

## El fenómeno de la prisionalización: complejo penitenciario Islas Marías

*The prisionalization phenomenon: Islas Marías penitentiary complex*

*O fenômeno da prisionalização: complexo penitenciário de Islas Marías*

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### Resumen

La prisionalización es una manifestación del efecto psicológico que padecen los internos, causado por el largo periodo de permanencia en una institución penitenciaria. Esta condición influye en su modo de vida denominado subcultura carcelaria, así como en sus formas de adaptación a las normas formales e informales que se desarrollan en instituciones penales. Sin embargo, pocas veces se ha estudiado el fenómeno de prisionalización en los empleados que trabajan en una prisión, como es el caso del complejo penitenciario Islas Marías, clasificado dentro de las instituciones totales. Características como la ubicación geográfica de este centro penal, ubicado en un territorio insular conocido como archipiélago Islas Marías, favorecen el aislamiento geográfico, factor principal por lo que el empleado se convierte en un habitante más del lugar. Esta dimensión espacial simboliza, para el presente caso de estudio, un doble fenómeno de encerramiento: el ámbito cerrado de la institución penal y el aislamiento territorial geográfico.

El doble encerramiento del empleado (quien es el sujeto de estudio) genera un esfuerzo adaptativo constante ante las exigencias mismas de su trabajo durante su permanencia laboral, teniendo derechos de salir del lugar cada tres meses, para disfrutar de 15 días de descanso en el continente. Por ello se vislumbran en el empleado posibles distorsiones afectivas, emocionales, cognitivas y perceptivas ante las exigencias mismas de distintos ambientes, tanto en sus obligaciones de trabajo como en sus modos de vida diferentes (sociales y familiares). Lo anterior se estudia desde un enfoque adaptativo en el campo de la psicología ambiental, la cual trata el

complejo proceso de adaptación mediante el cual los individuos enfrentan las exigencias del diseño de ambientes en el uso humano, condición que los vuelve también a ellos proclives a experimentar la prisionalización.

**Palabras clave:** adaptación, diseño de ambientes, Islas Marías, prisionalización.

### **Abstract**

Prisoning is a manifestation of the psychological effect suffered by inmates, caused by the long period of stay in a penitentiary institution; this, in their ways of life, called the prison subculture and its forms of adaptation in all its occurrence of formal and informal rules that are developed in the penal institution and classified within the total institutions. Nevertheless; seldom, or perhaps never, has the phenomenon of prisonerization been studied in the employees who work in a prison, as is the case of the Islas Marías Penitentiary Complex. This, due to the characteristics of the geographical location of this penal center, located in an insular territory known as Islas Marías archipelago; same, that due to geographical isolation, has been the main factor, that the employee is another inhabitant in the place. This spatial dimension symbolizes for the case of study a double enclosure; the closed scope of the penal institution and geographical territorial isolation.

The double locking of the employee (who is the subject of study), generates a constant adaptive effort, before the very demands of their work and habitability during their work, having rights to leave the site every three months, to enjoy 15 days of Rest on the continent. From here, it is glimpsed in the employee, possible affective, emotional, cognitive and perceptive distortions; before the same requirements of different environments; both in their work obligations and in their different ways of life (work and family). The foregoing is studied in the adaptive approach in the field of environmental psychology, which deals with the complex process of adaptation through which individuals face the demands of the design of environments in human use; they are prone to the cause and effect of the privatization.

**Keywords:** adaptation, design of environments, Islas Marías, prisionalization.

## Resumo

A prisão é uma manifestação do efeito psicológico sofrido pelos internos, causada pelo longo período de permanência em uma instituição penitenciária. Esta condição influencia seu modo de vida chamado subcultura da prisão, bem como suas formas de se adaptar às normas formais e informais que são desenvolvidas nas instituições penais. No entanto, raramente o fenômeno da prisão foi estudado nos funcionários que trabalham em uma prisão, como é o caso do complexo penitenciário de Islas Marías, classificado nas instituições totais. Características como a localização geográfica deste centro penal, localizado em um território insular conhecido como o arquipélago Islas Marías, favorecem o isolamento geográfico, um fator principal para o qual o empregado se torna um habitante do lugar. Esta dimensão espacial simboliza, para o presente caso de estudo, um duplo fenômeno de confinamento: a esfera fechada da instituição penal e o isolamento territorial geográfico.

O duplo bloqueio do empregado (que é objeto de estudo) gera um constante esforço adaptativo antes das demandas de seu trabalho durante seu trabalho, tendo direito a deixar o site a cada três meses, para desfrutar 15 dias de descanso no continente . Por este motivo, possíveis distorções afetivas, emocionais, cognitivas e perceptivas podem ser vislumbradas no empregado em vista das próprias demandas de diferentes ambientes, tanto em suas obrigações de trabalho quanto em suas diferentes formas de vida (social e familiar). Isso é estudado a partir de uma abordagem adaptativa no campo da psicologia ambiental, que trata do complexo processo de adaptação através do qual os indivíduos enfrentam as demandas do design de ambientes em uso humano, uma condição que também os torna propensos a experimentar a prisionalização.

