Abstract
This paper intends to provide both the current state of empirical knowledge and a framework for global analysis to consider the evolution of juvenile delinquency in France since the 1970s. Beyond the moralizing stereotypes of the media-political debate and naive behaviorist approaches, what we propose here is to demonstrate that the analysis of the evolution of juvenile delinquency is inseparable from the evolution of criminal law, the operation of criminal institutions, the criminal system's referral procedure, and the economic, social and political trends that run in favor or against the social integration of youths. This global framework of analysis articulates the three concepts of criminalization, prosecution and ghettization.

Keywords
Delinquency, youth, criminalization, prosecution, France.