevant change is a part of the current transformation processes. Within their framework substantive change occurs in the contents and practical implementation of security, its maintenance and development. It shows that in addition to the processes such as innovation, mass consumption, ecology and functional pluralistic democracy one also has to consider the optimal security of the above-mentioned processes and the functions of factors in the game. Without an efficient solution of internal security there can be no economic prosperity and cultural advancement in an improving environment, no growth and improvement of living standards, no sufficient space for the pursuit of free activities in all walks of life, and no protection of human dignity. To discuss that, one must also take into consideration the issue of security, which is highly required for sustainable development of modern societies.

The phenomenon of security itself can be identified in dependence of the context as one of the following concepts: state without dangers, value, development process, development function, and finally – specific social construct. As the national security is of great importance not only for contemporary security studies, but also for security of modern states, it is important to understand the mechanism and conception of this phenomenon. Security is an epiphenomenon of hazards, which can be defined as a state without hazards. Hence, to formulate a complete definition of security, one has to recapitulate this key concept, and basis

both questions and aspects it's composed of. Security, which is not only comprehended as a certain state but also depicted ab initio dynamically is associated rather with "ongoing social process, within which entities as they act, they are striving to improve mechanisms that provide them with the sense of safety"¹.

In turn a holistic definition formulated in CRISD APEIRON² by Juliusz Piwowarski, explains in a following, spectral manner the research category (and a concept) of security – in the Ingarden's perspective, from the epistemological, axiological, ontological and sociological point of view:

Security is for a specific individual or collective entity a multi-layer phenomenon, which concerns him directly or not, and a conception, spectrum of which is created by four following components³:

- desired state i.e. the level of effectiveness of controlling threats, which are possible in a given place and time to values important for this entity; in other words, security is a state that reflects the result of potentials' difference – self-defense potential on the one hand and threat potential on the other, which exist in a specified space-time (epistemological aspect),
- value, which fulfills our both basic and higher needs, i.e. those that never cease (meta-needs) with self-fulfillment on the top of hierarchy of needs (axiological aspect),

- development process, which is man's meta-need and enables personal and social growth of potential that increases autonomic defense of subjects of security; from the ontological point of view, concept of security functions close to that process (ontological aspect.),
- social construct, an effect of existing of social bonds, interactions and interdependences able to face numerous threats in certain community, which is one of security subjects (sociological aspect).

In principle, fundamental socio-political and economic changes in all spheres of society impact also the **need of constituting police sciences**. Changes occur in the structure and functions of science, in security and information measures, and in the relationships between scientific work and the social environment. There is a growing significance of the **accumulation, classification and typology of police-security findings** that further underscores the need to scientifically react to the above development. The scientific community that constitutes and promotes police sciences should therefore create a single, purposefully structured functional entity that would a priori be geared towards the solution of **theoretical and practical problems of the security policy**.

The development of police sciences is obviously affected by the functions of the basic elements of social structure. We perceive their impact as a process of satisfaction of the security requirements of differentiated subjects in specific macro, mezzo and micro-conditions. A change in these conditions precipitates the emergence of new requirements as well as a change in existing requirements. Hypothetically it is possible to state that a conflict is arising between the specifics of transformation mobility on one hand and the efficiency of solving the police security situation on the other.

It is generally possible to accept the opinion that growing crime and its adverse impact on wider societal and social frameworks are one of

1 J. Kukulka, *Bezpieczeństwo a współpraca europejska: współzależności i sprzeczności interesów*, [in:] „Sprawy Międzynarodowe”, Warszawa 1982, p. 31.

2 CRISD APEIRON – *Cracow Research Institute for Security & Defence Skills APEIRON*, przy Wyższej Szkole Bezpieczeństwa Publicznego I Indywidualnego „Apeiron” w Krakowie

3 J. Piwowarski, *Ochrona VIP-a a czworokąt Bushido. Studium japońskiej kultury bezpieczeństwa*, [in:] *Bezpieczeństwo osób podlegających ustawowo ochronie wobec zagrożeń XX wieku*, ed. P. Bogdalski, J. Cymerski, K. Jąłoszyński, Szczytno 2014; J. Piwowarski, *Prolegomena do badań nad kulturą bezpieczeństwa*, „Security Economy & Law”, no. 2, Kraków 2013, p. 10-11.

most severe social phenomena of the current reality. They are further aggravated by considerable uncertainties in an effort to face, grasp and explain these challenges. Theoretical impotence and lack of preparedness are especially evident in the etiology of these phenomena, backgrounds and mechanisms that condition them and share in their growth in the current conditions [2, p. 335].