**Palavras-chave:** adaptação, design ambiental, Islas Marías, prisionalização.

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## Introduction

It is called the phenomenon of prisionalization, according to Echeverri, "the process by which a person, as a direct consequence of their stay in jail, assumes, without being aware of it, the code of conduct and values that give content to the prison subculture "(2010, p 158). This meaning of the phenomenon of prisionalization has been studied mainly in the inmates and the measures and possibilities to adapt to the way of life in prisons. The way of life that they adopt is called prison subculture, or what Goffman (2001) has said, enculturation. This way of life is recognized in the codes of conduct (formal or informal rules) with which the system of life of inmates in a penitentiary institution is governed.

Dicta Echeverri (2010), from the discipline of psychology, that the constant adaptive effort in the internal one generates alterations at an emotional, affective, cognitive and perceptive level. However, this form of prisionalization was rarely studied in the employees who work and live in a prison, as is the case of the Islas Marías penitentiary complex.<sup>1</sup> (before Federal Penal Colony Islas Marías). It is an adequate site to deal with the prioritization of employees due to the physical characteristics of their workplace. It is an island territory, conducive to geographical isolation, which makes communication with the Mexican continent impossible, which makes the employee an inhabitant of the place. Added to the closed area of the prison, it symbolizes spatially double enclosure: in the insular natural environment and in the prison institutional environment.

In this way, prisionalization is understood as a variable of human behavior and is carried out in a spatial dimension aimed at achieving the objective of the social reintegration of inmates. This objective is sought through various administrative, legal, technical or security actions, directed by employees. These actions are not carried out in a normal working day, since the time of permanence of the personnel employed to carry out their work is shared with the time of habitability in the place. Likewise, the social dimension is added to this problematization, since a singular relationship develops between employees and interns when living in a common space: the CPIM. The present lines are part of the continuity of studies of this complex, some already published in Islas Marías, such as those carried out by Avilés (2009, 2013, 2016 and 2017) and Avilés and Barrón (2016).

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<sup>1</sup> En adelante se usarán las siglas CPIM para referirse a esta penal.

The CPIM began as a federal penal colony (1905-2010) and later became a penitentiary complex (2010 onwards). Both penal concepts, already studied by Avilés and Barrón in 2016, differ in some aspects, mainly in the design of a penitentiary complex, (a quality that will be discussed later in this article). However, since its inception has been a constant: the prisoner CPIM employee is a resident in the place, which has the right to go out every three months to enjoy 15 days of rest.

The subcultural content as a constant in the CPIM, with respect to other studies carried out in extinct insular penal colonies of Latin America, is reflected in the voice of an ex-policeman who worked for 12 years in the extinct penal colony of Coiba, Panama, when he said : "Here we all were prisoners" (Avilés, 2017, p.235). These words are key; they concentrate one of the factors of greater consideration in the effects produced by the physical and social environment on the behavior and the inhabited experience of a former prison prisoner, from perceiving themselves, in their surrounding world, as a prisoner in the place. Therefore, the word prisoner concentrates the meaning of the way of life known as prison subculture, which has impregnated its subcultural meaning in the CPIM employee. This includes a complex collection of instituted forms that derive from penal and social norms that govern the behavior of employees.

The penal structure relies on social, educational, work, training, health, and sports institutions, among others, linked to the objective of criminalization: the social reintegration of inmates.<sup>2</sup> Each of them also encourages the interaction and interrelations of the employee with the inmates in the space in common, although it is the subculture's attribute that gives meaning to the environment that surrounds them, whether in the penitentiary, social or economic.

The subculture prison, from the sociological point of view, concentrates all content of criminal processes (administrative, legal, technical and security), as well as the participation of social institutions that support the processes of social reintegration of inmates. All this is reflected in the physical space built: the scene of all human activity for such action and effects of the process of social reintegration. At the same time, this reflects the diverse and complex processes of

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<sup>2</sup> De acuerdo a la reforma del artículo 18 de la Constitución Política de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, publicado en el *Diario Oficial de la Federación*, el día viernes 10 de junio de 2011, dicta lo siguiente: ...El sistema penitenciario se organizará sobre la base del respeto a los derechos humanos, del trabajo, la capacitación para el mismo, la educación, la salud y el deporte como medios para lograr la reinserción del sentenciado a la sociedad y procurar que no vuelva a delinquir, observando los beneficios que para él prevé la ley. Las mujeres compurgarán sus penas en lugares separados de los destinados a los hombres para tal efecto.

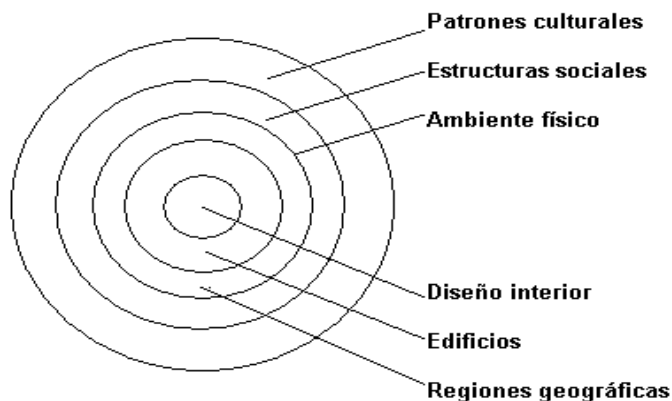
adaptation of people to the demands of the design of the institutional environment where they are located. Therefore, the adaptive approach is studied mainly by environmental psychology, in the holistic perspective related to the environment and behavior.

