

Newsletter of the *European Society of Criminology*

CRIMINOLOGY IN EUROPE



Conference Edition

+ *report of the executive secretary*

+ *working group reports*

Miklós Lévy

AFTER LIÈGE AND KOBE BEFORE VILNIUS

Dear ESC Members, dear Colleagues!

We are just days away from the next Annual Meeting of the European Society of Criminology in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius.

However, a prominent event in criminology – though this one not organized by the ESC – has already taken place this year: the 16th World Congress of the International Society for Criminology between the 5th and 9th of August in Kobe, Japan (ISC).

In my presidential address – which is, actually, my last one – I would like to focus on some of the papers presented at the ISC conference, given their significance for the development of our discipline.

But first a few words about our sister organization, the International Society for Criminology. The ISC was founded in 1938 „to promote activities and research for a better understanding of crime at an international scale”¹. Among its many activities, the most notable are the now triennially organized World Congress, the international courses on criminology, its publication, the *International Annals of Criminology*, a scientific journal, and its extremely useful database about courses in criminology worldwide, the Observatory of Academic Criminology Programs. This year’s world congress was organized in cooperation with the Japanese Federation of Criminological Associations (JFCA), an umbrella organization of no less than seven criminological societies. The topic of the conference was the *Global Socio-Economic Crisis and Crime Control Policies in a comparative perspective*.

The vast conference with its 4 plenary sessions, 106 sections and 92 posters and many roundtables was very well organized. Prison visits and other criminal justice-related excursions were also on offer – and highly popular. This year’s *Herman Mannheim Prize* was given to Peter Nils Grabosky, of the Australian National University. Two Japanese criminologists, Professor Setsuo Miyazawa and Professor Ichiro Tanioka received the Presidential Prize. It was also announced that the next World Congress will take place in Monterrey, Mexico.

In the following paragraphs, I would like to concentrate on some issues raised at the ISC conference which are, in my opinion, of extreme importance given to the contemporary challenges facing criminological knowledge.

As I have already mentioned before, the main topic of the conference was the crisis of 2008 and its impact



on crime and crime control. I think the in many respects unprecedented social and economical repercussions of the crisis offered an opportunity to move beyond the traditional concerns and ways of thinking in criminology. That is the reason why I have found the conference so thought-provoking.

Professor Joanna Shapland of the University of Sheffield used her presentation (“Where is Criminology in the Global Economic Crisis? The Global and the Local”) to indicate that our discipline has so far not given much attention to the financial and business practices that were at the roots of the financial crisis. Her preliminary conclusions were consistent with the introductory remarks by the organizer on the reason why they had chosen this topic for the congress: „the global economic crisis may have been both a cause and a result of corporate and business crime”².

Shapland criticized criminology for still concentrating most of its attention on individual offenders and crimes against the property, and not on corporate crime, financial crimes and criminal business practices. According to her, the same applies to criminal policy, partly because „criminal law has always trodden more heavily on ‘crime in the streets’ than ‘crime in the suites’”³.

Moreover, she argued, „criminology has been marginalised because criminology has not seen and met the challenge of moving beyond nation state.”⁴



Similar concerns were raised by Professor Stephan Parmentier, ISC General Secretary, in his plenary lecture about international crimes („Blood, Sweat and Tears: Exploring the Involvement of Corporations in International Crimes”). He pointedly asked: 16 million people have died in international conflicts since World War 2 and „where is criminology in this story?”

