

Book review

Zarafonitou, Ch. (2023). *Fear of crime: Analects*, Athens: Nomiki Bibliothiki (In Greek: Ζαραφονίτου, Χρ. (2023). *Ο φόβος του εγκλήματος: Ανάλεκτα*. Αθήνα: Νομική Βιβλιοθήκη)

Reviewed by: Elli Anitsi¹

The book “*Fear of crime: Analects*” authored by Professor of Criminology Christina Zarafonitou was released in March 2023. After thirty years of conducting research on fear of crime the author reflects upon and systematizes her research material, aiming, at providing a comprehensive approach of the phenomenon, which could be used in the context of criminological research and a scientific criminal policy.

The book consists of a collection, which is part of the numerous studies published by the author, structured in four chapters. In the introductory note, the author provides a brief analysis of the emergence of fear of crime as an autonomous scientific field through its historical development. The first chapter analyses the conceptualization and theoretical approaches of the fear crime and insecurity. In this context, the first study included in the book, examines the role of vulnerability, victimization experience, media, environmental characteristics, as well as trust in the criminal justice system.

The following chapter focuses on a “paradox”, as characterized by the author which derives from the examination of fear of crime and refers on the discrepancy between the low levels of victimization in comparison to the high levels of fear of crime. The chapter includes two Greek studies. The study entitled “*Fear of crime: A Greek paradox*” conducts a comparative analysis between Greece and other European

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countries, highlighting the discrepancy observed in the Greek society, as well as the high percentages of the phenomenon in Greece, while the study *“Fear of crime in contemporary Greece: Research evidence”* presents the research surveys that took place in Greece along with the factors associated with the phenomenon in the context of the Greek reality.

The next chapter *“Fear of crime: a predominantly urban phenomenon”* consists of two studies entitled *“Are the “ghettos” in the center of Athens? A criminological reconstruction of the social representations of the residents.”* and *“Forms of environmental degradation and fear of crime. The case of graffiti in the centre of Athens.”* carried out in the Greek capital. Both studies examine the phenomenon considering the characteristics of the centre through the synthesis of quantitative and qualitative methodologies, including interviews and in-situ observation.

The last chapter *“Fear of crime and crime policy”* focuses on the consequences of fear of crime in individual and social level and in the prevention policies that have been implemented in Greece, through three studies: *“Punitiveness: insecurity and worldview.”*, *“(In) security of shopkeepers in Athens and Piraeus and new forms of policing”* and *“‘Community’ forms of crime prevention and fear of crime: Local Councils of Prevention – Neighborhood Police Officer”*. The book closes with list of the author’s writings in the field of fear crime.

Overall, the book presents a holistic approach on fear of crime in Greece, combining both theory and research evidence. The collection of studies included, examine the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of the phenomenon, as well as the consequences in the Greek society. Moreover, they analyze prevention strategies, focusing on the initiatives taken at community level.

As noted by Professor Yiannis Panousis who has written the prologue, the book approaches with a remarkably pertinent way, a series of topics regarding fear of crime, which range from the genesis of the phenomenon in the social context, the individualization of fear, the connection of fear not only with the criminal event but also with a broader sense of fear of survival and the dangers deriving from its exploitation. In this view it could be a useful guide in the planning of national criminal policies.