In this regard, scholars of this subject, such as Holahan (2004, p.391), highlight the holistic model that considers the environment as a series of circumscribed contexts that surround the individual, both in the physical environment and in its sociocultural context. Thus Holahan (Idem), quoting Urie Bronfenbrenner, dictates that the concentric contexts surrounding the individual encompass smaller contexts and that they are surrounded by larger ones. The following is described here:

The microsystem is constituted by the immediate physical areas within which the individual develops, such as home, school, and work. The exosystem consists of the broadest social structures, both formal and informal, that cover the immediate areas where individuals perform their functions (the neighborhood, government agencies, communication and transportation services). The macrosystem is somewhat more abstract than the other systems and represents the general cultural and subcultural patterns of which the microsystem and the exosystem are concrete manifestations. (Ídem, p., 391)

In this way, the concentric contexts that represent the different ways of adaptation of people in their physical environment (microsystem), social structures (exosystem), and cultural and subcultural patterns (macrosystem), are synthesized in a holistic model as follows:

**Figura 1.** Modelo holístico del ambiente



Fuente: (Holahan, *Op.Cit.*, p. 292)

Figure 1 shows in a general way the diverse and complex adaptation processes by which people face the demands of the environment where they are located. It can be noted that the cultural pattern (which for this case is identified as the subcultural pattern) encompasses the entire environment in which people are situated, that is, in the complexity of subcultural, social, criminal and economic contexts, reflected in the pillars of natural and built physical spaces. All this is coherent in the design of the institutional environment, implicit in the design of environments for human use in the institutional task of social reintegration. Due to the complex and wide relationship between environment and behavior, it is a challenge to answer the following question: How to evaluate the design of the institutional environment focused on the phenomenon of prisionalization.

The previous question is directed to the contextualization of the institutional environment of the CPIM, in relation to the evaluation of the effect of the prisionalization, and mainly to the maladjustment of people to the penitentiary environment commonly known as the adjustment disorder. Said adaptive disorder is characterized by clinically significant emotional and / or behavioral symptoms that develop in response to one or more identifiable stress psychosocial factors.<sup>3</sup>

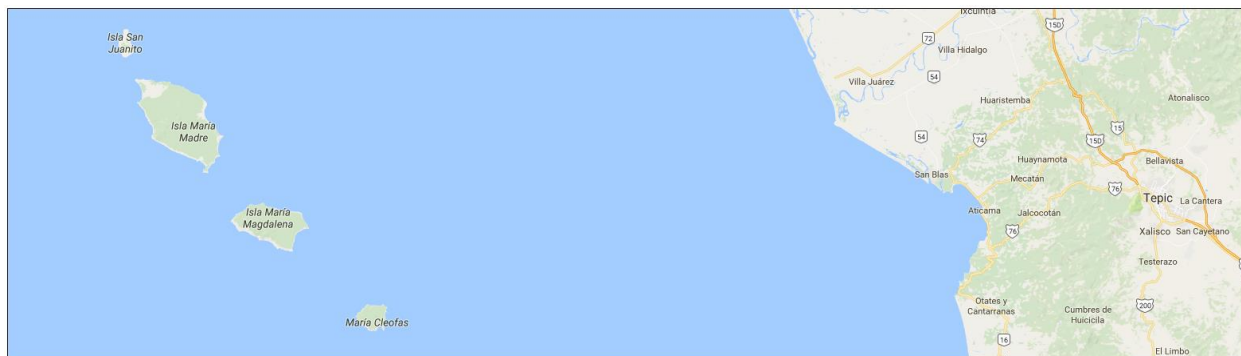
<sup>3</sup> Raffo L. Sylvia y Perez F. Juan M. (2009). *Trastornos adaptativos y relacionados al estrés*. Apuntes para uso exclusivo de docencia. Departamento de Psiquiatría y Salud Mental: Universidad de Chile. Obtenido de: [file:///G:/Usuario/Downloads/7\\_tr\\_adaptativos2.pdf](file:///G:/Usuario/Downloads/7_tr_adaptativos2.pdf). Recuperado el 24 de enero de 2018.

In this way, the evaluation of the effect of the prisonization and its development in a penitentiary is defined, manifested in the adaptation disorders as a psychological effect of incarceration. It will be sent for analysis to the description of the design of the institutional environment, located in an insular territory of the Islas Marías archipelago, with the aim of resolving the scenario of the activity of the CPIM employee, who does not escape the phenomenon of prisonization.

### **The natural and built physical environment. Two doubly closed contexts in the design of the Islas Marías penitentiary complex**

The natural physical environment includes the geographic location of the Islas Marías archipelago, located in the Pacific Ocean, and is composed of the following islands: María Cleofás, María Magdalena, María Madre (where the CPIM is located), and San Juanito Island, as it is shown in figure 2.

**Figura 2.** Ubicación geográfica del Archipiélago Islas Marías, México



Fuente: <https://www.google.com.mx/maps/>. Recuperado el 2 de noviembre de 2017

Figure 2 shows the geographic location of Islas Marías archipelago, off the coast of the State of Nayarit. It should be mentioned that the Islas Marías archipelago was declared a protected natural area, with the character of biosphere reserve, both the four areas and their respective marine territory. This was published in the Official Gazette of the Federation (DOF), on November 27, 2000.



