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ABSTRACT

The article studies perception and images of the main categories of criminal culture, as well as channels of obtaining information about it, taking into account the influence of information network culture and without its participation in these processes. The article is aimed at a comparative analysis of the general, special and single (concrete) in the perception of the images of crime of youth in Ukraine, Turkey and Georgia (humanitarian areas of training). The study was conducted using the method of associative relationships analysis of the crime image through contextual analysis of the complex of associations. The methodology included the collection of the main spontaneous images and their associations (by means of a focus group discussion), followed by their categorization and clustering into thematic classes, comparison of images categories and categorization fields using formulas for calculating the figurative significance and the value of the categorization domain.

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Comparative Analysis of the Image of “Crime” (based on the Results of the Focus Group Study of Free Associations in Ukraine, Georgia, and Turkey)

Natalia Lepska^α, Maksym Lepskyi^σ, Igor Kudinov^ρ & Nadiia Yardimci^ω

ABSTRACT

The article studies perception and images of the main categories of criminal culture, as well as channels of obtaining information about it, taking into account the influence of information network culture and without its participation in these processes. The article is aimed at a comparative analysis of the general, special and single (concrete) in the perception of the images of crime of youth in Ukraine, Turkey and Georgia (humanitarian areas of training). The study was conducted using the method of associative relationships analysis of the crime image through contextual analysis of the complex of associations. The methodology included the collection of the main spontaneous images and their associations (by means of a focus group discussion), followed by their categorization and clustering into thematic classes, comparison of images categories and categorization fields using formulas for calculating the figurative significance and the value of the categorization domain. This allowed to consider the images-category (single), the fields of categorization and their correlation (special) in the unity of the image of “crime” in the interviewee group. Using the method of comparative analysis of free associations and on the basis of the data obtained in 3 focused group discussions conducted in Ukraine, Georgia and Turkey, the specifics of a set of associations of the image of “crime” were determined and analyzed the social and individual associative significance of the crime image. It was revealed that the image of organized crime prevails in Ukraine, the image of the inner world (mental) and moral and legal social regulators of crime prevails in

Georgia, and institutional, social and normative features of public justice dominates in Turkey. Significant differences in the image of “crime” have been identified between countries. The method proposed in the study allows to consider the complex of associations with the image of “crime” in the context analysis and in the system of all category fields, in which there are allocated associations. Also it allows to highlight the special in categorical fields for different countries and social groups, taking into account the justification of the use of associations. This makes it possible to highlight the specificity of the designated associations at the level of social and individual meanings. Further research may focus on the investigation of the channels for obtaining information on crime, the analysis of the experience of the interviewees, both personal and indirect, and the attitudes towards specific types of crime.

Keywords: criminal culture, criminality, crime patterns, associations, crime image.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The world is undergoing serious tectonic changes in the organization of society, its globalization, and the globalization of its threats, such as wars and armed conflicts, information and consciousness wars, terrorism, global pandemics, technological catastrophes, etc.

In such transition periods, the criminal component of society often increases, firstly, because in an unstable situation, people turn to the “shadow part”, which acts more decisively and with “much less” restrictions, secondly, in crisis, and often this means in “phase” of public transitions, the previous elite, thrown out of power, uses the weaknesses of the state and the international system from the point of view of the use of criminal technology, in which crime becomes “alternative” to the lost power.

Such tendencies actualize the research interest in ideas about criminal culture among the modern intellectual youth of various countries, which is the basis of the future of these countries.

Ukraine’s close contacts in the Black Sea region have determined the interest in comparative research of youth’s attitude to crime in Ukraine, Turkey and Georgia within the framework of the consortium “Universities for Peace”, established in 2014.

The comparative research task of studying the images of crime among young people is connected with the needs of the educational program “Sociology of Mediation and Criminology” at Zaporizhzhia National University.

Author’s group under the guidance of professor M. Lepsky (Ukraine), composed of I. Kudinov (Ukraine), N. Lepskaya (Ukraine), N. Yardimjy (Turkey), with the support of A. Rusetsky (Georgia), H. Karakaya (Turkey), posed the research problem of comparative analysis of perception of criminal culture, its images, main categories and channels of information.

Taking into account the formation of information-network culture “four screens” (mobile, tablet, monitor and TV) and features of obtaining personal information without mediation of the media and online information mediators.

The novelty of this study. For the first time, the results of a comparison of the general, special and single (specific) in the perception of criminal culture by student youth, the main images of crime and the culture of attitudes of youth towards crime in modern conditions are presented.

For the first time the method of analysis of associative connections of the crime image is presented.

The object of the study is youth aged from 17 to 30 years from Zaporizhzhia (Ukraine), Yelyazig (Turkey), Tbilisi (Georgia). The object of the study are images of crime and their associative relations in the perception of youth.

The article is aimed at a comparative analysis of the general, special and single (concrete) in the perception of the images of crime among youth from Ukraine, Turkey and Georgia (socio-humanitarian specialties).

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The article presents the results of a comparative study of the perception of criminal culture by youth from Ukraine. Turkey and Georgia (aged 17 to 30) held between October 2021 and February 2022. The study was conducted in several stages. The first stage –the program and the FGD guide (September-October 2021) preparation. The second stage is a pilot study (October 23, 2021) in Ukraine. The third stage is a FGD on ZOOM platform among student youth from Zaporizhzhia, Elyazig, Tbilisi (started on October 30, 2021). Stage 4 – transcription of the FGDs recordings and translation. The 5th stage – data analysis and summarizing the results.

Research method. Professor M. Lepsky and the research group developed a methodology for the analysis of associative connections of the crime image. The primary method of research of free associations of image of “crime” is contextual analysis of complex of associations. The technique consists of a heuristic procedure of free (spontaneous) search of the main images and their associations with a given research topic during focus group discussions. After transcription, when analyzing images, the first stage is categorization, as the union of an array of images by thematic classes.

