

Revista de Ciencias Sociales

50 *Años*
ANIVERSARIO

Youth criminal intentions under the scope of the theory of planned behavior

Lara-Paredes, Selena Jouly*
Alcívar-Junco, Genesis del Carmen**
Pérez-Cepeda, Maximiliano***

Abstract

Using the Theory of Planned Behavior, this research aimed to analyze the effect of attitudes, the social environment and perceived control over the law, to understand criminal intentions of young people in Ecuador, a country that has experienced a significant increase in crime, juvenile delinquency in recent years. 202 students between 14 and 17 years old from five public schools in Ecuador participated in the non-experimental cross-sectional study. The results of the Structural Equations Model show a negative relationship between Attitude and intention (-0.367; $p < 0.001$), and positive relationships between Subjective Norm and intention (0.333; $p < 0.001$), and Perceived Control and intention to not commit illegal acts (0.204; $p < 0.001$). It is concluded that the Theory of Planned Behavior is an adequate framework to understand the effect that individual attitudes, the social environment and the control they perceive over the law have on the intention not to commit illegal acts. The most notable contribution of this research is the inverse relationship between attitude and intention, which raises important questions about the perception of severity that young people have about the law and their intention not to contravene it.

Keywords: Youth criminal intentions; theory of planned behavior; youth's attitude; subjective norm; perceived control.

* Master in Criminal Procedure Law. Master in Procedural Law. Lawyer of the Courts and Tribunals of the Republic of Ecuador. Professor-Researcher at the State University of Milagro (UNEMI), Milagro, Guayas, Ecuador. E-mail: slarap@unemi.edu.ec ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7817-6936> Corresponding autor.

** Master in Procedural Law. Lawyer in the Courts and Tribunals of the Republic of Ecuador. Teacher-Researcher State University of Milagro (UNEMI), Milagro, Guayas, Ecuador. E-mail: galcivarj@unemi.edu.ec ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0003-8045-6437>

*** Doctor in Strategic Business Administration. Master in Production and Productivity Systems. Sales Administration Engineer. Professor-Researcher at the Catholic University of Santiago de Guayaquil, Guayaquil, Guayas, Ecuador. E-mail: maximiliano.perez@cu.ucsg.edu.ec ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9145-7660>

Intenciones delictivas de los jóvenes a través de la teoría del comportamiento planificado

Resumen

Utilizando la Teoría del Comportamiento Planificado, esta investigación tuvo como propósito analizar el efecto de las actitudes, el entorno social y el control percibido sobre la ley, para entender intenciones delictivas de los jóvenes en Ecuador, un país que ha experimentado un aumento significativo de la delincuencia juvenil en los últimos años. En el estudio no experimental de corte transversal participaron 202 estudiantes de entre 14 y 17 años de cinco escuelas públicas de Ecuador. Los resultados del Modelo de Ecuaciones Estructurales muestran una relación negativa entre Actitud e intención (-0,367; $p < 0,001$), y relaciones positivas entre la Norma Subjetiva y la intención (0,333; $p < 0,001$), y el Control Percibido y la intención de no cometer actos ilícitos (0,204; $p < 0,001$). Se concluye que la Teoría del Comportamiento Planificado, es un marco adecuado para entender el efecto que las actitudes individuales, el entorno social y el control que perciben sobre la ley, tienen en la intención de no cometer actos ilícitos. La aportación más notable de esta investigación es la relación inversa entre la actitud e intención, lo cual plantea cuestiones importantes sobre la percepción de severidad que tienen los jóvenes sobre la ley y su intención de no transgredirla.

Palabras clave: Intenciones criminales juveniles; teoría de la conducta planificada; actitud juvenil; norma subjetiva; control percibido.

Introduction

In many countries in the developed world, the number of arrests of youth for violent crimes, such as murder, robbery, and aggravated assault, has shown a steady decline since the mid-2000s. In the United States, for example, in 2020, these arrests related to youth for violent crimes reached a historic low, falling to 78% below the peak recorded in 1994 and halving the figures from a decade earlier (Puzzanchera, 2022).

In the youth justice system in England and Wales (Youth Justice Board, 2023), for the year ending March 2022, a total of 13,800 children aged 10 to 17 were cautioned or sentenced, reflecting a 13% decrease over the year. last year and a significant decrease of 79% over the past decade. In Europe, the state of juvenile incarceration varies between countries. For example, while Germany has a relatively high percentage of juvenile prisoners: 10% of the total prison population;

Denmark has a remarkably low figure: Only 0.1%.