A large number of presentations concerned various developments in penal policy, the system of criminal sanctions in a comparative perspective. In his very thoughtful lecture titled the „The Political Essence of Punishment Policy”, which amounted to an impressive collection of ideas and guidelines for many future research projects, Professor Frank Zimring concluded that national penal policies are much more influenced by political factors than scientific results or theoretical considerations. For these reasons, he suggested, criminologists should always take into account the political dimensions of punishment: different types of government have different restrictions on the use of governmental power, and criminal punishment is at its essence an extreme form of governmental power.⁵ He used the divergence in the use of the death penalty in India and in China. Both „the People’s Republic of China and India authorize execution as a punishment, but India executed only one person in the decade after 1997 while China may have executed 100,000 persons.”⁶ In his opinion, one of the most important reasons for this striking difference is the diverging nature of their respective political systems: “the authoritarian communist government in China and the much less authoritarian and far more democratic structure in India.”⁷

Though from a completely different perspective, the same concerns were addressed by José Luis Díez-Ripolles in his lecture („Social Inclusion/Social Exclusion Dimension as a Guideline for Comparative Criminal Justice Policy”). He has developed a pool of indicators to measure the social inclusion/social exclusion outcomes and divergences among national crime control systems: control of public spaces, due process safeguards, sentencing and sanctions systems, harshest penalties, prison rules, preventive interventions, the legal and social status of felons and ex-felons, police and criminal records.

Education in criminology is extremely important in the dissemination and further development of criminological knowledge. Accordingly, many sessions were devoted to the question of education. Of these, the “Integrated System of Teaching Criminology and Criminal Justice” was especially of importance.

As the section showed, criminology is taught in a wide range of institutions on a wide range of levels. But as to *what* is taught, and *how we think* about criminology as a discipline, there are more commonalities.

These were at the centre of Professor Ezzat Fattah’s presentation. In his view, the only way to answer the question “what is criminology?” is first to define the notion of crime. For him, following Jean Pinatel, crime is both a human act and a social fact. Thus, criminology must be a synthetic science (the concept of “comprehensive criminology” was also emphasized by Professor Jinsuke Kageyama in his plenary lecture), but also an autonomous, independent social science.⁸ As interdisciplinary knowledge is required to address criminological issues, staff with interdisciplinary background is needed at criminology courses and programs for them to succeed. Yet these various bodies of knowledge should only be integrated, but not amalgamated, he said.



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Editor CSABA GYÖRY

Editorial office:

Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law

Günterstalstrasse 73

79100 Freiburg i. Br.

Phone: +49 (761) 7081-314

Fax: +49 (761) 7081-294

Email: c.gyory@mpic.de

The European Society of Criminology is a scientific institution founded under the Literary and Scientific Institutions Act 1854, a statute of the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

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Communications should be addressed as follows

Concerning the 2011 meeting:

Aleksandras Dobryninas

Vilnius University

Department of Sociology

Universiteto str. 9/1

LT-0153 Vilnius, Lithuania

Phone: 37 (0) 5 200 07 78

Fax: 37 (0) 5 200 07 82

Email: secretariat@eurocrim2011.com

To the president:

Miklós Lévy

Eötvös Lorand University

Dept. of Criminology, Egyetem ter

1-3, H-1053, Budapest

Hungary

Email: levay@mkab.hu

To the business office:

Marcelo Aebi

University of Lausanne

ESC-ICDP-Sorge-BCH

CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland

Phone: 41 21 692 4638

Fax: 41 21 692 4645

Email: secretariat@esc-eurocrim.org

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Further lectures in the section pointed out the importance of developing an occupational image (Helmut Kury); others (S. Parmentier) stressed that only the recognition of a degree in criminology on the labour markets can secure the constant inflow of new students.

Representatives of educational institutions present at the session indicated changes in their curricula to meet new challenges: In Leuven, for example, more attention will be given to the study of organizational and corporate crime. In the case of criminal justice studies, as James Q. Finckenauer revealed, more and more programs are integrating new fields like transnational crime, terrorism and counter-terrorism, security management, and they are also expanding role of forensic science.

Another important issue for the future of criminology is the use of criminological knowledge, and the role of criminologists in the public discourse. As John Braithwaite pointed out in one of the roundtables: academics have special responsibility in identifying and understanding social crises and in formulating strategies addressing them, and help develop remedies from policies down to the practical level.

