

**REVISIÓN DESDE LA PERSPECTIVA PSICOSOCIAL  
DE MODELOS EXPLICATIVOS DEL COMPORTAMIENTO  
DELICTIVO JUVENIL**

**REVIEW FROM PSYCHOSOCIAL PERSPECTIVE  
OF JUVENILE CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR'S EXPLANATORY  
MODELS**

BÁRBARA SCANDROGLIO

*Departamento de Psicología Social.  
Universidad Autónoma, Madrid, España*

MARÍA GÓMEZ-CARRAL\*

*Departamento de Ciencias Sociales.  
Universidad Europea Miguel de Cervantes, Valladolid, España*

MARIO MUÑOZ-ANGUITA

*Departamento de Ciencias Políticas y Jurídicas.  
Universidad Europea, Madrid, España*

RICARDO LAMELAS-FRÍAS

*Departamento de Psicología Social.  
Universidad Autónoma, Madrid, España*

DIEGO GUTIÉRREZ-BARQUILLA

*Red de centros de menores. Ayuntamiento de Madrid, Madrid, España*

\*Autora de correspondencia: [mgomezc@uemc.es](mailto:mgomezc@uemc.es)

**Resumen:** La delincuencia juvenil en España ha disminuido ligeramente entre 2007 y 2014; pero ha vuelto a aumentar desde 2015 hasta la actualidad. La mayoría de los delitos cometidos por menores y jóvenes no tienen carácter violento, pero el volumen de delitos, respecto al volumen de delitos

cometidos por adultos, ha aumentado de forma alarmante. Sin embargo, lo anterior, junto a la preocupación por evitar la progresión y cronificación hacia carreras delictivas en la edad adulta, no ha impulsado el desarrollo de marcos explicativos capaces de orientar la aplicación temprana y efectiva de medidas preventivas. De ahí que este artículo se proponga analizar el potencial que guardan las teorías propias de la Psicología Social (Teoría del Comportamiento Planificado, Teoría de la Identidad Social y Auto-categorización del Yo), a partir de la revisión crítica de modelos explicativos de diferentes conductas y patrones delictivos (Modelo Integrado, Modelo de Intenciones de Transgresión y Modelo del Triple Riesgo Delictivo), con el fin de definir tipologías delictivas y construir modelos específicos para cada una de ellas, optimizando así la prevención y la intervención.

**Palabras Clave:** Delincuencia Juvenil, Teoría de la Identidad Social y Auto-categorización del Yo, Teoría del Comportamiento Planificado, Modelo de Intenciones de Transgresión, Modelo del Triple Riesgo Delictivo.

**Abstract:** Juvenile delinquency in Spain has decreased slightly between 2007 and 2014; but it has increased again from 2015 to the present. Most of the crimes committed by minors and young people are not violent, but the volume of crimes, with respect to the volume of crimes committed by adults, has increased alarmingly. However, the foregoing, at the same time as the concern to avoid the progression and chronification towards criminal careers in adulthood, has not promoted the development of explanatory frameworks capable of guiding the early and effective application of preventive measures. Hence, this article proposes to analyze the potential of different theories of Social Psychology (Theory of Planned Behavior, Theory of Social Identity and Self Categorization), based on the critical review of explanatory models of different behaviors and criminal patterns (Integrative Model, Intentions to Transgress Model, Triple Criminal Risk Model), in order to define criminal types and build specific models for each of them, optimizing prevention and intervention.

**Keywords:** Juvenile Delinquency, Theory of Planned Behavior, Theory of Social Identity and Self Categorization, Intentions to Transgress Model, Triple Criminal Risk Model.

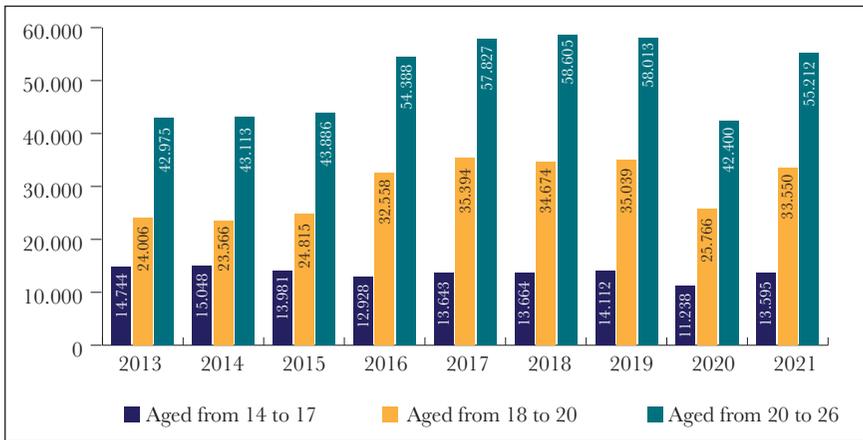
## THE SOCIAL PROBLEM OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY TODAY

Delinquency, especially that perpetrated by adolescents and young people, has traditionally been the object of concern and alarmism. Consequently, it would be expected the application of measures that would reduce the incidence of crimes in these age groups. However, the figures for crimes perpetrated by young people between the ages of 14 and 25 have increased from 2013 to 2019, going from 81.725 registered crimes to 107.164 (Instituto Nacional de Estadística [INE], 2022a; INE, 2022b), as can be seen in Figure 1.