The built physical environment refers to the urban-architectural spaces of this place, called federal centers. These are: Federal Women's Center for Social Readaptation of Minimum Security, Zacatal; Federal Women's Center for Social Re-adaptation, Rehilete; Federal Center for Social Readaptation of Minimum Security, Sawmill; Federal Center of Social Readaptation, Morelos; Federal Center of Social Readaptation, Bugambillas, and Federal Center for Social Readaptation of Maximum Security, Laguna del Toro. In addition, the urban units of Puerto Balleto and Nayarit are included, as shown in figure 3.

**Figura 3.** Ubicación geográfica de los centros federales, Unidad Nayarit y Puerto Balleto del Complejo Penitenciario Islas Marías, en la Isla María Madre del archipiélago Islas Marías.

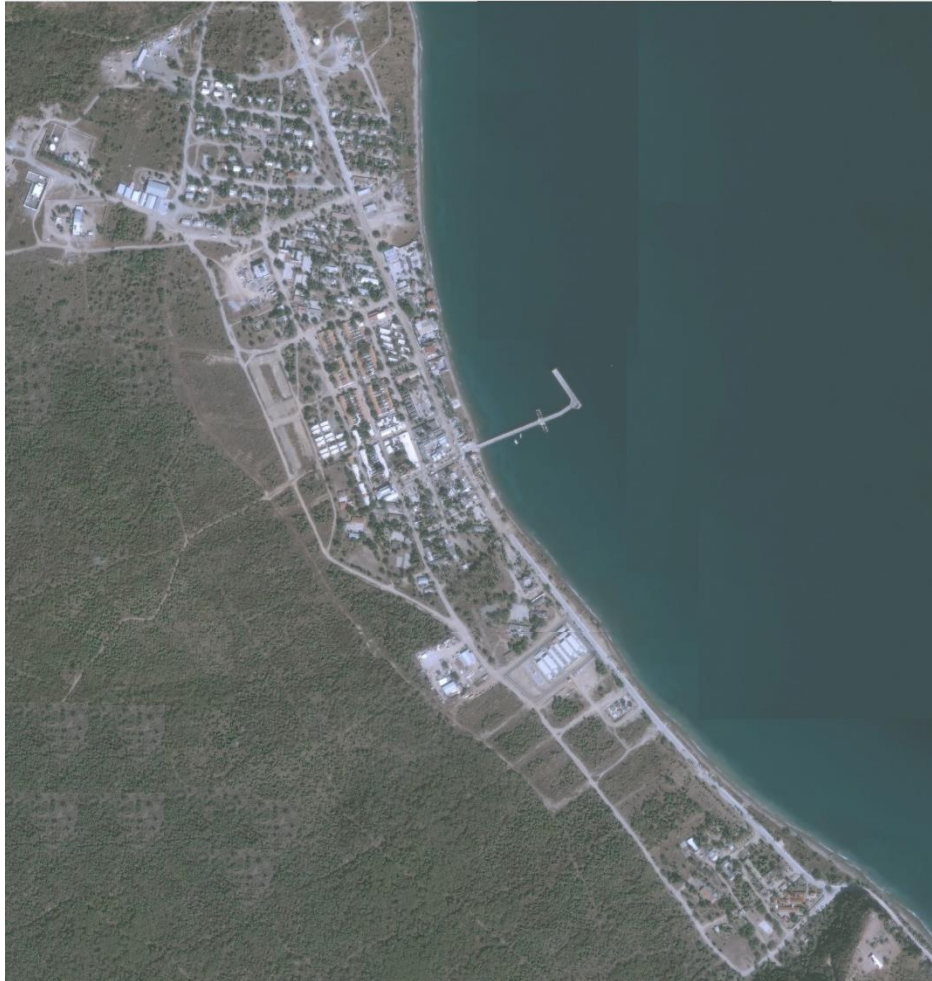


Fuente: (Aviles, 2017, p. 213)

Figure 3 shows how all the facilities of the CPIM are located on the periphery of María Madre Island, communicating by land along a perimeter road, with the exception of the Federal Feminine Center for Minimum Security, Zacatal, located in the center of the island María Madre. This federal center is connected by a road with Puerto Balleto.

Each unit has an urban-architectural form and fulfill a certain function. For example, Puerto Balleto is the center of government of this place, where administrative, legal, technical and security functions are carried out, as well as educational, cultural, health, sports, religious, trade, among others. It also includes the housing units for the CPIM employees. Likewise, this functional area has the port infrastructure for communication with the exterior, and provides the following services: drinking water supply, sewage and rainwater drainage, electricity, among others. These services are obtained from the water purification plant, the wastewater treatment plant and the electric power plant, respectively. It also concentrates communication services, such as telephone, postal mail, telegraph and internet. To present the urban form of Puerto Balleto, figure 4 is presented.