At the same roundtable, Frank Zimring addressed the public responsibilities of criminologists. He reminded the audience that in authoritarian-type states there is a general tendency by those in power to criminalize political opposition. It is, unfortunately, fairly common for them to capitalize on moral panics partly fuelled by them and their parties, then, as a countermeasure, take action” to a great popular appeal. The latter usually means tougher law and order rhetoric and policies. In such cases, it is the professional duty of criminologists to go public and raise their voice.⁹

And even at the conference there were examples of such a public criminology. The participants in the section called „Disaster and Crime: East Japan Major Earthquake and Tsunami, and Nuclear Power Plant Accidents as Man-made Disaster”, organized by the Japan Federation of Criminological Associations, addressed the criminological relevance of the 2011 Japanese disasters, with some strong voiced callings for an open debate about the criminal responsibility of government officials and electric power companies for

the lack of proper communication.

Apart from these, there were, of course, many other topics discussed at the ISC World Congress. Hopefully, I did not appear to be too subjective in concentrating on the ones I have chosen. I did it because I think that these issues are extremely important for answering the challenges facing criminology. It is especially crucial 1, to expand the scope of criminological research by starting more transnational, comparative research projects in order to avoid the marginalization of criminology; 2, to do more to understand the interconnectedness of the political system and criminal policy; 3, to have more comparative research project on criminal justice system; 4, to provide more space for addressing contemporary issues in the curricula of criminology education; 5, to enhance the public role of criminology and criminologists.

Dear ESC members, dear Colleagues!

I do believe that the ESC also has to address these very issues when choosing topics of upcoming conferences and other events. Just to name two examples that are relevant to almost all of the issue mentioned above: the massacre in Norway this year, and the summer riots in the UK.

Even though these events and crimes are probably still too close in time, nevertheless we might already start discussing them at our Vilnius conference.

¹ www.isc-sic.org

² The Book of Abstracts. 16th World Congress of the International Society of Criminology. Kobe International Conference Center. Ed. by Local Arrangement Committee, Miyazawa, Setsuo (chair). p. 25.

³ Abstract of J. Shapland’s presentation, in: The Book of Abstracts. p. 13

⁴ Ibid. p. 14

⁵ Abstract of F. Zimring’s presentation, in: Ibid. p. 32

⁶ Ibid. p. 32

⁷ Ibid. p. 33

⁸ Abstract of E. Fattah’s presentation. The Book of Abstracts. p. 257

⁹ J. Braithwaite’s and F. Zimring’s contributions at the roundtable „Responsible Citizenship in World of Crisis: Aquinas Roundtable Session”.

Topic of next issue:

SENTENCING THE “DANGEROUS OFFENDER”: A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE

Postgraduate Criminology and Criminal Justice at Queen's University Belfast

School of Law

Queen's University Belfast
27-30 University Square
Belfast BT7 1NN
Northern Ireland
United Kingdom

+44 (0)28 90973451
law-enquiries@qub.ac.uk



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ICCJ Staff Research Interests

- Clare Dwyer** – Penal policy; prisoners; transitional justice
- Graham Ellison** – Police reform; community safety; security governance
- Ruth Jamieson** – War and crime; gender and armed conflict; effects of imprisonment
- Shadd Maruna** – Desistance; psychosocial criminology; prisoner reintegration
- Anne-Marie McAlinden** – Child sexual abuse; sex offenders; restorative justice

Kieran McEvoy – Restorative justice; truth recovery; transitional justice

Marny Requa – Truth recovery; human rights; transitional justice

Phil Scraton – Deaths in controversial circumstances; criminological theory; prisons

Pete Shirlow – Segregation and violence; ethno-sectarianism; political violence

Hakeem Yusuf – Transitional justice; legal & political theory; comparative criminal justice