In 2020 there was a notable decrease in the number of crimes due to the unusual pandemic situation and the respective quarantine, lockdown, and confinement measures. However, in 2021 the number rises again to 102,357 crimes. In 2021, this age group committed 24% of the total of all crimes committed in Spain (INE, 2022a; INE, 2022b). In other words, almost a quarter of the crimes are committed by the age group of minors (aged from 14 to 17) and young people between 18 and 25 years old. So, we could consider this phase as a critical period due to the high incidence of crime in the early years of life.

**Figure 1.**

Minors and convicted persons in the period between 2013 and 2021



According to this evolution of the data, the incidence has not only not been reduced, but has increased since 2013 also. Therefore, it seems clear that no effective response is being given to this social problem. For this reason, the need to find theoretical models that allow criminal behavior to be explained and that can guide interventions seems clear.

It has been registered by the INE (2022c) that the offenses committed in 2021 by minors were, mainly, injuries (33,8% incidence), robberies (36,4%) and theft (7,7%); young population between 18 and 25 years of age often committed the same kind of crimes with an incidence of 21,7% for theft, 18,9% for injuries and 18,2% for robberies, adding the high prevalence of those crimes committed against road safety (24,3%) (INE, 2022a) The increase produced in recent years in the incidence of theft and injury crimes in adolescents and young people between 14 and 25 years of age evidences the need to analyze all the criminal behavior of adolescents and young people, independent of its incidence and typology, due to the possibility of coexistence of different crimes and the relevance of knowing their evolution and stage of appearance, as well as the correlation between them, to prevent its commission and accelerate their withdrawal.

In parallel, it should be pointed out that there is a predominant male tendency in the commission of behaviors classified as crimes; specifically, in 2021, 82,09% of the young people under 25 years old sentenced by final judgment were males (INE, 2022b; INE, 2022d). Considering this, it is relevant to find theoretical models which explain the behavior and that can guide the interventions. The analysis of behavioral patterns, therefore, should consider both the age and gender of the perpetrators to provide more specific and detailed information. It must consider not only age, but also gender.

The dimension and incidence of juvenile delinquency, at the same time as the concern to avoid progression and chronification towards careers in adulthood, has not promoted the development of explanatory frameworks capable of guiding the early and effective application of preventive measures. After years of effort and expense of public and private resources, finding solutions to the problem remains a huge challenge (Department of Health and Human Services [DHHS], 2001).

## THEORETICAL PROPOSALS

Social Psychology is the most important branch of Psychology in the study of criminal behavior because it has long-established theoretical-empirical models capable of explaining them (Soria-Verde & Sáiz-Roca, 2005), as: (a) the Theory of Planned Behavior [TPB] (Ajzen, 1985; 2020); (b) the Theory of Social Identity [TSI] (Tajfel & Turner, 1979; Tajfel, 1984) and (c) the Theory of the Self-categorization (Turner, et al., 1987).

The Theory of Planned Behavior pretends to explain someone's behavior according to the intentions to carry out a specific conduct. Furthermore, intentions are explained by three elements: attitudes, subjective norms and perceived control. Attitudes are understood like the behaviors' evaluation as favorable or unfavorable based on the expected results of its perpetration. Subjective norms are linked to the perception of social opinion according to a concrete behavior, peer pressure and the self-inclination to do their duty to social trends. Finally, perceived control is related to self-efficacy and control beliefs as factors that ease or prevent a behaviors' commission (Ajzen, 1985; 2020).

For its part, the Theory of Social Identity (Tajfel & Turner, 1979; Tajfel, 1984) is understood as the awareness that an individual possesses of belonging to different social groups, together with the value and emotional significance that said individual grants to said membership. The concept of social group is defined by two or more individuals who share a common social identification, that is, who perceive themselves as members of the same social category. Thus, the concept of social identity and group membership are intertwined in such a way that personal identity itself (that is, the conception that an individual has of himself) is largely formed by characteristic self-descriptions of the different social groups to which he belongs that you consider to belong.

Regarding the Self-categorization Theory (Turner et al., 1987) is understood as the process by which an individual includes and defines himself within certain groups or social categories. It establishes the cognitive bases underlying identity processes as an object of study, focusing especially on categorization processes alluding to their potential capacity to generate exacerbated intergroup prototypes. The previous theoretical dissertation on the different elements and proposals that are articulated in the Theory of Social Identity (Tajfel & Turner, 1979; Tajfel, 1984) are especially relevant when applied to the different self-categorization processes. In this sense, the Self-categorization Theory (Turner et al., 1987) is postulated as the cognitive analysis applied to social identification and group membership, considering that self-categorization is the dynamic responsible for the existence of perspectives and behaviors based on normative stereotypes.

