

The Criminological Roles and Effects on Peace, Safety and Security in South Africa



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ABSTRACT

Even though criminology is gaining ground as a discipline, it still needs to be determined whether it is an independent or settled disciplinary state. Despite the proliferation of criminological journals, monograph series, departments, and degree programmes, it is believed that criminology, as a post-crime society's intellectual progeny, has adapted to address the difficulties of pre-crime peace, safety, and security in the African continent. This article looks at the essential roles and effects of criminology in modern society as a tool to guarantee peace, safety, and security on this continent. This study followed a systematic review method with the aid of exploratory design to understand the relevance of criminology in promoting safety and security in Africa. The article also researched the current position of criminology in various parts of the African continent by applying literature reviews. The findings suggest that criminology should be continuously subjected to review and transitions as it lacks identity and mission regarding safety and security in Africa.

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INTRODUCTION

Criminology has been evolving rapidly over the years, and it has been useful across the globe for many reasons. Criminology as a discipline can answer various crime-related issues in many countries and play a significant role in developing preventative and responsive mechanisms. In this regard, Bosworth and Hoyle emphasise that many countries prioritise criminology, particularly in research, postgraduate programmes and journals on criminology grow massively.¹ In their study, Morgan, Maguire, and Reiner mention that the United States (US) has witnessed the proliferation of programmes in academic institutions in the form of professional criminal justice education.² However, it is impossible to pinpoint when criminology emerged as a field in South Africa.³ According to this author, the origins of criminology still need to be clarified and contested in South Africa.⁴ Notably, it is still being determined whether the criminology discipline plays a huge role in promoting safety in developing states such as South Africa.

Africa has witnessed an overabundance of armed conflicts since the end of the Cold War, with roughly 630 state-related and non-state armed conflicts occurring between 1990 and 2015, according to

¹ M. Bosworth and C. Hoyle, *What Is Criminology?* (Oxford University Press, 2012).

² Rod Morgan, Mike Maguire, and Robert Reiner, *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology* (Oxford University Press (UK), 2012).

³ Mary N. A. Human, "The Role of Criminologists as Specialised Practitioners in the Child Justice System" (University of South Africa, 2018).

⁴ Human, "The Role of Criminologists as Specialised Practitioners in the Child Justice System."

the Uppsala Conflict Data Programme (UCDP).⁵ The African continent has seen war in a number of its regions during the past several years. Several programmes support multidimensional peace efforts. For areas of Africa that have recently experienced violence, bringing about peace, safety, and the security rule of law is crucial. The police greatly aid the establishment of the rule of law frameworks in this region.⁶ With the help of other social sciences and the basic disciplines of sociology and law, criminology can significantly advance peace, safety, and security. The African continent has access to various knowledge, including sociologists, lawyers, and other social scientists. These experts might be crucial in bringing stability and peace to the continent.

Therefore, "the organised ways of thinking and talking about crime, criminals," and the prevention of crime in the broadest way are included in the definition of criminology.⁷ The goal of this research area in post-colonial situations should be to identify the differences between African nations like South Africa and Western democracies. In post-colonial South Africa, criminology should attempt to address the following issues: Why are crimes so brutal in nature? Any systematic approach to understanding crime and offenders must aim to respond to this issue.⁸

Many individuals seek medical attention each year for non-fatal injuries brought on by violence in South Africa, which is regarded as one of the most violent nations in the world. Conflict is considered to be responsible for many of the fatalities documented on the continent.⁹ 56.3% of the more than 3,500 children aged 10 to 17 who participated in the nationwide household survey reported physical abuse, while 9% reported sexual abuse.¹⁰ Violent crime declined during the first three years of Zuma's presidency.¹¹ This course demonstrates that the allegation is "extremely selective" and "patently false" if we take the murder rate into account, according to Newham [The head of the Institute for Security Studies - ISS, under the Justice and Violence Prevention Project].¹² The "most reliable and accurate crime category" is murder since there is a body, which makes it simple to verify. In fact, between 1994 and 2012, it fell by 54%. The initial phase of Zuma's presidency, which began in 2009, was included in this time frame. Additionally, between 2009 and 2012, extreme robberies decreased from 229.5 per 100,000 persons in 2009 to 202.6 in 2012. Rates per 100,000 people are helpful because they can compare crime statistics while accounting for population-level variations.

These reductions were mostly attributable to "policing investments made before Zuma became president, in anticipation of the 2010 FIFA World Cup. In reference to the rise in violent crimes from 2012 to 2018, it is asserted that by the conclusion of Zuma's administration, citizens in South Africa were far more likely to be murdered or the target of armed robberies than when he took the oath of office.¹³ The number of killings climbed steadily after 2012: Between 2012 and 2018, when Zuma ultimately was compelled out of power, [the number of murders] jumped by 30.7%. 2018 had 4,809 more homicides than 2012 did. From 30.9 murders per 100,000 persons in 2012 to 35.8 in 2017–18, the rate rose. The "Aggravated robbery grew as well during Zuma's presidency," according to Newham. It rose by 14.4% between 2009 and 2018. When someone steals from another individual illegally and purposefully using a weapon, it is called "aggravated robbery." Compared to 2012, there were 37,595 more violent robberies in 2018. Robberies per 100,000 persons climbed from 202.6 in 2012 to 242.7 in 2018.