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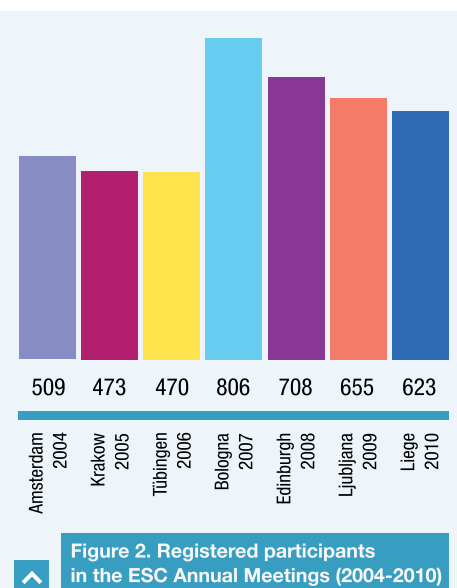
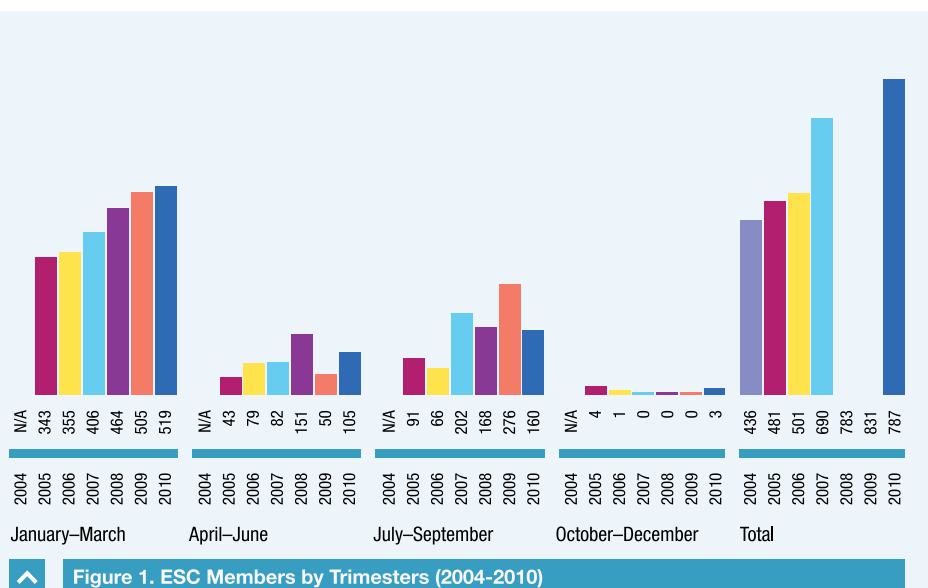
ESC EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT ANNUAL REPORT 2010

One of the most frequent topics of discussion among the members of the Executive Board of the European Society of Criminology (ESC) since the beginning of the world financial crisis in 2008 has been the potential impact of that crisis on the development of the ESC. The figures presented in this report for the year 2010 show that the crisis indeed has a slight impact on the growth of the ESC. As can be seen in Figures 1 and 2, even if the difference between 2009 and 2010 is roughly of 5% – a percentage that is usually considered as a synonym of stability –, both the number of ESC members and the number of participants at the annual conference of the ESC revealed minor decreases in 2010. Certainly, there could be other explanations to this development, but the fact that for the first time the Executive Secretariat received mails from criminologists informing that they were unable to renew their membership, or to participate in the conference, due to the financial restrictions imposed by their institutions, gives some empirical support to the hypothesis of the impact of the financial crisis.

As far as the evolution of the membership is concerned (Figure 1), the number of members of the ESC in 2010 (787 members) was lower than in 2009 (831), but slightly higher than in 2008 (783). Concerning the conference (Figure 2), 623 criminologists participated in the 10th Annual Meeting of the ESC, which took place in Liège, Belgium, from 8th to 11th September 2010. Even if that number of participants is the lowest

since 2007, it is still at least 20% higher than the numbers registered between 2004 and 2006, and is comparable to the one observed in Ljubljana in 2009 (655 participants). Students represented 22% of the ESC members in 2010 – the same percentage as in 2009 – and 28% of the participants to the 2010 Liege conference (they represented 25% in Ljubljana). It is also worth mentioning that 177 (28%) of the participants to the Liege conference were not members of the ESC, which means that, all in all, 964 criminologists were linked to the ESC in 2010. At the same time, during that year, the e-mail address of the Executive Secretariat (secretariat@esc-eurocrim.org) sent, in round numbers, 14,600 electronic messages and received 9,600.