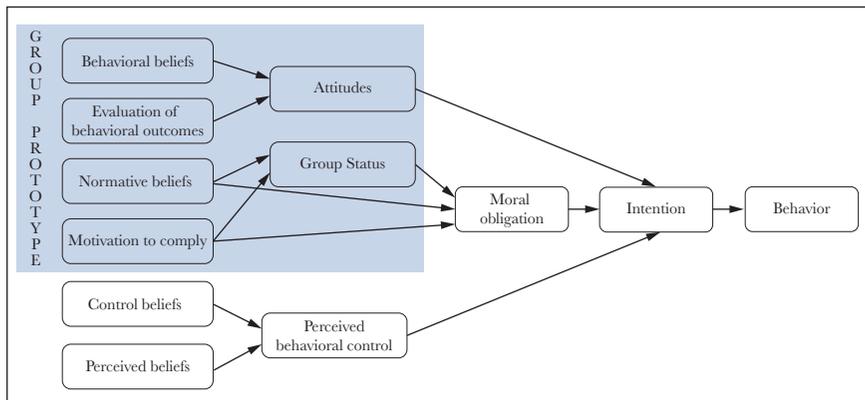
Using the Theory of Planned Behavior (Ajzen, 1985; 2020) and the Theory of Social Identity (Tajfel & Turner, 1979; Tajfel, 1984), among other resources, Patrick (2021) developed a multifaceted explanation of antisocial behavior to investigate whether situational variables could account for it. To get it, Patrick developed an elicitation study that was conducted to determine attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control associated with three types of behavior: legal and normed, illegal and normed, and illegal and not normed. And subsequently, involved the manipulation of three situational variables in hypothetical scenarios: the three behavioral types, the valued groups of parents and friends, and six types of neutralizations. Findings indicated that antisocial behaviors occurred as the result of situational variables; specifically, the three behavioral types, the presence of the valued groups of parents and friends, and six types of neutralization. Further, what is more significant, the three variables interacted to affect the degree to which participants endorsed the behavior described in the scenario.

The Model of Planned Behavior Theory has been widely supported with illicit or criminal behaviors carried out by adolescents and young people: group violent behavior (Scandroglio & López, 2013); drug taking, fighting and stealing (Skrzypiec, 2017) bullying (Jaber, et al., 2022); alcohol consumption (Cooke, et al., 2014); problem gambling (St-Pierre, et al., 2015); or drug use (Patouris, et al., 2016). For its part, there are empirical investigations that have applied the Social Identity and Self-categorization Theory either to criminal behaviors or to belonging to criminal groups of adolescents and young people. For example, Boduszek, et al. (2012) found further support for Social Identity Theory with regards to the role of self-esteem in the development of criminal social identification with prisoners aged 20 to 66: being part of a criminal group becomes a central aspect of the young person's self-concept. Liverso & Matsueda (2019), for its part, found that the «gang identity is negatively and significantly associated with the rate of leaving the gang (18% decrease)» (p. 817) in young people from 11 to 16 years old.

INTEGRATIVE MODEL OF PLANNED BEHAVIOR AND SOCIAL IDENTITY THEORIES

The explanatory psychosocial model presented in this section has been developed over twenty years of research and action-research to explain the youth group violence (Martín, 2005; Scandroglio, 2009; Scandroglio & López, 2013; Scandroglio, et al., 2012)<sup>5</sup>. The theoretical framework is based on the integration of two models: the one proposed by the Theory of Planned Behavior (Ajzen, 1985, 1991) and the one proposed by the Theory of Social Identity and Self-categorization (Hogg, 2003, 2006; Hogg & Abrams, 1988; Terry & Hogg, 1996); as can be seen in Figure 2. The set of data has been obtained through various methods including: formal in-depth interviews with young men who had become involved (on two or more occasions in their past, but none in the last year before the interview) or were becoming involved (on two or more occasions in the last year before the interview) with their group in violent behavior (respectively n=13 and n=13); formal (n=4) and informal (n=22) group interviews to natural groups; participant observation with a natural group (41 meetings totaling more than 130 hours); and questionnaires (n=670). The age of the young people interviewed was between 14 and 32 years old; while that of young people belonging to natural groups varied between 13 and 32 years. All the young people were residents of the Community of Madrid, of nationalities from different European, African and American countries, and belonging to different reference groups and subcultures as: Skin-heads, Ultra, Bakalás, Red Skin, Heavies, Punkies, Rappers, Graffiti Artists, Skaters, Latin King and Queens, and «from the neighborhood».

**Figure 2.**  
Integrative Model (own elaboration)



5. Projects: «Genesis and evolution of youth group violence», CICyT, National I+D Plan, File SEC98-0267; project «Latin Kings and Queens? Cultural identities of young people of Latin American origin in Spain. National I+D+i Plan 2005-07, File SEJ2005-09333-C02-02/SOCI; Project «Participatory-action-research with young people and youth organizations at risk of social exclusion: exchange, systematization and evaluation of experiences», Banco Santander-UAM, call CEAL; Project Reco\_Street\_Violence, European Commission Justice, Freedom and Security (European program DAPHNE III, JLS/2009-2010/DAP/AG).

According to the TPB model, young becomes involved with the group to which he belongs in aggression against young people who belong to groups identified as rivals because he obtains certain consequences from it (attitudinal beliefs and general attitude) that he and the group value as positive and because he shares the group norms (normative beliefs and subjective norms) that legitimize the use of violence to obtain these consequences. The young must also perceive that they have a certain degree of control (perceived behavioral control), over their performance and over the situation, which depends in part on the measures (control beliefs) they have taken to avoid or lessen the impact of the negative repercussions that entails their involvement in confrontations.

The pivot to articulate the TSI theoretical model with the first are the positive consequences: these are reinforcements for the identity of the young person and the group. Indeed, they are related, on the one hand, to the dimensions that the groups use to compare themselves and, on the other, to the attributes that the young person, based on a prototype that describes the ideal member of the group, uses to define and evaluate himself. In this sense, the attitudes, formed from the consequences, are normative for the group and its young members (Smith & Hogg, 2008). In the specific case of young people and groups that are involved in violence, this is the legitimate and effective strategy to obtain status —demonstrating fundamentally physical supremacy— and thus be valued and recognized.

