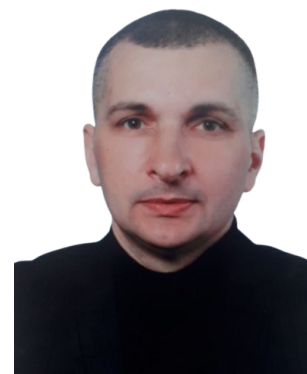


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CONSTRUCTIVIST FOUNDATIONS OF CRIME CONTROL TECHNOLOGIES

The article examines constructivism as a methodological foundation for the development of modern crime control technologies. The limitations of classical objectivist epistemology are substantiated, and it is demonstrated that the constructivist paradigm, which views knowledge as the active construction of social reality, opens new opportunities for rethinking forensic technologies. The key principles of constructivist epistemology are analyzed. It is established that, within this approach, crime is considered a social construct, which necessitates a reevaluation of traditional methods of studying and preventing criminal activity.

Particular attention is paid to the transformation of forensic technology, which, in the constructivist paradigm, is viewed not as a rigid algorithm but as a flexible, adaptive system shaped according to the specifics of each forensic situation. The dual nature of the methodological function of forensic science is revealed, combining analytical and constructivist-pragmatic directions aimed at interpreting and modeling forensic reality.

It is argued that integrating a constructivist approach helps overcome the methodological crisis in forensic science, enables more effective use of modern technologies, including artificial intelligence, and creates the conditions for developing proactive crime prevention strategies. It is emphasized that forensic knowledge should be regarded as a conceptualized outcome of the practitioner's activity, formed through interaction with the objects of forensic research.

In conclusion, constructivism serves not only as a theoretical alternative to classical epistemology but also as an effective methodological platform for developing innovative crime control technologies focused on comprehensive knowledge, interpretation, and transformation of forensic reality.

Key words: *constructivism, forensic science, crime control technology, forensic knowledge, epistemology, social constructivism, methodology, artificial intelligence, forensic technology.*

Комісарчук Р. В. Конструктивістські основи технології боротьби із злочинністю

У статті досліджено конструктивізм як методологічну основу формування сучасних технологій боротьби зі злочинністю. Обґрунтовано обмеженість класичної об'єктивістської епістемології та доведено, що конструктивістська парадигма, яка розглядає пізнання як активне конструювання соціальної реальності, відкриває нові можливості для переосмислення криміналістичних технологій. Проаналізовано ключові положення конструктивістської епістемології. Встановлено, що злочинність у цьому підході розглядається як соціальний конструкт, що зумовлює перегляд традиційних підходів до її дослідження та профілактики.

Особливу увагу приділено трансформації криміналістичної технології, яка в конструктивістській парадигмі розглядається не як жорсткий алгоритм, а як гнучка, адаптивна система, що формується залежно від конкретної криміналістичної ситуації. Розкрито двоєдину природу методологічної функції криміналістики, яка поєднує аналітичний та конструктивно-прагматичний напрями, спрямовані відповідно на інтерпретацію та моделювання криміналістичної реальності.

Обґрунтовано, що інтеграція конструктивістського підходу сприяє подоланню методологічної кризи криміналістики, забезпечує ефективніше використання сучасних технологій, зокрема штучного інтелекту, та створює передумови для розвитку проактивних стратегій запобігання злочинності. Визначено, що криміналістичне знання слід розглядати як концептуалізований результат практичної діяльності суб'єкта, який формується в процесі взаємодії з об'єктами криміналістичного дослідження.



Зроблено висновок, що конструктивізм виступає не лише теоретичною альтернативою класичній епістемології, а й ефективною методологічною платформою для розробки інноваційних технологій боротьби зі злочинністю, орієнтованих на комплексне пізнання, інтерпретацію та трансформацію криміналістичної реальності.

Ключові слова: конструктивізм, криміналістика, технологія боротьби зі злочинністю, криміналістичне пізнання, епістемологія, соціальний конструктивізм, методологія, штучний інтелект, криміналістична технологія.

Introduction. The relevance of studying constructivism in the context of crime control technologies is driven by a profound methodological crisis observed in domestic forensic science. Despite the presence of empirical foundations and theoretical developments, the field continues to operate within the paradigm of dialectical materialism, with its concept of knowledge as a “reflection of objective reality” [1–4]. This methodological framework demonstrates significant limitations for developing modern crime prevention technologies because it: fails to account for the active role of the subject in constructing social reality; restricts the understanding of crime as a dynamic social construct; and complicates the development of proactive technologies aimed at preventing offenses.

Contemporary forensic reality demands a new methodological approach capable of supporting the development of effective crime control technologies. Constructivism, as a philosophical and methodological foundation [5, p. 16; 6–8], offers a promising toolkit for rethinking the structure of these technologies through the lens of active construction of social reality.

