

Cybercrime and cyber-victimization

Josep M. Tamarit Sumalla

Professor of Criminal Law

Director of the Criminology Programme (UOC)

Published in: June 2016

This special-themed edition brings together several articles that deal with aspects related to cybercrime and cyber-victimization. It is now a widely accepted fact that the evolution towards the information society has led to the far-reaching transformation of social relations. One of the effects of this process has been juvenile delinquency, which has always been a phenomenon that has been particularly widely studied in the field of criminology and which may provide a useful point of observation with respect to trends, forecasts for the future and experimenting with new forms of justice and the treatment of criminality.

Official statistics show a constant and significant decline in juvenile delinquency since the last few years of the 20th Century in many Western countries. In the case of Spain, this trend is particularly notable. This fact cannot simply be attributed to demographic changes and the ageing population, as shown by the decrease in the rate per capita. At the same time, the phenomena of cybercrime and cyber-victimization have emerged, with studies published in this issue that reveal that almost 50% of people aged between 12 and 17 are involved in this type of conduct, either as perpetrators or victims. The situation

is therefore that the location and the context of criminal phenomena have changed, as have the opportunities to offend. Above all, there has been a fall in conventional property crime, which took place on the street. The place where young people interact has changed, as have the way in which they relate, the objects that they find attractive and what they consider to be their necessities. Research into cybercrime and cyber-victimization in the young and adolescent population has therefore been a priority when considering our contribution to this special-themed edition, without forgetting areas in which new risks and social sensibilities are emerging, while the social penetration of ICTs extends ever further, as is the case of hate crimes.

Studying crime and victimization together or in parallel enables us to grasp the complexity, the paradoxes and the multidimensional nature of the phenomena that we are analysing. Within the framework of human interactions in a virtual setting, the static categories of victim and perpetrator become blurred and many of the beliefs and conceptualizations that dominate the most widely accepted discourse do not enable us to understand the motivations and risks that determine the dynamic of victimization. Research

into this problem has to enable us to ascertain whether the online world operates as a replica of the offline world or whether it has its own rules, which therefore require the invention of new solutions. As such, it is necessary to identify whether there are any unique features in terms

of risk factors, opportunities and the motivation for harassment or for committing cybercrimes. Research into delinquency and ICTs has grown in recent years, as shown by the articles presented here, and this growth must continue in order to be able to tackle these challenges

Recommended citation

TAMARIT SUMALLA, Josep M. (2016). "Presentation". In: "Cybercrime and cyber-victimization" [online journal]. *IDP. Revista de Internet, Derecho y Política*. No. 22, pp. 30-31. UOC. [Accessed: dd/mm/yy].
 <<http://journals.uoc.edu/index.php/idp/article/view/n22-tamarit/n22-tamarit-pdf-en>>
 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.7238/idp.v0i22.2991>>



The texts published in this journal, unless otherwise indicated, are subject to a Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerivativeWorks 3.0 Spain licence. They may be copied, distributed and broadcast provided that the author, the journal and the institution that publishes them (IDP Revista de Internet, Derecho y Política; UOC) are cited. Derivative works are not permitted. The full licence can be consulted on <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/3.0/es/deed.en>.

About the author

Josep M. Tamarit Sumalla
 jtamarit@uoc.edu

Professor of Criminal Law
 Director of the Criminology Programme (UOC)

<<http://www.uoc.edu/webs/jtamarit/EN/curriculum/index.html>>

UOC
 Av. Carl Friedrich Gauss, 5
 08860 Castelldefels