

## **Popular science summary**

The objective of the project „Roman criminal law: institutions” is to conduct an academic study of the ancient Roman system of criminal law. So far, Polish science has not produced a synthesis of *ius criminale* of the ancient Romans, even though this area is the subject matter of ongoing multifaceted research by scientists representing various scientific environments and disciplines.

The abovementioned deficiency is especially noticeable on the grounds of Roman law, history of law and criminal law. The application of certain aspects of Roman law into the modern and contemporary criminal law codes caused that they started to live on their own, irrespective of their origins. Yet, in many such cases it is possible to demonstrate their ancient background. Until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Roman criminal law had been a starting point for discussion for many theoreticians and practitioners of law, in a similar way as it can be observed today in the case of private law. Most crimes and punishments, present in the Justinian codification and in the writings of jurists have been adopted by the states built on the ruins of the Western Roman Empire.

Apart from enumerating and discussing all categories of crimes, punishments and regulations which built the substantive framework of Roman criminal law, the work will show the concepts and ideas which are directly linked to their ancient heritage, even though they evolved during later centuries.

The work on the project will consist in analysing the available source material. The juristic sources will be examined from the perspective of their credibility, coherence and the time of their origin. Additionally, the investigators will be seeking a confirmation of those legal norms, which, ordinarily, are not very conspicuous, but yet are to be found in literature, poetry or even tomb inscriptions. Analysis of such diverse material will allow the authors to provide a definitive time reference for specific institutions of criminal law and will demonstrate the social impact of those norms.

The effects of the research will be published as a series of monographic studies in books and articles in peer-reviewed journals, together with works of a popular-science character, which will benefit not only academics (historians, law historians, patrologists or classical philologists) but also all those passionate about the ancient times, but not necessarily having appropriate methodological training.