Thus, the scientific problem lies in overcoming the methodological limitations of the traditional approach and substantiating constructivism as a basis for designing innovative technologies within the framework of crime control. Dissatisfaction with the traditional theory of knowledge as a reflection of objective reality gave rise, since the 1970s, to the constructivist paradigm within non-classical epistemology [9, p. 81–85]. This approach, considered an alternative, emphasizes the activity of the knowing subject as well as the linguistic, cultural, and historical conditioning of the process of knowledge itself, which has direct applicability in forensic science [10, p. 116–119].

Therefore, the aim of the study is to examine constructivist trends in contemporary forensic

science, based on the understanding of human cognition as an active process of constructing reality.

Materials and Methods. The methodological foundation of this study is constructivist epistemology [11, p. 340; 12, p. 15–27], which necessitates an interdisciplinary approach to analyzing crime control technologies. The study materials also included scholarly works in forensic science, philosophy of science, and epistemology, normative legal acts in the field of criminal justice, as well as contemporary research on the use of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in law enforcement.

A combination of general scientific and specialized methods was employed in the research, including: the dialectical method – for analyzing the development of forensic knowledge; the system-structural method – for revealing the structure of forensic technology; the formal-logical method – for clarifying the conceptual apparatus; the comparative-legal method – for contrasting traditional and constructivist paradigms; and the modeling method – for substantiating constructivist approaches to the design of crime control technologies.

The application of these methods allowed for a comprehensive investigation of the epistemological foundations of forensic technology and substantiated the feasibility of integrating the constructivist approach into contemporary forensic practice.

Discussion. Constructivist ideas today exert a significant influence across various human sciences [13]. Social constructivism, in particular, offers a powerful lens for analysis, as it views the very concept of crime not as an objective fact, but as a product of social agreements, cultural norms, and power relations [14].

Although the core principles of the constructivist approach are well established, their application in crime control technologies remains

underdeveloped. Current research outlines several key implications for forensic science:

Conceptualization of crime. Crime is not an inherent property of an act but a socially constructed category, defined by variable norms shaped by cultural, historical, and power dynamics. This calls into question the objectivity of criminal statistics, which may reflect institutional biases.

Labeling theory. Criminalization operates as a social process: the label “criminal” can be internalized by individuals, reinforcing deviant identity and contributing to recidivism. Accordingly, reintegration-oriented technologies must consider these effects.

Impact on legal policy. Constructivism challenges the idea of legal neutrality, emphasizing that legal norms often reproduce the interests of dominant social groups [14]. This helps explain why certain harmful actions (e.g., some types of environmental or economic crimes) are penalized less severely than offenses associated with poverty. Preventive technologies based on this concept should aim to identify and eliminate structural inequalities.

Today, the constructivist paradigm is finding new forms of application, particularly in analyzing the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on criminal justice. Predictive policing algorithms, or risk assessments based on historical data, often reproduce and amplify existing social biases. This clearly demonstrates how technologies do not merely reflect crime rates but actively shape their perception and influence the allocation of police resources.

Therefore, our goal is to define constructivism not merely as a philosophical concept but as a methodological foundation for reorganizing practical forensic technologies. This involves several key aspects:

Active role of knowledge – In contrast to the theory of reflection, constructivism views knowledge not as passive reproduction of objective reality, but as an active process in which the subject (investigator, expert) constructs a model of the crime based on available data, personal experience, and professional tools [15; 16, p. 116–119]. This model is continuously refined and verified throughout the investigation.

Construction of technology – In this sense, forensic technology [16; 17] is not a rigid algorithm

but a flexible system shaped according to the specifics of each forensic situation. It organically integrates traditional methods with modern advancements, such as digital forensics, which specializes in working with electronic evidence [18].

Focus on process – The emphasis shifts from merely recording individual pieces of evidence to tracking and managing the dynamic process of their discovery, collection, analysis, and interpretation within a unified technological framework [18].

What, then, are the prospects for forensic science and practice? Orienting research toward this goal opens several important avenues for the development of forensic science:

Overcoming the methodological crisis – The research aims to address the limitations of the traditional paradigm, which still dominates domestic science, by offering a contemporary alternative [10].

Responding to contemporary challenges – The constructivist approach enables the more effective integration of cutting-edge technologies (such as AI for data analysis) into forensic practice, while critically assessing their capabilities and risks (e.g., the generation of false AI-based evidence).

Advancing forensic methodology – This research addresses the pressing need in judicial and investigative practice for new scientific approaches that account for structural changes in criminal behavior [19, p. 208–216].