In our study, these thematic classes of images were:

- “the role of man in crime”, “organized crime”, “the mental component of crime” which included all categories of emotional-affective and images reflecting the motives for crime, psychological problems and traumas of childhood, factors that give rise to these motivations, etc.;
- “social and normative component of crime” included all images reflecting social norms of law, morality, as well as social norms regulating criminal relations; “processes and mechanisms of crime” united images-categories, in which and through which the implementation of the crime is reflected, as well as the instrumentalization of these processes; “social institutions” – this component includes images of categories that define the institutions that oppose crime and administer justice;
- “the result of crime” component included all the images of the consequences of the crime; “types of crimes” reflecting different types and types of crimes.

The following procedures were used to compare the images-categories and their categorization areas:

- The number of images included in the categorization area was determined.
- Since each interviewee determined the sequence of recording images and selected this sequence in the representation to the moderator and even one of the interviewees stressed that he gives, unlike others, their build-up.

The sequence of representation and the speed of image reproduction we have used as the value “image’s rank” for “figurative significance for memory”.

The figurative significance of the categorization domain was determined by the formula: $Oz = \frac{\sum R}{Kk}$, where Oz is the mean of images’ rank, demonstrating the significance of the categorization domain, which is determined by the ratio of the sum of the images’ rank in the categorization domain $\sum R$, divided by the number of categories in the categorization area – Kk.

In our case, the lower (smaller) Oz, the higher the figurative significance of the domain categorization.

The formula of the value of the field of categorization in the interpretation of “crime” is in the range of value less than 1, since the set of values of the regions of categorization makes a holistic image of crime – a unit.

Therefore, the number of categories in the field of categorization – Kk is divided by the total amount of all the categories of “crimes” and the significance of the field of categorization in the holistic understanding of the group in the focus group discussion, calculated by the formula: $Z = \frac{Kk}{\sum Kk}$.

Comparison by these values allows to consider images-categories (single), regions of categorization and their ratios (special) in the unity of the image of “crime” in the interviewee group. The results of values for the comparable groups represent the general, special and unique in the image of “crime” and its associative components. The developed method is submitted as an object of copyright to the state enterprise “Ukrainian Institute of Intellectual Property”.

Literature review. Heuristic approaches were used to develop a method for comparative analysis of crime patterns. First, this approach is connected with the development of methods of heuristic decision-making I. Ilyasov (1992), R. Granovskaya, Y. Krizhanskaya (1994). So, I. Ilyasova clarifies the specifics of heuristic methods of solving problems in the delineation of modeling and simplification of tasks. Modeling is based on analogy as the similarity of any characteristics and is also related to reproduction of properties and simplification. At the same time, it is necessary to distinguish modeling (analogy, simplification) of data (objects) of the task for its solution and simplification, generalization of goals and requirements of the task.

The procedure of finding auxiliary relationships and enumerating is nothing more than the known heuristics of additional transformations. Finally, the whole course of solving the problem is

presented as a movement to the general and from it to the specific, which is also a well-known heuristic (Ilyasov, p. 33). That is why in our pattern matching technique special attention is paid to the study of the general, special and particular as the direction of heuristic analogy research. R. Granovska and Y. Krizhanskaya consider heuristic methods as a tool of creativity, as overcoming the psychological barriers of communication, pressure of the group, its norms, reinforced factors, and stereotypes. Creativity is based on “the integrity of perception provided by the subconscious, which in turn allows to see simultaneously not only the elements of the studied material, but also their interrelations, i.e. to understand the general structure of the subject” (Granovska, Krizhanskaya, p. 125). In our focused interview heuristic images of crime is considered as research of creative reproduction of those constant, subject, generalized and integral properties of the image that allow to compare the understanding of images of criminals by student youth of different countries.

The second important direction underlying the development of the method of comparing the images of crime are the methodological conclusions of the “perspective theory” by A. Tversky and D. Kaneman, in which the desired perspective is assessed not by its probability, but rather by the subjective weight of the probability for the decision maker. Their research proves that in the individual’s behavior during decision making there are a number of effects of deviation from strict rationality (for example, the “effect of uncertainty” as an overestimation of unambiguous outcomes compared to highly probable, and the “effect of reflection” as bias of preferences of the subject when replacing the image of “win” with “lose” in the task). In these and other effects, the authors demonstrate that people use images – not as objective, but as subjective probability and value of decision and choice (Kaneman & Tverski).

Third, the most important for our method is Gird Gigerentser’s statement on the crucial influence on decision-making of images that are simple practical rules or heuristics, which he defined as “a conscious or subconscious strategy which, for

the sake of better judgment, allows some of the available information to be ignored. Heuristics are needed where not all risks are known (uncertainty)”. (Gigerentser, p. 339)

In our method of comparison, in the study of associative relationships of the image of crime, the frequency of these connections was seen as the presence of prevailing cultural rules, heuristics. This provision was based on Gird Gigerentser’s assertion that the application of simple practical rules, or heuristics, gives us the ability to make fairly good decisions quickly without spending much time searching for information.

The heuristic view illustrates how our minds can find simple solutions to complex problems. “It is called heuristic, because snatches one or several fragments from the general picture, exactly those that are important, and ignores the rest” (Gigerentser, p. 41). It is the associative relationships in the comparative analysis that reflect these fragments of the overall image.

The developed methodology is also based on the results of research of the future image in heuristic expert methods of social forecasting (Lepsky, 2016) and methods of using the method of analogies in forecasting (Lepsky & Lepska, 2017).