The study's main objective is to understand the role played by criminology on peace and security in Africa. This study contributes to the ongoing discussion and search for the optimal positioning of criminology as a discipline and professional body in South Africa. The article argues that the South

⁵ Paul D Williams, "Continuity and Change in War and Conflict in Africa," *Prism* 6, no. 4 (2017): 32–45.

⁶ Gustavo De Carvalho, Onnie Kok, and Ann Livingstone, "Strengthening Policing in African Peace Operations: The Role of the Training for Peace Programme," *Conflict Trends* 2015, no. 2 (2015): 34–41.

⁷ Bill Dixon, "Understanding 'Poinry Face': What Is Criminology For?," *South African Crime Quarterly* 41 (2012): 3–10.

⁸ Dixon, "Understanding 'Poinry Face': What Is Criminology For?"

⁹ Fiona Scorgie et al., "From Fear to Resilience: Adolescents' Experiences of Violence in Inner-City Johannesburg, South Africa," *BMC Public Health* 17 (2017): 51–64.

¹⁰ Scorgie et al., "From Fear to Resilience: Adolescents' Experiences of Violence in Inner-City Johannesburg, South Africa."

¹¹ Africa Check, "Some Crime Decreased in South Africa 'Year after Year' during Jacob Zuma's Presidency, but Violent Crime Increased," 2021, <https://africacheck.org/fact-checks/fbchecks/some-crime-decreased-south-africa-year-after-year-during-jacob-zumas>.

¹² Africa Check, "Some Crime Decreased in South Africa 'Year after Year' during Jacob Zuma's Presidency, but Violent Crime Increased."

¹³ Africa Check, "Some Crime Decreased in South Africa 'Year after Year' during Jacob Zuma's Presidency, but Violent Crime Increased."

African government should recognise criminology as a professional and independent field investigating crime, offenders, and victims. As a result, the paper is an outcry for the South African government to recognise criminology as a professional discipline. The study substantiates the relevance of criminology in guaranteeing safety and security while maintaining peace on the African continent. The article contends that the government's failure to recognise and award criminology as its own autonomous professional body impedes the considerable contribution criminology could have made.

The paper is a systematic investigation that relies on online data, as described in the technique section [Methodology]. Furthermore, the authors are criminology graduates and criminology lecturers at a public institution and a private college. The study's background, including the contribution of criminology, is followed by the problem statement. Finally, the study presents findings and discussion.

The paper used a qualitative study to undertake systematic research. This study aims to investigate the role and impact of criminology on African peace, safety, and security. The following objectives led the study's examination of the role criminology can play in bringing or ensuring peace, safety, and security in Africa: to establish the relevance of criminology in the African continent and to find out the role of Criminology in modern society; To learn how criminology may help Africa maintain peace, safety, and security; To identify CRIMSA's peace, safety, and security objectives and to discover the road CRIMSA took in creating criminology as a separate/independent entity.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Development of Criminology in Africa and South Africa

Criminology in Africa was created with contributions from leading African authors who addressed the various issues confronting Africa today regarding crime and criminal justice while also putting forward their concepts and recommendations for dealing with these tremendous problems.¹⁴ However, compared to the rest of Western countries, criminology is still considered an emerging field in South Africa.¹⁵ This research field (Criminology) focuses on investigating crime, its causes, effects, and related societal impacts as a distinct subject of sociology. Criminologists are critical players in the South African Criminal Justice System (CJS). Nonetheless, existing research and observations indicate that their responsibilities are relatively ambiguous.¹⁶ Evidently, there is no one explanation or definition for the idea of 'criminology.' These fundamental academics supported the concept of 'criminology' as the scientific study of crime and victims, including investigating crime occurrences and offenders, concentrating on CJS.¹⁷ The American 'criminologists,' define this concept as follows:

*"The corpus of information about crime as a social phenomenon. It encompasses the "steps for establishing laws, breaking laws, and responding to lawbreaking" while reporting that the "objectives of criminology are the establishment of a body of broad and verified standards along with other types of knowledge concerning this process of law, crime, and treatment."*¹⁸

As it has gathered its collection of structured facts and theoretical conceptualisms that apply the scientific method approach to comprehending criminal activities, criminology should be regarded as an independent, distinct field of knowledge.¹⁹ However, as indicated by the quoted authors' argument, the discussion regarding providing criminology with an autonomous professional organisation has continued for a long time.

The Criminological and Victimological Society of Southern Africa (CRIMSA), rebranded in 2019 and currently known as the Criminological Society of Africa, is the central organisation coordinating criminology discipline activities in South Africa.²⁰ This society promotes criminology's academic,

¹⁴ T. M. Mushanga, *Criminology in Africa* (Nairobi: Law Africa Publishing Ltd, 2004).