These disparities could be influenced by a variety of factors, including differences in legal systems, social norms, and approaches to justice and youth rehabilitation (Aebi et al., 2022). In Spain, the *Ministerio del Interior* indicated that during the first half of 2021 there were 117 arrests linked to these violent youth groups (Europapress, 2021). These trends indicate a changing dynamic of youth participation in the criminal justice system, with a notable shift toward reduced participation over the years.

Nevertheless, Latin America has some of the highest crime and violence rates in the world, with 37% of all homicides occurring in the region, of which, more than 60% are young people and are largely attributable to violence. of gangs (Campie, 2023). In Ecuador, juvenile delinquency increases continuously. In the first two and a half months of 2023, there have already been 500 minors arrested for various

crimes, including robberies, assaults, murders, kidnappings and more.

It is evident that while the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union have experienced a decrease in youth crime rates, Latin America, and particularly Ecuador, has witnessed a worrying increase in youth criminal activity. These opposing trends underscore the importance of understanding the underlying factors contributing to this divergence. Socioeconomic conditions, access to education, family structures and the influence of criminal organizations are critical elements to consider.

Furthermore, it is essential to recognize the role of legal frameworks and their application in shaping these youth crime trends (McAra & McVie, 2018). Differences in laws, judicial procedures, and sentencing policies between Western Nations and Latin American countries can significantly affect the way juveniles are processed within the justice system (Sozzo, 2022). In some cases, leniency or more rehabilitative approaches may have contributed to reductions in youth crime in certain regions (Applegate, Bolin & Ouellette, 2023).

Conversely, the lack of effective legal mechanisms and stricter penalties in other areas could be related to the emergence of juvenile delinquency (Zane & Mears, 2023). The propensity of young people to engage in criminal activities is influenced by multiple factors, such as the influence of the family and social environment, where children who grow up in dysfunctional homes are at greater risk of crime (Palit & Saragani, 2022). This also includes their perceived control over avoiding punishment for crimes committed and their individual attitude towards crime (Applegate et al., 2023).

Morillo & Birkbeck (2017); and Torres-Tellez & Montero (2022), point out that once an adolescent becomes an adult, these behaviors may likely disappear. However, they could also mark the beginning of a criminal career. Additionally, they identify two approaches to addressing multiple theories simultaneously: The first aims for conceptual integration,

while the second focuses on comparing the predictive effectiveness of key variables derived from competing theories that seek to provide a reasonably complete explanation of criminal behavior.

Considering these arguments, this study seeks to carry out an analysis of the intentionality of young people to commit crimes, using the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), as an integrative framework to evaluate the attitude of young people towards transgressing the law, influence of the environment and the control they perceive over the law when committing illegal acts.

1. Theoretical foundation

1.1. Youth respect for the law

Positive role models, such as parents, teachers, and community leaders, play a critical role in shaping a young person's attitude toward the law by demonstrating the importance of following the rules and offering guidance and support (Kearney & Levine, 2020). Moreover, a sense of justice in the legal system, where laws are applied uniformly regardless of background or social status, fosters respect (Oriolo, 2023).

Another important factor is education. As Dong & Zeb (2022) highlight, education is another vital tool to promote law-abiding behavior among young people. Without proper direction and guidance, it is common for adolescents to develop deviant behaviors, noncompliance with the law, and unhealthy beliefs. In a different context, Yusuf (2023) revealed that a number of structural challenges pose significant threats to both law enforcement and social stability. These challenges encompass a widespread lack of trust in the judicial system and law enforcement, the widespread availability of weapons, and the collapse of family institutions.

Active community involvement, such as volunteering and participating in community events, also helps young people respect the law, as they feel responsible to their community

and understand that laws maintain a safe and healthy environment (McMellon & Tisdall, 2020). Lastly, enforcing laws with appropriate consequences for illegal behavior reinforces the idea that there are real repercussions for breaking the law, thus motivating youth to comply with rules and regulations to avoid these consequences (Nagin & Telep, 2020).

Altman (2021), stated that according to consequentialism, punishment is justified when it maximizes positive results; while according to retributive justice, criminals must be punished because they deserve it. In either approach, the legitimacy of punitive measures and legal sanctions, as defined by legislative bodies, is based on their assessment of costs and benefits, particularly in relation to their effectiveness in deterring crime and facilitating rehabilitation.

Reflecting on the factors that influence young people's respect for the law, it is important to highlight its multifaceted characteristic, mainly influenced by the environment. The role of positive models in the formation of respectful attitudes is highlighted. Parents, teachers, and community leaders not only transmit knowledge, but also shape behaviors through their example. This approach highlights the importance of coherence between what is taught and what is practiced in society.

