2. Gunnar-Hering-Lectures

AM 25.4.2017

Efi Avdela (University of Crete)

Title

When Juvenile Delinquency Became an International Post-War Concern: The United

Nations, the Council of Europe and the Place of Greece

Summary

The speaker described the intensive activity around the issue of juvenile delinquency

by the new international bodies which emerged after the end of the Second World War

(Council of Europe, World Health Organization and various agencies of the United

Nations), as a process of internationalisation of the anxieties generated in the fifties

and sixties. Thus, on both sides of the Cold War division, juvenile delinquency was

seen as a threat on the increase.

Delegates of the Greek state participated systematically in the relevant

conferences, contributing with data, reports, surveys and recommendations produced

on this issue. Examining the material generated by those international organisations

and the policies employed at a national level, Professor Avdela argued that the wide

discursive field presented strong ambiguities, partly due to the discrepancies between

formal answers and actual practices of the various participants, as the Greek case

allows us to attest.

Prof. Oliver Rathkolb provided a short comment, followed by a discussion with the

audience.

This second Gunnar-Hering-Lecture will be published in a separate volume in due

time.