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Serious economic crimes and violations of economic, social and cultural rights have often been neglected in criminal proceedings and reports of truth commissions that have followed in the wake of economic transitions or conflicts. Although such economic crimes often result in a substantial loss of wealth to the overall economy and society of the country in question, they have not been widely nor effectively prosecuted. The Balkan region is no exception to this rule.

The study connects international criminal law with discourses of international human rights law, security studies, (supranational) criminology, political sciences, transitional justice and (economic) criminal law in order to find arguments as to why it is necessary to start prosecuting serious (transitional) economic offences as crimes under international law and why they should find their place in the ICC Statute. The research explains why Art. 7(1)(k) of the ICC Statute is the most plausible means to do so without violating the principle of legality.

“A very valuable scientific work on a highly innovative topic. [It] offers a new theoretic frame in which international economic crimes committed as crimes of the powerful by private corporate economic actors can be related to mechanisms to prevent and punish impunity, such as the ICC.”

Prof. Dr. John A.E. Vervaele
Utrecht Law School, President of AIDP

“A serious and thought-provoking study. The topic is of great importance. I could not agree more with the conclusion that the time has come to consider some of the most serious, systematic and widespread economic crimes, breaching economic, social and cultural rights, as crimes under international law.”

Prof. Dr. Ksenija Turković
Judge, European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg

“A very courageous and intelligent piece of work.”

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Walter Perron
Albert Ludwigs University, Freiburg i.Br.

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Sunčana Roksandić Vidlička

Prosecuting Serious Economic Crimes as International Crimes

A New Mandate for the ICC?

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The Max Planck Partner Group for Balkan Criminology (MPPG) is a Zagreb-based research division jointly established by the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg (MPI) and the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Law. It is headed by Assoc. Prof. Dr. *Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac*. The MPPG promotes, conducts and facilitates scientific research in the field of criminology and criminal justice and hosts the Balkan Criminology Network.

The MPPG's current research programme focuses on three main research areas, specifically targeting criminal phenomena that are of particular relevance to the Balkan region, or that may threaten its future security and stability: I. Violence, Organized Crime and Illegal Markets; II. Feelings and Perceptions of (In)Security and Crime; III. International Sentencing.

The MPPG's main goals are to foster criminological research on Balkan-relevant topics including the dissemination of findings to the broader scientific community, capacity building for young academics from the region through training and PhD research, creation of a sustainable network of criminological experts throughout the Balkans, and positioning Balkan Criminology in the European research area and beyond. The Balkan Criminology publication series provides a forum for the presentation of the MPPG's scientific output; it also connects the research potential present in the Balkans with the research agenda of the MPI, thereby ensuring cutting edge criminological research of highest quality.

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