

EBERHARD KARLS  
UNIVERSITÄT  
TÜBINGEN



## **Institute of Criminology**

FACULTY OF LAW



# Preface

Dear reader,

This booklet is intended to provide a short introduction to our Institute of Criminology at the University of Tübingen, which was founded in 1477 as one of the oldest universities in Germany.

What is Criminology? First of all, it is important not to confuse criminology with criminalistics. Unlike the police, we do not solve crimes but deal with every aspect of crime and delinquency on a scientific, empirical basis.

We ask questions such as:

- How does delinquency develop in society?
- What kind of person becomes delinquent, and why?
- With what kind of countermeasures should the state react to crime?
- What can be done for crime victims?



To answer these and other questions, experts from a variety of different backgrounds and fields such as sociology, psychology, pedagogy and – of course – legal scholars need to be brought to together, which is part of our institute's philosophy.

The Institute of Criminology and the associated chair of criminology, criminal law and sanctions law belong to the Faculty of Law. Founded in 1962, our institute is the oldest of its kind in Germany. As you can see from the typewriter, our institute is steeped in tradition. Nevertheless, we always strive to keep up with the times.

So far, so good! Both my staff and I hope you will enjoy reading this booklet. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We look forward to hearing from you!

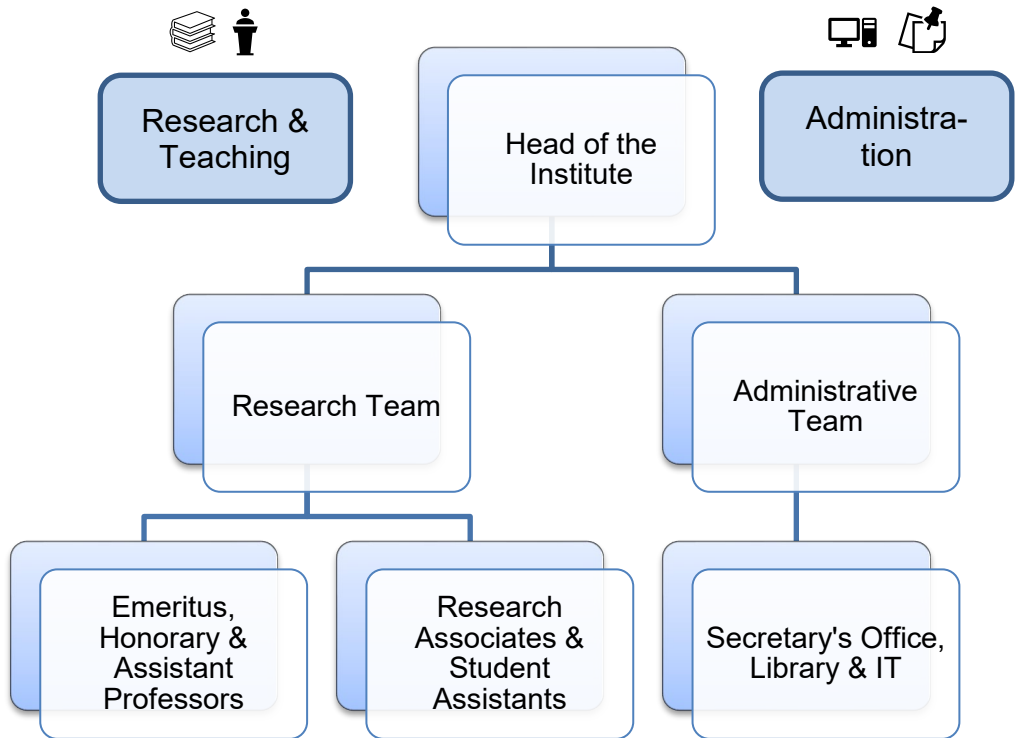
Kind regards,

*Jörg Kinzig*

Prof. Dr. Jörg Kinzig

and all members of staff

# Organizational Chart



## About the Institute of Criminology

1962 - 1986

1986 - 2011

since 2011



The Institute of Criminology (IfC) was founded in 1962 at the Eberhard Karls University in Tübingen as the first criminological research institute in Germany. Founder and first head of the institute was **Hans Göppinger** who was also a full professor for criminology. He was not only trained in but also represented the two areas which foremost influenced German criminology up to the 1970s: criminal law and psychiatry. Research focus of the era Göppinger was the “Tübingen-Jungtäter-Vergleichsuntersuchung” (TVJU; Tübingen’s Comparative Study of Young Delinquents). This study aimed to gain empirically validated basic knowledge about the delinquent as an individual. Its findings had widespread implications for the overall scientific concept of criminology and criminal justice in general and triggered a turn towards “applied criminology”.

1962 - 1986

1986 - 2011

since 2011

In October 1986, **Hans-Jürgen Kerner** took over the position as head of the institute. He continued the work on the TJVU and followed the lives of the participants’ along with their (re-)offences in order to draw conclusions about recidivism and its long-term development. In addition, the data successfully related to those from international developmental studies, which paved the way for a comparative analysis. The change in leadership at the institute led to a thematic reorientation and widened spectrum of research areas. Research at the institute then focused on issues such as crime prevention,



juvenile delinquency and the impact of social changes on delinquent behavior. All in all, Kerner's research primarily focused on the individual and the empirical analysis of individual dispositions and values.