**Figura 4.** Unidad urbana Puerto Balleto.

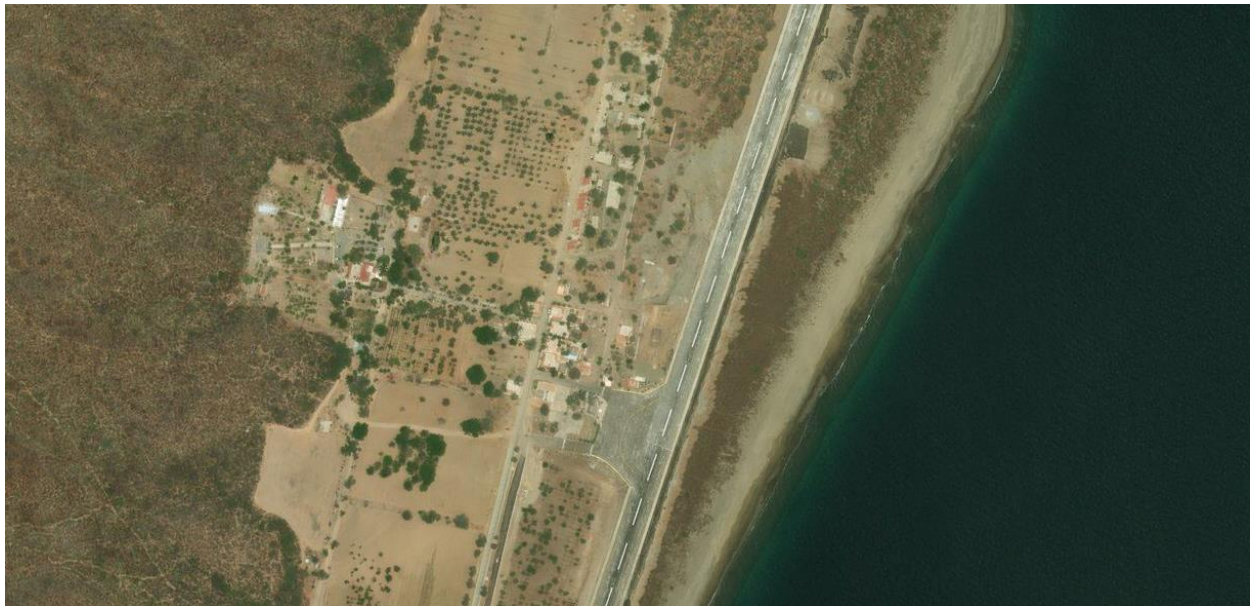


Fuente: <https://www.google.com.mx/maps/> Recuperado el 2 de noviembre de 2017

Figure 4 shows the urban-architectural shape of Puerto Balleto, where it is possible to identify the conformation of a road system that traces square or rectangular blocks, depending on the angle of the crossing between them or taking curved shapes along the coastal coastline . Among the important qualities of this system of roads can be mentioned the easy organization of the layout of the apples and their respective subdivision where the different buildings are based, according to the requirements of the activity of the population (work, rest, health, administrative , surveillance, etc.). It should also be noted that this urban settlement fits the urban layout of what was the Balleto camp, the extinct federal penal colony (main center), retaining its name, but with a completely different function to facilitate the specific requirements of the CPIM.

The Nayarit unit is the residential area destined for the management of this place, together with the infrastructure of the Air Port. This urban area similarly fits the preexisting urban layout of the Nayarit camp, of the extinct penal colony, conserving some of its buildings and its name, as shown in figure 5.

**Figura 5.** Unidad Nayarit, del complejo penitenciario Islas Marías



Fuente: <https://www.bing.com/maps>. Recuperado el 2 de noviembre de 2017

Figure 5 shows the urban context of the Nayarit Unit, whose buildings are intended for housing for the management of this prison, in addition to the functions of the air port.

The aforementioned federal centers are areas destined for inmates and interns<sup>4</sup> they comply with their respective prison sentences and are distinguished, according to their classification of criminal profile, as of low medium and high dangerousness. All these functional areas are designed to meet the program of social reintegration treatment, based on the individualized technical progressive system. In addition, these federal centers are located in the former camps of the now extinct penal colony, keeping their same names, but dismantled to form the penitentiary complex project in 2010. As a sample of the spaces of the federal centers, the Federal Center for Human

<sup>4</sup> Actualmente el CPIM no cuenta con mujeres internas.

Rights is selected. Social Readaptation Máxima Seguridad Laguna del Toro, as shown in the image of figure 5.

**Figura 5.** Centro Federal de Readaptación Social Máxima Seguridad Laguna del toro.



Fuente: <https://www.bing.com/maps>. Recuperado el 2 de noviembre de 2017

Figure 5 shows the set of buildings of the urban layout of the federal center Laguna del Toro, distinguishing three modules known as the crosses. These buildings are intended for inmates considered highly dangerous, each located in different cells and with state-of-the-art technology in surveillance systems. Likewise, the vigilance is carried out by the personnel called custodians.

To understand the concept of design of the penitentiary complex of this penal institution, the criteria used by the then Ministry of Public Security are taken up again, in the guidelines issued in the Penitentiary Strategy Manual 2008-2012, which dictates the following:

A penitentiary complex seeks to associate the physical infrastructure with the individualized treatment of the sentenced person. It consists of grouping centers with different levels of security - low, medium and maximum - to create an incentive system that allows alternating facilities according to the needs of the prisoner's rehabilitation process and his response to treatment, as well as achieving complete reinsertion cycles. (2008, p. 31)

In addition, the advantages of the penitentiary complex concept, also dictates the Penitentiary Strategy 2008-2012:

A penitentiary complex has a number of advantages over the traditional isolated center. Generates economies of scale, such as the possibility of sharing services and processes of marketing the goods produced. It offers greater benefits to the staff and the communities surrounding the complex by promoting the development of the area in which it is immersed. Reduces the risk of transferring inmates, facilitates the recruitment and retention of personnel and, above all, contributes to the reinsertion by having facilities for each of the phases of the cycle within the same area. (*Ibid.*)

Briefly, the general guidelines of the design of a penitentiary complex, materialized in Islas Marías, in 2010, are identified.<sup>5</sup> Among the guidelines is, first, the spatial concept called "federal centers" to address the different levels of security: minimum, mediated and maximum. They are spaces required in the criminal legal mandate of the sentenced to the prison sentence,<sup>6</sup> and classified by the executing legal-criminal stay, of low, medium and high danger. Second, the penitentiary treatment is based on the progressive technical system,<sup>7</sup> which consists of studies of the personality that a so-called interdisciplinary technical team practices internally, through the intervention of different disciplines. According to the evolution of the behavior of the inmates, they have the incentive of staying overnight from one center to another, with less security, otherwise, to a more secure center. Third, the treatment program is based on compliance with the design of Constitutional Article 18 on social reintegration.

