

On the belief in punishment

Paul Larsson
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We inherited a war

- “Concerning drugs, we have had the biggest misuse of punishment the of the 20th century.”
- «Put simply, this is the suppression through criminal law of illicit production, supply and consumption of drugs.» (Bewley-Taylor 2012, s. 3).
- The US situation – from prohibition to war on drugs.
- US regulation becomes the international regulation.
- Norway – from løsgjengerlov (law on vagrancy) to hunting hippies.

Does punishment work?

- Scepticism among scholars of the general preventive effects of punishment since WWII (Andenæs, Aubert).
- What about rational crimes?
- The normative effects?
- How about deterrence?
- Punishment as crime prevention?

Increase in investigated cases (Haslund).

year	total	drugs	theft
1968	51830	201	41933
1973	86992	1262	88108
1978	105263	1617	133052
1983	159598	3793	133052
1988	220338	6229	181314
1993	248203	11739	194907
1998	292233	30291	206786
98:68	5,6	150,7	4,9

And what do we catch?

- In Norway in 2013 we reached a top of 47 000 reported drug crimes.
- There has been a decline since that time in 2017 – 33500. But all reported crimes have dropped.
- Half of the cases breach of Legemiddeloven (Law concerning medicines and drugs).
- 2 – 3 % are serious drug crimes.
- We punish a segment of the users.
- Drug laws are well known to punish, the poor, the miserable, the black and the marginalized.

Costs and benefits

- There might be some preventive effects.
- But the costs in human suffering from using punishment are immense.
- A system that produces failure - “dope fiends, junkies etc”
- It is damaging for the society.
- For the justice system and the police.
- The economic costs.
- There are better ways of regulation!