Education is another fundamental factor in promoting respect for the law. This suggests that the educational system has a responsibility that goes beyond the mere transmission of academic knowledge, also encompassing the ethical and civic training of young people. Finally, structural challenges that threaten law enforcement and social stability are highlighted. The lack of trust in the judicial system and law enforcement highlights the need to strengthen judicial bodies.

1.2. Theory of Planned Behavior

Researchers use this theory to better understand why people make the decisions they do and to design interventions and strategies

to change behavior (Hamid, Azhar & Sujood, 2023). The Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) states that behavioral intentions, which serve as precursors to actual behavior, are determined by three fundamental constructs: Attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control (Albayati, Alistarbadí & Rho, 2023).

Attitude toward Behavior focuses on an individual's general evaluation of a particular behavior. Consider whether the person has a positive or negative attitude toward performing the behavior (Lam, Schoonderwoerd & Kop, 2023). Attitudes are determined by the perceived consequences and outcomes associated with the action (Fiegel & Frank, 2023). For example, if someone believes that quitting smoking will improve her health (a positive outcome), her attitude toward quitting smoking will be more favorable (Adams, Gringart & Strobel, 2022).

Subjective Norms analyze how social influences affect an individual's behavioral intentions. It contemplates the expectations and perceptions attributed to significant people in the environment, such as family, friends or colleagues (Gansser & Reich, 2023). When someone believes that her social circle supports a specific action, the likelihood that this will influence her intention to carry it out increases. Understanding how an individual perceives the social environment and the people around them can provide valuable information about their behavioral intentions (Khaleghi et al., 2023).

The third construct, Perceived Behavioral Control, analyzes a person's evaluation of their ability to successfully execute a specific behavior (Hagger et al., 2022). This concept refers to the individual assessment of the skills and resources necessary to carry out a specific action, including criminal behavior (Shukri, Jones & Conner, 2022). A high level of PBC indicates that the subject is confident that he or she has the skills and means required to carry out the behavior in question.

On reflection, the TPB recognizes that human behavior is not simply the result of isolated individual decisions, but is deeply rooted in a complex web of personal and

social factors. The strength of the TPB lies in its ability to capture the dynamic interaction between its three components. It recognizes that behavior is not the result of a single factor, but of the complex interaction between personal attitudes, social influences, and perceptions of control.

However, it is also important to recognize the potential limitations of the theory. For example, it may not fully capture the influence of emotional or irrational factors on human behavior, or it may underestimate the role of broader contextual factors. Despite this, it is worth reflecting that the Theory of Planned Behavior offers a valuable framework to understand the complexity of human behavior. Provides an organized structure for analyzing the multiple influences on decisions and actions, including criminal intent.

1.3. Literature gap

The literature has shown insights into criminal intent under the scope of the TPB; for example, Shukri et al. (2022); and Tan et al. (2022), applied the TPB to analyze intentions to avoid traffic violations. In a different context, Kaulu (2022); as well as Bani-Khalid, Alshira'h & Alshirah (2022), used TPB to predict tax evasion intention (IET). In another study, Ramadhani & Trisnarningsih (2023), used the TPB to describe an intention to commit fraud (cheating). Furthermore, Huang & Chen (2023) used the TPB to investigate the association between criminal intent and actual criminal behavior, as well as the factors that contribute to these behaviors.

In terms of lawbreaking, Popa, Niță & Hălălișan (2019) analyzed the intention to participate in forest law enforcement efforts by applying the concepts of TPB. Finally, in a more specific context, related to youth behavior, Alimoradi et al. (2022) evaluated the ability of an extended theory TPB model to predict adolescent physical and verbal aggression behavior.

The main contribution of this research to the TPB literature focusses on the context

of a country of increasing violence, which is an inverse trend to most countries in the developed world. The hypotheses raised in this study are derived directly from the three fundamental constructs of the TPB. Each of these hypotheses seeks to establish a predictive relationship between these theoretical components and young people's intentions to respect or break the law.

Within the framework of the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), attitudes are defined as individual evaluations, whether positive or negative, towards the execution of a specific behavior. Nagin & Telep (2020) argue that citizens' willingness to abide by the law contributes significantly to the decrease in crime rates. Applying this concept to the area of youth criminal intentions, Huang & Chen (2023) argue that those young people who maintain a favorable stance towards legal compliance are more likely to respect the rules and avoid illicit behavior. Therefore, the following hypothesis is proposed:

H1: An attitude of respect towards the severity of the law will have an effect on young people's intentions not to break the law.

In the case of minors, the subjective norm could involve their peers, family members, community members and even educational institutions. In this sense, Khaleghi et al. (2023) analyzed the effect of educational intervention based on the theory of planned behavior on preventive behaviors of aggression in students. For many juvenile offenders, peer influence plays an important role in their criminal activities (Mattheis, 2022).