The slight decrease in the membership of the ESC is related to the decrease in the number of participants to the ESC Annual Meeting. As can be seen in Figure 1, the number of members that renew their membership during the first trimester of each year has been increasing constantly since 2004 (members that opt for a three year membership are counted in subsequent years as having renewed their annual membership in the first trimester); on the contrary, during the third trimester of 2010, the number of new members was the lowest since 2007. The criminologists that renew their membership during the first trimester of the year are those whose involvement with the ESC does not depend on their participation in the Annual Conference.





In contrast, the memberships recorded during the third trimester are almost always related to the registration for the Annual Conference. In these cases, the Executive Secretariat receives at the same time the membership form and the registration form for the conference. As the participation in the conference is related not only to the financial situation of the institutions of affiliation of the participants, but also to the place and time of the year of the conference, the increase in the annual membership renewals is a very positive sign that shows that the ESC continues to consolidate itself as a professional association.

In 2010, members of the ESC came from 45 countries (48 if figures for the United Kingdom are broken down by countries). The distribution was the following: United Kingdom (155 members), Belgium (96), Germany (68), The Netherlands (63), United States of America (52), Italy (41), Spain (36), Switzerland (34), Greece (23), Austria (18), Ireland (15), Slovenia (15), Canada (14), Norway (13), Poland (13), Finland (12), Sweden (12), Australia (11), Hungary (10), Denmark (9), Portugal (9), Japan (8), France (7), Serbia (6), Bosnia and Herzegovina (5), Czech Republic (5), Croatia (4), Cyprus (4), Estonia (4), Israel (3), Lithuania (3), Luxemburg (3), Armenia (2), Brazil (2), Iceland (2), and Albania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Iran, Malta, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turkey with one member per country.

Among countries with at least ten members (Figure 3), the main changes in membership from 2009 to 2010 are related to the presence of criminologists from the conference hosting and neighbouring countries. Thus, members from Belgium and the Netherlands increased respectively by 63% and 29%, while members from Slovenia decreased by 67%. Apart from that, the only

major variations (i.e. at least a 25% change) concerned decreases in the members from Ireland and the United States of America, and increases in the members from Greece, Poland, and Hungary.

During 2010, the ESC website received 32,586 visits (13% more than in 2009 and 267% more than in 2004), representing an average of 2,738 visits per month or 90 per day (Figure 4). Visitors downloaded 19,515 files. The most downloaded (i.e. more than 1,000 times) were the book of abstracts and the programme of the 2009 Ljubljana Conference (downloaded 1,936 and 1,640 times respectively) followed by the programme of the 2008 Edinburgh conference (1,601 downloads), the August 2009 ESC Newsletter (1,585 downloads) and the book of abstracts of the 2008 conference. The monthly record of visits (3,236) was registered in March 2010. That month, visitors came mainly from the United States (1,302), the United Kingdom (289), China (139), Belgium (137), Germany (119), the Netherlands (111), Ireland (105), Italy (99), Switzerland (95), Bosnia and Herzegovina (80), Russia (70), Sweden (67), France (54), Canada (52), and Hungary (50). These statistics do not include visits to the conference websites, which are run by the local organizers of the annual conferences.

As to the country of origin of the website visitors, a strange pattern seems to be emerging: some countries with no or very few ESC members: China (no member), Bosnia and Herzegovina (five members), Russia (one member) and France (seven members) were among the top 13 countries of origin of the ESC website visitors.

