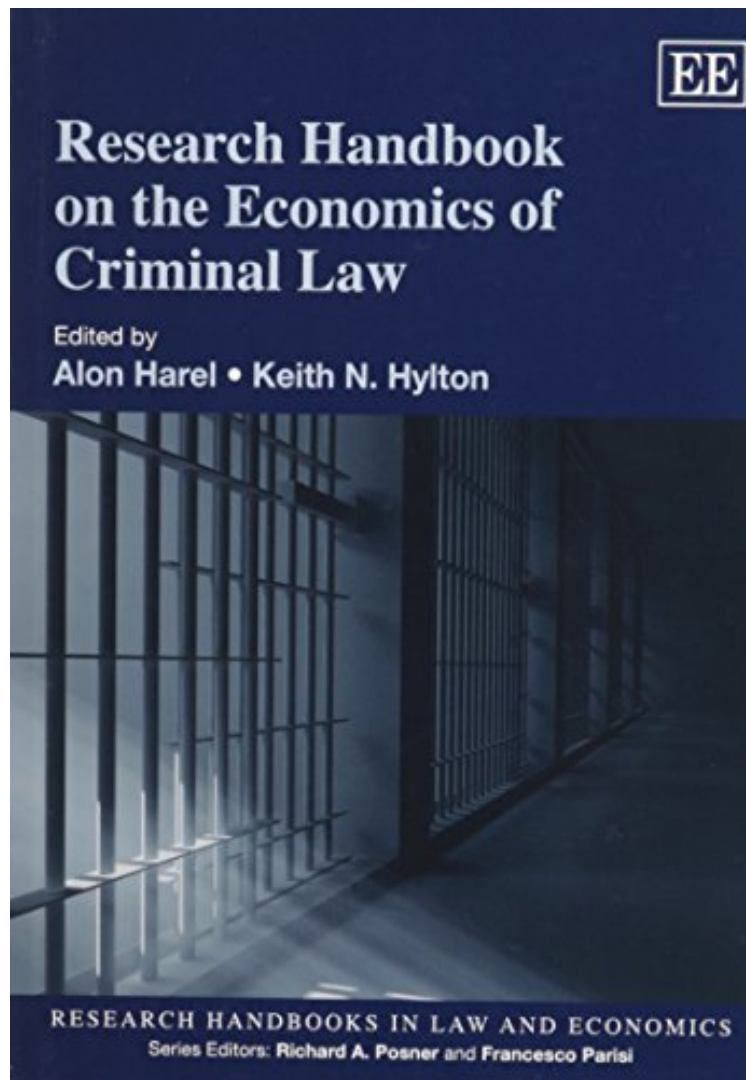


(Library ebook) Research Handbook on the Economics of Criminal Law (Research Handbooks in Law and Economics series) (Elgar Original reference)

## Research Handbook on the Economics of Criminal Law (Research Handbooks in Law and Economics series) (Elgar Original reference)

*Alon Harel, Keith N. Hylton*

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Of special interest....By Phillip Taylor

MBE[[VIDEOID:moAYJC5V8XMWDL]]TO CRIMINAL LAWYERS AS WELL AS CRIMINOLOGISTS  
An appreciation by Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor of Richmond Green Chambers  
This work of reference, quite rightly described as seminal in this field, is part of the Research Handbooks in Law and Economics series published by Edward Elgar Publishing. Carrying on the tradition established by, amongst others, Jeremy Bentham, the book is a largely successful and thought-provoking attempt to analyse criminal law in utilitarian and economic terms. Fundamentally the book offers up a number of economic analyses of criminal law -- and therefore encompasses the social sciences, including economics, behavioural economics, psychology and, to some extent, sociology. Those interested in criminology too, should also read this book. To put it fairly simply: what does crime cost? And what does it cost -- and what might it cost -- to put in place sanctions and other deterrents which would lead to a decrease in crime? The possible and sometimes theoretical answers to these and a host of related questions are the stuff of the often very rigorous academic research and analysis to be found in this book. The work is a collection of articles, not gleaned from specialist publications, but original and specially commissioned. Each article reveals a differing, but methodical approach to exploring the ways and means by which economics can enhance the way we understand the development of criminal law. The learned contributors are based mainly at American universities and the orientation is certainly American, but in view of the subject matter, which is crime and criminals, this probably matters little. Criminality, especially in developed societies, is a global problem. In their introduction, the editors draw a distinction between 'the retributive tradition' (of criminal law sanctions)...and economic analysis, which considers the most effective measures for dealing with, mainly, future behaviour, which centres on deterrence and prevention. They stress that criminal law sanctions should be used only when they reduce the costs of crime and anti-social behaviour, including both the direct costs of crime and the costs of crime prevention measures. Enhanced by illustrative diagrams and tables (including some detailing the relationship between mobile phones and crime rates!), plus detailed reading lists at the end of each chapter, this book is an interesting and instructive read, certainly for criminal lawyers, as well as criminologists, sociologists and those making difficult policy decisions with respect to crime prevention and punishment. The publication date is 2012.

Jeremy Bentham and Gary Becker established the tradition of analyzing criminal law in utilitarian and economic terms. This seminal book continues that tradition with specially commissioned, original papers that span the philosophical foundations of the use of economics in criminal law, both traditional economic perspectives and behavioral and experimental approaches to the discipline. The contributors examine and evaluate the optimal design of criminal law norms as well as the ideal structure of law enforcement institutions. They delineate what wrongs ought to be criminalized, identify the boundaries between criminal law and tort, and determine the optimal size of sanctions given the differential vulnerability of victims. They also analyze the special considerations that apply to the regulation of corporate crime, the effects of technology on crime, and the effects of the distribution of wealth on sentencing. This essential Handbook provides students and scholars of criminal law and law and economics the opportunity to explore the diversity of contemporary approaches to the economics of crime. Criminologists, sociologists and policymakers will also find it a valuable addition to their collections. Contributors: J. Arlen, N. Garoupa, M.D. Guttentag, A. Harel, K.N. Hylton, J. Klick, J. MacDonald, T.J. Miceli, R.A. Mikos, M.C. Mungan, T. Stratmann, A.D. Tabbach

... the book is a largely successful and thought-provoking attempt to analyse criminal law in utilitarian and economic terms. Fundamentally the book offers up a number of economic analyses of criminal law - and therefore encompasses the social sciences, including economics, behavioural economics, psychology and, to some extent, sociology. Those interested in criminology too, should also read this book... this book is an interesting and instructive read, certainly for criminal lawyers, as well as criminologists, sociologists and those making difficult policy decisions with respect to crime prevention and punishment. --- Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor, The Barrister Magazine  
About the Author Edited by Alon Harel, Phillip Estelle Mizock Professor of Law, Hebrew University, Israel and Professor of Law, Boston University and Keith N. Hylton, Honorable Paul. J. Liacos Professor of Law, Boston University, US