The design of the Islas Marías Penitentiary Complex is based on the normative criminal criteria, such as what is issued by the Constitutional Article 18, the Federal Penal Code, and the Law that establishes the Minimum Standards for the Social Readaptation of the Sentenced. The latter is the one that organizes the Mexican prison system. They continue, then, some rules and

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<sup>5</sup> Desplazando al modelo de colonia penal durante su funcionamiento desde 1905 al 2010.

<sup>6</sup> La pena de prisión lo dictamina el Código Penal Federal, publicado en el *Diario Oficial de la Federación*, el día 20 de agosto de 2009.

<sup>7</sup> Ley que establece las Normas Mínimas sobre Readaptación Social del Sentenciado, publicado en el *Diario de la Federación*, del día 16 de junio de 2016. En su Artículo 7º dicta que el régimen penitenciario tendrá carácter progresivo y técnico y constará, por lo menos, de períodos de estudio, diagnóstico y tratamiento, dividido este último en fases de tratamiento en clasificación y de tratamiento preliberacional. El tratamiento se fundamentará en los resultados de los estudios de personalidad que se practiquen al reo, los que deberán ser actualizados periódicamente. Se procurará iniciar el estudio de personalidad del interno desde que este quede sujeto a proceso, en cuyo caso se turnará copia de dicho estudio a la autoridad jurisdiccional de la que aquél dependa.

laws that protect their legal legality for their operation and operation of Islas Marías as a penitentiary complex, such as the Statute of Islas Marías (DOF, April 1, 2010) and the Regulation of the Islas Marías Penitentiary Complex (DOF, November 30, 2012). Due to the wide range of contents of this regulation, only some of the main articles of the Statute of Islas Marías will be described:

Article 1.- The Islas Marías Archipelago is destined for the establishment of a penitentiary complex as part of the Federal Penitentiary System, so that the federal sentenced or common order determined by the Ministry of Public Security may serve the sentence of imprisonment .

The purpose of the penitentiary complex will be to strengthen the National Penitentiary System, through the planned redistribution of federal sentenced persons or common order.

In terms of the provisions of article 18 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States, the prison complex will favor social reintegration treatments, based on work, training for it, education, health and sports.

*Regulations of the Islas Marías penitentiary complex:*

Chapter I (General Provisions).

Article 1.- The purpose of these Regulations is to establish the powers of the administrative units in the Islas Marías penitentiary complex, the provisions governing the operation of their facilities, the rules of security and discipline, as well as their internal regime ...

Chapter II (Of the authorities of the complex, of the penitentiary personnel and their collegiate organs).

Article 13.- The Complex will have the necessary penitentiary centers, as well as the following administrative units: Legal, Security, Technical, Administrative, Urban Development and Infrastructure, and Operative Administrative Annex (Mazatlan) ...

Article 29.- The Complex will have the managerial, technical, legal, administrative and security personnel, which is required for its proper functioning, which may be increased in accordance with the increase in the population of inmates, provided that it is counted with budgetary sufficiency and the specific authorizations of the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, as well as of the Ministry of Public Function, within the scope of their respective competences ...

Article 33.- The Complex will have the following collegiate bodies:

A.- Interdisciplinary Technical Council: body of consultation, advice and assistance of the head of the complex and authority in those matters that correspond to resolve in accordance with the regulations and manuals, instructions, criteria, guidelines or corresponding provisions.

B.- Inter-institutional Coordination Committee: support and consultation body of the head of the complex for the coordinated development of institutional and inter-institutional activities, in accordance with the regulations and manuals, instructions, criteria, guidelines or corresponding provisions.

C.- Classification Committee: body responsible for the objective classification of sentenced persons entering the complex, which aims to determine the level of custody through the analysis of the offender's criminal history, the level of security assigned, the infrastructure and security devices available to the complex and the level of intervention. Its decisions will be a recommendation for the competent area of the Re-adaptation Coordination.

D.- Reclassification Committee: body responsible for evaluating the evolution or involution of inmates in the application of Interdisciplinary Technical Attention, as well as their intra-institutional behavior to approve or modify the proposal for reclassification made by the technical area.

E.- Disciplinary Committee: body responsible for analyzing the cases of inmates who have transgressed an institutional norm, in addition to determining the corresponding disciplinary corrections.

F.- Environmental Surveillance Committee: specialized body in environmental matters established with the purpose of providing technical and legal support, as well as serving as a source of support and consultation of the complex manager to follow up on the mitigation of the environmental findings detected in the Environmental Surveillance Plan.

*Chapter III (Of the Services and the Penitentiary Facilities).*

Article 36.- For its proper functioning, the complex must have at least the following services:

A.- Strategic: security, operation and prison administration, electric power, fuel supply, water, food, as well as means of communication and transportation outside the archipelago.