Furthermore, Palit & Sarangi (2022) emphasize between family violence and the crime rate among adolescents, as part of a subjective norm. The subjective norms component of TPB allows researchers to explore how pressure and expectations from friends impact their decisions to commit crimes (Alimoradi et al., 2022). Therefore, the following hypothesis arises from such reasoning:

H2: The subjective norm of respect for the law will have an effect on young people's

intentions not to transgress the law.

Perceived control is related to the perception of one's own ability to successfully execute a behavior. In the case of juvenile offenders, it could be their assessment of the ease or difficulty of getting involved in criminal activities (Popa et al., 2019). De Buck & Pauwels (2023), highlights that perceived control takes into account factors such as self-efficacy and the presence of barriers or facilitators that can affect the individual's confidence to carry out the action, which includes intentions to break the law. Therefore, the following hypothesis is proposed:

H3: A high perceived control over the law when committing crimes will have an impact on the intention to commit crimes among young people.

2. Methodology

The research adopted a non-experimental cross-sectional design, which aligns with the purpose of the research. According to Hernández, Fernández & Baptista (2014), this design is particularly appropriate when seeking to analyze the relationship between variables at a specific time, without deliberate manipulation of them. In this research, this design allows for the examination of young people's attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control toward law enforcement in their natural context (Ajzen, 2011). The use of a standardized instrument enables comparability of results with previous and future studies in the field.

Data analysis was performed using a structural equation model (SEM). This analytical technique, as Kline (2023) explains, is especially useful for examining complex relationships between latent and observed variables, allowing for a simultaneous evaluation of multiple pathways of influence.

In the context of this research, SEM provides a robust tool to assess how components of the TPB interact to influence youth's intentions to comply with the law (Canatay et al., 2022).

2.1. Participants

This study involved 202 students aged 14 to 17 years from five public educational institutions. Before collecting the data, authorization was requested from the directors of around 20 public schools in Ecuador, of which five agreed to participate. To increase the participation of young students, teachers were asked to be part of the research as moderators of the questionnaire. However, considering that students had the option of not participating, many of them rejected the questionnaire. Each high school has an average of 120 students, of which around 40 students responded to the questionnaire, representing an average participation rate of 30%.

2.2. Design and development of questionnaires

Initially, a pilot questionnaire with five questions for each construct, measured using a seven-point Likert scale, was sent to the students. Missing data were identified in the pilot survey because many participants left questions unanswered; to solve the problem, the questionnaire was redesigned, simplifying each construct to a single question. To better address the questions, validity was achieved through consultation with a group of three attorneys, a psychologist with expertise in child and youth psychology, and an external consulting researcher with experience in the TPB model. The four behavior statements are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1
Representative questions of the TPB model applied in the survey

Item description	Likert scale						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Regarding the laws that punish the commission of crimes in Ecuador, is your opinion that these are laws?	Extremely Flexible	Very flexible	Flexible	Mild	Severe	Very Severe	Extremely severe
Would you say that the majority of people you know, such as friends or family, think that the laws that punish the commission of crimes in Ecuador are?	Extremely Flexible	Very flexible	Flexible	Mild	Severe	Very Severe	Extremely severe
How controllable would it be for you to use the laws in your favor to avoid being convicted of committing a crime in Ecuador?	Extremely controllable	Very Controllable	Controllable	Mild	Uncontrollable	Very Uncontrollable	Extremely uncontrollable
I intend NOT to break any laws in the future.	Extremely disagree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Extremely agree

Source: Own elaboration, 2024.

2.3. Data collection procedure

After review, the updated questionnaire was distributed and administered. Teachers at the participating institutions delivered the forms to their students as an optional activity within the social sciences course. The instructions ensured anonymity of responses to encourage honesty, resulting in a 100% response rate on all four questions during the second test.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. TPB path analysis

Table 2, presents the summary statistics and correlations between the elements of the TPB model. The results reveal significant associations between most of the components analyzed.

Table 2
Statistics of the model variables

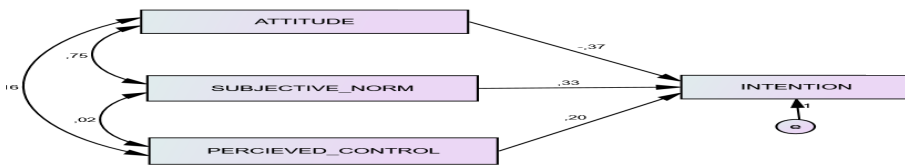
TPB factor	M	D.S.	Attitude	Subjective Norm	Perceived Control
Attitude	3.47	1.90			
Subjective Norm	3.29	1.74	0.45**		
Perceived Control	3.59	1.92	0.16**	0.24**	
Intention	1.90	1.83	-0.20**	0.19**	0.23**

Note: a. Means (M), standard deviations (S.D.) and correlations between items for attitudes (A), subjective norms (NS), perceived behavioral control (PC) and intentions (I) of the participants regarding the law in Ecuador. b. ** (p<0.01).