¹⁵ Shanta Balgobind Singh, "Criminology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal: Late 20th Century to Early 21st Century," *Acta Criminologica: African Journal of Criminology & Victimology* 33, no. 2 (2020): 34–59.

¹⁶ Chai M. Tyng et al., "The Influences of Emotion on Learning and Memory," *Frontiers in Psychology* 8 (August 24, 2017), <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2017.01454>.

¹⁷ Mandlenkosi Richard Mphatheni et al., "An Analysis of Criminology as a Profession in the Republic of South Africa," *International Journal of Criminology and Sociology* 9 (2020): 1822–28.

¹⁸ Marvin E Wolfgang, "Criminology and the Criminologist," *J. Crim. L. Criminology & Police Sci.* 54 (1963): 155.

¹⁹ Wolfgang, "Criminology and the Criminologist."

²⁰ Singh, "Criminology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal: Late 20th Century to Early 21st Century."

practical, social, and global importance. The Society's mission is to study, control, prevent, and minimise crime and its consequences and benefit the Southern African community.²¹ The constitution of the Criminological Society of Africa can be summarised as follows:

“Promoting, coordinating, and applying the criminological sciences (criminology, victimology, and applied criminal justice studies in particular, but also any academic field that addresses crime and victimisation, conflict, deviance, misuse of power, and response to illegal activities and other crime-related issues in the broad Criminological Sciences and applied CJS fields) using study and academic interaction, research, and community service.”²²

Table 1: The proposed professional designations for CRIMSA

Other professional designations at this level (BENCHMARKING)	Professional designation	Underpinning qualification	NQF Level	Access
Certified	Trainee Criminologist	Currently enrolled for a Criminology qualification or completed B degree	Up to 7	Open access
Affiliate member	Affiliate Criminologist	<i>Not qualified in criminology but working in a related field/retired</i>	7	Interview by a panel of peers (experts) (Similar to oral defense)/ Portfolio of evidence
Associate	Associate Criminologist	Honours	8	Board exam
Member/ Professional/ Master	Professional Criminologist (PC)	Cognate Master's degree	9	Interview by a panel of peers (experts) (Similar to oral defense)/ Portfolio of evidence
Chartered	Expert Professional Criminologist (EPC)	Cognate PhD Degree	10	Portfolio of evidence

Source: CRIMSA

As shown in Table 1, the goal of this society is to demonstrate the determination of the role that criminology may play in guaranteeing peace, safety, and security on the African continent. Thus, criminology is defined as the study of crime, the criminal, and the victim; thus, societal disruption is created by violating a society's laws or norms. A criminal or offender violates these standards or conventions, resulting in a crime resulting in a victim's birth. This act or procedure disturbs the peace and causes insecurity in a certain community. As a science that comprehensively analyses the aforementioned problem, criminology can substantially contribute to Africa's peace, safety, and security.

²¹ Singh, “Criminology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal: Late 20th Century to Early 21st Century.”

²² CRIMSA, “ Constitution of the Criminological Society of Africa (CRIMSA),” 2021, <https://crimsa.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/CRIMSA-Constitution-Amended-February-2021.pdf>.

Dymistifying crime issues in Africa: a criminological standpoint

South Africa is said to be one of the nations in the world with a high occurrence of violent crimes, which necessitates the services of criminologists because criminology is vital to and contributes significantly to South Africa. Criminology and forensic studies are essential to any academic institution considering South Africa's alarming crime rates and their effects on its inhabitants.²³ The South African government can reduce criminal activity in the nation and reestablish peace, safety, and stability in and throughout Africa through collaborating with institutions and criminologists.

As a result, it highlights the significance of criminology in reducing crime and reestablishing order, safety, and security in African nations. "The growth in criminology programmes in Africa could be linked to the significant incidence of crime, violent conflicts, and insecurity" and a rise in competent African criminologists.²⁴ Africa is a fascinating and important area to study because of its richness and distinctive characteristics. The Western world's warfare, illnesses, poverty, and other problems are primarily associated with the African continent.²⁵

However, Kacungira [A Ugandan Journalist] (in British Broadcasting Corporation) believes that the manner in which the history of the African continent has been presented is usually inaccurate, stereotyped, and made up.²⁶ She continues by using news stories of warfare in a few African nations as an example of how it may seem as though the entire continent is at war.²⁷ The media seldom emphasises unimportant problems or peculiarities of daily living while reporting on Africa. As a result, many people think that the situation in Africa is common and that any positive news regarding the continent is an anomaly. There have been several requests for more journalists, particularly African journalists, to convey the African experience and shift the perspective.²⁸

The claim put out by Kacungira disproves the notion that Africa has the same issues and difficulties. She underlines that, as a result,

*Africa is home to more than a billion people. Over 2,000 languages are used, and there are over 3,000 different ethnic groupings. Africa is a large continent that may contain all of Europe, Japan, China, India, and the United States (US). What, then, may contribute to a common identity for a region as large and varied as ours? Throughout history, a significant portion of African identity has revolved around our differences rather than our similarities.*²⁹

Less than 1.6% of global commerce, 1% of global investment, and around 13% of the global population reside in Africa.³⁰ Nonetheless, Worldometer provides data on the population characteristics of the African continent.³¹

