

## Abstract

This Master thesis explores delinquency of juvenile Czechs and Germans from seventh to ninth grade based on quantitative data. The data comes from an International Self-Report Delinquency study (ISR2), which is anchored primarily in the Social control theory (Hirschi, 1969/2002) and the General theory of crime (Gottfredson, Hirschi, 1990). Therefore, in the first section, attention is paid to these and other selected criminological theories; the other theories are mainly the strain theories and the cultural deviance theories. In the second section, the thesis deals briefly with the socio-cultural differences and similarities between the Czech Republic and Germany. The core of the thesis is the third, analytical section, which presents the findings of statistical analysis.

A conclusion is reached that the theories studied are by far less contradictory than what the authors of the social control theory and the general theory of crime claimed them to be. It rather seems that the individual theories are complementary and often lead to the same predictions. Hypotheses are confirmed that some characteristics of the pupils' relation to their school are related to delinquency: Pupils who like going to school are somewhat less delinquent than pupils who do not. Pupils who play truant are substantially more delinquent than pupils who do not. However, bad school results including repeating a grade sometime in the past are very poor predictors of delinquency. The General theory of crime and its concept of delinquency find mediocre support in the data. Low self-control measured with both behavioural manifestations and questions about attitude is related to delinquency. There are only small difference in delinquency between Czechs and Germans.

## Keywords

**Juvenile delinquency; self-report research; comparative analysis; criminology; school; social control theory (social bond theory); general theory of crime; strain theory; cultural deviance theory; ISR2; Czech Republic; Germany.**