

# Preface

The main topic of this book is the concept of self-control and its causes and consequences for delinquent behavior as well as its mediating role in the relationship between socializing institutions (family, school, and neighborhood) and juvenile delinquency. In the course of the study, the basic assumptions of the general theory of crime by Gottfredson and Hirschi will be investigated. This study examines not only the importance of family socialization but also the role of the school for the self-control of youth. Additionally, the relevance of neighborhood is considered by combining the general theory of crime with the social disorganization theory by Shaw and McKay. The overall theoretical background of this study stays in the tradition of control-theoretical approaches.

The idea of this study originates from results of an earlier study comparing self-reported juvenile delinquency in the Russian city of Volgograd and in four German cities (Hamburg, Hanover, Leipzig, and Munich) conducted in 2000. The results of this study were published in a book entitled “*Kriminelle Russen, kriminelle Deutsche: Zur Jugendkriminalität im Hell- und Dunkelfeld*” written by Siegmunt in 2013. The main results showed that the structure of delinquency as well as the structure of attitudes toward violence differed in both countries. Apart from investigating the major research questions mentioned above, it was interesting to test whether these findings could be replicated in the new study conducted several years later. This study is based on the self-reports of ninth-grade students in three Russian cities. The data were collected in a project funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)<sup>1</sup> and realized at the Institute of Criminal Sciences of the University of Hamburg (Germany).

This book is an abbreviated version of a German one with the original title “*Selbstkontrolle: Einflüsse von Familie, Schule und Nachbarschaften. Eine kontrolltheoretische Studie in drei russischen Großstädten*” published by Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Berlin in 2012. This book includes not all but the main

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<sup>1</sup>DFG-Project “Juvenile delinquency in Germany and Russia: culturally comparative self-report study to investigate of anomie and control theoretical approaches” (#WE 3833/1-1).

results from this study. The German version focuses much strongly on the development of Russian cities, the development of socialized institutions such as neighborhoods, family, and schools, and the youth delinquency in Russia. In this book, I attempted to find a balance between the theoretical assumptions, historical background, and empirical testing. The next, I changed the structure of the methodical part of the book. Finally, I examined in my German book five kinds of delinquency. In this book, I examined only the versatility as a whole measure of delinquency.

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