Although it is difficult to give an interpretation of these divergences –they are influenced by the country population, the Internet penetration rate and the development of criminology in each country–, one can think

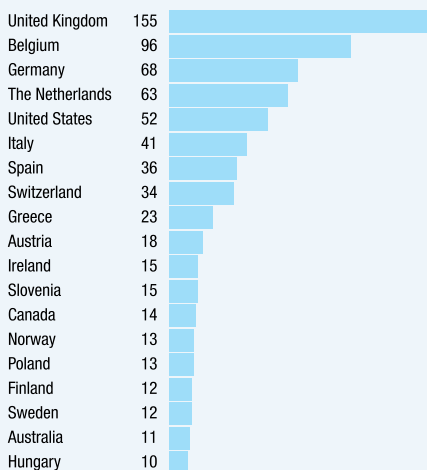


Figure 3. ESC Members by countries with at least 10 members (2004-2010)

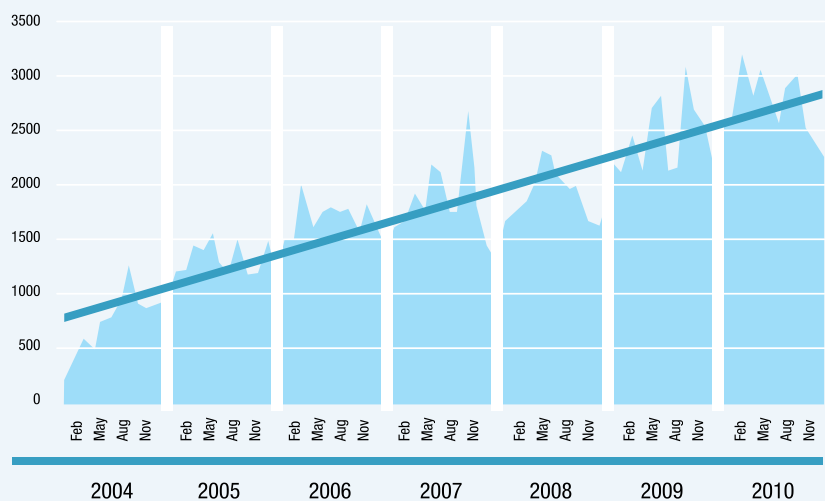


Figure 4. Visitors to the ESC website per month from January 2004 to December 2010





that they reflect an interest in criminology that is not mirrored in a participation to the ESC for reasons of geographical distance, economic restrictions (a reason that led the ESC to introduce fellowships for Eastern European criminologists), or linked to the degree of institutionalisation of criminology as a discipline (for example, every year the French criminology master programme of the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, receives students from France who have not found an equivalent programme in their country).

At the same time, 2010 was a particularly encouraging year for Norwegian criminology, as Nils Christie received the ESC European Criminology Award, and Torbjørn Skarðhamar the ESC Young Criminologist Award.

Finally, as always, we finish this report encouraging our members to send us information on criminology programs, upcoming criminological conferences and job and funding opportunities to be published on the ESC website, and looking forward to see you in Vilnius.

Henrik Tham

FEEDBACK ON ESC MEETING SESSIONS

During the ESC conference in Liège I discussed the form of the session presentations with some of the participants. An appeal for comments was sent out in order to collect impressions and suggestions which could be disseminated in order to improve our conferences. This is a summary of comments I have received including some of my own observations.

It seems to me that the overall quality of presentations has changed very positively since the first conference in Lausanne ten years ago. This is partly due to a general improvement in English language skills of the participants. Having said that, I will remind those whose native language is English to consider that others, whose mother tongue is not English, might have difficulties understanding, and to talk clearly and not too fast. Given that the participants find it more challenging to follow presentations in a foreign language it is also important that participants do not talk – or whisper – to each other during presentations.

Another room for the improvement is the use of PowerPoint slides. In many cases slides do give structure to the presentation and facilitate understanding in case of language problems. However, effort should be given to good PowerPoint presentations. Dense slides with much text or many figures in small size should be avoided. Some commentators view power point presentations as the (better) alternative to narrative presentations. This is a reasonable critique if the narrative consists of the close reading of a paper without any interaction with the audience, without the presenter ever bothering to look up from behind his script. A good narrative presentation – even without the help of any slides – could however be the most rewarding.

