

IMMIGRATION-CRIME LINK. THE REJECTION/RECOGNITION OF THE OTHER

BACKGROUND

The assertions that immigrants commit more crimes than nationals or that immigrants are more prone to crime than nationals is very extended and profoundly rooted in Western societies.

Cognitive and emotional perceptions of identities and threats mediated by values, ideals and beliefs have acted together to create the binomial **B(immigrant,criminal)**.

RESEACH HYPOTHESIS

I am certain (Kant) that these two assertions are false, but nevertheless, inevitable.

RESEARCH METHODS

QUALITATIVE

Meta-analysis: thorough literature review on action (recognition and rejection) perception (of identities and of threats), emotion, cognition, values, ideals and beliefs

QUANTITATIVE

Empirical analyses: (Kendall-Stoyanov-Skopalik Method). Approach within the subjective statistics to objectively evaluate subjective sociodemographic groups' perceptions (negative and positive opinions) about immigration. Spanish National Survey n. 2967 on Discrimination, 2012. Center of Sociological Research (CIS).

*everything goes to search the truth
(feyerabend)*



*existence and perceptibility
are convertible terms. Hindi
Philosophy. Vyasa.*

RESEARCH FINDINGS

The two assertions are false and inevitable. However, there are some hints to be added.

The two assertions are **false** as immigrants come to Western societies to work not to commit crimes (Portes & Rumbaut, 2001). In fact, immigrants commit less crimes than nationals (Sutherland, 1934; Martinez & Lee, 2000). However, as the concept of criminal is a social construct, although not committing more crimes, immigrant status itself means a sort of crime, an original sin (Sayad, 2004). Hagan & Palloni (1999) raise the immigration-crime link to the category of myth.

The assertions are **inevitable** because rejection is inevitable as it is recognition. Both are interacting parts of the relational mechanism which forms the person in a plastic way (emotionally and cognitively in time, space and place). *Control of perception and conduct is increasingly instilled in the individual from his earliest years as an automatism, a self-compulsion that he cannot resist even if he conciously wishes* (Elias, 1994). Disciplinary mechanisms (Foucault, 1975), obedience (Milgram, 1974) and conformity (Asch, 1952). Securitization (Waever, 1995) as a disciplinary strategy.

The empirical analysis shows that there is an **essential concordance** among the perceptions (cognitive and emotional) of sociodemographic groups due to values, ideals and beliefs. Discussions within the **Universal Type of Values Theory** (Schwartz & Bilsky, 1987), the **Common Ingroup Identity Theory** (Gaertner, Mann, Murrell, & Dovidio, 1989) and the **Comprehensive Threat Theory** (Stephan & Stephan, 2000) are held.