- The current population of **Africa** is **1,382,991,900** as of Friday, October 29, 2021, based on the latest United Nations estimates.
- Africa's population equals 16.72% of the total world population.
- Africa ranks number **2** among regions of the world (roughly equivalent to "continents"), ordered by population.
- The population density in Africa is 45 per Km² (117 people per mi²).
- The total land area is 29,648,481 Km² (11,447,338 sq. miles)
- **43.8 %** of the population is **urban** (587,737,793 people in 2019)
- The **median age** in Africa is **19.7years**

²³ Shanta Singh and Nirmala Gopal, "Criminology in the 21st Century: Through the Eyes of Academics," *Acta Criminologica: African Journal of Criminology & Victimology* 2010, no. sed-2 (2010): 11–24.

²⁴ Etannibi E O Alemika, "Reflections on Criminology in Africa," *Acta Criminologica: African Journal of Criminology & Victimology* (Criminological and Victimological Society of Southern Africa (CRIMSA), 2020).

²⁵ Basedau, Matthias. "Rethinking African studies: four challenges and the case for comparative African studies." *Africa Spectrum* 55, no. 2 (2020): 194-206.

²⁶ BBC News, "Why I Cannot Tell 'the African Story,'" 2015, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-34508552>.

²⁷ BBC News, "Why I Cannot Tell 'the African Story.'"

²⁸ BBC News, "Why I Cannot Tell 'the African Story.'"

²⁹ BBC News, "Why I Cannot Tell 'the African Story.'"

³⁰ Anthony I Osawe and Magnus O Ojeifo, "Unregulated Urbanization and Challenge of Environmental Security in Africa," *World Journal of Innovative Research (WJIR)* 6, no. 4 (2019): 1.

³¹ Worldometer, "Africa Population (LIVE)," accessed October 30, 2021, <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/africa-population/>.

The Institute for Security Studies estimates that during the next 20 years, the human population of Africa will increase at a rate that will account for roughly half of all population growth worldwide.³² Furthermore, population growth in Africa is predicted to rise from 1.2 billion to more than 1.8 billion in 2035, an increase of approximately 50% over the following eighteen years.

Most of the land is covered by the belt of tropical rainforests. Along with forests and savannah grassland plants, the area has a sizable portion of desert (the Sahara and Kalahari Deserts). There are several rivers in it with good potential for agriculture and hydropower. Africa boasts abundant biodiversity, distinct languages, and civilisations.³³ Each contributes more to the growth of African society and, consequently, to the continent's stability, conflict, and security. All these effects on the African continent necessitate a criminologist's knowledge and proficiency. This emphasises how important it is for criminology to be inclusive and diverse.

A further phenomenon that calls for criminologists' knowledge is Africa's increasing urbanisation. With just 14.5% of its people residing in cities in 1950, Africa was the least urbanised continent. Of the 749 million people living there in 1990, 34.5 percent lived in urban areas. The UN predicts that if present trends continue, there will be 914 million people living in cities by 2025, which is four times as many as there were in 1990.³⁴ The aforementioned writers further state that although urbanisation is a worldwide occurrence, the expansion of cities occurs at a faster pace in developing nations, especially in Africa, where the yearly growth rates are 1.6% as opposed to 0.8% in industrialised nations. In this rapidly urbanising continent, Africa will benefit from a diverse and inclusive criminology that will contribute to peace, safety, and stability. With the changing face of society, criminology must adapt to accommodate new forms of criminal activity.³⁵ Therefore, the onus shifts to modern criminologists to examine society's inner workings more closely to pinpoint its diseases.³⁶

As asserted, the recognition of criminology outside of the field itself is a positive development; as such, criminology practitioners ought to contribute significantly to maintaining peace and stability throughout the African continent.³⁷ In order to ensure the safety and security of the African Continent, criminologists ought to take the lead. Given that criminology is the only scientific field that comprehensively examines the criminal justice system, crime, and victims, criminologists are qualified to conduct criminal investigations. Several individuals have been uprooted and pushed into refugee camps in neighbouring nations, and there have been several casualties from conflicts throughout the African continent. Therefore, criminology is pertinent to lead peace, safety, and security initiatives.

Crime science is weak in African nations, and criminological studies have yet to get much attention. Research on crime and criminality is therefore not extensively disseminated.³⁸

The government's lack of recognition of criminology is highlighted by one author who raises concerns about the state of South Africa, the post-apartheid society's structures and mores, and its readiness to use extreme violence, says something about the South African condition, the structures and mores of post-apartheid society.³⁹ Dixon claimed that during the course of the last 20 years or so, South African criminology has either been comparatively uninterested in challenging the nation's violent tendencies or, on the few occasions when it has tried to do so, has received little respect from the politicians and policymakers most suited to take appropriate action.⁴⁰ The increasing levels of violence in South Africa place criminologists and peacebuilders—as researchers and interpreters of violence—at the centre of a maelstrom where the psyches of the affluent and the underprivileged meet with structure, history, and biography.⁴¹ With this chance, all South Africans may contribute to the creation of a more socially just present and future.