B.- Priority: health, education, urban, productive activities and protection of the environment.



C.- Support: recreational, cultural, sports, legal advice, civil registry, training, maintenance, technological and administrative.

Article 37.- The Complex is made up of movable and immovable property necessary for its administration and prison operation.

Strategic facilities are considered: airspace, 119 airstrip, dock, seaport, warehouse, warehouse, barracks, weapons and equipment depot, advanced naval station, telecommunications center and facilities, water treatment plant, electric power plant, fuel tank , the perimeter road, hospital and administrative annex (Mazatlan).

Article 38.- The penitentiary centers, facilities and infrastructure of the complex must be constructed and conditioned so as to increase the efficiency of the necessary services.

Article 39.- Puerto Balleto is the administrative and governing center of the complex, made up of a conurbated and housing area, exclusively for public servants and employees, as well as their families. Transit will be restricted for inmates.

The Administrative Annex (Mazatlan) located in the Port of Mazatlan, Sinaloa, allows the adequate supply of food, consumables and supplies, as well as the operation of maritime transfers and the commercialization of products from the penitentiary industry of the complex.

Article 40.- The special attention modules will have custody and security levels according to the needs of the interdisciplinary technical attention of the inmates. They will have the necessary technological equipment for their better functioning ...

Chapter V (Of the internal regime of the complex).

Section Three (Of prison staff, public servants and employees).

Article 133.- The performance of the penitentiary personnel of the complex will be governed by the principles of legality, efficiency, professionalism and honesty, as well as respect for human rights.

Penitentiary personnel, public servants and employees in the complex must refrain from:

I.- Incur in any of the prohibitions referred to in the Regulation.

II.- Reveal information related to the complex, its operation, security devices, location of the inmates, slogans for special events, weapons, as well as the own identity and of other public servants in cases in which the anonymity of the same should be kept and, in general, everything that can alter security.

III.- To consult or extract the information contained in the files, registry books, computer programs or any other document of the complex, when it does not have express authorization for it, as well as to make improper use of it.

It may be noted that the CPIM design comprises multiple parts for its operation and operation of this penal center. Briefly, the statute of the Marías Islands indicates the cohesion of the Federal Penitentiary System, as well as the Federal Penal Code, for the crimes of the federal order or of common order, that merit for the type of crime the sentence of the prison sentence. Likewise, the statute provides for compliance with Article 18 of the Constitution, social reintegration, based on human rights, work, training for it, education, health and sports. For the part that includes its internal regulations, highlights the administrative structure, legal, technical, security and its collegiate bodies with their respective functions to carry out the task of treatment of social reintegration of inmates.

All this is done in the form of penitentiary organization of the spaces, according to the services and prison facilities that this penal center has, such as the different federal centers (minimum, average and maximum security) destined to the inmates according to its classification, as well as Puerto Balleto, which concentrates the administrative, legal, technical, security, and housing unit for the employees of this place. Finally, it is necessary to point out in the investigation, the prohibition of the prison staff to reveal information of the CPIM. In this way and in a general way, it constitutes the scenario of all human activity in that doubly closed institutional environment.

### **Evaluation of the design of the penal institution and design of the environment for human use**

The evaluation of the design of the penal institution deals with the spaces built in the natural environment where the penitentiary complex is located, in accordance with the planned and systematized requirements in the processes based on the operation and functioning of this penal center, created with the urban-architectural design of the federal centers, Puerto Balleto and Nayarit of this place. This should necessarily be evaluated in the field of urban-architectural design specialists, taking into account the functional and formal aspects of the different built spaces, which provide answers to the specific and strategic requirements in the criminal legal entrustment

of the prison sentence, in its three levels of security. Likewise, the different administrative, legal, technical and security areas must be evaluated to recognize whether they respond to the programs for the treatment of social reintegration.

The evaluation of the design of the institutional environment also deals with the exploration and analysis of the response of human use, in its interaction with the whole environment. Emphatically repairs environmental problems that affect human behavior. This is the weakest part of a design evaluation, more if it is a doubly closed environment such as the CPIM. That is to say, the affectations that the different systems of the complete environment (natural and constructed physical, subcultural, social pattern, etc.) in human behavior should be taken into account.

This evaluation, if it treats the penitentiary employee as subject of study, should be carried out by those who are in practice, and preferably it should be analyzed interdisciplinarily. In this way, and in the approach to environmental problems, Holahan comments (Op. Cit.), Citing Altman that:

In general, those who practice practice tend to action, while researchers are more interested in understanding problems on an abstract level. The former usually strive to synthesize the various points of view and the pragmatic aspects, while the latter almost always tend to analyze complex phenomena in order to identify their separate components. (*Ídem*, p. 403)

For a truthful evaluation in a rigorous evaluation of the design, focused on the environmental problems of a prison employee, the crucial part would be precisely to unify criteria of the different points of view. However, this is impossible when talking about an evaluation of the environmental problem in the behavior of prison employees, due to its explicit rules of penal order already commented on in the Regulation of the Islas Marías Penitentiary Complex. For example, it is difficult to obtain information from an employee involved in the environment of the penal institution during an investigation, because, periodically, the prison employee is given a control and confidence test, which consists of five items: medical, toxicological, psychological, polygraphic, and socioeconomic. It is carried out to verify that the active personnel act within the framework of conduct dictated by the institutional regulations and so that the new personnel adhere to the institutional principles in accordance with the job profile. These exams could be taken to obtain statistical data. However, the results are confidential, only issued to the interested party,

which in this case is the prison employee, to inform him if he is fit or not to continue in his job, or in any case, to a promotion.

