

Sexual crime is a phenomenon commonly known throughout history. The aim of this project is to examine selected sexual offences punishable by death in the legislation of those times. Representatives of the middle class and peasantry will be analysed. The research will cover the areas of the former Ruthenian Voivodeship throughout the 18th century. These areas are currently within the territory of Poland and Ukraine. Thanks to the numerous queries conducted both in domestically and abroad, I want to trace crimes such as bigamy, adultery, rape, incest and sodomy, which according to the then definition included both homosexuality and bestiality. Undertaking this research topic is not accidental. My purpose is to broaden my knowledge about this type of crime in areas that have not yet been subjected to detailed research in this respect.

During my work, I want to explain how sodomy and adultery were understood by the jurisdiction in those times. I also want to examine the attitude of the Catholic Church to such crimes and the so-called church penance. This is connected with another problem, which was the adjudication of church punishments by the secular authorities during court trials. Analysing the differences in the scale of committing prohibited acts and the manner of imposing penalties on representatives of the middle class and peasantry. I also want to capture the differences in issuing judgments in the Lesser Poland Province before 1772 and after the annexation of the examined territories by the invaders, which significantly influenced the keeping of court records. The subject of my research will also include the motives and circumstances of committing sexual crimes by representatives of individual states. I am also interested in the opinion held by the defendant's social environment on the deeds committed by him.

The original research results published in the monograph and scientific articles will have a significant contribution not only to the development of the broadly defined discipline of history but also to the fields related to medicine and law because the analysed issue of sexual crime has always played an important role in every community and is associated with multiple factors.