³² Julia Schünemann et al., "African Futures-Key Trends to 2035," *Zachary and Aucoin, Ciara and Porter, Alexander, African Futures-Key Trends To 2035* (2017).

³³ Osawe and Ojeifo, "Unregulated Urbanization and Challenge of Environmental Security in Africa."

³⁴ Osawe and Ojeifo, "Unregulated Urbanization and Challenge of Environmental Security in Africa."

³⁵ Singh and Gopal, "Criminology in the 21st Century:" Through the Eyes" of Academics."

³⁶ Singh, "Criminology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal: Late 20th Century to Early 21st Century."

³⁷ Singh, "Criminology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal: Late 20th Century to Early 21st Century."

³⁸ Patrick Edobor Igbinovia, "Criminology in Africa," *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology* (Sage Publications Sage CA: Thousand Oaks, CA, 1989).

³⁹ Dixon, "Understanding 'Poinry Face': What Is Criminology For?"

⁴⁰ Dixon, "Understanding 'Poinry Face': What Is Criminology For?"

⁴¹ Singh, "Criminology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal: Late 20th Century to Early 21st Century."

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) in South Africa refuses to accept criminology as a legitimate profession, proving that the government should respect criminology more. The South African government either ignores or is unaware of the vital role criminology can play in preventing and reducing crime in the nation, as evidenced by the DHET's insistence that criminology be housed under other departments. At the same time, social work and psychology have been granted the status of independent professional bodies.

Acknowledging and appreciating the role that criminologists may play in the CJS and government agencies could have averted or decreased the country's dramatically growing rate of crime, especially violent crime. Based on existing information, criminology originated in Africa rather recently.

Cooperation with the appropriate Quality Council (QC) on certification and quality assurance in its respective occupational sector is a prerequisite for each professional body's registration.⁴² The Council on Higher Education is designated as the QC for Higher Education under the Higher Education Act. A statutory or non-statutory body of expert practitioners in an occupational field must apply in the way specified by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) in section 13(1)(i)(i) of the National Qualification Framework (NQF) Act, 67 of 2008 (Authority, 2009) to be acknowledged as a professional body under this Act.⁴³ A professional body recognised under section 29 must apply to the SAQA to register a professional designation on the NQF in the manner determined by the SAQA under section 13(1)(i)(ii).

For CRIMSA to be acknowledged by SAQA as a professional organisation, the following conditions must be fulfilled:

i. Be a legally constituted entity with the necessary human and financial resources to undertake its functions, governed by a statute, charter or constitution, and comply with and adhere to good corporate governance practices; ii. Protect the public interest in relation to services provided by its members and the associated risks; iii. Develop, award, monitor and revoke its professional designations regarding its own rules, legislation and/or international conventions; iv. Submit a list of members in a form acceptable to SAQA; v. Set criteria for, promote and monitor CPD so its members meet the relevant professional designation requirements; vi. Publish a code of conduct and operate a mechanism for the reporting and investigating members alleged to have contravened the code; vii. Not apply unfair exclusionary practices regarding membership admission to the body or when recognising education or training providers; and viii. Make career advice-related information available to SAQA.⁴⁴

Only professional organisations that SAQA has authorised for the purposes of the NQF Act of 2008 may apply to SAQA for the registration of a professional designation on the NQF, according to Section 34 of the National Qualifications Framework Act, Act 67 of 2008.⁴⁵ As per section 44 of the National Qualifications Framework Act, Act 67 of 2008 (as modified, March 2018), the following requirements must be fulfilled for a professional designation to be recorded on the NQF:

i. Be submitted to SAQA by a recognised professional body in accordance with an application process determined by SAQA; ii. Be developed, conferred and subject to being revoked regarding the rules, legislation and international conventions applicable to the recognised professional body; iii. Be monitored regarding the rules, legislation and international conventions applicable to the recognised professional body; iv. Be part of a progression pathway, which may include an occupational pathway; v. Be linked to a validated database of the names of individuals conferred the professional designation; vi. Include, as an initial requirement, an underlying qualification(s), which may include an occupational qualification(s); vii. Suppose an individual's qualification has been obtained at an institution not registered in South Africa. In that case, the individual applying to a professional body for a professional designation must ensure that SAQA has evaluated the qualification and is comparable to the South African underlying qualification; viii. Include general requirements for experiential learning, recognition of prior learning and/or practical experience, and ix. Include retention requirements, such as CPD and adherence to a code of professional ethics/conduct.

⁴² South African Qualifications Authority, "National Qualifications Framework Act No. 67 of 2008," *Government Gazette* 524, no. 31909 (2009): 17.

⁴³ South African Qualifications Authority, "National Qualifications Framework Act No. 67 of 2008."

⁴⁴ South African Qualifications Authority, "National Qualifications Framework Act No. 67 of 2008."

⁴⁵ South African Qualifications Authority, "National Qualifications Framework Act No. 67 of 2008."