III. RESULTS

In the FGD in the section “Association of Crime, Channels of Crime Image Formation” the moderators asked participants to write on a sheet of paper the first five words that come to mind when describing “crime”. This task was aimed at identifying heuristic associations with the category of “crime” and explaining the choice of these associations.

3.1 Contextual Analysis of Crime-Pattern Associations from FGD in Ukraine

DF_21_F_SH_BS: “My first word is “criminal” because criminal is related to crime. The second is “deception”, in any case, crime implies deception, because someone is deceived, dishonest or not. “Grouping”. It will be related to the fourth word gangs of the ‘90s. And “punishment”, where there is a crime – there must be punishment. It is an ideal.”

It should be noted that the first image expressed in the FGD in Ukraine was related to the orientation of organized crime, crime with the mechanism of deception, the structure of the group and the consequences – punishment.

NM_24_F_SH_G: “The first concept is “weapon”, the second is “violence”, all of which creates “fear”. Where crime comes from, it’s a “hate”. And for some reason, it occurred to me, perhaps, the movies have been revised, it is “drugs”.”

In the presented figurative assembly of the category of crime, “input” is the “weapon” tool of crime and completes the associative assembly by “drugs”, the core of the image is the weapon+violence=fear and hatred, i.e. instrumental and psychic content of crime.

EM_19_M_SH_BS: “For me, crime is the first thing that came to mind, it’s naturally “money”. Because most wrongdoing is about money. “Weapons” go further because weapons are used to carry out a variety of activities of this nature. The third, which is funny, came to me is “politics”. But it’s probably just a deformation. Coming up, “wealth”. This must be our country’s charm. Because the richer you are, the more people think about how you earned that wealth. And the last one is “bribery” because it is often faced with.”

In this interviewee, the collection of crime is carried out through an association of money-wealth-bribes, as a desire to commit crime and is carried out through the mechanisms of weapons, politics and bribes. Associations of “crime” are also connected with organized crime and corruption.

MK_20_F_SH_BS: “The first thing that came to my mind was “law”, the breaking of the law. The second is “strength”. Groups, for example... are strong enough people to be there, both physically and morally. “Danger”. Cause it’s always dangerous. People shooting each other, killing each other. “Honor”. Here... can be considered ... moments that concern authority, honesty. So, there are rules. And the last thing I got was “good”. Not all people who are criminals are bad

people. There are people with whom it is very pleasant to communicate.”

Assembly of the image comes from opposition of “law and violation of the law” and in this assembly sympathy of the interviewee on the side of violation of the law with a certain share of romanticization of the crime, because in the core of the image there is “power”, “danger”, “honor” and “good” as an excuse of criminals “there are people with whom it is very pleasant to communicate”. In other words, in this category there is a lot of association with the romance of the crime, but not consideration of the role of the victim who loses such romance.

VB_23_M_SH_BS: “The first is “theft”. It’s the oldest thing in crime since the beginning of all time. The second is “machinations” (fraud), these are always some twists and turns, plans, tricks with which something twisted. The third is “blackmail”, an integral part of which is used. Four, it’s “aggression” or “anger”. It’s about the people who are in this field. They need to be there with these characteristics, either to control or to an exorbitant level. “Systems” or “schemes”. This is the most important feature of all crime, from a global perspective. Because everyone has its own system, own distribution, values, training and everything.”

In the proposed associations, the crime category also refers to organized crime “the whole sphere”, “systems as the main characteristics of crime” (with education, distribution, values), which includes “theft”, “fraud” and intellectual component of “plans”, “schemes”, “levels”, “intricacies” as a process of “twisting”, the psychic component is considered as “aggression and anger”, the interviewee sees in them a mechanism of control. Here the assembly is carried out in the study of the organized sphere of crime of the system, its “parasitic-procedural character” with a fairly neutral associative context.

VB_18_F_SH_BS: “First is “anger”. For some reason it occurred to me. It seems to me that not all people who commit crimes are evil. But most people think. “Illegality”, “prison” where most people will go after some crime. “Article” and

“court”. The article is, I mean, well considered under the article. And the court – this is the place where most likely to be considered any case on a particular crime.”

This interviewee offered a valuable assembly of the image of crime from the passion of anger, through their moral assessment of the criminals as evil, their legal assessment as illegality, social institutions of justice and the result of crime (through social institutions of justice) – prison, court, article (sentence). At the core of the image is the process of retribution through justice (the socio-normative field of categorization).

NA_18_F_SH_BS: “The “victim” is because there is a victim in every crime. “Robbery” because it’s a crime. “Evil”, “judgment”, because the criminal is judged and “death” as the criminal can die in the commission of a crime, so the victim.”

This respondent presents the entrance to the association of crime through “victim”, the crime is defined by the type of crime as robbery, which is given a moral assessment of “evil” and the result can be the trial, punishment and/or death of the criminal, as well as the victim. It presents the socio-status-role assembly of the protection of victims in the assembly of socio-normative associations.

BS_18_M_SH_BS: ““Greed”, because people break the law mainly because of greed, it drives them. “Murder”. This is one of the parts of the crime... “Fraud” of this plan. “Violations”. “A Criminal”.”

In this image, the association is formed through moral damage – greed: as an inducement to break the law, leads to murder or fraud, violations and defines the role of the offender. It also presents the socio-normative component of the “crime” image assembly.

So, in the contextual analysis, the discussion of the crime image is dominated by the consideration of organized crime, which manifests itself not only in crime, but also in corruption, bribery, connection with politics, opposition to the law and violation of the law. Images are more often expressed in neutral or even the presence of

a romantic attitude to the crime. The crime was often connected with the force of profit, the instrumental and procedural component of the crime. Much less attention has been paid to justice in the socio-institutional and socio-normative significance of social confrontation with crime.

