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Why do People Stop Offending? Recent Theories on Desistance and Their Value in Practical Approaches to Offenders

Desistance theories, researching the ways how and reasons why people stop offending have developed only recently. The article briefly describe their development in general and then examines four of the more recent influential ones in more detail: Laub and Sampson's *Age-graded theory of social control*, the *Cognitive transformation theory* developed by Giordano *et al.*, Maruna's *Theory of narrative self-change* and Wikström's *Situational action theory*. These theories are analysed with regard to their applicability to general or specific offending populations. Finally, the sociotherapeutic approach common to the Slovenian system in the past is analysed through the lenses of these theories and conclusions as to the value of general and specific theories and approaches are made.

Key words: desistance, rehabilitation, imprisonment, offenders, sociotherapy