Consequences and norms are integrated into the group prototype that is formed, in this way, by the attributes agreed on and shared between the groups — such as solidarity, the promptness to intervene in defense of friends, in addition to ostentatious respect — and by the attributes derived from the idiosyncrasies and subculture of the group (Hogg, 2005; Hogg & Reid, 2006). All of them differentiate the group, although the former makes it possible to do so through comparison and the latter through individualization. Thus, the prototype, in the first place, marks the group borders indicating what characteristics those who want to enter must have. Secondly, it increases cohesion due to the attraction that members of the group experience among themselves by assimilating to the ideal member of their own group and differentiating themselves from the stereotyped member of the other groups. Moreover, they are not only perceived as similar but they are considered, for some group functions and activities, as interchangeable (depersonalized). Thirdly, by distributing intragroup status differentially according to greater or lesser assimilation and differentiation, the prototype regulates each member's commitments to the group and leadership roles. In this way, the most respected young person inside and outside the group, for being the «strongest» and the one who «gets into fights» earlier and with more courage, will have a greater chance of being recognized as a leader (Hogg, 2006).

Applying the previous models, it has been possible to explain between 80% and 83% of the variance of intention to engage in violence (Martín, 2005; Scandroglio & López, 2008; Scandroglio et al. 2012) and between 70%

and 80% of the variance of the behavior perpetration (Martín, 2005; Scandroglio & López, 2008; Scandroglio et al. 2012; Scandroglio et al., 2017).

#### INTENTIONS TO TRANSGRESS MODEL (ITT MODEL)

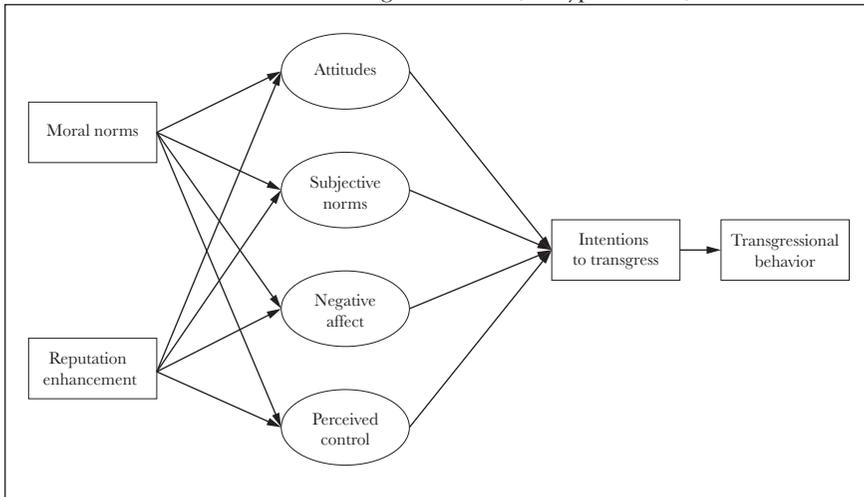
Grace Skrzypiec (2017) in her search for explanations of juvenile delinquency examined the Ajzen's Theory of Planned Behavior —previously explained— and the comparative study made by Agnew of the main crime theories —like General Strain of Agnew, Differential Association of Sutherland & Cressey, Social Learning of Akers and the General Theory of Crime by Gottfredson & Hirschi— where elements as rational evaluation of crime, perceived freedom, moral evaluation of crime and negative affect felt were found as motivators of crime.

From this baseline, Skrzypiec (2017) proposed different links between the Theory of Planned Behavior and the motivators of crime of Agnew, leading to a new theoretical proposal, found in Figure 3, called Intentions to Transgress Model (ITT Model). Thus, the rational evaluation of crime was connected to attitudes towards crime, subjective norms and self-efficacy; freedom perception was linked to the perceived behavioral control. In addition, Skrzypiec pointed out that the moral evaluation of crime could generate a new element named 'moral norms', and the negative effect derives from the emotions of frustration and/or anger originated by the tension and/or the mistreatment received. Furthermore, Skrzypiec added a new element, proposed by herself on her bibliographic review made in 2013: the reputation enhancement, considering that, in the words of Carroll et al., adolescents usually decide how they want to be perceived, so the criminal behavior would be a choice to improve their status.

According to this theoretical proposal, Skrzypiec (2017) carried out a study based on three antisocial behaviors: drug taking, fighting and stealing—in this article we only had included fighting and stealing because of its criminal nature—. The results obtained showed that the ITT Model had a high predictive capacity for each behavior: it could explain the 83,2% of the intention to take part in fights and the 46,6% of the stealing intentions.

Thus, on the one hand, Skrzypiec (2017) found that fighting attitudes, subjective norms and perceived control were meaningfully predicted by moral norms and reputation enhancement. Regarding the fighting intentions it was found that while perceived control and negative affect were not significant, attitudes and subjective norms were the strongest predictors, in a similar way as subjective norms. On the other hand, the stealing attitudes, subjective norms, perceived control and negative affect were significantly predicted by moral norms, while reputation enhancement predicts attitudes, subjective norms and negative affect. In relation to stealing intentions it was found that subjective norms and perceived control weren't meaningful, while attitudes and negative affect were the most significant factors.

**Figure 3.**  
Intentions to Transgress Model (Skrzypiec, 2017)



The results obtained show that the ITT Model can satisfactorily explain behavior as fighting and stealing data, recognizing attitudes, subjective norms, perceived control and negative affect like the most important elements to determinate the intention to get involved in those kinds of conducts, in comparison of the distal role played by moral norms and reputation enhancement. However, the differences found in the evidence of each behavior's explanation shows the necessity to adapt the original model to them in order to improve its predictive capacity (Skrzypiec, 2017).