Source: Own elaboration, 2024.

The path analysis presented in Figure I, represents the TPB model, which shows the coefficients that correspond to the constructs TPB, attitude, subjective norm and perceived control, all of which interact to influence young people’s intention to break the law. The attitude expresses the position of young people

towards the flexibility and severity of the law; the subjective norm evaluates the influence of the social circle with respect to the flexibility and severity of the law; and the perceived control that young people have to use the laws in their favor to avoid being convicted of committing a crime in Ecuador.



Source: Own elaboration, 2024.

Figure I: Path analysis of TPB factors and their prediction of intention to break the law

It is observed in Table 3 that attitude has a negative relationship with intention, with a significant path coefficient of -0.367 (p=**). On the contrary, intention has a positive relationship with subjective norm

(path coefficient = 0.333), which means that the perceived social norm supports the severity of the law, therefore, intentions to respect it are stronger. This relationship is also statistically significant (p=**).

Table 3
Path coefficients in the TPB model for juvenile criminal intentions

			Estimates	P
Intention	<---	Attitude	-0.367	**
Intention	<---	Subjective Norm	0.333	**
Intention	<---	Percieved Control	0.204	**

Note: ** significance 0.001 (two-tailed).

Source: Own elaboration, 2024.

Furthermore, intention is positively correlated with perceived control, where the degree of perceived control over the law strengthens the intention to respect it (path coefficient = 0.204). This relationship is highly statistically significant (p = 0.01).

The findings allowed us to reject the first hypothesis that states that a respectful attitude towards the severity of the law will

have an effect on young people’s intentions not to break the law. The inverse relationship between attitude and the intention not to commit illegal actions may seem contradictory (Bryan-Hancock & Casey, 2011). These results can be explained from two perspectives. On the one hand, young people may be aware of compliance with the law, despite perceiving its lack of severity. In their study, Li & Van Rooij

(2022) demonstrated that compliance can exist without a complete transmission and reception of legal norms within and within the regulated organization.

In this regard, Mukti, Rachmi & Rustamaji (2022) point out that the external internalization of justice has the following forms: a). Divinity and humanity as a moral parameter; b) unity and democracy as a policy parameter; and, c) social justice as a parameter of the objective to be achieved. Taking this into account, one could argue that the young people in this study have probably internalized respect for the law, despite having a perception of leniency.

On the other hand, there are situations in which people, especially young people, might see more lenient laws as an opportunity to challenge the legal system (Bryan-Hancock & Casey, 2011; Arafat & Asmundi, 2022; Pickard, 2022). This may be attributed to factors such as a feeling of rebellion, whereby some people may be naturally inclined to challenge perceived authority or excessive restrictions (Pickard, 2022). Regarding rebellious behavior, Mattheis (2022) maintains that there is a special justification for youthful disobedience. He distinguishes between various forms of youth disobedience, drawing on the democratic foundation of civil disobedience.

This sense of rebellion can be manipulated by gangs that involve young people in criminal organizations (Solar & Pérez, 2023; Sekar & Bhuvanewari, 2023; Moreno-Guaicha et al., 2024), which is a very common occurrence in Latin America. These seemingly unruly children are, in fact, highly regulated by “the rules of the street” (Solar & Pérez, 2023, p. 2). There are other examples that illustrate cases in which laws perceived as harsh have not resulted in significant reductions in crime rates.

Regarding the second hypothesis, it confirms that subjective norms can shape individuals’ attitudes towards the law and their intentions to comply with it. If individuals believe that their social group values legality, they are more likely to develop positive

attitudes toward the law and have greater intentions to respect it (Popa et al., 2019). This is confirmed in this study with the positive relationship between subjective norm and the intention to respect the law.

The discrepancy in the results between attitude and subjective norm in relation to the intention not to transgress the law could be attributed to the presence of significant social pressures or to a specific cultural context where compliance with the law differs from individual attitudes. This could mean that young people have their own criteria regarding the flexibility of the law.

Finally, in relation to the third hypothesis, the study findings emphasize the importance of perceived control in influencing behavioral intentions. Specifically, there is a notable positive relationship between perceived control and intention, meaning that greater perceived control over a particular behavior amplifies the intention to engage in that behavior (Hagger et al., 2022).