SOCIAL REQUIREMENTS AND POLICE SECURITY PRACTICE AS THE BASIC DETERMINANTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICE SCIENCES.

The basic impact of a social system on the process of constitution and development of police sciences comes to the fore in the form of differentiated requirements of that social system and individual social subjects concerning scientific outputs and outcomes. These sciences participate in the satisfaction of reproductive and developmental social needs and stand out as the “producers” of security-relevant scientific facts geared towards the identification and solution of security situation problems. Transformation processes usher in new requirements, problems, conflicts and challenges that require qualitatively new approaches to the solution of internal security issues through the activity of governmental and nongovernmental security systems.

1. The emergence of police sciences is chiefly determined by the following social considerations:
2. The feeling of security and the need of it are basic social requirements. Any social system urgently needs to base its existence on certain means and mechanisms of self-protection. The outstanding features of the normative societal criteria of constitution and development of police sciences are above all **the requirements of enhancing the security of citizens**. These objectives are socially vital for the strategic orientation of scientific efforts as well as for the search of methodolog-

ical approaches and the target-orientation of interdisciplinary collaboration.

3. There is the need to efficiently solve topical security problems from the vantage point of crime, law and order enforcement, traffic safety and fire prevention. This calls for real-time identification and solution of the conflict between the fast-changing security situation and the relatively stable variants of solution.
4. There is the need to react in a comprehensive and scientific fashion to the process of institutionalization, organization and modernization of issues that pose a threat to public security.
5. The system of police sciences must be capable of self-reproduction and must adequately respond to the development of police practice and must be able to adjust not only to particular, albeit everyday problems that often are of limited duration.
6. There is the need to promote the advancement of education, in particular teaching, scientific research, and pedagogical research and information activities in the service of teaching, science and research.
7. There is the need for a qualitatively new type of **integration of science and police practice** informed by innovative processes in the police security sphere. A functional, effective system of police sciences must consistently meet the requirements of rational finiteness and safeguard coordination between specific fields of science as well as their interdisciplinary cooperation. A target-oriented process of **institutionalization** is a vital prerequisite for meeting these requirements.

PROCESS OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION AND THE INSTITUTIONAL CHARACTER OF POLICE SCIENCES

The process of institutionalizing a science is a telltale sign of advancement of a modern society. It is characterized by an orderly arrangement of scientific cognition, the existence of

autonomous scientific posts, the emergence of scientific societies, and by purposeful organization and modernization of the system of scientific preparation. The process of institutionalizing a modern science is characterized by the breaking down of regional barriers and assumes the character of intensive international cooperation.

Police sciences are an institutionalized and organized system of retrieval of objective findings. In order to function optimally and develop their individual elements they require the existence of an **institutional base**.

INSTITUTIONAL COMPONENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF POLICE SCIENCES

1. Organizational and legislative sphere

- material and immaterial conditions in support of scientifically-cognitive activities in the police security sphere,
- level of pro-innovative climate that spurs creative approaches,
- efficiency of intellectual efforts,
- adequate mechanisms of management of scientific activities,
- selection and formulation of scientific and research priorities in the process of constitution of police sciences,
- inner regulation of police sciences—scientific communication, quality control of scientific outcomes and products through specialist press, promotion of polemic and scientific discussion,
- efficient functioning of the science and research base and its interaction with scientific research institutions,
- interconnection of basic and applied research with specific organizational structures,
- adequacy of invested means, efficiency of their use and their actual contributions to police practice,
- formal and informal liaison between researchers and users.

2. Capacities and qualifications

- qualifications of scientists and teachers, number of creative workers in science and research, efficient performance of science and research organizations in the field of police science,
- careful selection and sound training of scientific workers, efficient system of stimulation and motivation to encourage model performance,
- choice of scientists for foreign study missions and internships, realistic outcomes of their missions to the advancement of police sciences.

3. Science and information

- furnishing information to the process of constituting police sciences
- quality of information services, quality of methods of development, distribution and use of information systems
- use scientific and research findings of foreign police organizations
- rational intertwining of management process with scientific information outcomes

The above-mentioned particular problems of institutionalizing police sciences clearly demonstrate the exceptional difficulty and specific nature of their constitution as well as of the expected outcomes of these sciences and their impact on the reality of policing and security. The functions of this system are largely conditional on openness, flexibility and variability in time, optimal structure of funding, management and evaluation, and solution of associations between the basic and applied research. Systematic solutions concerning the structure of scientific research base must be intertwined with high qualifications, dynamic personal attitudes and a motivation to carry out scientific activities. Presumably, the advancement of police sciences will acquire a broadening **social dimension** geared towards intensive cooperation whose output product is almost exclusively the result of collective coordination and the synergic effect of specialized police professions.