1962 - 1986

1986 - 2011

since 2011



Since October 2011, **Jörg Kinzig** serves as the director of the institute. Keeping in line with the institute's long tradition, one of Kinzig's primary research interests is the field of criminal sanctions, particularly the overall question of how the state should reasonably react to serious crimes. The legal reality of criminal justice, for instance, has been explored within a project on plea bargains in the German context. Other recent research projects tackle topics such as organized crime (research alliance "OK 3.0"), the correctional system (e.g. "Muslims in Juvenile Detention") or current criminal policy issues (e.g. femicides; violence and discrimination in soccer). As of 2023, Jörg Kinzig also serves as the president of the "Kriminologische Gesellschaft" (KrimG; Society of German, Austrian and Suisse Criminologists). In this context, the institute organizes the 18<sup>th</sup> KrimG Conference in September of 2024.

## Research Areas



In addition to conducting empirical research, the members of the IfC regularly present their empirical findings at various national and international conferences and annual meetings (e.g. KrimG, DPT, ESC, ASC etc.). The IfC's expertise is also frequently in demand in the media.

## Teaching

In addition to conducting research both the head of the institute and most members of staff have teaching assignments, which include lectures, seminars and case discussions. The courses are open to law students and psychology, sociology and education majors. Within all these courses, knowledge in the areas of criminology, criminal and sanctions law, the penal system and juvenile law is imparted.

In criminology courses, an overall focus is on specific research methods, crime statistics and theories of crime. Other courses focus on specific types of crime, e.g. violent and property crimes, or specific groups of offenders, e.g. offences committed by senior citizens or women.

In the field of criminal law, students gain insight into criminal offenses against persons and legal interests of the general public, as well as into theft, property offences and forgery. Another lecture about the penal system discusses its organization and the rights and duties of prison inmates.

Courses on juvenile law deal with the system of the Juvenile Court Act and its distinctive characteristics compared to the general criminal law.





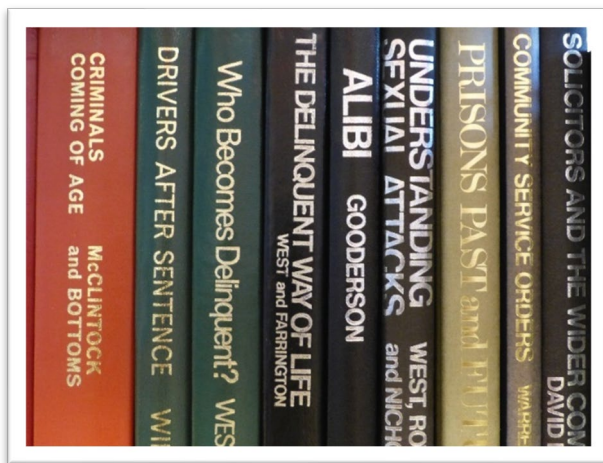




## Library

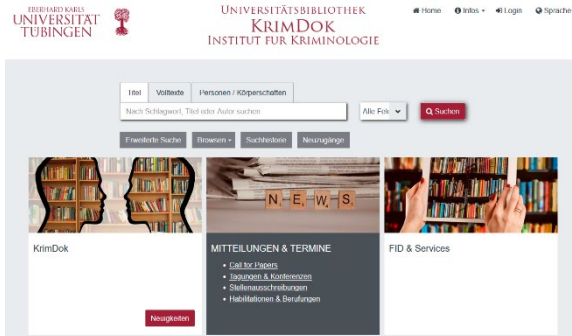
The institute's library is currently equipped with roughly 50,000 books, subscribes to 60 periodicals and provides access to numerous e-journals.

The library contains literature on criminology and criminal policy and includes resources on the following topics: general criminology, penology, crime statistics, police research, psychiatry, psychology, sociology and measures to combat crime (e.g. law enforcement, prison system, aftercare).



The collection of scientific papers at the Institute of Criminology includes roughly 9,000 special prints from national and international journals which are relevant to criminological research.

# Criminological Information Service & KrimDok



Since 2014, the Institute of Criminology has run the Criminological Information Service (FID Kriminologie) in close cooperation with the Library at the University of Tübingen. It is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

The purpose of the Criminological Information Service

is to ensure the national supply of literature in the field of criminology. This newly implemented service is structured to meet specific needs and requests in the field of criminology as best as possible. According to the motto “in the interests of research”, it is important to provide researchers with easy access to relevant specialized literature and useful information. The primary search tool for all criminological relevant sources (books, articles, other documents) is the bibliographic database KrimDok. On the basis of extensive evaluations, it currently encompasses around 300,000 entries of criminological publications and publications from related disciplines in German and other languages. Whenever possible, digitalized publications as well as other electronic documents have been made accessible in KrimDok, too. Those include, on the one hand, retro-digitized publications and, on the other hand, electronic publications issued by other institutions which are gathered in the repository. KrimDok is available at <https://krimdok.uni-tuebingen.de/>

## Cooperations & Working Groups

### Library of the University of Tübingen

- partner and co-management of the Criminological Information Service
- Publication series "TÜKRIM"

### Working Group "Criminology and Crime Policy" (KrimAK)

- Criminological lecture series for the scientific community, police and criminal justice personnel, probationary services and interested members of the general public
- Two lectures per semester

### Scientific Association of Tübingen Criminologists

- Association of alumni and other supporters of the Institute of Criminology



## Who we are:



Members of Staff in October 2023





**SCAN ME**



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