Findings reveal a complex dynamic between individual attitudes, social norms, and perceived control in relation to law compliance among youth. The negative relationship between attitude and intention to respect the law, contrary to what might be expected, suggests that, in the context studied, individual perceptions of the severity of the law are not the determining factor in the legal behavior of youths.

In contrast, the strong positive influence of subjective norms indicates that the social environment plays an important role in forming legal compliance intentions. Furthermore, the positive relationship between perceived control and intention to obey the law suggests that empowering youth to know the law could be an effective strategy to promote law-abiding behaviors.

Conclusions

It is concluded that the Theory of Planned Behavior is an appropriate framework to understand the influence that

the individual attitudes of young people, the social environment and the control they perceive over the law, have on the intention not to commit illicit acts. Probably the most notable contribution of this research is the inverse relationship between the attitude of young people and the intention to avoid illegal actions. This means that the perception of strict regulation may not be enough to control youth crime.

However, the research presents several limitations that are very important to consider. First, the data are based on self-report responses, which can introduce social desirability biases, especially in sensitive topics such as law enforcement. Furthermore, being a cross-sectional study, definitive causal relationships cannot be established. Second, the study focused on youth from particular educational institutions, which could limit the generalizability of the results to other demographic groups or contexts. Finally, the study focuses on intentions, but does not measure actual law enforcement behavior, which could introduce a gap between intention and action.

In view of the limitations presented in this research, it is proposed as lines for future research to use the TPB in longitudinal studies to track changes in the intentions and criminal behavior of juvenile delinquents over a prolonged period. This can help identify trajectories of criminal involvement and provide insights into how intentions evolve over time.

Likewise, expand the scope of the research to include a more diverse and representative sample of young people. This could involve considering factors such as gender, socioeconomic background, and cultural diversity to determine whether the effectiveness of TPB varies between different groups. Furthermore, it is recommended to complement quantitative studies with qualitative research. Qualitative research can provide context and nuance to quantitative findings. For example, in the context of a negative relationship between attitude and intentions, qualitative research can help

uncover the nuanced reasons behind this counterintuitive phenomenon.

Bibliographic references

- Adams, C., Gringart, E., & Strobel, N. (2022). Explaining adults' mental health help-seeking through the lens of the theory of planned behavior: A scoping review. *Systematic Reviews*, 11, 160. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13643-022-02034-y>
- Aebi, M. F., Cocco, E., Molnar, L., & Tiago, M. M. (2022). *SPACE I – 2021 – Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics: Prison populations*. Council of Europe. <https://md.teyit.org/file/aebi-cocco-molnar-tiago-2022-space-i-2021-finalreport-220404.pdf>
- Ajzen, I. (2011). The theory of planned behaviour: Reactions and reflections. *Psychology & Health*, 26(9), 1113-1127. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08870446.2011.613995>
- Albayati, H., Alistarbadi, N., & Rho, J. J. (2023). Assessing engagement decisions in NFT Metaverse based on the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB). *Telematics and Informatics Reports*, 10, 100045. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.teler.2023.100045>
- Alimoradi, K., Davarpanah, S. H., Taymoori, P., Ostovar, A., & Rahmani, K. (2022). Predicting physical and verbal aggression perpetration among teenage boys: an application of the theory of planned behavior. *International Journal of Human Rights in Healthcare*, 15(3), 276-287. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJHRH-12-2020-0110>
- Altman, M. (2021). *A Theory of Legal Punishment. Deterrence, Retribution, and the Aims of the State*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003143352>

