

## EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

The first issue of the scientific journal *Facta Universitatis: Law and Politics* for the year 2020 contains articles from different fields of law, social sciences and humanities.

**Prof. Igor Vukonjanski**, LL.D., Associate Professor, National Academy of Public Administration, Belgrade, and **Vladimir Kostić**, LL.B., Faculty of Law, Megatrend University, Belgrade, Serbia, submitted the paper titled *“Trafficking of Synthetic Opioids and New Psychoactive Substances as a General Security Risk, and the International Drug Control System”*, where they examine the international response to drug-trafficking. The global drug control system is enshrined in the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The International Narcotics Control Board, the UN body mandated to monitor the implementation of these Conventions, and various control mechanisms prescribed by the Conventions provide a robust control system for the licit trade, production and manufacture of drugs. The development of new psychoactive substances (NPS), in particular non-scheduled synthetic opioids such as fentanyl and its analogues, pose new risks and dangers to the general public, as well as to the front-line officers most directly exposed to these substances in the drug-supply chain. The authors present the organization and operation of the International Narcotics Control Board and various control mechanisms prescribed by the said Conventions. As mass drug use and drug-related offenses impair the security of each country, this problem is of global importance. The paper aims to present this problem, but also to show the unity of humanity in the fight against this problem. The paper contains several recommendations that are topical for every country in the world and for the Republic of Serbia.

**Nežad Anžel**, PhD candidate, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Serbia, submitted the paper titled *“Milovan Milovanović’s views on Serbian Foreign Policy and National Issues at the end of XIX and the beginning of XX Century”*. This paper examines the most important views of Milovan Milovanović, a Serbian statesman, a diplomat and a lawyer, and his position of the solution of the Serbian national and state issue in the late 19th and early 20th century. Milovanović was one of the most educated men of his time in Serbia. As a good *connoisseur* of the European political scene and international relations, he implemented his ideas first as Minister of Foreign Affairs and later as Prime Minister of the Serbian Kingdom.

**Bojana Golubović** LL.M, PhD Student, Faculty of Law, University of Niš, and **Filip Mirić**, LL.D., Research Associate; Senior Associate for Postgraduate Study Services, Faculty of Law, University of Niš, Serbia, submitted the paper titled *“The Historical Development of the Institute of Complicity in Criminal Law”*. The authors analyse complicity as one of the most complex criminal law institutes. The paper presents the historical development of complicity, starting from the legal sources of the ancient world, the slave-holding society, the feudal society criminal legislation, as well as the emergent forms of complicity in the French bourgeois society and German law. In particular, the authors focus on the institute of complicity in the criminal legislation of feudal (medieval) and bourgeois Serbian society, in the Principality of Serbia, the Kingdom of Serbia, and the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Finally, the authors examine the criminal legislation of post-World War II Yugoslavia and the

contemporary criminal legislation of the Republic of Serbia. The aim of the paper is to point out to possible directions for the reform of this very important criminal law institute.

**Dušan Stanković**, LL.M, Independent Researcher, Police Officer at the Police Station *Crvenikrst*, Police Directorate in Niš, submitted the paper titled “*Ecology of Crime in Urban and Suburban Areas: Spatial Patterns of Crime in the City of Niš (Serbia)*”. This interesting criminological scientific paper is part of the master thesis “*Ecology of Crime in Urban and Suburban Areas: the importance of explaining a place of crime*”, defended at the Faculty of Law, University of Niš, in February 2020. After providing an overview of the contemporary ecological theories (routine activity theory, crime pattern theory, and rational choice theory, the author elaborates on the ecological perspective in scientific research of crime, which is nowadays based on the application of the geographic information system, statistical and geostatistical methods, and crime mapping. The paper presents the results of the empirical research on the spatial patterns and concentration of crime in the City of Nis, Republic of Serbia, which was conducted on the research sample of property crimes and violent crimes committed in the years 2008, 2013 and 2018. The cases were geocoded into spatial units representing urban and suburban areas in the City of Niš. Descriptive statistics was used to identify the urban areas with the highest crime rate. Andersen’s Spatial Point Pattern Test (SPPT) was used to check the research hypothesis that the spatial patterns of crime are stable over time. This hypothesis has not been confirmed as the findings show that criminal activity demonstrates a trend of moving away from the central city zones towards the urban (residential) areas and suburban settlements. The results of this empirical research are of scientific and practical value. This spatial analysis of crime is among the first analysis of this kind in Serbia and the Balkans, and it was the very first time in the region that such analysis involved the application of the Spatial Point Pattern Test (SPPT). The research results maybe useful when creating security strategies and crime prevention policies by the police, decision-makers, and other stakeholders.

**Filip Mirić**, LL.D., Research Fellow; Senior Associate for Postgraduate Study Services, Faculty of Law, University of Niš, Serbia, submitted a book review on *Forensic Evidence: Science and the Criminal Law*, authored by **Terrence F. Kiely**, CRC Press, Boca Raton, London, New York, Washington, D.C. (2001). This review focuses on the scientific value of this book which presents all the important aspects of the diverse application of forensic science in criminal proceedings: the DNA analysis, fingerprints, footprints and tiremarks, hairs and fiber analysis, ballistic traces, etc. The clear and up-to-date discussion on these issues is illustrated by relevant case law, which contributes to a better understanding of the significant contribution of forensic science to the 21<sup>st</sup> century criminal justice system.

We hope you will enjoy reading the results of scientific research on the legal, criminological, historian, as well as social and humanities issues that the contributing authors have chosen to discuss in their theoretical and empirical research. The multidisciplinary nature of the submitted papers and the authors’ choice of current legal issues indicate that our scientific journal *Facta Universitatis: Law and Politics* is open to different approaches to the legal matter under observation and committed to publishing scientific articles across a wide range of social sciences and humanities. In that context, we invite you to submit research articles on topics of your professional interest.

We would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude to our distinguished reviewers whose professional attitude to double-blind peer review has significantly contributed to the quality of our scientific journal.

**Editor-in-Chief**

Prof. Miomira Kostić, LL.D  
Niš, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020