

Abstract

This paper explores whether crime control/due process orientation would change under different causal dimensions. Previous literature suggests locus of control, controllability and stability associate with responsibility judgment. Nevertheless, responsibility judgment only represents the final stage of criminal procedure, namely, sentencing. There is a lack of empirical effort in examining whether causal attributions affect other domains of criminal procedure. The present study is objected to identify any systematic relationship between attribution in criminal context and people' s attitude on criminal processing. Packer' s crime control and due process model is adopted as a psychological measure to represent individual' s attitude on criminal processing. The study potentially has wide implications not only on responsibility judgment but on a broad range of issues of procedural fairness throughout the entire complex criminal procedure. Although the result suggests that the general attitude of crime control/due process orientation does not relate to causal attribution, specific attitudes such as support for harsh treatment, admissibility of hearsay evidence and presumption of guilt are significantly different under different causal dimensions. This paper also suggest that crime control/due process orientation is case-specific, people are more crime-control orientated in sexual offence, while more due-process orientated in property offence such as theft.

Keywords: Attribution theory, crime control, due process, procedural justice