CORRECTIONAL PSYCHOLOGY AS A PART OF FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

- Applied psychological discipline - within a correctional setting
- Part of forensic psychology
  - together with Police Ψ, Law/„Legal“ Ψ, Investigative/Criminal Ψ…
- Production and application of psychological knowledge within criminal justice system
  - system of governmental institutions and practices directed at asserting control, reducing crime and punishing those who violate law

Police

Corrections

Courts of law
CORRECTIONAL PSYCHOLOGY AS A PART OF FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY II

- Prosecution development
  - criminal activity → investigation → accusation (custody → remand prison) → proceeding in front of the court → judgement → punishment (confinement → prison) → resocialization

- Main activities within a correctional system
  - treating offenders in correctional facilities
  - design and implementation of interventional and preventative programs
  - research and theory building
  - prison staff selection / training / support / care
BRIEF HISTORY OF CORRECTIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

• One of the newest branches of applied psychology
• Development especially within USA
• 1910’s -1920’s: the detection of “feeble-mindedness” among offenders
• 1920’s – 1930’s: classification of inmates into various groups
• 1924 - Wisconsin - comprehensive psychological examinations of all admissions to its prison system and applications of parole
• 1940’s – federal and state prisons employed a total of 80-100 psychologists
  • testing, diagnostic services,
  • educational, vocational and personal guidance
  • working relationships with other prison staff
• 1960´- 1970´s - expansion – attention shift from mere diagnostic to rehabilitation
• 1980´s – establishment of modern correctional psychology
• Recent situation: explosive growth of the area, increasing prison population, renewed interest in providing correctional rehabilitation programs
BRIEF HISTORY OF CZECH CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM AND PSYCHOLOGY

• 1847 - 1862 - František Josef Řezáč
  • the work of prison chaplain, educator and prison reformer => humanization of prison system
• 1918 to 1938 - relatively progressive system
  • gradational liberalization of punishment in dependence on inmate’s behaviour
  • separated reformatory prisons for juvenile offenders and women

• Development of forensic psychology during the last 50 years
• Dependence of scientific progress on political changes (stagnation)
• 1958 - foundation of the Institute of Criminalistics
  • purposes of criminalistic, technical activities and judiciary expertise
• 1964 - renewal of the field with liberalization of political restraints
  • founding of the scientific journal „Kriminalistika“
• 1967 - 1980 - important success of penitentiary sciences - Research Institute of Penology
  • the direction of Dr. Jiří Čepelák, CSc.
  • research, academic activities, psychologists entered the area of the education of police officers, lawyers, criminologists, release of important publications…
BRIEF HISTORY OF CZECH CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM AND PSYCHOLOGY II

- 1980’s – development of forensic psychology in other areas besides interrogation and interviewing
  - from writing papers and books psychologists moved into practice
- After 1989 - reformatory changes in Czech Republic
  - depolitisation of prisons
  - demilitarisation in the sense of dealing with prisoners
  - decentralisation - strengthening the position of prison directors
  - reorganization of the prison service based upon experiences from west-European penitentiaries and positive results in penitentiary from Czech history and older traditions
- Since 1990 – significant changes, modern forensic and correctional psychology
  - Czech journals
    - Kriminalistika, Československá psychologie, Česká a slovenská psychiatrie etc.
  - Establishment of important institutes
    - Institute for Criminology and Social Prevention, the Department of Crime Prevention, the Department of Psychology and Sociology of the Czech police
CZECH PENITENTIARY SYSTEM:
GENERAL INFORMATION

- Important part of the criminal justice system
- Provided by Prison Service of the Czech Republic (PSCR)
  - managed by the Ministry of Justice
  - prison security, judicial security, administrative and specialized services
- Main activities of PSCR
  - executing custody and service of imprisonment
  - guarding and providing safety in prisons and courts
  - managing and escorting prisoners
  - focus on resocialization of prisoners
    - employment, education and requalification
    - health care, treatment programs
  - penology research
- Aim of PSCR
  - creating conditions for peaceful reintegration of convicts into society following release
CZECH PENITENTIARY SYSTEM: GENERAL INFORMATION II

- Czech prison facilities
  - 36 prison facilities
    - special prison departments
    - various types of departments in the same prison
- Remand prisons
  - before judicial decision - pre-trial detention, custody
- Prisons
  - after judicial decision - service of imprisonment
- Detention facilities
  - protective treatment in prison conditions (combination of mental treatment and imprisonment)
- Special prisons or departments
  - addressing unique needs of certain populations
    - juveniles
    - women’s prisons
      - department for mothers with children up to age of 3 years
CZECH PENITENTIARY SYSTEM: GENERAL INFORMATION III

- **Types of prison regime**
  - Assignment to security class during sentencing
  - Differing in terms of surveillance and application of restrictive arrangements
    - **Minimum security (A)**
      - least severe offences
      - high level of trust
      - „opened“ (limited fencing) => free movement
    - **Medium security (B)**
      - semi – opened
      - higher staff-to-inmate ratio
      - focus on work and treatment programs
    - **High security (C)**
      - closed (reinforced fencing)
      - higher surveillance, internal controls
      - restricted movement
    - **Maximum security (D)**
      - most serious offences => highly dangerous to the public
      - closed, most restricted
      - cell-type housing
GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF PRISONS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC
CZECH PRISON SYSTEM: KEY FIGURES