In Ghana, criminology was first offered as a course in 1952 as part of the undergraduate sociology programme.⁴⁶ Similarly, the University of Ibadan in Nigeria's Department of Sociology offered it as a course during the 1969–1970 school year.⁴⁷ One wonders if the unfortunate growth of criminology in Africa is to account for its lack of official recognition.

Act 632, subsequently amended by Act 221 of 1959, created the National Institute of Criminology of Egypt as the National Centre for Social and Criminological Research in 1955.⁴⁸ The Ivory Coast's Ministry of National Education issued an order in December 1969 creating the first criminology institute in West Africa, the Institute of Criminology of Abidjan. Attendees of the First West, the XVth International Course in Criminology, held in Abidjan in 1966, suggested creating an institute at the University of Abidjan that would impact Madagascar and the French-speaking nations south of the Sahara.⁴⁹

The first Institute of Criminology in South Africa was approved for formation in September 1975 by the Union of South Africa's Senate and Council. The Institute first opened for business in 1976.⁵⁰ Likewise, the Institute of Criminology at the University of Cape Town was established in 1977.⁵¹ Although criminology has been practised in South Africa for over 40 years, according to one author, the subject is still relatively new compared to other Western countries.⁵² Despite criminologists' significant contributions to the criminal justice system, observation and anecdotal evidence suggest that the criminologist's role in the criminal justice system is still relatively ambiguous.⁵³

The United Nations Social Defence Research Institute's A World Directory of Criminological Institutes clarifies how underdeveloped criminology is in Africa.⁵⁴ In 1982, there were 404 criminological institutions in 60 nations, but only twelve were in Africa. These African nations were specifically Egypt (2, Morocco 1), South Africa (3), Tunisia (1), Uganda (4), and Zaire (1). In contrast, Argentina lists twelve criminological institutes: five for Australia; ten for Belgium; sixteen for Canada; ten for France; thirty-two for Columbia; twenty-one for India; nine for Italy; twelve for Japan; seven for The Netherlands; ten for Spain; six for Switzerland; sixteen for the United Kingdom; sixteen for the United States; and eleven for the United Nations [UN].⁵⁵

However, assertions indicate that since the late 1970s, criminological education, research, and policy advocacy have expanded significantly across Africa, as have the institutions and opportunities for these activities.⁵⁶ Numerous causes, including the sharp rise in public and private institutions, especially in Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Ghana, and Kenya, are responsible for this surge. Additionally, there is a growing number of academics with training in the topic, and crime and instability are pervasive in most African nations.⁵⁷ Nowadays, graduate and undergraduate criminology courses are offered by several African institutions.

The African government needs to acknowledge or value the significant role that criminology graduates may play in establishing peace, safety, and security on the continent; hence, the rise in criminology institutes in Africa is not something to be proud of. Because of this, many criminology graduates are unemployed after earning their degree, and neither public nor private institutions address the requirements of criminology graduates despite the abilities that criminology graduates possess. As previously said, anecdotal evidence indicates that criminology graduates have a crucial role in establishing safety, security, and peace throughout Africa.

⁴⁶ South African Qualifications Authority, "National Qualifications Framework Act No. 67 of 2008."

⁴⁷ John Winterdyk, "Comparative Criminology and Criminal Justice within the African Continent," *Strathmore LJ* 6 (2022): 47.

⁴⁸ Ahmadu S Maliki, "The History Of Sociology Of Law And Criminology In Nigeria," 2014.

⁴⁹ Joko Mirwan Muslimin, "Islamic Law and Social Change: A Comparative Study of the Institutionalization and Codification of Islamic Family Law in the Nation-States Egypt and Indonesia (1950-1995)" (Staats-und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg Carl von Ossietzky, 2005).

⁵⁰ Igbinovia, "Criminology in Africa."

⁵¹ Dirk Van Zyl Smit, "Adopting and Adapting Criminological Ideas: Criminology and Afrikaner Nationalism in South Africa," *Contemp. Crises* 13 (1989): 227.

⁵² Singh, "Criminology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal: Late 20th Century to Early 21st Century."

⁵³ Singh, "Criminology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal: Late 20th Century to Early 21st Century."

⁵⁴ Singh, "Criminology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal: Late 20th Century to Early 21st Century."

⁵⁵ Singh, "Criminology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal: Late 20th Century to Early 21st Century."

⁵⁶ Alemika, "Reflections on Criminology in Africa."

⁵⁷ Alemika, "Reflections on Criminology in Africa."

Criminologists typically confer with law enforcement personnel at all levels to get crime statistics and other crucial information.⁵⁸ Additionally, criminologists frequently communicate their data and discoveries to colleagues in other disciplines. In addition to evaluating data to ascertain the circumstances behind a crime, criminologists may also be tasked with developing strategies to anticipate, discourage, and stop criminal activity in the future. Criminology graduates possess the abilities needed for an investigator as well.

METHODOLOGY

The research approach used in the article was qualitative. A qualitative investigation precisely outlines the aim of connecting the research questions and methodologies as suitable instruments for producing significant facts.⁵⁹ In a similar vein, the purpose of this study was to investigate how criminology affects peace, safety, and security in Africa. More than 50 articles were featured in the study, and those studies were based on the study topic. The findings from these articles are discussed under various themes in the next section.

