

Pedro R. David 1929-2022

Pedro Rubens David, born in Tucumán in 1929 in a family of Syrian-Lebanese origin, passed away in Buenos Aires at the beginning of the year. It will be very difficult from now on not to be able to count on his affable, generous and humorous participation in the work of international criminal and criminological life. His long life has been very fruitful since he finished his law studies at the University of Tucumán, where he immediately joined as a sociology professor. In 1957 he obtained a Fulbright scholarship to pursue a doctorate at Indiana University, which he concluded with his teacher Jerome Hall. After his stay in Argentina he joined the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque (USA) in 1973 as a full professor, where he lived until 1994. Upon his return to Argentina, he founded with his wife Elisa Herren the "Universidad Argentina John F. Kennedy", and in 1982 he became interregional Advisor on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at the United Nations Center in Vienna until 1993. In this capacity he visited more than 100 countries and worked in countries of great complexity. Subsequently, he has continued to be involved with the United Nations, for example as chairman of the Intergovernmental Group on Identity Fraud, of the United Nations Standards and Norms in Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention and (2004) and co-author of the Manual on the Freezing and Confiscation of Criminal Assets. He has been an active member of the United Nations Latin American Institute since 1981 and a member of the Governing Council of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute in Turin, and an advisor to the International Anti-Corruption Academy in Vienna.

In keeping with the Argentine tradition, Pedro David has cultivated the teaching of law and the exercise of the judicial function. From the position of State Prosecutor and Judge of the Chamber in Salta in 1951 until 1956 and from 1974 as judge of the Argentine National Criminal Chamber of the Federal Capital until 1976. Upon returning from his international responsibilities he joined the Federal Chamber of Supreme Criminal Cassation of the Argentine Republic, since its creation in 1992 to date and where he has become its president.

The combination of his research experience with the judicial function has led to the production of numerous highly original scientific publications. He has been particularly active in the international arena in dealing with the problems of global crime and asset recovery. From his veritable arsenal of scientific publications published in Spanish and English, as well as in other languages such as Italian, Japanese and Chinese, I would like to highlight the following books: *Conduct, Integrativism and Sociology of Law*. Bs.As. 1970; *Sociología criminal juvenil*, 5 editions between 1965 and 1979; *El mundo del delincuente*, translation of the English original, published in the USA under the title *The world of the burglar*, (1974), U.N.M. Press, Albuquerque ; *Estudios sociales y Criminología*. Maracaibo 1979, with relevant editions in Mexico and Buenos Aires; *Sociología jurídica*, Buenos Aires 1980; *Globalización, prevención del delito y justicia penal*, which is his last and most complex work on the most current penal and criminological problems, published in Spanish in 1999 and in Italian in 2001 by the prestigious Italian publisher Giuffrè.

The great academics drive scientific progress by convening transnational collective tasks and incorporating young researchers. Their results are published in edited or compiled books. As an example of an editor, I think it is enough to mention the following: The book edited with Eduardo Vetere in homage to Ivonne Mellup, an extraordinary lifelong personality of the United Nations Crime Commission, with the title "Victims of Crime and abuse of power", which was presented at the IX United Nations Crime Congress. 2006. Of the same nature is the book tribute to the

founder of the criminal and social defense branch of the United Nations, Mr. Manuel López Rey, with the title *Crime and criminal policy*, published by Angeli, Rome, 1985. In addition to all the aforementioned books by him and those edited by him, there are more than one hundred articles published in scientific journals and book chapters. The valuation of all this is complemented by the fact that he himself was the recipient of a tribute book published by the Latin American Institute of the United Nations (Costa Rica) with contributions from more than 50 specialists from all over the world who showed him their admiration and respect.

Of special significance is his status as Judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. He was elected as such by the General Assembly of the United Nations with the favorable vote of all its member countries, a unanimity that had never before taken place. I am sure that the world owes Peter R. David much of the improvements in crime prevention and increased justice for crimes against humanity that the International Tribunal has achieved in recent years. But between one responsibility and the other, he has not lagged behind in the extraordinary report he prepared for the Secretary General of the United Nations on the functioning of the ad hoc Tribunals in 1999, its importance lies in the fact that the author had to know the intricacies of all the legal cultures involved in these tribunals and establish the corrections that were actually adopted.

He was always very active in the life of scientific societies. At the time when a strictly governmental system was established in the Crime Commission, he promoted with Simone Rozés Euduro Vetere and the Centro Nazionale de Prevencione dee Defessa Soziale of Milan (<https://www.cnpds.it/index.php?link=organizzazioni1>) the creation of an own space for non-governmental organizations, the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme - ISPAC, constituted in 1991. I would like to point out that he has been Vice-President of the Société Internationale de Défense Sociale since 2007, when he received the Beccaria Medal at the National Institute of Criminal Sciences of Mexico at our XII World Congress. We have always found in him a strong support in the increasingly difficult tasks of international cooperation, at a time when groups of countries relate directly, without the intermediation of scientific societies. In addition to his scientific work, we are left with the very pleasant memory of his presence and his kindness. The great Spanish physician and historian Gregorio Marañón liked to point out that the opposite of serious was not frivolous but boring, and that the ideal couple is to be serious and fun, and that is what our friend Pedro R. David was, which helped a lot to address the serious problems of the criminal issue. We will never forget the numerous anecdotes he related, always amusing and of benefit to knowledge, among others, his report of the visit in Chinese prisons to Mao's widow and the rest of the "gang of four", as well as his unfaithful lawyer, and certainly not forgotten by Luis de la Barrera, who was the last to listen to him in Mexico City, where he was called by his friend and colleague Sergio García Ramirez. His memory will shine with particular strength in the presence of his wife, colleague and friend, sociologist Elisa Herren.