Formulation of research policies and effective coordination of the scientific and research orientation of the organizations that indulge in and promote police sciences will play an indispensable role.

SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY OF POLICE SCIENCES

Police sciences may document the broader rationale of their existence by employing their potentials in reacting, in the theoretical, methodological and application plane, to the course of the police and security situations, studying this course, evaluating but also anticipating these developments. This requires optimal conditions including the existence of a rationally functioning **scientific community of police sciences**.

CHARACTERISTIC OF SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY OF POLICE SCIENCES

A scientific community is a specific social group united by, or rather acting upon a certain paradigm. It has also other characteristic features in that its members rally behind a specific scientific discipline. Typically they share a common type of education and miscellaneous other types of communication and social organization. It makes no sense to talk about a paradigm outside a scientific community. A scientific community is the author, carrier and tester of a paradigm and its fertility, and ultimately also the chief arbiter of its duration in time [3, pp. 5-25].

It follows from the above that a scientific community fulfils the **role of subject of scientific activity**. This ushers in the human, active aspect of science. Police sciences are therefore perceived and studied not only as a system and structure of ready-made findings but also as an activity with social and psychological aspects.

A scientific community is made up of research teams that are either stable or are set up on an ad hoc basis to solve more complex research tasks, and of internal organizational units of re-

search and educational institutions. Research teams function as **social groups** characterized by the following **features**:

- A group associates scientific workers with the aim of solving a specific scientific problem of policing reality and proposing socio-technical measures. Joint activities lead to mutual interaction manifested by a certain degree of group cohesion. Scientific activity thus frequently embraces joint or collective methods and forms. Complex tasks require interdisciplinary cooperation involving proponents of various fields of science. A group thrives on the division of research labour.
- A scientific community is characterized by a specific type of communication and communicative links. We talk about a system of team (group) documentation (a team or group information system). Team documentation differs from personal information systems.
- A group has its own motivation structure informed by relations between individual and group objectives. Individual needs are determined by particular research tasks of individual members of the group.
- A group (team, department etc.) has an internally defined horizontal and vertical organization determined by positions, standards, seniority and subordination.

A team is a group of productive members who focus on a common goal that is of interest to all members and each of them maximally contributes to its implementation. A team may be a formal or ad hoc (final) group that will disband when its task has been accomplished. It may happen that a team originally set up as a formal task carries on after accomplishing its task as an informal group whose members are united by sufficiently strong informal (common) links. Team work is an optimally coordinated and purposefully synchronized effort characterized by a closely interlinked group activity.

- Basic **prerequisites** of productive teamwork:
- a) Common goals rendered internal (interiorized) by all members of the team who also feel personally responsible for their achievement,
 - b) A relatively small number of persons involved allows mutual interaction usually in an immediate verbal fashion,
 - c) Ability of every member to help outline and fulfil tasks,
 - d) Small social distance enables to strike informal relations and conduct face-to-face informal communication,
 - e) Team members support each other and stimulate and spur joint action.

COMMUNICATION WITHIN A SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

The functions of police sciences are mainly informed by the potentials of their realistic use within the contents and structure of **police practice**, i.e. by the possibility to realistically enter their realm and impact the links between the practical and cognitive aspects of policing on one hand and their actual needs on the other. However, practical implementation of this task is rather complex in light of the following **factors**:

- concrete level of constitution and development of police sciences on the national and international level,
- level and degree of institutional safeguards of police sciences (material, staffing, funding etc.),
- efficiency of projecting scientific findings into the professional performance of police officers, mainly police managers,
- preparedness of the scientific community of police sciences to share usable scientific findings with police practice,
- preparedness of the subjects of police practice to systematically embrace, apply and use findings made by police sciences,

- efficiency of transfer of scientific findings into police activities and the degree of elimination of retarding factors and barriers.

The above and other factors mutually interact and support but also inhibit each other. Thus they form a system whose elements are important for the outputs of police sciences and their penetration into the complex network of relationships and activities within the realm of practical policing.