It is paramount to state that the initial study had decided to conduct interviews, but it stopped due to reasons to be stated. The email was issued on October 22, 2021, asking the chosen members of the CRIMSA exco to reply by October 29, 2021, with their answers to the five questions. The empirical data was removed due to the need for more responses from the target audience, and the study depended on previously published works by researchers who had written on topics related to the article subject. The University of Limpopo ethics committee permitted the study to be conducted. Consequently, the study complied with all ethical standards or directives established by the University of Limpopo.

PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The Conceptualisation of Criminology

The idea of criminology as a separate and independent academic field originated later in the field's historical growth, and we are currently becoming increasingly cut off from the conditions that made that disciplinary construction possible. According to John Braithwaite, this may mean that students studying crime and crime control will need to have the ability to think outside the box of what is traditionally considered to be "criminology."⁶⁰

Criminology must be a subject continually reconstituting itself to make sense of the legal and social realities it seeks to understand and engage in. These assertions seem peculiar given the scope, integration, and, numerically speaking, unsound state of modern criminology. Criminology, it is said, has never been in better shape in terms of the quantity and calibre of academic meetings, academic departments at universities, enrolled students, research institutions, money from research grants, government and private consulting firms, specialised journals, and scholarly works.⁶¹

Modern criminology's difficulties are still there, as Spring noted around 20 years ago.⁶² Even with these difficulties, the field of criminology has a positive narrative to tell because more students are choosing to study it at universities like the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and there are presently 13 universities in South Africa that offer it.⁶³

Additionally, it is stated that the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) has been offering criminology for the last forty-four years, starting in 1976.⁶⁴ She goes on to say that criminology has been shifted across faculties, claiming that it was first located in the Faculty of Arts before being transferred to the faculties of Law and Humanities. These modifications led to the reorganisation and rewriting of the undergraduate and graduate curricula and the reorganisation of the field within each faculty. It is asserted that these "housing" developments have directly influenced criminology as a postsecondary degree.⁶⁵

⁵⁸ Singh, "Criminology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal: Late 20th Century to Early 21st Century."

⁵⁹ Muslimin, "Islamic Law and Social Change: A Comparative Study of the Institutionalization and Codification of Islamic Family Law in the Nation-States Egypt and Indonesia (1950-1995)."

⁶⁰ Igbinovia, "Criminology in Africa."

⁶¹ Van Zyl Smit, "Adopting and Adapting Criminological Ideas: Criminology and Afrikaner Nationalism in South Africa."

⁶² Singh, "Criminology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal: Late 20th Century to Early 21st Century."

⁶³ Mphatheni et al., "An Analysis of Criminology as a Profession in the Republic of South Africa."

⁶⁴ Singh, "Criminology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal: Late 20th Century to Early 21st Century."

⁶⁵ Singh, "Criminology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal: Late 20th Century to Early 21st Century."

A sound criminology needs to be self-reconstructed. Institutions of higher learning, scholars, and researchers in the subject of criminology ought to have a voice on issues pertaining to the discipline. Criminology cannot exist on the African continent, and the region can continue to be unstable and conflict-ridden. The field of criminology has changed throughout time, leading to several interdisciplinary synergies and the recognition of criminology's contribution in both government and non-governmental policymaking circles.⁶⁶

The Focus of the Criminology Discipline

Developing and implementing knowledge in social conflict and dispute resolution, criminal law, crime, criminals, victimisation, victims, policing, prosecution, adjudication, punishment, corrections, and criminal justice are highlighted as the main focus areas for criminology.⁶⁷ Criminology tries to investigate and explain the following:

*1) The manifestations and effects of social conflict and dispute resolution; 2) Sources, rationales, effects and dynamics of criminal law; 3) Determinants of incidence, prevalence, patterns and trends of crime; 4) Causes of or 'reasons' for criminal behaviour; 5) Factors disposing individuals towards crime; 6) Determinants and processes of formal and informal reactions to criminal behaviour and criminals; 7) Philosophy and techniques of punishing and correcting offenders, and 8) The nature and variety of public responses towards crime victims.*⁶⁸

It is unjust, inexplicable, and sad that thousands of criminology students remain unemployed, given the range of topics and extensive, comprehensive information they are exposed to. However, their varied experience is precisely what the nation needs to cope with and successfully handle the fast-rising violent crime rate in the nation. Like other diverse fields, criminology draws theories and methods from various disciplines, such as political science, economics, neurology, psychiatry, psychology, sociology, and social and physical anthropology.⁶⁹

Consequently, it is abhorrent for any state to have a single individual with thousands of diplomas and a diverse field of skill and only to have that person's expertise ignored. However, there are no indications that crime in the nation will stop. Graduates in criminology have the abilities and understanding of criminological theories that explain criminal impulses in terms of individual pathology, societal structural dysfunctions, or both, as well as free will or determinism. Crime might drastically decrease if those with good criminology backgrounds were placed in a dominating position within the criminal justice system. Additionally, there would be more job chances for criminology graduates.

