



"El delincuente en busca de sentido". El papel de la dimensión existencial en la carrera delictiva [

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text (article)

Analítica

This paper analyzes the way in which meaning in life, on its presence or absence, contributes to criminal persistence and its desistance. It used a qualitative methodology, based in life story inter-views to a sample of 23 career offenders. Results showed that participants were afflicted by a state of "existential vacuum" during the development of their criminal career, characterized by frustration and addiction, which enhanced criminal persistence. Contrarily, desistance was attributed to the awareness of such negative state and the discovery of new meaningful purposes in life -e. g. family, religion, helping others, etc.- which reported a wellbeing and self-actualization which couldn't be experienced during the criminal past

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