3.2 Contextual Analysis of Crime-Pattern Associations from FGD in Georgia

Following our logic, we begin with a contextual analysis of the associative assembly of images and its interpretation by interviewees.

MK_23_F_SH_MS: “The first three I have is “murder”, “violence” and “theft”. These are the most common crimes we hear about. The fourth, I have “translation” because I currently work as a translator at the bureau, so I often contact with the police, and the fifth I have is “pain” because after each crime someone is experiencing some physical or emotional pain.”

In this point of view the image of “crime” is formed through the types of crime and actions, later added his personal experience of interaction with law enforcement – “translations for them” and the result of crimes and criminal actions “pain”. This image in many ways carries active characteristics of interaction, based on the typology of crime and traumatic result.

SB_30_F_SH_G: “I wrote “fear”, “hatred”, “helplessness”, “violence” and “theft”. I think that fear grows inside such people, they feel some inner hatred and at the same time helpless, as if they want to present and express themselves through their behavior.”

In this compilation of the image of “crime” the context is individual mental orientation of criminal behavior. These include passion and feelings of fear, hatred, and helplessness, which define violence as a mechanism of crime and theft as a type of crime.

ED_21_F_SH_BS: “My five words are “injustice”, “impunity”, “cruelty”, “system” and “murder”. I chose them because, first of all, in the process of committing a crime in general, when one person

commits a crime, it is a great injustice to another person, when he may lose his life at the moment of killing, which is irreversible. Or he is losing something precious to him, so it's not fair to him. I chose the word "impunity" due to recent events in the country, I got the impression that some people go unpunished for some crimes. "Cruelty". I chose this word because in general since childhood I was interested in criminal psychology, serial killers, crime and so on, and from what I saw and read, it's all really cruelty. The "system" is responsible for both the execution of the program of punishment of criminals and for correcting their mental state, and then for resocialization. And "murder" – I have always been interested in serial killers, and for me the crime is primarily related to murder."

The image of "crime" for this interviewee is the moral-psychological and social-institutional features of the crime. The first three associations "injustice" (moral category), "impunity" (moral and legal category) and "cruelty" (moral and affective category) are supplemented by "system" – state justice and extreme manifestation of crime – murder. It should be noted that the Georgian participant of the FGD "system" is considered as a characteristic of state justice in contrast to the Ukrainian interviewee, who considered the category of the system in relation to organized crime.

MS_24_F_SH_MS: "My words are "violence", "murder", "weapons", "robbery" and "bloodshed". Since our topic today is criminal psychology, I have these associations, violence, murder, for some reason these words have come to my mind. I don't know why."

This member of the FGD considers the collection of the image through criminal psychology (mental and procedural components). Associations with violence and bloodshed are represented in her image (this category is often used in archaic or archetypal understanding of crimes and their customs). The instrumental nature of the weapon, robbery and murder are considered (in bloodshed is often the context of the blade).

HD_18_M_SH_BS: "My 5 words are "injustice", "death", "punishment", "violence" and "crime". I chose these five words because they are associated mostly for me. Injustice, because injustice is widespread in the country today and is hardly investigated. Death because all of this is often followed by victims. Punishment because victims are often punished, and violence because in most cases it comes at the expense of violence."

Associative assembly of the image of "crime" has a social-normative legal character using the category "injustice", "punishment" as characteristics of justice to "violence", the mental component of crime, and "crime" as organized crime.

GR_18_M_SH_BS: "I chose five words "violence", "theft", "bladed weapon", "injustice" and "murder". Violence. Since most crimes do not exist without violence, in my opinion. Also, theft, because it is also one of the categories of crime. And bladed weapon, in my opinion, in some cases without bladed weapon cannot be committed any crime."

In the context of this image assembly there is a process of crime, the entry of the association is the category of "theft" with the driving force of violence, the instrumentalization of bladed weapon and murder as an extremely negative result of the crime.

EG_24_F_SH_BS: "The word "crime" reminds me of the following five words: "bullying", "murder", "injury", "theft" and "violence". Because I hear them most often and in general. The source from which I get information about crime is the media as well as social media. Therefore, most often I hear these words and that's why I chose the words."

In this association the interviewee emphasizes the informational and actual character of the image of "crime", connected with the agenda in the media and social media, therefore input is the category of "bullying" (social-group form of aggression), the extreme form of crime "murder", damage as "injury", as well as with such kind of crime as theft and its behavioral (mental) component – "violence".

KS_19_M_SH_BS: “My five words are “violence”, “murder”, “fear”, “revenge” and “injustice”. It is an injustice because in my country there are many murders with impunity. Fear is associated with revenge.”

In this case again we see the crime image being assembled through criminal psychology (psychic and procedural components), where crime is linked to manifestations of extreme brutality: violence and murder, and with consequences, determining psychological state and follow-up actions.

As a result, all this is linked into a moral category of injustice, which fills the original concept with a negative value. In the intermediate conclusion, we note the following. In the context analysis of the associative complex of the image of “crime” great importance was attached to the traumatic consequences and typology of the crime, the unique background of the context is organized crime, but it is not in the center of the figure, the core of the image is formed by the mental component, the moral and legal part, the social and normative component of the crime. We can affirm that the emphasis of the image of crime in Georgia is connected with the mental, inner world and social value regulators (justice, morality and rights).

3.3 Contextual Analysis of Crime-Pattern Associations from FGD in Turkey

TD_24_M_SH_MS: “The first thing that came to my mind was “aggression”. We can explain it as a problem of anger control. Then “regret” (repentance), then “propensity for violence”. The fourth word is “childhood”. A dark past of childhood. Finally, “a psychological problem”. I’ll start with aggression first. I wrote that word because I think the main emotion which pushing a person to commit a crime is anger control. The second is childhood, the dark past. I think having a problem in a childhood provokes a crime. Third word: “propensity to violence”. I think people with a high propensity for violence are more likely to commit crimes. Yes, it’s an impulse. It could be something impulsive. My fourth word is that I often hear this word from most people who

commit crimes And, finally I think that the increase in crime is in its psychological problems.”