The ongoing journey to get an independent professional body for criminology in Southern Africa

The Criminological and Victimological Society of Southern Africa (CRIMSA) was founded in 1986 and renamed the Criminological Society of Africa (CRIMSA) in 2018. The new name of the society varies from the old name because the word "victimological" has been removed, and the new name includes Africa rather than Southern Africa. The formation of this association was viewed as the first step towards criminology's acknowledgment as a valid academic field. Acta Criminologica: Southern African Journal of Criminology, founded two years later, serves as a representative body for criminology experts.

A qualitative study in the field of criminology that used telephone interviews with both domestic and foreign participants produced specific findings.⁷⁰ Their study was interested in incorporating the argument that "criminology being recognised as an independent discipline was part of the discussion."⁷¹ One of the participants' questions was, "How do you feel about the professionalisation of criminology?". Seven of the thirteen universities that responded to this question expressed interest in granting professional status to criminology. According to these seven individuals, professional field accreditation for criminology was long overdue because the discipline was already naturally professionalised.

⁶⁶ Singh, "Criminology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal: Late 20th Century to Early 21st Century."

⁶⁷ Alemika, "Reflections on Criminology in Africa."

⁶⁸ Alemika, "Reflections on Criminology in Africa."

⁶⁹ Alemika, "Reflections on Criminology in Africa."

⁷⁰ Singh, "Criminology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal: Late 20th Century to Early 21st Century."

⁷¹ Singh and Gopal, "Criminology in the 21st Century: Through the Eyes" of Academics."

Unfortunately, even though participants voiced their opinions over 20 years ago, criminology in South Africa has not gained professional recognition.

Despite the academic community's consensus in favour of criminology becoming a profession, a few crucial obstacles must be resolved beforehand.⁷² Before criminology gained professional status, the participants considered that several essential concerns needed to be resolved, such as the practical training of criminologists, the Criminology programme required development, and shorter courses with specialised fields of study and institutional uniformity are desirable. Additionally, there ought to be more cooperation throughout academic institutions.

There have been many attempts to create or join a professional body for regulation. Certain councils that were contacted countered that degrees in criminology did not provide a "clear career path" or a distinct "career focus." An often asked question was, "What do criminologists do in practise other than studying the dynamics and impact/effects of crime?".⁷³ The latter researchers go on to state in their study that, in 2004, CRIMSA EXCO assigned Prof. Linda Davis, Beaty Naudé, and Anna van der Hoven to a task force to look into the feasibility of taking on the problem of creating a professional board for criminologists. This Task Team was inundated with hundreds of letters of support from different people and other criminal justice system organisations/agencies.

Profs. Naudé, Van der Hoven, and Davis met with Berto Lombaard, Registrar of the South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP), after completing and registering for this degree, to talk about the potential for creating a professional board for criminologists. It became evident during these talks that criminologists may become members of the recently created Professional Board for Probation Officers. CRIMSA persisted in conferring with a range of criminology specialists. Among them are postgraduate students, several professional boards and councils, and organisations like the Restorative Justice Centre. This was done so they could draft their own SACSSP application. This was a significant step toward the establishment of such a professional board. The CRIMSA Council opted to commence submitting applications to the SACSSP in 2004 officially; however, this process has proven to be highly time-consuming, and the justifications supporting the application to the SACSSP amounted to many reams of paper.⁷⁴

RECOMMENDATIONS

Professionalisation of Criminology in African States

The establishment of academic programmes, research facilities, legislative frameworks, and professional societies devoted to studying and applying criminology in African contexts are all parts of the complex process of professionalising criminology that must be robust in African states.

In order to combat crime and advance public safety, comprehensive policy frameworks for criminology must be developed and put into place. Governments must create policies incorporating best practices and the results of criminological research into criminal justice, law enforcement, and crime prevention plans. This might involve actions like community policing campaigns, crime prevention plans, restorative justice strategies, and offenders' rehabilitation programmes.

CONCLUSION

The establishment of criminology on the African continent could positively tackle several difficulties that impact the continent's contemporary society. The progress and recognition of criminology within African society will aid in reducing crime while preserving the safety and tranquillity of the African people and those who live on the continent. Criminology, the science that investigates crime, offenders, and victims of crime, gives well-informed research and recommendations while also giving an analysis of crime incidence. As it deals with a significant and sensitive social phenomenon, this crucial discipline in guiding society's safety must be acknowledged and held accountable by its professional body. Therefore, the South African government should recognize criminology as an important weapon that may be used to deal with

⁷² Singh and Gopal, "Criminology in the 21st Century: Through the Eyes" of Academics."

⁷³ Christiaan Bezuidenhout and Anthony Minnaar, "To Professionalise or Not?," *Acta Criminologica: African Journal of Criminology & Victimology* 2010, no. sed-1 (2010): 1–17.

⁷⁴ Bezuidenhout and Minnaar, "To Professionalise or Not?"

the country's high crime rate successfully. This recognition may begin with the government agreeing to grant the criminology discipline its own professional body to govern it.

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