#### TRIPLE CRIMINAL RISK (TCR) MODEL

Redondo (2008) sought to combine different classical theories of Criminology in order to observe the phenomenon of criminal commission from a preventive approach by proposing his Triple Criminal Risk Model (TCR)<sup>6</sup>. To achieve this goal, he developed three categories that included protective and risk factors that have been empirically contrasted as complementary continuous dimensions of risk to get involved in criminal conducts. Thus, it is considered that the presence of one or more personal risks increases vulnerability to criminal commission, and that each of the risk factors has its antagonistic complementary protective factor (Martín-Lupiañez et al., 2015; Redondo, 2008). Those three categories are as follows:

A. Source of personal risks: includes the individual characteristics of each subject both at a static level (impulsivity-self-control, sensation-seeking) and

6. Translated from original: «Modelo del Triple Riesgo Delictivo (TRD)».

dynamic (egocentrism-empathy, antisocial-prosocial). Some of these risks factors are, for example, substance use during the mother's pregnancy, neurological damage, hormonal disturbances, attention problems, hyperactivity or impulsiveness, risk taking and sensation seeking, low intelligence or self-esteem levels, lack of empathy or guilt, self-centeredness, low social skills, low tolerance for frustration, antisocial beliefs, drug use or dependence, or childhood victimization, among others (Redondo, 2008).

B. Source of risks in social support: combines the socio-environmental characteristics and conditions, among which are the family (educational styles), educational centers (intensity and quality of education) and social groups (peer groups). Some of these risks factors are: low family incomes, unemployment, illness, teenage mother, addictions or conflicts at home, criminal background, peer group with antisocial behavior, disengagement from school, detachment from other social groups, police arrests and internment in juvenile reform centers, blighted neighborhoods, exposure to serious violence, and authoritarian, permissive, or neglectful parenting styles, among others (Redondo, 2008).

C. Source of risks in criminal opportunities: includes all the environmental characteristics that are triggering or precipitating stimuli for criminal behavior. Some of these risks factors are: encounters with strangers, food defense, crowding, observation of violent problem solving, insult or provocation, places and leisure contexts without surveillance, loneliness and isolation, high population density, poor public lighting, unprotected victims, accumulated high-value properties with symbolic value or collectibles, and neglected, unprotected, abandoned, lonely, remote or scattered properties, among others (Redondo, 2008).

Taking into account the different dimensions proposed by Redondo (2008), the central premise of his TCR Model should be highlighted: the continuous interaction between personal risk factors (A) and the lack of social support (B) could favor an increase in criminal motivation; which, if it occurs in a context of criminal opportunities (C), will enhance the risk of criminal commission (Bobbio, et al., 2011). Hence, sources A and B produce motivation, but it's when C intervenes that the risk of performing a certain criminal behavior truly appears. Therefore, it is assumed that, in subjects with high criminal motivation, a lower influence of C will be necessary to trigger antinormative behavior and, conversely, in the face of low criminal motivation, the weight of C must be very high (Martín-Lupiáñez, et al., 2021; Redondo, 2008).

As a result of this theoretical proposal, different studies have been carried out in order to know the real weight of each of the sources of risk. Thus, in the study carried out in Malaga by Isaac Martín-Lupiáñez and colleagues (2015) it was found that this model explains 43% of the criminal commission perpetrated by adolescents, and more specifically it was found that the source of personal risk explains 20% of the variance of criminal behavior, the source of social support 25% and criminal opportunities 35%

of it. Hence, it can be concluded that the opportunity factor is the one with the greatest explanatory force, since it is an inexorable factor for criminal commission.

Regarding the specific indicators and their predictive capacity, Antonella Bobbio and colleagues (2011) state that those with the highest incidence and robustness for criminal commission in adolescence are those related to substance use, peer group and educational styles. More specifically, the same authors state that in cases of cyberbullying, the following factors play an important role: low self-esteem, high impulsiveness, lack of support from teachers and the presence of situational triggers, such as anonymity or continued use of the network.

In the course of the studies carried out, it has also been possible to establish differences based on the gender of the participants, having found in the studies by Bobbio, et al. (2011) that substance use is a trigger of greater influence in women, while the influence of the peer group is greater in men. Regarding the opportunity factor, Martín-Lupiáñez et al. (2015) found that its incidence is higher in men, hypothesizing that this may be due to their social roles and the greater protection and control that falls on women.

## CONCLUSIONS

Nowadays, youth delinquency continues to be a social problem that must be taken into account and studied due to its magnitude, complexity in its definition, and the diversity of typologies that may exist. Throughout history, criminal behavior has been a fluctuating social phenomenon that changes over time and as a function of socio-political, cultural, psychological, and environmental variables. For this reason, the traditional explanatory and predictive models of criminal behavior must get distance from conservative perspectives that consider crimes as a whole. Instead, the scientific community should focus on integrative perspectives to respond to these emerging phenomena, taking into account the influential variables that operate in each criminal typology. Following this reasoning, Scandroglio (2009), Skrzypiec (2017) and Redondo (2008) had developed different models regarding some criminal typologies as fighting, stealing and gangs, according to their higher statistical predominance—but it is expected that their lines of investigation will be continued with different typologies and populations—.