The first complex of associations with “crime” is proposed in the predominance of the mental component. Aggression as activity and weakened “anger control”, predisposition as “propensity to violence: and injury of “childhood” (formation of “shadow side”); “repentance” as a result of experience of crime and “psychological problems”.

OAI_24_M_SH_MS: “The first word I wrote was “prison”. The second is “violence”, the third is “murder”, the fourth is “mafia”, and finally I wrote “sanction”. I was thinking of going to prison as an institution, where the person who committed the crime would end up anyway. Abuse. It must be something left over from the bachelor’s social work, and I immediately thought about violence. Yes. Murder and because it’s a form of crime. The murder came to my mind because we often heard about it in the media. Since the mafia relationship has been on the agenda a lot lately, it’s come to me from the recent news. Since the person who committed the crime was directly under the sanctions of the state, the word “sanction” came to my mind from there. So, if there is a crime, it occurred to me, because it is hard work to do it once a month, but you.”

In the proposed complex of associations, the beginning of associative assembly is laid to such an institution of justice as “prison”, which is both a consequence of crime, and the institution of resocialization by the criminal, after the image of “violence”, the category defining the motive of crime, the extreme form of violence – murder, and the image of organized crime “mafia”. At the same time, the interviewee emphasizes the influence of the media agenda on these categories and introduces another socially institutionalized category of “sanctions”, as the consequences of justice in relation to the crime. The emphasis of this associative complex is determined by the opposition of the institutions of justice of organized crime “mafia”.

YA_26_M_SH_GS: ““Punishment”, “justice”, “man”, “morality”, “death”. As a result of the crime, you are bound to face punishment. As a

result of the crime committed, we will be brought to justice. The basis of the crime is, of course, the person. It is moral values that guide people. Of course, at the end of a crime something happens that somehow leads to death.”

The socio-normative context of the image of crime is defined in the view of this FGD participant as “punishment” (category legal), “justice” (moral and legal category), “human” (anthropological category), “morality” (moral category) and “death” (existential and anthropological category).

AA_24_F_SH_BS: “In incremental order: “criminal”, “behavior”, “juvenile offense”, “court”, “punishment”. It came to me in the first composition. All types of criminal conduct refer to crime as criminal conduct, juvenile delinquency. Concepts I remember, as I saw in my undergraduate course in social work. The word “court” immediately came to mind in terms of punishment of the person who committed the crime in court. Sanctions are the logical outcome of any punishment for a crime. A criminal is a man who has committed a crime.”

The FGD participant proposed a legal and institutional image of “crime”, the assembly of which begins with the category of “criminal” (assessment and legal category) and ends with “punishment” (legal category of consequences as the most significant). The centre of assembly is the institution of justice, the court that determines sanctions against the crime and the offender, which is determined by the criminal conduct and behavior of minors.

KK_24_F_SH_BS: ““Damage” (harm – translator), “injustice”, “justice”, “punishment” and “subconsciousness”. The damage is the result of the crime. It can be theft, we can cause material damage, we can cause death, we can cause injury. I’m sure we did harm to a human being as a result of the crime. The word “crime”, I thought, if there is a crime, there is a criminal. Injustice that results in the death of a person, the termination of his life, injustice or the theft of anything that belongs to a human may entail injustice on the part of the perpetrator. Justice as a result of a crime must be a sanction. As a result of criminal

justice, I came up with a punishment because I predicted that the guilty would be punished. Finally, the subconscious is actually something about a criminal. I thought that if a man commits a crime, there must be something subconscious about it. I will tell you about this in detail, but I will not take up your time.”

In this free association under consideration “crime” in the center there is attribute and legal, social and normative assembly of the image of “crime”. The definition of “crime” considers “damage” (harm), and this category is specified in the type of crime of theft, material damage to injuries and death. Harm is specified by the category of “injustice” (moral-legal category), and the category of “justice” is opposed as a sanction and punishment for the act. The psychic attributive characteristic of the criminal – the subconscious – is introduced.

ECG_24_F_SH_GS: “My words are “forbidden”, “despite sanctions”, “criminal” and “legal”. To clarify, a crime is already accepted as prohibited, so is affirmed in our society. That’s why I thought it was forbidden. I think that what comes from you, other than normal behavior, usually suggests a crime. The sanction came to my mind as punishment in response to a crime. A criminal is a person who commits a crime. A set of rules that specify what the sanction are used in exchange for the crime in the law. So, I have come to mind “law” and “legislation”.”

The socio-normative definition of the interviewee’s image was given through “opposite to the law” – in the categories “prohibited”, “contrary to criminal and legal sanctions”. “A criminal” is the one who is identified as “prohibited” and “illegal” and “rule setting” determining the degree of retribution, compliance of sanctions with the crime. All this is due to domination in the image of the socio-normative field of categorization.

NO_24_F_SH_BS: “Concepts of “victim”, “punishment”, “court”, “child”, “prisoner”. I chose the term “child” because I took a course on juvenile delinquency. I chose the word “court”, because cases are tried in courts. I chose it

because the victim is a person who has been negatively affected by the crime. I chose “punishment” because it’s a sanction applied to a criminal.”

The FGD participant connects the associative complex of the image of “crime” from the victim. “Victim” through the social institution “court”. “Child” as the mental level of the formation of crime, starting with juvenile delinquency and opposite to the victim of retribution as translation “criminal” in the status of “prisoner”. This image is formed through status-role and socio-institutional images of crime.