In the transfer of police science findings into policing practice there often arises the problem of their status and practical value. If one excludes the anomalies of absolute overestimation and underestimation (the latter is the more frequent) one often hears that this or that is “very theoretical and incomprehensible” etc. But these problems must be tackled both by the scientific community and the proponents of police practice as the “consumers” of scientific findings.

Police practice cannot expect to be served readily applicable findings on a silver platter. One has to work primarily with the **methodological function** of the police sciences and creatively search ways and means of transforming thus-accrued findings into one’s own activity.

On the other hand it is necessary to discern that general terminologies and categories can hardly be applied in practice in a direct and immediate way. It is necessary to use a lesser degree of generalization of theoretical findings and formulate such findings geared towards the nature of research activities which enable their adequate **practical application**. This makes it possible to solve the discrepancy between a certain necessary theoretical level of the language used, the level of generalization and abstraction, and the varying daily specifics of police situations and activities.

The activity of a scientific community is inseparably linked with communicative actions and processes. From the angle of its target a communication may be oriented either inwardly or outwardly.

Internal communication aims to influence members of the community and to transfer scientific information so as to change it in order to achieve a synergic effect in the activity of the scientific community. Group status that anticipates various roles in the process of communication is an important factor of internal communication. Practice shows that in the pursuit of a research task, members of a community (team, department) can play the role of initiators, coordinators and stimulators. In addition there is the role of an informer assigned with the specialist task of furnishing his group with a steady flow of information.

The above-mentioned sphere creates miscellaneous **communication networks** with varying modalities of information transfers:

- a) **strong leader networks** where the flow of communication is aimed at a leader who then makes a decision whereupon the information resumes its peripheral status,
- b) **star scheme** is a more efficient way of solving simple problems as it works with fewer communication channels and units of information,
- c) **circular groups** are more advantageous in tackling complex research tasks as they provide for an initiative and even share in the solution to all members of the network—something which is not possible in the star scheme,
- d) **one-on-one networks** are advantageous in that their members need less time to solve a problem, make fewer mistakes and are happier than they would be in networks with a reduced number of channels.

Vertical communication networks express above all organizational and management relationships between the supervisor and his subordinates as this type of communication (its method and contents) more or less reflect the formal organizational structure of the organizing element within which a scientific community is formed (concrete academic department, section, etc.).

Horizontal communication networks express above all partnership and cooperative relations whose participants assume equal professional (organizational) positions and where informal relations (e.g. communication acts between departments etc.) mostly prevail [4, pp. 20-21].

Outward communication is geared towards realms outside scientific community structures. Its basic aim is to pass accrued scientific findings of police practice to individual subjects of the scientific community and broad specialized public. For its implementation both formal and informal communication channels are important.

Formal and informal channels can be described in the following way:

1. Formal channels are open to public and have a potential number of users; informal elements are usually limited to a smaller number of users.
2. Information spread through the formal channels can be easily saved and retrieved while in the informal channels data is often saved temporarily and is difficult to retrieve.
3. Formal channels communicate relatively "old" information in comparison with the current and common contents of the information spread through informal channels.
4. Formal channels are impacted above all by users while the flow of informal data is influenced by the initiator of communication.
5. All information systems are plagued by considerable redundancies. Formal channels are less redundant than informal channels.
6. Formal channels have a low level of interaction while informal channels have a high level of interaction.

Optimally functioning communication channels make it possible to convey real-time information on developmental trends of scientific research in the police sphere and create conditions for the application of scientific findings in police practice.

Translation of scientific cognition into police reality requires **coordination and cooperation** between the scientific community and police practice which in turn enables the creation of a **feedback** that yields information about the level of application of scientific findings.

Communicative cooperation with foreign institutions and organizations holds an important place in the communication processes of the scientific community. This cooperation is a sine qua non of dynamic development of police sciences. Its essence lies in the joint solution of research tasks with the aim of producing new findings that could be applied nationally, utilizing the creative potential and synergic effect of joint research teams and swapping experience in the field of theory and methodology of research activities.

Current integration processes within all-European structures not only create optimal conditions for scientific cooperation but are also imperative for the development of integration processes in the sphere of police sciences. We do not attempt to hide it that the above processes in both the theoretical and practical plane are still only in their formative stage and a lot of effort must be exerted in order to unify theoretical and methodological approaches, make the notional apparatus more precise as well as to define the focus and structure of police sciences.

The process of effective cooperation has been triggered. All subjects involved must look for optimal forms of cooperation and create suitable conditions including the elimination of barriers that inhibit the efficiency of such cooperation.

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