On the one hand, Scandroglio (2009) and Skrzypiec (2017) followed the idea proposed by Beck & Ajzen related to the need to study criminal behaviors from the Theory of Planned Behavior, since the addition of precedents elements for intention, including variables from other theories and, consequently, building up modifications of the original model. Thus, as Tuck & Riley proposed, the Theory of Planned Behavior and its easiness

modification suppose a great starting point to the study and explanation of criminal typologies (see Skrzypiec, 2017). From this perspective, based on the complexification of this theory, both Scandroglio and Skrzypiec obtained promising results on its predictive capacity to get involved in crimes; and Scandroglio (2009), went beyond and draw the variables that help to predict the initiation, evolution and abandonment of the criminal and antisocial behaviors considered, specifically, youth group violence. Hence, both models help to predict the involvement of a young person in criminal behavior; but also, to explain it and obtain various indications for the intervention. Indeed, knowing what are the gains pursued by a young person and her group through infringement helps to enable intervention strategies that promote obtaining the same consequences through a strategy that respects coexistence. Same can be said of the norms that legitimize and regulate it and of the social group that share them: they indicate which group can be the priority object of interventions and which are the norms that must be changed. Finally, the degree of internalization of the norms and the prototype by the young person allows us to establish to what extent his self-concept is based on the group identity and, therefore, his degree of involvement both with the group and with the behavior.

On the other hand, Redondo (2008) adds opportunity as an essential element to the above. Coming from postulates like the Theory of Planned Behavior (Ajzen, 1985; 2020) and the Theory of Social Identity and Self-categorization (Tajfel & Turner, 1979; Tajfel, 1984), studies like Patrick's (2021) highlight the requirement of including opportunity variables to explain and prevent the emergence of crime behavior; according to what Redondo (2008) developed by through his Triple Criminal Risk (TCR) Model. The prominence of the variable opportunity to commit a crime stands out among the variables that explain the phenomenon from Redondo's TCR Model. Although this proposal enriches previous models and theories by incorporating the opportunity element, it is considered necessary to continue looking for more empirical support.

The sum of Scandroglio (2009), Skrzypiec (2017) and Redondo (2008) perspectives helps, despite the few studies carried out and taking into account the promising results obtained in them, to explain the phenomenon as a whole, including fundamental elements from psychosocial and opportunity evidence, but establishing differences between criminal typologies to analyze the specific incidence of each factor on its perpetration.

This new perspective reminds the urgent need to build explanatory and predictive models based on standardized indicators for the different types of crime. Hence, crime prevention will only be possible if public intervention policies are adopted based on the scientific evidence presented in these lines, given that all the variables of the crime must be considered, and adaptive tools must be established to the fluctuation of the phenomenon to explain and give a subsequent effective response. Thus, the explained variance not only accounts for the goodness of the global model, but also for

each of the variables considered, directly setting guidelines for prevention and intervention according to its incidence, specifically on the parameters of intentionality and on the community context.

In that way, the explanation, prevention and, therefore, intervention on criminal behavior are possible not through actions limited to a single specific area, but using comprehensive approaches that address the transversality of all elements (psychosocial and opportunity) involved in the phenomenon, and for the specific characteristics of each criminal typology. That is, not only elements such as age, gender or socio-demographic traits, but also the influence of the group on the individual in terms of values, attitudes, beliefs and identity; as well as considering elements of opportunity, such as the environment or urban planning.

Analyzing juvenile criminal behaviors from a theoretical perspective from the models of Scandroglio (2008), Skrzypiec (2017) and Redondo (2008) could help to combine Social Psychology and Forensic Sciences and to potentiate its bidirectional transfer of their common field: lessen the incidence of criminal behaviors perpetrated by adolescents and young people and improve their reintegration. This need to apply Psychosocial theories and models in Forensic Sciences has been widely supported by the Spanish scientific literature, even including those kinds of elements in different laws<sup>7</sup>. Going further, we find Forensic Psychology, which focuses its efforts on prison treatment, treatment of reform minors, forensic evaluation, risk assessment, crime and relapse prevention, or treatment of victims; aspects that are also addressed from Social Psychology.

Thus, offering theoretical and empirical grounded criteria from different perspectives would keep improving the relationship between Social and Forensic Psychology, and it would also help to deepen the coordination of the interventions from a large group of professionals. On the one hand, there are (a) legislators, judges, prosecutors and juvenile courts' technical teams in order to make decisions about criminal responsibility and the imposition of judicial measures; and (b) police officers so as to the relationship maintained with minors during crime investigation.

On the other hand, we find social professionals with the goal to guarantee minor's social reintegration. In that way, the Penitentiary Regulation<sup>8</sup>—where young adults serve their sentences— establishes in article 110 that the Penitentiary Institution «will use the programs and techniques of a psychosocial nature that are aimed to improve the capacities of the inmates

---

7. Eg, Organic Law 1/1979, of September 26, General Penitentiary; Law 35/95, of December 11, on aid and assistance to victims of violent crimes and against sexual freedom; Organic Law 5/2000, of January 12, regulating the criminal responsibility of minors; or Organic Law 1/2004, of December 28, on Comprehensive Protection Measures against Gender Violence.