SS_24_M_SH_GS: ““Helplessness”, “greed”, “individuality”, “anxiety”, “stress”. I think that “desperation” and greed can lead to a crime. In addition, childhood trauma, unmet need for love and incomplete personality can lead to delinquency. In addition, anxiety and stress can lead to a crime. So, these are the “causes”. Yes, I realized it later, but these were the first words that came into my mind, I did not change them.”

As the interviewee asserts, the emphasis in the associative complex was made on the “causes”, which relate to the mental component of the crime, to the affective and motivating individual.

EF_24_M_SH_BS: “I wrote the reasons more than the results. First, when you said crime, and an image of “money” came. Because the desire to receive money as a result provokes crime. Next is “friends”, that is, “circle of friends”, can be a risk group for a small child or someone else, and can encourage crime behavior. At the same time, I thought about “drugs”. Access to drugs or their influence can lead to crime. He can say “guilty”. Nevertheless, “family” can be a factor that generates crime. For some, their family can be a risk factor and a risk group for committing a crime. This can encourage a person to commit a crime in “social norms”. For example, you need to do this. Customs, honor and concepts can also cause problems.”

The psychic, affective and incentive (desire for money) component with “guilty” as a consequence of affection and social factors which determine the

motivation and affection (group of friends. family, social norms of violence) dominate in the presented associations.

AFT_24_M_SH_BS: “The word “punishment” came to my mind first. Then came “illegal actions”, the third is “sanction”, the fourth is “law” and the fifth is “injustice”. Actually, there are six, but I wanted to talk about the first five. If I have to explain why, the punishment will certainly have the criminal equivalent for each crime. Since illegal actions constitute a crime if they are committed contrary to the law. The word “sanction” came to mind because every crime has a sanction. Law, we have ideals. Hence the word injustice was among the first five words, because every crime begets injustice.”

The assembly of image associations begins with “punishment” as a result of justice to the opposite “illegal actions”, “sanctions”, “law” (legal category) and injustice (moral category). In this image prevails social and normative component of the struggle with lawful sanctions and punishment of crime and injustice (delinquency and distortion of moral norms).

Let’s summarize contextual analysis of free associations of “crime” image. Contextual analysis of the image of “crime” in the Turkish FGD is connected with the predominance of the mental component (the inner world of the criminal, its affective and incentive mechanisms), as well as the center of assembly includes the context of the institutions of justice (socio-institutional) and socio-regulatory regulators (law and morals). At the same time, the socio-normative component manifests itself in various manifestations as anthropological, institutional and legal, moral and psychic-attributive associations. The status-role component also has a centrist society. There is more intransigence to crime than the other two FGDs.

3.4 Values Categorization of and Comparative Analysis of Values of Associative Fields of Crime Image by FGD in Ukraine, Georgia, and Turkey

The definition of free associations by interviewees required their aggregation into structural

semantic parts, which were the main categories of the holistic image of “crime”. After transcription and contextual analysis, the semantic categorization allowed us to identify, firstly, the key relationship of criminal justice, consisting at least of the following representations.

The authors of the crime, the most common of which were the individual roles of the offender: a victim, a law enforcement (representative of the institutions of justice), an organized crime, as a reflection of images over the individual level of organization of the crime; a mental component as a reflection of the inner world of the offender and its determinants; and the mechanisms and processes of the crime, and accordingly the types of crime.

Social institutions as the opposite side of the crime are opposing criminality and crime in the process of justice. The socio-normative component shall include the basic legal and moral norms of society which identify the crime and reflect the attitude of society and social groups towards it.

Social norms of criminal groups were also included in the social normative component, which was based on the theory of differential association of Edwin Sutherland, in the meaning of socially learned delinquency [Сазерленд; Коулман и Норрис, 2000], which distinguishes criminals from law-abiding people, but, in our opinion, is the opposite (in unity and struggle) from the social-normative in society.

In our research several images of the category of crime were allocated, they made such “category fields” for analysis:

- “the role of man in crime”: among such roles interviewees defined “criminal”, “victim”, “prisoner”, in transcript these roles were found in auxiliary images, argumentation, explanations and associative relationships of the main images-categories. Only basic category images were included in the table;
- “organized crime”: all the basic images related to the understanding of a criminal organization – “groups”, “mafia”, “power of group members”, “system of crime”, “criminal” were added to this category;

- “psychic component of crime”: which included all emotional-affective categories, images reflecting motives for crime – “violence”, “aggression”, emotions “despair”, “fear”, “anger”, feelings of “hatred” and “revenge”, motivations and desires of “violence”, “money” and “wealth”, psychological problems and traumas of childhood, factors that form these motivations, danger, environment and family as risk factors etc.;
- “the social normative component of crime”: included all images that defined both the law, legality, morality of society towards criminals, as well as social norms and rules of criminals, moral categories of justice and injustice, norms of criminal relations “honor”, “reputation” and so on;
- “processes and mechanisms of crime”: united images-categories in which and by means of which the implementation of crime is reflected, as well as the instrumentalization of these processes, the images of “weapons”, “drugs”, “bribes”, “politicians”, “fraud”, “blackmail” and their characteristics “bloodshed”, “illegality” and “illegal actions”, etc.;
- “social institutions”: this component includes images of categories that define institutions that oppose crime and their categories, such as “court”, “prison”, “law”, “article (sentence)”, “punishment system”, and so on;
- “result of crime”: this component included all images of the consequences of crime – “damage”, “guilt”, “punishment” and “sanctions” of the state, “death” as an outcome for the victim and the offender;
- “types of crimes”: united images reflecting different types of crimes – “murder”, “theft”, “robbery”, etc.

After that, the ranking approaches were applied, as developed by us method of significance of categorical fields of complex image associations, consisting of two procedures:

- Investigation of the sequence of representation and the speed of image reproduction – we began to use the “rank of image” for research of “figurative value for memory”.

