

Foreword

The world of science, while fulfilling its educational and research mission, must also actively participate in shaping social institutions. As scientists, we do not form an enclave detached from our surroundings, but we must fulfil one of the key tasks, which is to shape a knowledge-based society. The contemporary world, the reality surrounding us, is often portrayed as an era of decline, disappointment, a lack of meaning, or daily absurdities. This happens because the modern person not only fails to appreciate the beauty and power of science, but often fiercely criticizes it. Is this an adequate assessment of the current state of science? The world of science is a realm of paradoxes. On the one hand, we can say that our ignorance and lack of understanding of the surrounding world are immense. On the other hand, especially when we read new studies or immerse ourselves in the rich past of science, its long history and tradition, it is hard not to feel the power of knowledge. Knowledge is dizzying and expands daily (and now one might say by the minute), inviting us to reach further and ask ever bolder questions.

We do not have a monopoly on truth, but we are one of the most important, most reliable sources of knowledge, and sometimes a filter that cleanses existing resources. This process involves actions that we know well: the search for truth, the transmission of knowledge, and the cultivation of culture; shaping people with open minds who accept diversity, tolerance, and the conduct of scientific research and public discourse in a free, full, and open way.

Scientific discoveries continue to amaze, fascinate, and answer questions that once seemed unanswerable. Science sheds new light on the human condition, on who we are. Science should act on us as an impulse, not just as pretty pictures or illustrations, but as a true restlessness that

compels us to think; it is the need to understand what it means to be human and what our place in the world is.

Substantive, procedural, and executive criminal law is subject to constant change. The pace of these changes, especially their direction in recent years, may raise concerns, but they are a fact that constitutes an important factor in scientific discussion and daily practice. One of the main challenges of a modern state is crime control. This task is even more pronounced because the old paradigm of ensuring full citizen safety is being replaced by a current concept of risk-based control.

Referring to the old Roman maxim: *iuris prudentia est divinarum atque humanarum rerum notitia, iusti atque iniusti scientia* (Legal knowledge is the understanding of divine and human affairs, and the comprehension of what is just and unjust), it is worth emphasizing that active and substantive participation in this discourse is a fundamental obligation of scientists. If we manage to draw attention at least to what is just, or point out problematic solutions, then we can say that we fulfil, in the most basic sense, this specific obligation to classical jurisprudence and to society's expectations of expert knowledge.

*Tomasz Kalisz,
Adam Kwieciński*