8. Royal Decree 190/1996, of February 9, which approves the Penitentiary Regulation, B.O.E. of February 15.

and to address those specific problems that may have influenced their criminal behavior.» With regard to reform minors, Law 5/2000 requests the psychosocial team to prescribe socio-educational programs for the resocialization of the minor. In short, the intervention programs and techniques are entrusted to a psychosocial perspective, based on educational training. These demands are based on the fact that Psychology, and more specifically Social Psychology, has established a theoretical corpus from which Forensic Sciences can draw on to deploy prevention and intervention programs with higher rates of efficiency and effectiveness (Arce & Fariña, 2013). A great example of the impact of knowledge transfer between Social Psychology and Forensic Sciences is The Prosocial Thinking Program (PPS), which is the best known and most frequently program used of the psychological packages for the treatment and prevention of criminal and antisocial behaviors (Ross & Fabiano, 1985; Ross & Ross, 1995), adapted in Spain to different contexts by Vicente Garrido (Garrido & López-Latorre, 1995; Ross, et al., 1990). Furthermore, the establishment of common guidelines from shared theoretical proposals offers clear indicators to guarantee the effectiveness and efficiency of the reintegration programs and intervention tools according to the elements with the highest incidence, as intentions and opportunities, deeping on their reduction. At the same time, it could help to develop prevention plans like campaigns or policies to raise awareness within the population.

In summary, the explanation, prevention and intervention of criminal behaviors from a forensic perspective can and should be fed with multilevel theories and models, which include psychosocial and environmental factors and adjusted to each particular case. According to that idea, and to keep improving proposal interventions based on scientific evidence, it is fundamental and necessary to continue studying in depth, and from longitudinal study perspectives, the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency from the proposed models — Integrative, ITT and TCR —, which collects high predictability rates of the criminal commission, in order to obtain more empirical evidence on its predictive capacity for different criminal typologies, and, furthermore, new intervention guidelines.

## REFERENCES

- AJZEN, I. (1985). From intention to action: A Theory of Planned Behavior. In J. K. (Eds), *Action-Control: From cognition to behavior*. Springer.
- AJZEN, I. (1991). The Theory of Planned Behavior. *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, 50(2), 179-211. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0749-5978\(91\)90020-T](https://doi.org/10.1016/0749-5978(91)90020-T)
- AJZEN, I. (2020). The theory of planned behavior: frequently asked questions. *Human Behavior and Emerging Technologies*, 2, 314-324. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hbe2.195>

- ARCE, R., & FARIÑA, F. (2013). Psicología social aplicada al ámbito jurídico. In A. V. ARIAS, J. F. MORALES, E. NOUVILAS, & J. L. MARTÍNEZ-RUBIO (Coords.), *Psicología social aplicada* (pp. 157-181). Panamericana.
- BOBBIO, A., ARBACH, K., & REDONDO, S. (2021). El Modelo del Triple Riesgo Delictivo en la explicación de la conducta antisocial de adolescentes varones y mujeres. *Revista Española De Investigación Criminológica*, 19(1), 1–35. <https://doi.org/10.46381/reic.v19i1.479>
- BODUSZEK, D., ADAMSON, G., SHEVLIN, M., MALLETT, J., & HYLAND, P. (2013). Criminal social identity of recidivistic prisoners: The role of self-esteem, family and criminal friends. *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*, 28, 15–25 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11896-012-9105-7>
- COOKE, R., DAHDAH, M., NORMAN, P., & FRENCH, D.P. (2016). How well does the theory of planned behaviour predict alcohol consumption? A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Health Psychology Review*, 10(2), 148-167. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17437199.2014.947547>
- DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES. [DHHS]. (2001). *Youth violence: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Department of Health and Human Services.
- GARRIDO, V., & LÓPEZ-LATORRE, M.J. (1995). *La prevención de la delincuencia: El enfoque de la competencia social*. Tirant lo Blanch.
- HOGG, M. A. (2003). Social identity. In M. R. LEARY Y J. P. TANGNEY (Eds.), *Handbook of self and identity* (pp. 462-479). Guilford.
- HOGG, M. A. (2005). Uncertainty, social identity and ideology. In S. R. THYE & E. J. LAWLER (Eds.), *Advances in group processes* (Vol. 22, pp. 203-230). Guilford.
- HOGG, M. A. (2006). Social identity theory. In P. J. BURKE (Ed.), *Contemporary social psychological theories* (pp. 111-136). Stanford University Press.
- HOGG, M.A., & ABRAMS, D. (1988). *Social identification: A social psychology of intergroup relation and group process*. Routledge & Kegan Paul.
- HOGG, M.A., & REID, S.A. (2006). Social identity, self-categorization, and the communication of group norms. *Communication Theory*, 16(1), 7-30. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2885.2006.00003.x>
- INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICA [INE]. (2022a). *Delitos según edad*. <https://www.ine.es/jaxiT3/Datos.htm?t=26013>
- INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICA [INE]. (2022b). *Menores condenados según sexo, edad y nacionalidad*. <https://www.ine.es/jaxiT3/Datos.htm?t=25721>
- INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICA [INE]. (2022c). *Infracciones penales según edad*. <https://www.ine.es/jaxiT3/Datos.htm?t=26028>
- INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICA [INE]. (2022d). *Delitos según sexo*. <https://www.ine.es/jaxiT3/Datos.htm?t=25998>
- JABER, L.S., RINALDI, C.M., SAUNDERS, C.D., & SCOTT, J. (2022). The Intent Behind Bullying: an Application and Expansion of the Theory of Planned Behaviour. *Contemporary School Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40688-021-00403-3>