- The study of the meaning of the field of categorization in the interpretation of associative integrity of the image of “crime” is considered in connection with the repeatability and the number of categories in each component.

As a result of our categorization, the following tables reflect the major FGD associations by country and categorization. The comparative analysis compares the distribution in the countries by categorical fields that make up the complex of associations of the image of “crime”, as well as by the figurative individual significance for the interviewees and social significance, that reflects repeatability of categorical fields in social image construction.

The figurative significance reflects free relationships of individual memory and actual memory in associative formation of the holistic image and its substantiation as a representation. The figurative significance reflects the individual figurative value. Meaning in the understanding of crime as repetition of part (categorical field) of complex of associations reflects social memory as reproduction by group of social significance, as a social construction of representation of “crime”, where categorization fields act as component including image constructs – image’s associations.

In the social significance and the role of the associative field of categorization the most significant for FGD in Ukraine are “processes and mechanisms of crime” – 0.27 (comparable for three countries 0.117), then the “mental” component 0.243 (for three countries 0.336) and “organized crime” 0.108 (for three countries 0.047), the remaining categories are approximately equal, with some lesser role in the crime. In Georgia the “mental” component has the greatest social significance – 0.35, followed by “types of crimes” – 0.28 and the “social-normative” component – 0.128 (in three countries 0.336, 0.117 and 0.125 respectively). For participants in Turkey the most socially significant in the image of “crime” is the “mental” component – 0.384 (which is even higher than in Georgia, and for three countries is 0.336), then

goes “result of the crime” – 0.23 (in this FGD high importance was given to “consequences”, for three countries is 0.14) and the “socio-normative” component is – 0.154 (for three countries – 0.125) was approaching “role in crime” component – 0.096 (0.055). The lowest value (significantly lower than the minimum of other FGD associations) was given to “organized crime” and “types of crime” by 0.019 (for three countries 0.047 and 0.117).

In the individual meaning or figurative significance (the lower the average rank – the higher the value) in the Ukrainian FGD the crucial importance is determined to the categorical field – types of crimes (1.7), then recalls the psychic component, social institutions – 2.67 (breaking with the social meaning reflects their inactive characteristic in figurative design), followed by the mechanisms and processes of crime and organized crime. In the Georgian FGD the greatest value in individual perception is given to the “social and normative” component (2.6) and almost the same with a small difference “result of the crime” (2.66). Then, with a small gap goes “types of crimes” (2.72). In the Turkish FGD individually the most significant role is in crime (1.4), then the important role is given to social institutions of justice and resocialization (2.33), processes and mechanisms of crime and consequences – “result of crime” (2.5).

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Our article applies the method of comparative analysis of free associations in FGDs held in Ukraine, Georgia, Turkey among youth aged 17 to 30, socio-political and humanitarian training. As a result of the contextual analysis, the specificity of the complex of associations image of “crime” was determined, so in Ukraine the context of organized crime, the connection of crime, corruption, bribery, politics in countering the violation of the law prevails, focusing on the processes and mechanisms of crime and their mental component. This complex is named as the dominance of the image of organized crime.

In Georgia sample the image of crime is formed in the context of the “mental” component, the most important “types of crime” and the “social and normative” (law and moral) component. This imagery is named as the dominance of the image of the inner world (mental) and moral and legal social regulators of crime.

In Turkey sample the context of the image of “crime” is the domination of the institutional and socio-normative imagery of state justice with a focus on the psychological component and consequences of crime.

In the social significance in the structure of associations (categorical fields) in the Ukrainian FGD “processes and mechanisms of crime”, “mental” component and “organized crime”. In the Georgian FGD – significant “mental” component, “types of crime” and “social-regulatory regulators”. In the Turkish FGD – “mental world of the offender”, “consequences of crimes” – determining penalties and sanctions of the state, as well as social-regulatory regulators of crime.

In the individual associative significance of the crime image in the Ukrainian FGD – the emphasis is placed on the most significant types of crime, affective and inducing processes of mental peace and social institutions of justice; in the Georgian FGD – social and regulatory regulators, on the consequences (results) of crime, and types of crime; in the Turkish FGD associative complexes are formed through the role in crime, social institutions of justice and social and regulatory regulators, then the most significant types of crime.

The applied method, developed by the author’s team, allows to consider generally – the integrity of the associative complex of the image of “crime” in the contextual analysis and profile of the assembly of categorical fields of associations, especially in the specificity of the profile of categorical fields by FGDs of different countries in the same social category, in our case youth, as well as features of the social and individual significance of the imagery of the associative

complex; and specification of the justification of participants of their free associations.

Further part of the research of the author’s team is aimed at researching the channels of obtaining information about crimes and personal and indirect social groups and social institutions experience of interviewees, as well as the relationship to specific types of crime.

Declaration of Interest Statement

The authors report there are no competing interests to declare.

Data Availability Statement

Data available on request from the authors.

