

**Title:**

**Spiritual and Positive Criminology - contemporary applications of established knowledge**

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**Abstract:**

What embodies the distilled essence of criminality? Positive criminology typically indicates any form of criminality to inevitably involve a process of separation and disintegration, being revealed in three related levels: Interpersonal, intrapersonal, and spiritual. Consequently, positive criminology continuously emphasizes successful integration as a leading means for crime desistance and offender rehabilitation. Spiritual criminology adds on it conscious attempt to bring together a universal essence of spiritual integrative knowledge which was intensively developed in Asian various cultures (e.g., vital religions). While diverse cultures might traditionally maintain different outlooks on spirituality, they all share a commonality that exists at their root of spirituality, which is also adopted by spiritual criminology. Accordingly, any form of criminality typically entails a marked degree of self-centeredness of those involved. Self-centeredness relates to an individual's over-occupation with their needs, risks, desires, and expectations. It indicates the individual's personal level of ignorance, the degree of self-identification with one's ego, or the individual's distance from God. At times, it might be projected into a certain group of belonging, to become group self-centeredness. Self-centeredness refers to a fundamental separation on the spiritual level, usually expressed also and influenced by the individual's intrapersonal and interpersonal levels of separation. Crime desistance and offender rehabilitation can be soundly achieved by a growing decrease of self-centeredness, in addition to employing integrating means. This might be exemplified by the Covid-19 pandemic and the worldwide official response of the authorities, which unfortunately increased social distance and personal fears. Consequently, it increased self-centeredness, which resulted in an increase of related phenomena such as substance abuse and addiction, domestic violence, and suicide. Both positive and spiritual criminology call for reversing this process by any attempt to increase faith and hope and to allow social opportunities for growing integration. Such means are estimated to have positive public health outcomes.