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SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND PSYCHOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
SECTION OF CRIMINOLOGY

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LAUDATIO OF PROFESSOR MARTIN KILLIAS
FOR RECEIVING HIS DEGREE DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA
BY
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Martin Killias was born in Zurich on 29th March 1948. He has got three children and three grand-children. He attended school in his hometown and he was taught ancient Greek and Latin. He speaks six languages fluently: English, French, German (his mother tongue), Italian, Roman and Dutch.

He studied at the University of Zurich and received his degree from the Law School in 1972 and a MA degree in Sociology and Social Psychology in 1978. In 1979 he received his Phd from the Law School of the same University. Next year he was received into the Bar Association of Zurich.

From 1975 to 1979 he worked as a researcher at the Faculty of Law of the same University. As a researcher he also collaborated with Professor Marshall B. Clinard, in the University of Wisconsin, from 1973 to 1974, while from September 1980 to December 1981, he was a post-doctoral fellow in the School of Criminal Justice of the State University of New York.

His academic career began in 1982 at the University of Lausanne, first as Associate Professor until 1986 and the next 20 years (until 2006) as a Full Professor of criminology and penal law of the School of Criminal Sciences and Head of the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Law of Lausanne (UNIL) and of the postgraduate programme in criminology of the same university [with which we have signed the recent years Erasmus bilateral agreement].

During the years 1992-1996 he served as a Dean of the Law School of the University of Lausanne.

The following period (until 2013) was marked by his collaboration with the University of Zurich, where from 2006 onwards he was a Full Professor of criminal law, criminal procedure, international criminal law and criminology at the Law School and the Institute of Criminology of this University.

It should also be mentioned that, from 1984 to 2008, he served as a part-time judge, especially in the criminal courts, the Federal Supreme Court of Switzerland.

He is currently a Professor of criminal law, criminal procedure and criminology at the University St Gallen and Professor Emeritus of the University of Zurich and Lausanne, in Switzerland.

Professor Martin Killias has worked as a visiting professor in many universities around the world and has collaborated with official bodies of criminal justice, including the school of criminology of Montréal (1988), of Genoa (1991). He has also collaborated with the Dutch Ministry of Justice (1993), the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge (2000), of Leiden (2004), the Southwestern University of China (2010), Macao, Hong Kong and many others.

He has participated in several evaluation committees and committees of experts of the Council of Europe, such as: the Scientific Council of Europe (1990-1994), the Commission on the role of victims in criminal proceedings (1984-1987), the European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics; he was head of its committee for many years (1993 -1999).

He has been a member of the research committee of the UN Crime (1993), the Committee of Experts of the European Association for crime rates and a founding member, as well as a first president of the European Society of Criminology (2000-2001).

He has also been a member of several legislative committees in Switzerland and consultant of many Swiss and international scientific organizations.

It should be mentioned that Professor Martin Killias was a member of the committee awards of the American Society of Criminology, of the Steering Committee of the Campbell Collaboration Criminal Justice Group (2003 -) and president (2010 -), as well as a member of the Committee for the Study of Violence and severe adolescent and post-teenage crime (2009 -2011), and the National Institute of Justice (U.S.).

He has received many honors and awards, including the Sellin-Glueck Award (2001) of the American Society of Criminology and Fellow of the Academy of Experimental Criminology (2000) and the *G.O.W.* Mueller Award for his outstanding contributions to international criminal justice of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (2008) and the European Criminology Award of the European Society of Criminology, 2013.

He has participated and continues participating in the editorial boards of many scientific journals, such as of Criminology, European J. of Criminology, International J. of Comparative Criminology, the J. of Research in Crime and Delinquency, the J. of Experimental Criminology, the Psychology of Violence, Criminology and Criminal Justice Journal (2012 -), etc.

He has published widely in the field of comparative and empirical criminology. I should mention in particular:

The International *Crime Victimization Survey*

The *International Self-Reported Juvenile Delinquency* (in collaboration with the late Professor J. Junger-Tas)

The *International Violence against Women Survey* (2002-2006)

The *European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics* (he himself inspired the creation of the Sourcebook and he was the head of its support group)

He has been the scientific responsible of 8 national crime and victimization surveys (1984 -2011) and multi-national self-report projects and research of local crime / victimization in Zurich, Geneva, Basel, Berne, Vaud, Fribourg, St-Gallen.

He has made significant studies evaluating new forms of treatment and their outcomes, as: Prescribing methadone and heroin, 1995-2003, Alternative criminal sanctions: community service and electronic bracelet (1992-2006) etc.

It also has a very rich and internationally recognized literary work consisting of 11 books, with many reprints. He is also the editor of numerous books –individually or in collaboration- and has written about 250 scientific articles. In 2013 his colleagues and collaborators edited a volume of 1245 pages and more than 80 scientific contributions in honor of the occasion of his retirement. Among the editors of this publication, are included internationally distinguished colleagues and good friends who had the opportunity to complete their doctoral dissertations under his supervision and guidance, such as André Khun and Marcelo Aebi.