This supports the development of forensic technology theory within a constructivist framework. As an independent discipline, it has a triune subject structure, which gains particular relevance in this paradigm:

Methods of knowledge focus on the active construction of forensic reality, forming the core of technology and enabling effective models of crime prevention.

Institutional measures ensure the practical implementation of constructivist approaches.

The methodological function is dual: it combines analytical understanding of forensic realities with a constructive-pragmatic orientation toward their transformation and optimization. [20], which focuses on the active construction of new, effective models for crime prevention. Such an understanding creates a theoretical foundation for integrating the constructivist approach

into the structure of modern crime-fighting technologies.

The very essence of contemporary constructivism in analytical philosophy is articulated in the works of E. von Glasersfeld, who highlights two fundamental principles. First, knowledge is not passively received from the surrounding reality but is actively constructed by the knowing subject. Second, the function of knowledge lies in organizing experience obtained through interaction with the environment, rather than in achieving absolute truth about objective reality. This epistemological generalization integrates numerous concepts, theories, and empirical data from various fields of knowledge [21].

In crime-fighting technology, forensic activity involves not passive recording but the active construction of a crime model based on evidence, expertise, and methods. A key challenge of constructivism is avoiding relativism by establishing criteria for the validity of constructed knowledge, drawing on 20th-century epistemology. This enables a balance between constructivist insights and the demands of objectivity and effectiveness.

At the same time, classical forensic methodology remains grounded in the subject-object dichotomy and an objectivist view of knowledge as the discovery of inherent properties of reality [22]. The opposition between “consciousness” and the “world” generated epistemological skepticism and exposed the limits of objectivism in complex forensic contexts, necessitating new methodologies. Constructivism addresses this by treating cognition as the active construction of forensic models.

Twentieth-century epistemology redefined knowledge as conceptually conditioned and operational rather than absolute, shifting forensic science from passive fact reproduction to active knowledge construction. In this framework, constructivism provides a methodological basis for improving technologies of detection, investigation, and prevention.

Accordingly, cognition in forensic science is understood not as reflection but as the construction of reliable knowledge about crime, with a focus on the structure of experience and the conditions of its validity.

Based on W. Quine’s holistic epistemology, the concept of reference [23, pp. 108–130] in forensic

technology can only be defined relative to a specific conceptual scheme. Ontological relativity implies that knowledge about criminal activity is also relative: the existence of objects in forensic investigation is defined not from an absolute standpoint, but through their interpretation within different theoretical frameworks. This is particularly significant for forensic technology, which integrates epistemological and ontological issues and must balance evidential objectivity with interpretive subjectivity.

Constructivist ontology offers a solution through two principles: ontological stratification and the rejection of a strict realism/anti-realism divide. This allows practitioners to operate across multiple ontologies – applying a realist approach to material evidence and a constructivist one to unobservable elements such as intent or motive. Such flexibility enhances the effective analysis of diverse forensic information and supports the construction of context-dependent models of crime.

The practical implementation of a non-metaphysical ontology, associated with R. Carnap and W. Quine [23; 24], is manifested in the creation of specialized crime models optimized for the analysis and prevention of specific forensic situations. Consequently, constructivist ontology can serve as the foundation of forensic methodology. The concepts of R. Carnap, W. Quine [23; 24], and N. Goodman [25; 26] allow ontology to be understood as a non-metaphysical theory of the existence of objects. In Nelson Goodman’s view, “worlds” interpenetrate, supporting a pluralistic understanding of criminal phenomena and rejecting the search for a single “true” reality. For forensic science, this underscores the practical, activity-based nature of knowledge and the need to evaluate both observable and unobservable elements without privileging one ontological level.

Constructivism thus functions as a general methodology, emphasizing the role of background assumptions, the plurality of cognitive frameworks, and the impossibility of an absolute standpoint. In forensic practice, this leads to treating knowledge as a dynamic, practice-based process rather than a fixed system, requiring its own epistemological program that accounts for cultural and cognitive diversity.

Accordingly, the development of constructivist crime-fighting technologies depends on analyzing forensic epistemology through subject differentiation and prioritizing empirical experience and practical skills. Knowledge is understood as actively constructed, enabling crime to be analyzed as a complex system of interactions and supporting more adaptive and effective investigative and preventive technologies.

Results. The constructivist approach in forensic science views knowledge as actively

constructed rather than passively reflected. Crime is understood as a dynamic social construct, requiring adaptive and comprehensive investigative strategies. Emphasizing empirical practice enables the integration of traditional methods with modern technologies, enhancing effectiveness. Overall, constructivism offers a way to overcome methodological limitations by combining material and interpretive dimensions of criminal activity and supporting the development of flexible, innovation-driven crime control technologies.

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