- LEVERSO, J., & MATSUEDA, R.S. (2019). Gang Organization and Gang Identity: An Investigation of Enduring Gang Membership, *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 35, 797–829 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-019-09408-x>
- MARTÍN, M.J. (2005). *Violencia juvenil exogrupal hacia la construcción de un modelo causal*. Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia, Centro de Investigación y Documentación Educativa, D.L.
- MARTÍN LUPIÁÑEZ, I., MUÑOZ MORALES, E., NAVARRO, C., MALDONADO PALOMINO, J., HURTADO CASTILLO, M. D. C., MUÑOZ ÁMBEL FRANCO, A., & NAVARRO ROMO, M. (2015). Menores en riesgo. Una explicación de la delincuencia juvenil desde la perspectiva de la teoría del triple riesgo delictivo. *Boletín Criminológico*, 21, 1-6. <https://doi.org/10.24310/Boletín-criminologico.2015.v21i0.7697>
- MARTINSON, R. (1974). What works? Questions and answers about prison reform. *The Public Interest*, 10, 22-54. <http://fbaum.unc.edu/teaching/articles/Martinson1974.pdf>
- PATOURIS, E., SCAIFE, V., & NOBES, G. (2016). A behavioral approach to adolescent cannabis use: Accounting for non deliberative, developmental, and temperamental factors. *Journal of Substance Use*, 21(5), 506-514. <https://doi.org/10.3109/14659891.2015.1076076>
- PATRICK, G.K. (2021) *A multifaceted explanation of antisocial behavior using Theory of Planned Behaviour, Social Identity Theory, and techniques of neutralization*. [Thesis Doctoral, University of Saskatchewan]. University of Saskatchewan's Repository <https://harvest.usask.ca/bitstream/handle/10388/13279/PATRICK-DISSERTATION-2021.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
- REDONDO, S. (2008). Individuos, sociedades y oportunidades en la explicación y prevención del delito: Modelo del Triple Riesgo Delictivo (TRD). *Revista Española de Investigación Criminológica*, 6, 1-53. <https://doi.org/10.46381/reic.v6i0.34>
- ROSS, R.R., & FABIANO, E. (1985). *Time to think: A cognitive model of delinquency prevention and offender rehabilitation*. Institute of Social Sciences and Arts Inc.
- ROSS, R.R.; FABIANO, E., & GARRIDO, V. (1991). *El pensamiento prosocial*. Cristóbal Serrano Villalba, D.L.
- ROSS R.R., & ROSS, R.D. (1995). *Thinking straight: The reasoning and rehabilitation program for delinquency prevention and offender rehabilitation*. AIR Training and Publications.
- SCANDROGLIO, B. (2009). *Jóvenes grupos y violencia: de las tribus urbanas a las bandas latinas*. Icaria.
- SCANDROGLIO, B., & LÓPEZ, J.S. (2008). Latin Kings y Queens en Madrid. In M. CERBINO & L. BARRIOS, (Eds.), *Otras Naciones: Jóvenes, Transnacionalidad y Exclusión*. FLACSO.
- SCANDROGLIO, B., & LÓPEZ, J.S. (2013). Violencia juvenil grupal. *Psicología política*, 46, 95-115. [https://repositorio.uam.es/bitstream/handle/10486/669123/violencia\\_scandroglio\\_pp\\_2013.pdf?sequence=1](https://repositorio.uam.es/bitstream/handle/10486/669123/violencia_scandroglio_pp_2013.pdf?sequence=1)
- SCANDROGLIO, B., BARRIO, S., ESPEJO, B., & VELASCO, C. (2017). *Agrupaciones juveniles de calle conocidas como «bandas latinas»*. Informe, Guía de intervención y Madaj

(*Mapa de las Agrupaciones Juveniles de la Calle*). [Unpublished report]. Ayuntamiento de Madrid, Área de Políticas de Género y Diversidad.

- SCANDROGLIO, B., LÓPEZ, J. S., DELGADO, N., BARROSO, D., & GANDASEGUI, F. (2012). La cultura del respeto: violencia, procesos identitarios y rol de género. *Revista de Sociología de la Educación*, 5(2). <https://ojs.uv.es/index.php/RASE/article/view/8323>
- SKRZYPIEC, G. (2017). Adolescents' Intentions to Engage in Criminal Activity: A Cross-Disciplinary Approach Linking Theories from Social Psychology and Criminology. *Journal of Forensic Psychology Research and Practice*, 17(5), 305-337. <https://doi.org/10.1080/24732850.2017.1374720>
- SMITH, J. R., & HOGG, M. A. (2008). Social identity and attitudes. In W. CRANO & R. PRISLIN (Eds.), *Attitudes and attitude change* (pp. 337-360). Psychology Press.
- SORIA-VERDE, M.A. (2006). La psicología criminal: desarrollo conceptual y ámbitos de aplicación. In M.A. SORIA-VERDE Y D. SÁIZ-ROCA (Coords.), *Psicología Criminal* (pp. 25-57). Pearson Educación, S.A.
- ST-PIERRE, R.A., DEREVENSKY, J.L., TEMCHEFF, C.L., & GUPTA, R. (2015). Adolescent gambling and problem gambling: examination of an extended theory of planned behaviour. *International Gambling Studies*, 15(3), 506-525. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14459795.2015.1079640>
- TAJFEL, H. (1984). *Grupos humanos y categorías sociales*. Herder.
- TAJFEL, H., & TURNER, J.C. (1979). An integrative theory of intergroup conflict. In W.G. AUSTIN Y S. WORCHEL (Eds.), *The Social Psychology of intergroup relations* (pp. 33-47). Brooks-Cole.
- TERRY, D. J., & HOGG, M. A. (1996). Group norms and the attitude-behavior relationship: A role for group identification. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 22(8), 776-793. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0146167296228002>
- TURNER, J.C., HOGG, M.A., OAKES, P.J., REICHER, S.D., & WETHERELL, M.S. (1987). *Rediscovering the social group: A self-categorization theory*. Blackwell.