The foregoing makes it impossible for the researcher to carry out his task. If it manages to obtain the information, it preferably does not publish it, because it does not affect the employee, especially if the researcher is aware of the contractual rules that govern confidentiality in the workplace. However, it is known that most CPIM employees have their direct relatives, whether husband or wife and children, in the continent, so the employee is deprived, for a long period of time, of interpersonal ties.

As an additional fact, it is possible that the effect of prisionalization has an impact on the behavior of the employee of this penal center, based on the evidence taken by Avilés (2016) regarding interviews with ex-prisoners released from this place, regarding the treatment of employees towards them: "When we request information from the Law Office, they ignore us [...] There were other people who did not know who they were, and they forced us to duck their heads to give us an order or information" (Idem, p.188). These comments show that there may be several causes of employee misbehavior, so they deserve to be analyzed to recognize that they are also prone to the effect of prisionalization. Likewise, and continuing with the comments of the ex-inmates, they make the following recommendations: "Educate the custodians, because they do not know how to treat people [...] Do not force us to work just because, yes, there must be a way of knowing" (Idem). Faced with this reality, will it be necessary to reeducate the custodians because they do not know how to treat people or the education they had has been distorted by the effect of prisionalization?

It is known that the employee of the federal penitentiary institution receives training for three months before entering the new job in the CPIM. They also carry out periodic refresher courses for permanent staff. However, the employees of social institutions, public and private, who work in the place, do not receive such training, only the refresher courses they receive in this work center and without obligation.

If the prison employee has constant training and his behavior is adverse to the instruction received, manifesting himself in a bad treatment towards the inmates, it is a problem of the various circumstances to adaptive disorder with the psychological effects of incarceration, and commonly known as "the effect of the prisionalización".

In this regard, Sarmiento (2015), in studies conducted on inmates on the effects of prisionalization and its relationship with adaptive disorder (TA), inferred that:

According to the DSM IV-TR (2002), Adaptive Disorder (TA) is the appearance of emotional or behavioral type responses in the presence of a clearly identified psychosocial factor. Thus, the symptomatology of the adaptive disorder must be present after three (3) months of the stressful event. According to this diagnostic manual, there are several subtypes of Adaptive Disorder: 1. TA with depressed mood; 2. TA with anxiety; 3. Mixed TA, with anxiety and depressed mood; 4. TA with behavioral disorder; 5. TA with mixed alteration of emotions and behavior; and 6. TA not specified. (*Ídem*, p. 60)

The diagnoses, according to the manual DSM IV-TR (2002) for adaptive disorders, vary according to the individual's exposure to a specific stressful event. With this it can be explained that the behavioral and emotional symptoms depend on a stressful psychosocial event already identified. The diagnosis of Adaptive Disorder does not apply when the symptoms represent a bereavement reaction. These symptoms must be present during the next three months at the start of the presence of the stressor. This is where the clinical expression of the disorder as such is seen, where the social and professional activity of the individual is affected (*Idem*, page 61).

These studies have been carried out in the inmates of a prison in Colombia, which is understandable because it is the inmates who suffer the effects of the prisionalization and its relationship with the AT. However, it has been commented from the beginning that the CPIM employee is also prone to the phenomenon of prisionalization, due to the different forms of adaptation to the institutional environment governed by its own legal-criminal norms, as well as the different ways of living in the place, such as work eight hours, rest at home, exercise some sport, among others. This, together with the short time to live with their relatives and other people with whom they develop emotional bonds, makes them also prone to TA in relation to prisionalization.

The duality that the CPIM prisoner lives between his work and his home is reflected in the forms of adaptation of the prison subculture in Islas Marías<sup>8</sup> and in its adaptation to its own culture where it belongs within its community. From here a series of affective, cognitive and emotional

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<sup>8</sup> En lo referente a la subcultura carcelaria en Islas Marías, se recomienda las investigaciones publicadas por Avilés (2009, 2013 y 2017), y Avilés y Barrón (2015 y 2016).

distortions is glimpsed, which has seldom been analyzed to resolve the phenomenon of prisionalization. Suffice it to say that the prison employee is a prisoner aware of the double effort involved in his work to earn a living, on his side as well as his relatives, who depend on him.

Finally, and according to the field visit made in the offices of the administrative annex of the CPIM, located in the Port of Mazatlan, Sinaloa, in June 2017, it was realized that the employees of this work center, and mostly the employees, prefer to give up their jobs, before being changed to Islas Marías. This, because in some way or another, the employees of this administrative center recognize what it means to work in Islas Marías: leaving their children studying in Mazatlán, where they have their home.

## **Conclusions**

The prisionalization and its relation to TA has not been studied in an evaluation of the institutional environment as it is the CPIM, less if it is addressed from the case of employees, who live and work in this place. Although the confidence control test is known, it is only effective to verify that the active personnel act within the framework of conduct dictated by the institutional regulations. The above can be seen in the Control and Confidence Directorate of the National Security Commission. This examination does not correspond in any way to the effects of the prisionalization due to the variables of the situational context in which the employee of the CPIM is circumscribed.

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