- Applegate, B. K., Bolin, R. M., & Ouellette, H. M. (2023). Extending the long arm of the law: Punishment and rehabilitation as motives of public support for handling violent juvenile offenders as adults. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 19, 1001-1019. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-022-09518-w>
- Arafat, M., & Asmundi (2022). Implementation of diversion as the settlement of child criminal cases in the perspective of Islamic law. *International Journal of Politics and Sociology Research*, 10(3), 104-111. <https://ijobsor.pelnu.ac.id/index.php/ijopsor/article/view/57>
- Bani-Khalid, T., Alshira'h, A. F., & Alshirah, M. H. (2022). Determinants of Tax Compliance Intention among Jordanian SMEs: A focus on the Theory of Planned Behavior. *Economies*, 10(2), 30. <https://doi.org/10.3390/economies10020030>
- Bryan-Hancock, C., & Casey, S. (2011). Young people and the justice system: Consideration of maturity in criminal responsibility. *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*, 18(1), 69-78. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13218711003739086>
- Campie, P. E. (2023). *Latin America and the Caribbean - Youth Violence Prevention*. AIR. <https://www.air.org/project/latin-america-and-caribbean-youth-violence-prevention>
- Canatay, A., Emegwa, T., Lybolt, L. M., & Loch, K. D. (2022). Reliability assessment in SEM models with composites and factors: A modern perspective. *Data Analysis Perspectives Journal*, 3(1), 1-6. https://scriptwarp.com/dapi/2022-DAPJ_3_1/Canatay_et_al_2022-DAPJ_3_1_ReliabilityAssessment.pdf
- De Buck, A., & Pauwels, L. J. R. (2023). Intentions to steal: How equal is the interplay between anticipated moral emotions and self-serving justifications across male and female young people? *Victims & Offenders*, 1-33. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2023.2228775>
- Dong, Y., & Zeb, S. (2022). Role of higher education system in promoting law abiding behavior among students. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13, 1036991. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.1036991>
- Europapress (06 de Dic de 2021). Más de 600 bandas actúan en España y hay 117 detenidos por violencia juvenil en el primer semestre de 2021. *Europapress*. <https://www.europapress.es/nacional/noticia-mas-600-bandas-actuan-espana-hay-117-detenidos-violencia-juvenil-primer-semestre-2021-20211206105452.html>
- Fiegel, K. A., & Frank, J. L. (2023). The Theory of Planned Behavior and adolescent marijuana use: Examining the moderating effects of cigarette and e-cigarette co-use. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 58(6), 812-821. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10826084.2023.2191696>
- Gansser, O. A., & Reich, C. S. (2023). Influence of the New Ecological Paradigm (NEP) and environmental concerns on pro-environmental behavioral intention based on the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB). *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 382, 134629. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2022.134629>
- Hagger, M. S., Cheung, M. W.-L., Ajzen, I., & Hamilton, K. (2022). Perceived behavioral control moderating effects in the theory of planned behavior: A meta-analysis. *Health Psychology*, 41(2), 155-167. <https://doi.org/10.1037/hea0001153>
- Hamid, S., Azhar, M., & Sujood (2023). Behavioral intention to order food and beverage items using e-commerce

- during COVID-19: An integration of theory of planned behavior (TPB) with trust. *British Food Journal*, 125(1), 112-131. <https://doi.org/10.1108/BFJ-03-2021-0338>
- Hernández, R., Fernández, C., & Baptista, M. D. P. (2014). *Metodología de la Investigación*. McGraw-Hill/Interamericana Editores S.A. de C.V.
- Huang, J.-Y., & Chen, C.-A. (2023). Relationship Between Criminal Intention and Criminal Behavior. *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*, 38, 555-566. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11896-023-09576-4>
- Kaulu, B. (2022). Determinants of tax evasion intention using the Theory of Planned Behavior and the mediation role of taxpayer egoism. *Fudan Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences*, 15, 63-87. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40647-021-00332-8>
- Kearney, M. S., & Levine, P. B. (2020). Role models, mentors, and media influences. How cultural factors shape economic outcomes. *The Future of Children*, 30(1), 83-106. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/foc.2020.0006>
- Khaleghi, A. A., Jafarzadeh, S., Afzali, P., Kashfi, S. H., Mohammadkhah, F., & Khani, A. (2023). Effect of educational intervention based on theory of planned behavior on aggression preventive behaviors in students. *Journal of Aggression, Conflict and Peace Research*, 15(2), 152-162. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JACPR-03-2022-0701>
- Kline, R. B. (2023). *Principles and practice of structural equation modeling*. Guilford Publications.
- Lam, J., Schoonderwoerd, E., & Kop, N. (2023). Involving citizens in urgent missing person cases. An application of the Theory of Planned Behaviour within District Criminal Investigations Teams. *Policing and Society*, 33(9-10), 1096-1113. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10439463.2023.2237168>
- Li, N., & Van Rooij, B. (2022). Law lost, compliance found: A frontline understanding of the non-linear nature of business and employee responses to law. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 178, 715-734. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-021-04751-1>
- Mattheis, N. (2022). Unruly kids? Conceptualizing and defending youth disobedience. *European Journal of Political Theory*, 21(3), 466-490. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1474885120918371>
- McAra, L., & McVie, S. (2018). Transformations in youth crime and justice across Europe. Evidencing the case for diversion. En B. Goldson (Ed.), *Juvenile Justice in Europe*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315194493>
- McMellon, C., & Tisdall, E. K. M. (2020). Children and Young People's Participation Rights: Looking Backwards and Moving Forwards. *The International Journal of Children's Rights*, 28, 157-182. <https://doi.org/10.1163/15718182-02801002>
- Moreno-Guaicha, J. A., Mena-Zamora, A. A., Tirado-Espín, A., & Escobar-Córdova, S. K. (2024). Rugby como alternativa dentro de los procesos de reinserción social del Colectivo Calle, Paz y Respeto. *Revista de Ciencias Sociales (Ve)*, XXX(1), 313-330. <https://doi.org/10.31876/rcs.v30i1.41658>
- Morillo, S., & Birkbeck, C. H. (2017). Conducta antisocial adolescente bajo un enfoque integrador de tres teorías criminológicas. *Revista de Ciencias Sociales (Ve)*, XXII(3), 76-88. <https://produccioncientificaluz.org/index.php/rcs/article/view/25131>