I met Professor Martin Killias for the first time at the Congress of the International Society of Criminology, held in Budapest in 1993, in which I had the opportunity to participate by presenting a paper on crimes of violence and urbanization, shortly after joining Panteion University as a lecturer. Since then he has won my great appreciation and his work has been a point of reference for me as for many members of the society of criminologists around the world. On the other hand, he did me the honor of prefacing my bilingual book on the fear of crime and has cited to several of my articles written in foreign languages in his books. Finally, I had the opportunity to participate with my article in the aforementioned volume of honor. I consider it a great honor!

Approaching the entire work of Martin Killias, it can be said that it is characterized by a strict process, systematization and empirically grounded theoretical analyzes. His great contribution to the field of empirical investigation of the fundamental aspects

of crime is mainly reflected through international victimization surveys, crime and self-report studies, in which he had a leading role and whose results contributed to significant advancement of the science of criminology.

One of the most important and classic works of Professor Martin Killias is the *Précis de criminologie*, which was first published in 1991 and after 20 years its 3rd edition was published, this time in cooperation with the professors of the University of Lausanne Marcelo F. Aebi and André Kuhn. More than 650 pages of this book are devoted to the concepts and methods of criminology, indicators of crime and social control as well as explanatory factors of crime (: various forms of social, cultural pluralism, demographic factors, juvenile delinquency the role of situational factors), while the third part approached questions of dealing with the crime (: social reaction, the penal system, public opinion, the general and specific prevention of crime through punishment).

As the author states in the preface of the second edition of 2001, this release coincided with the creation of the European Society of Criminology (as one of the founders, he had played a fundamental role in it). It was a time when the European criminology had begun to know particularly strong growth due largely to the dimensions and quality of the criminological research, which had come to know a great bloom in recent years. So the author integrated research from different countries of Europe, in order to help the reader to overcome linguistic barriers (as it is characteristically mentioned). The above integration was made by the author the key objective of this important book. Yet, this pluralism is not intended to result in the presentation of some answers or solutions to the alleged problems. On the contrary, avoiding the inclusion of a chapter that would attempt the synthesis, he manages to capture the readers' attention on his own synthesis, using all the potentials that the cognitive and methodological tools of his chapter provide him.

So in this important book, as well as in many of his scientific articles, he specifically refers to the important and current issues of fear of crime and punitiveness. His analysis on the above issues has become a point of reference in the international bibliography. I will indicatively mention the role of vulnerability and its dimensions

on fear of crime, as well as the differentiation between the objective and subjective punitiveness, referring respectively both to formal social reaction, as formed through the criminal laws and their implementation, as well as to informal, reflecting the attitudes of citizens.

In 2010 he published his article about the *“How damaging is imprisonment in the long-term? A controlled experiment comparing long-term effects of community service and short custodial sentences on re-offending and social integration”*. This article is the outcome of a comprehensive study and research of the author and his partners and one of the few studies in this area, whose findings do not confirm the widespread assumption that short custodial sentences are harmful when compared with community service.

In 2012, the book *“The International Crime Drop: New Directions in Research”* was published (eds. J. van Dijk, A. Tseloni, G. Farrell), in which Martin Killias participated with a study devoted to the diversification of Switzerland by the alleged overview on how to reduce crime in western countries. This distinction is obviously not only about Switzerland and other European countries (Greece even more, but this is another issue to discuss in another time). But in the case of Switzerland, the differential image documented through research data confirming the last 15 years a significant increase in violent crimes. The most sparse explanations focus on changes in how people spend their leisure time and especially changes related to the activities of the nightlife. The detailed analysis leads to the labeling of occasional role as the most reliable factors in explaining changes in crime rates compared to the alleged global 'laws' of the increase or decrease of crime trends.

At last, but not least, because of the extremely rich literary and research work of Professor M.Killias, it is worth mentioning, within this short presentation, one of his recent contribution to the field of study of juvenile delinquency, which highlights the necessity of scientifically connecting the development of an appropriate crime prevention policy to the investigation of explanatory factors of juvenile delinquency.

The above refer to the chapter included in the book *From Juvenile Delinquency to Adult Crime*, published in 2012 by R. Loeber & D.P. Farrington, entitled “European

perspectives". This chapter presents an overview of European research on the transition from juvenile delinquency to adult crime, through timeless European studies and related homicide, domestic violence, gangs and the relationship between immigration and crime. The study also focuses on very heterogeneous policies in Europe on young offenders, including age limits on the criminal treatment of minors, the imposed penalty, as well as policies to fight against drug and alcohol abuse, thus contributing to prospect of using comparative research experience in this sensitive area of the treatment of so-called criminal careers.

A common observation of those who have studied the entire work of Professor M.Killias could be that he was significantly inspired by the approaches of Wilkins, Felson & Clarke on the role of circumstances in explaining crime as expressed by the theoretical shape *rational choice* and *routine activity criminology* and through the use of scientific empirical knowledge has already created a School of criminological thinking. The basic features of this School are the following: the rational approach of the total criminal phenomenon, the balance between theory and research and the comprehensive approach to both criminogenic factors and criminalization conditions that can affect crime policy.

In order to conclude, it is worth mentioning that his fertile and rich teaching, research and writing work continues. So we are absolutely sure that his contribution to criminology will be equally important for many years. Professor Martin Killias will continue playing an essential role in the field of criminology, through his important collaborations at international level that always remain numerous and creative, as well as from his new position as professor of criminal law, criminal procedure and criminology in the well-known Faculty of Law, in the Swiss University of St.Gallen.