

The Systemic Model of Crime and Institutional Efficacy: An Analysis of the Social Context of Offender Reintegration

Kevin A. Wright, Travis C. Pratt, Christopher T. Lowenkamp, and Edward J. Latessa

International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology 57(1) 92–111

http://www.academia.edu/2770466/The_Systemic_Model_of_Crime_and_Institutional_Efficacy_An_Analysis_of_the_Social_Context_of_Offender_Reintegration

Abstract

The systemic model of crime has received considerable empirical attention from criminologists; yet, an often-neglected component of the theoretical framework is the role of social institutions as a source of both formal and informal social control. Accordingly, the current study builds on recent research that considers the importance of institutional strength for the reduction of criminal behavior; in particular, the authors assess the impact of social–structural characteristics on the treatment program integrity (i.e., institutional efficacy) of 38 halfway house programs in Ohio. The authors' results indicate that communities suffering from concentrated resource deprivation have a more difficult time creating and maintaining strong institutions of public social control. The implications for criminological theory and correctional policy are discussed.