- Mukti, W. B., Rachmi, I. G. A. K., & Rustamaji, M. (2022). Testing the flexibility of Pancasila as an open ideology in the synergy of designing the law enforcement reform. *Proceeding of the International Conference on Environmental and Energy Policy (ICEEP 2021)*, 120-124. <https://doi.org/10.2991/assehr.k.211014.027>
- Nagin, D. S., & Telep, C. W. (2020). Procedural justice and legal compliance. *Criminology & Public Justice*, 19(3), 761-786. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12499>
- Oriolo, A. (2023). The rule of law, transnational crimes, and the human rights-based approach in the European Union: The Court of Justice as ultimate guardian of the 'good' laws. En T. Russo, A. Oriolo & G. Dalia (Eds.), *Solidarity and Rule of Law. European Union and its Neighbours in a Globalized World* (Vol. 9, pp. 201-226). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-29227-9_11
- Palit, S., & Saragani, I. (2022). A scrutiny of the relation between family violence and crime rate among the teenagers. *Journal of Legal Ethical & Regulatory Issues*, 25(S-5), 1-11. <https://www.abacademics.org/articles/a-scrutiny-of-the-relation-between-family-violence-and-crime-rate-among-the-teenagers-14434.html>
- Pickard, S. (2022). Young environmental activists and Do-It-Ourselfs (DIO) politics: Collective engagement, generational agency, efficacy, belonging and hope. *Journal of Youth Studies*, 25(6), 730-750. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13676261.2022.2046258>
- Popa, B., Niță, M. D., & Hălălișan, A. F. (2019). Intentions to engage in forest law enforcement in Romania: An application of the theory of planned behavior. *Forest Policy and Economics*, 100, 33-43. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2018.11.005>
- Puzzanchera, C. (2022). Trends in youth arrests for violent crimes. *Juvenile Justice Statistics. National Reports Series Fact Sheet*, 1-4. <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/publications/trends-in-youth-arrests.pdf>
- Ramadhani, M. A., & Trisnaningsih, S. (2023). Analysis of the role whistleblowing system for fraud prevention: Theory of Planned Behavior. *International Journal of Management Science and Information Technology*, 3(1), 16-20. <https://doi.org/10.35870/ijmsit.v3i1.860>
- Sekar, D., & Bhuvanewari, M. (2023). A mixed method study of conduct disorder & substance abuse on law-violating behavior of children. *North American Journal of Psychology*, 25(2), 341-354.
- Shukri, M., Jones, F., & Conner, M. (2022). Theory of planned behaviour, psychological stressors and intention to avoid violating traffic rules: A Multi-Level modelling analysis. *Accident Analysis & Prevention*, 169, 106624. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aap.2022.106624>
- Solar, C., & Pérez, C. A. (Eds.) (2023). *Crime, Violence, and Justice in Latin America*. Taylor & Francis.
- Sozzo, M. (2022). Inequality, welfare and punishment. Comparative notes between the Global North and South. *European Journal of Criminology*, 19(3), 368-393. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14773708211060164>
- Tan, C., Shi, Y., Bai, L., Tang, K., Suzuki, K., & Nakamura, H. (2022). Modeling effects of driver safety attitudes on traffic violations in China using the theory of planned behavior. *IATSS Research*, 46(1), 63-72. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.iatssr.2022.02.001>

- Torres-Tellez, J., & Montero, A. (2022). Delincuencia juvenil en España: Un análisis empírico tras la crisis económica de 2008. *Revista de Ciencias Sociales (Ve)*, XXVIII(1), 20-32. <https://doi.org/10.31876/rcs.v28i1.37667>
- Youth Justice Board (January 26, 2023). Youth Justice Statistics: 2021 to 2022 (accessible version). *Youth Justice Board*. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-justice-statistics-2021-to-2022/youth-justice-statistics-2021-to-2022-accessible-version>
- Yusuf, M. (2023). Challenges in mitigating youth violence in bo city. *Open Journal of Social Sciences*, 11(7), 418-428. <https://doi.org/10.4236/jss.2023.117029>
- Zane, S.N., & Mears, D.P. (2023). Who Deserves Diversion? A Theoretical Critique of Mitigation, Consequentialism, and the Juvenile Court. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 39(4), 570-589. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10439862231189616>