

# JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, CRIME AND SOCIAL MARGINALIZATION

Social and Political  
Implications

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BY

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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*Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.*

— Albert Einstein

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*Miguel Basto Pereira*

# INTRODUCTION

Scientific evidence shows that a set of family and psychosocial elements are risk factors for juvenile delinquency. Nonetheless, a meta-synthesis of factors predicting desistance from crime in juvenile offenders, which could play a central role in preventing crime, has never been done. This is not the only limitation. If adverse childhood experiences (ACE) are a unanimous risk factor for juvenile delinquency, the role of each early adverse experience on crime and social marginalization are almost unknown. Worldwide, the levels of effectiveness of justice interventions are not encouraging, despite the majority of legal frameworks having the aim of preventing recidivism and promote social integration. Moreover, when youths with justice involvement reach adulthood, very little is known about what dimensions should be intervened.

The purpose of this book is to advance knowledge about the role of psychosocial, legal, and family factors on persistence in crime and social marginalization in young adults with a history of juvenile delinquency. This work presents the main findings and policy implications from *The Portuguese Study on Delinquency and Social Marginalization*, (PSDSM) which are divided into five parts, each part corresponding to a published and/or submitted scientific article. Chapter 1 evaluates the long-term predictors of desistance from crime in adults with a history of juvenile delinquency; Chapter 2, explores the role of adverse childhood experiences (ACE) on juvenile justice involvement, persistence in crime, and

psychosocial problems; Chapter 3 examines the mechanisms involved in the link between ACE and delinquency; Chapter 4 explores the role of juvenile justice involvement and detention measures on psychosocial problems and persistence in crime during early adulthood; and, lastly, Chapter 5 evaluates the relation between adult psychosocial problems and criminal indicators in individuals with an official record of juvenile criminal offences (ORJC).