

## INKERI ANTTILA (1916–2013) IN MEMORIAM

RAIMO LAHTI (<sup>1</sup>)

Professor emerita and former Minister of Justice Inkeri Anttila passed away peacefully on 6 July 2013 in Helsinki at the age of 96 years. She was born on 29 November 1916 in Vyborg.

Throughout her lengthy career as professor, civil servant, criminologist, government minister and social activist, Inkeri Anttila promoted the understanding of crime and crime control. She was one of the great pioneers in criminal sciences in Finland, in Europe and indeed in the world. Among the group of the world's eminent criminal scientists, she was moreover a rarity: she had a direct influence on criminal policy and the modernization of penal legislation.

Inkeri Anttila's career began in law. She entered the Faculty of Law at the University of Helsinki (1933). After graduation, she served at a district court and at the same time prepared her doctoral dissertation in criminal law ("Consent as a justifying ground", finalized in 1946). She was the first female candidate to defend a doctoral thesis in legal science in Finland.

In 1949 Inkeri Anttila's teaching career began as a lecturer in correctional treatment at the College of Social Sciences, and it continued as Director of prison personnel training at the Department of Prison Administration. Her interest in criminology grew, and it was she who introduced the topic into Finland, through courses at the University of Helsinki. This, in turn, led her to the systematic study of sociology. The resulting cross-fertilization of legal studies and social sciences became a permanent element of her work.

<sup>1</sup> Professor Raimo Lahti is Inkeri Anttila's successor to the Chair of criminal law at the University of Helsinki.

In 1961 Inkeri Anttila became the first woman in Finland to hold a chair in law when she was appointed to a professorship in criminal law at the University of Helsinki. Two years later, Inkeri Anttila became the part-time Director of a new body, the Institute of Criminology. Later, in 1974, the Institute under her directorship was transformed into the National Research Institute of Legal Policy, a semi-independent unit attached to the Ministry of Justice. This provided her with the opportunity of working full-time on criminological research, strengthening the influence of such research on national policy, and expanding her network of contacts around the world.

When Inkeri Anttila was Minister of Justice in 1975, she introduced legislative proposals which led to the reform of conditional sentences, parole, and the sentencing of drunken drivers. These reforms reflected an innovative approach to criminal policy, which is based on research and cost-benefit assessments.

As a criminologist, Inkeri Anttila pioneered self-report studies of delinquency. She was one of the first to suggest using the survey approach in order to study victimization and to write about what was then a new field, victimology. She drew attention to situational factors in contributing to crime, and has written extensively about alternative approaches to controlling crime and dealing with offenders.

Inkeri Anttila was one of the primary architects of the rational and humane orientation in Finnish and Nordic criminal policy. Her insights into the day-to-day operation of corrections led her to question prevailing truths, in particular the entrenched belief in treatment as the rationale for punishment. In this, her extensive Nordic contacts bore early fruit. As President of the Scandinavian Research Council of Criminology in 1968–1973 she had a leading role in the realization of the purpose of that Council in its early years: to further criminological research in the Nordic countries and to advise the Nordic governments in matters related to criminology.

Inkeri Anttila chaired governmental committees on abortion and sterilization legislation as well as on probation and parole. She also had a leading role in the preparation of the total reform of the Finnish criminal code. She took part in both the preliminary committee work (1972–1976) that drew up the outlines for the total reform of criminal law and in the actual drafting of the new Code in the Task Force on Criminal Law, which was launched in 1980 and continued until 1999.

Inkeri Anttila's Finnish career was paralleled in her international activities in the field of crime control and criminal justice. She was elected by her peers to positions of responsibility in all the major international organizations in the field of criminal sciences and criminal policy: Member of the International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation in 1962–1992, Member of the Board of the International Association of Penal Law in 1969–1986, Vice-President of the International Society for Criminology in 1979–1990, and Vice-President of the International Society of Social Defence in 1981–1992.

Professor Anttila's pioneering work in the nexus of criminology and criminal policy has earned her wide international respect. Perhaps the clearest indication of this appreciation was her election as President of the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offender in 1975. When the United Nations decided to establish a regional institute for crime prevention and control in Europe (HEUNI), the choice of Finland as host country was, in reality, determined by the availability of Inkeri Anttila for the position of Director of the Institute (in 1982–1986).

Among the international honors conferred to Inkeri Anttila were the Sellin-Gluck Award of the American Society of Criminology in 1983, the Testimonial awarded by the Secretary General of the United Nations in recognition of her dedicated service in support of the UN programme on crime and justice in 1992, as well as the European Criminology Award awarded by the European Society of Criminology in 2011.

Inkeri Anttila's voice in support of improved justice and services for victims, more humane sanctioning of offenders, and a rational approach to crime prevention has been heard around the world. A collection of the writings of Inkeri Anttila was published in 2001 (*"Ad ius criminale humanius, Essays in Criminology, Criminal Justice and Criminal Policy"*, edited by Raimo Lahti & Patrik Törnudd, Finnish Lawyers' Association, Helsinki 2001). Respect for human values and an emphasis on rational decision-making are keywords that characterize these writings.

In her address to the European Society of Criminology on the occasion of the European Criminology Award 2011, Inkeri Anttila underlined that being critical, and being constructive and practical are not mutually exclusive alternatives for criminal scientists. They have a duty to disseminate their insights and arguments to decision-makers, other experts, and the general public. On the basis of her experience as an expert in

criminology and criminal policy, she concluded that it was important to put forward convincing arguments regarding the relative ineffectiveness of imprisonment, the relevance of social and situational factors in crime, as well as the highly selective functioning of the criminal justice system. (See in more detail her address, which was published in “Criminology in Europe”, 2011/3.)

Inkeri Anttila was a true pioneer and visionary. She has improved our ability to understand crime and justice and place it into its proper context. She will be sorely missed by all who worked with her and were inspired by her.