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ANNEXES

Table 1: Results of crime-pattern associations from FGD in Ukraine (made by authors)

Respondent Name	Role in Crime	Organized Crime	Mental Component	Socio-Normative	Processes and Mechanisms of Crime	Social Institutions	Result of Crime	Types of Crime
Diana		1 Criminal 3 Grouping			2 Deception		4 Punishment	
Nastya			2 Violence 3 Hate		1 Weapon 4 Drugs			
Eugene			1 Money 4 Wealth		2 Weapon 3 Politics 5 Bribery			
Margarita		2 Strength	3 Danger (kill each other)	4 Honour 5 Good		1 Law		
Vladimir		5 System	4 Aggression or anger		2 Scheme (fraud) 3 Blackmail			1 Theft
Valentina			1 Anger		2 Illegality	3 Prison	4 Article 5 Court	
Anastasia	1 Victim			3 Evil		4 Judgment	5 Death	2 Robbery
Bogdan	5 Criminal		1 Greed 4 Violations		3 Fraud			2 Murder
Category sum	2	4	9	3	10	3	3	3
Meaning in understanding crimes (frequency of repetition) Z	0,054	0,108	0,243	0,081	0,27	0,081	0,081	0,081
Rank sum	6	11	23	12	27	8	18	5
Figurative significance (average rank) Oz	3	2,75	2,56	4	2,7	2,67	4,3	1,7

Table 2: Results of crime-pattern associations from FGD in Georgia (made by authors)

Respondent Name	Role in Crime	Organized Crime	Mental Component	Socio-normative	Processes and Mechanisms of Crime	Social Institutions	Result of Crime	Types of Crime
Marim			2 Violence 5 Pain			4 Translation services for police		1 Murder 3 Theft
Sabri			1 Fear 2 Hatred 3 Helplessness 4 Violence					5 Theft
Elizabeth			3 Cruelty	1 Impunity 2 Injustice		4 System		5 Murder
Marta			1 Violence		4 Weapon 5 Bloodshed			2 Murder 3 Robbery
Hatiya S			1 Violence 3 Fear 4 Revenge	5 Injustice				2 Murder
Hatiya		5 Criminal	4 Violence	1 Injustice			2 Death 3 Punishment	
Geogyi			1 Violence	4 Injustice	3 Bladed weapon			2 Theft
Erika			5 Violence				3 Injury	1 Bullying 2 Murder 4 Theft
Category sum	0	1	14	5	3	2	3	11
Meaning in understanding crimes (frequency of repetition) Z	0	0,025	0,35	0,128	0,076	0,051	0,076	0,28
Rank sum	0	5	39	13	12	8	8	30
Figurative significance (average rank) Oz	0	5	2,79	2,6	4	4	2,66	2,72

Table 3: Results of crime-pattern associations from FGD in Turkey (made by authors)

Respondent Name	Role in Crime	Organized Crime	Mental Component	Socio-Normative	Processes and Mechanisms of Crime	Social Institutions	Result of Crime	Types of Crime
Turan			1 Aggression 2 Anger problem 3 Propensity to violence 4 Childhood 5 Psychological problems				3 Repentance of the criminal (regret)	
Omer		4 Mafia	2 Violence (abuse)			1 Prison (institution where the offender enters)	5 State sanction	3 Murders
Yagiz	3 Human			2 Justice 4 Morality			1 Punishment 2 Death	
Abide	6 Criminal		3 Juvenile offence 4 Behavior	5 Criminal		2 Court	1 Punishment (sanctions against the offender)	
Cubra			5 Criminal subconsciousness	2 Injustice (theft and death) 3 Justice			1 Damage (harm) 4 Punishment	
Emel	4 Offender, perpetrator of crime		1 Prohibited, actions against prohibitions	5 A set of rules for determining what sanction is provided in response to an offence			2 Sanctions 3 Punishment	
Nida	1 Victim 3 Prisoner		4 Experience of the child (minor)			3 Court	2 Punishment	

Respondent Name	Role in Crime	Organized Crime	Mental Component	Socio-Normative	Processes and Mechanisms of Crime	Social Institutions	Result of Crime	Types of Crime
Saphi			1 Helplessness 2 Greed 3 Personal injuries in childhood 4 Anxiety 5 Stress					
Emrullah			1 Money 2 Friends 5 Family 6 Social norms		3 Drugs		4 Guilt	
Ahmet				4 Law (ideals) 5 Injustice	2 Illegal actions		¹ Punishment 3 Sanctions	
Category sum	5	1	20	8	2	3	12	1
Meaning in understanding crimes (frequency of repetition) Z	0,096	0,019	0,384	0,154	0,039	0,058	0,230	0,019
Rank sum	17	4	63	27	5	7	30	3
Figurative significance (average rank) Oz	1,4	4	3,15	3,337	2,5	2,33	2,5	3

Table 4: Results of crime-pattern associations from FGD by country (made by authors)

Category by Country	Role in Crime	Organized Crime	Mental Component	Socio-Normative	Processes and Mechanisms of Crime	Social Institutions	Result of Crime	Types of Crime	TOTAL
Ukraine	2	4	9	3	10	3	3	3	37
Georgia	0	1	14	5	3	2	3	11	39
Turkey	5	1	20	8	2	3	12	1	52
TOTAL	7	6	43	16	15	8	18	15	128
Meaning in understanding crimes (frequency of repetition)	0,055	0,047	0,336	0,125	0,117	0,063	0,14	0,117	1

Table 5: Comparison of the meaning in understanding crimes (social significance, frequency of repetition) Z (made by authors)

Thematic classes of Images	Ukraine	Georgia	Turkey	TOTAL
Role in crime	0,054	0	0,096	0,055
Organized crime	0,108	0,025	0,019	0,047
Mental component	0,243	0,35	0,384	0,336
Socio-normative	0,081	0,128	0,154	0,125
Processes and mechanisms of crime	0,27	0,076	0,039	0,117
Social institutions	0,081	0,051	0,058	0,063
Result of crime	0,081	0,076	0,23	0,14
Types of crime	0,081	0,28	0,019	0,117

Table 6: Comparison of figurative significance (rank average) Oz (made by authors)

Thematic classes of Images	Ukraine	Georgia	Turkey
Role in crime	3	0	1,4
Organized crime	2,75	5	4
Mental component	2,56	2,79	3,15
Socio-normative	4	2,6	3,337
Processes and mechanisms of crime	2,7	4	2,5
Social institutions	2,67	4	2,33
Result of crime	4,3	2,66	2,5
Types of crime	1,7	2,72	3

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