**Prisoners**  
(Latest Update: 24.10.2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>1 471</td>
<td>21 343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juveniles</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inmates (Detention Facility)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>23 018</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs per prisoner per day</td>
<td>approximately 800,- CZK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Accommodation capacity**  
(Latest Update: 24.10.2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Reality</th>
<th>Repletion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Custody</td>
<td>2 382</td>
<td>2 298</td>
<td>96,47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imprisonment</td>
<td>18 877</td>
<td>20 691</td>
<td>109,61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detention</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>60,42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>21 307</strong></td>
<td><strong>23 018</strong></td>
<td><strong>108 %</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other facts**  
(Latest Update: 24.10.2012)

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment of prisoners</td>
<td>58,17 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreigners in Czech prisons</td>
<td>1 721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prisoners in maximum security regime</td>
<td>1 213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifetime Sentence</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees of PSCR</td>
<td>10 711</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DEVELOPMENT OF AVERAGE NUMBER OF PRISONERS

Last update (October 2012): 23,018 prisoners
DEVELOPMENT OF AVERAGE NUMBER OF PRISONERS - WOMEN

Last update (October 2012): 1480 female prisoners
DEVELOPMENT OF AVERAGE NUMBER OF PRISONERS AND EMPLOYEES

![Bar Chart showing the development of average number of prisoners and employees from 2000 to 2011.](image-url)
HOW DO THEY ACTUALLY LOOK LIKE?
PRISON PSYCHOLOGIST: JOB DESCRIPTION

- Primary mission of correctional psychologist
  - to assist in offender's rehabilitation and reintegration
- Secondary mission
  - enhances safety of staff and inmates by promoting a healthy institutional environment
  - fulfills plurality of another tasks (training of prison staff, advisory function)
**PRISON PSYCHOLOGIST: JOB DESCRIPTION II**

- **In relation to prisoners**
  - **Preliminary inmates screening**
    - assessment to evaluate supposed risks and probable problems of each prisoner within correctional facility
    - personal history findings, mental health screening, contemporary troubles
  - **Preventative controls**
    - most „problematic“ clients
    - risk of victimization or suicidal activity
  - **Emergency duty**
    - suicidal tendencies, major depression, mania, panic attacks, grief in the case of break ups or death of a loved one…
    - aggressive acts in between inmates, victimization
    - cell destructions, riots, other types of unusual or nonconforming behavior
  - **Counseling psychology, individual and group therapy**
    - adjustment disorder, variety of mental disorders
    - life difficulties
    - anti-drug prevention
PRISON PSYCHOLOGIST: JOB DESCRIPTION

- In relation to prisoners
  - Diagnostics
    - observation
    - interview
    - various test administration
      - intelligence, aggression, aptitude, personality
  - Planning and revising programs of offender’s treatment and rehabilitation
  - Informative, advisory, consultant function
    - different commissions, recommendations
    - selection of inmates – accommodation, free movement, job assignment, parole
  - Close cooperation with other specialists
    - in the field of medicine, psychiatry, pedagogy, prison security, with the courts etc.
  - Specialized departments
    - mental and behavioral disorders, prisoners permanently unfit for work assignment, women with children
    - protective sexuological treatment, institutional anti-addiction treatment and treatment for convicts with alcohol addiction or compulsive (pathological) gambling
PRISON PSYCHOLOGIST: JOB DESCRIPTION IV

- In relation to the staff and outside prison
  - Education and training of prison staff - psychological knowledge and ability
  - Prison staff general support and care
  - Research, problems of penal psychology investigation, reports
  - Guidance of trainee-ship, university students practice and research
  - Communication with individuals outside the institution
• Former practice - accredited psychologists in particular prisons
• From October 2012 - Psychological department of PSCR
  • Part of personal department
  • Complete personal assessment
    • psychological examination, their documentation and central evidence
    • evaluation of personal capability for execution of service
      • job applicants and current employees
    • reexamination of decisions about personal capability
• All „psychological“ activities connected to human resources management
  • prison staff - psychological care and services, counseling
  • analytical activities, research and investigation in personal psychology
• Professional cooperation with psychological departments of other security services
  • effort for unity and unified requirements
PERSONNEL SELECTION
ASSESSMENT IN PSCR II

- Unified requirements for potential members of security services
  - Czech citizen in the age over 18 years
  - legal capacity
  - no criminal record
  - relevant education – depending on particular position
  - good health condition, physical and personal ability
  - restriction of political or other profit-making activity

- **Personnel selection** = procedures including psycho-diagnostic assessment
  - performance-, personality- and projective tests, questionnaires, observation, interview, analysis of available information
  - individual and group methods
  - written and electronic means of testing
PERSONNEL SELECTION ASSESSMENT IN PSCR III

• Set of personality characteristics, cognitive abilities and desirable traits
  • Parallel to other security services given by similar demands
  • Influence of specific surrounding
    • stressful and harsh atmosphere of correctional institution
    • continuous exposure or direct threat of assault
    • work shifts lasting 12 hours
    • emergency duty with plenty of extraordinary events and crisis intervention
  • Psychical capability
    • satisfactory intellectual ability
    • emotional stability
    • psychosocially matured
    • withstand capability (high frustration tolerance)
    • requires motivation, attitudes, values
    • adequate cognitive skills and auto-regulation
    • no aggressiveness or psychopathological traits
GENERAL STRESS FACTORS OF THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT

• Work with incarcerated individuals
  • long-term confrontation with human suffering
  • occurrence of aggressive and self-mutilating acts between inmates, conflict situations, riots
  • own life and health exposure
  • increased responsibility
• Absence of positive feed-back
  • lack of „visible“ results of own work
  • negative feed-back in the case of prisoner´s return
• Excessive paperwork
• Requirements of a teamwork
• Long work shifts in continuous service of a prison
• Noise, stereotype, unsatisfactory technical equipment
• Low social status in society
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Any questions?
REFERENCES, RECOMMENDED READING

• Prison Service of the Czech Republic: www.vscr.cz