It has been suggested that the conferences could be improved by having the papers peer reviewed before-

hand. Papers would then be sent out before the conference and the session could be devoted to comments and further discussion among participants who already have read the paper. Such an arrangement would of course be more labor intensive but could possibly be considered for the future, if only for part of the papers presented. Another commentator suggested that the sessions would improve by being longer, 90 minutes, and with a maximum of three or four papers. That would also give more time for discussions which are particularly important given the comparative issues almost inevitably raised by the European scope of the conferences.

One comment is that the sessions should not be workshops, where unfinished research could be presented even if there are no results. (This is of course not an objection to sessions that are manifestly organized as workshops on ongoing research.) Another comment is that participants from more or less the same department working on the same subjects should not be put in the same session together. They could then as well have conducted their session at their home university. The idea of a conference is to meet people from various universities with broadly similar research interests.

A final comment is the following: “I believe our academic conferences are a bit old-fashioned and could use some innovations. If one of the main purposes of conferences is networking and building trust why don't we organize ‘speed dating sessions’ with people who work on similar topics. In that way, everybody gets to know a much greater number of people”.

These were the comments on how to improve sessions in our annual meetings. Most sound reasonably beneficial to the ESC, though they should not be seen as official recommendations made by the ESC board.

VESNA NIKOLIĆ-RISTANOVIĆ

THE PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE ESC



I first met Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović when we both lived in the same country. She had been working in the field of victims' and gender studies. However, I really noticed her and her work during the decade after the breakup of former Yugoslavia. Her research on victims had become, unexpectedly, very topical and needed for all of us.

Vesna graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, where she also received her PhD (1987). She is a respected authority on women's crime and victimology, especially on female victims and their special needs.

Evidently, she is passionate about the need to protect victims - particularly those who suffered in war - from any further victimization. She worked to influence public discourse, engaged herself early on in NGOs supporting victims of war. She spoke out and to drew attention to a problem so painfully present in several republics of the former Yugoslavia at a time when this was far from being self-evident.

She did all of these while being a researcher, scholar and university professor. At the beginning of her professional career, in 1979, she joined the Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research in Belgrade where she worked as a researcher until 2004, when she was offered a position as an associate professor at the Department for Prevention and Treatment of Social

Disorders at the Faculty for Special Education and Rehabilitation, University of Belgrade. She became full professor in 2009.

During this time span of thirty years she carried out a large number of research projects concentrating on women's crimes and victimology. Vesna is a prolific author, who has also published on human trafficking (especially in women and children), organized crime and money laundering. Vesna has often been collaborating with research teams and research institutions outside Serbia, especially in Germany and the Netherlands. In addition to her research, Vesna has also been a dedicated teacher - and not only at her home university but also at various foreign institutions, including the School of Criminology at the University of Montreal, Glasgow University (UK), Keele University (where she was a visiting professor), London School of Economics, Oslo University and many others.

This formidable woman is also an excellent conference organizer. She organized one in almost every year since 1997, for example, on the victims of war in former Yugoslavia (2000), on transition, war and crime (2002), and on domestic violence as a criminal offence (2003). She was also involved in the organization of the Victim Support Europe Annual Conference (2008).

Vesna has over 30 years of experience in working in the international academic arena. An active and engaged member of various international organizations, she is more than capable to become a great president of the ESC.



Cyrus Tata

SENTENCING AND PENAL DECISION-MAKING

The ESC's new working group on Sentencing and Penal Decision-Making is seeking to develop academic and policy thinking and encourage new European collaborations. In less than a year the Group has expanded to 46 members from 18 different European countries. The Group is composed of a blend of well-established academic scholars, new emerging scholars (e.g. postgraduate students), and it can also boast practitioners (lawyers, probation officers, judges etc.) and policymakers among its members.

But, of course, the Group always welcomes new members, especially emerging scholars, practitioners, policy officials, and in particular individuals from countries whose sentencing and penal decision-making is less well known internationally.

AIMS

The aim of the working group is to bring together scholars working in the field of sentencing and penal decision-making in order to share exchange ideas; and to encourage interest in the field across Europe. It seeks to stimulate research, encourage theoretical development of the field as well as critical and comparative European work.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "SENTENCING AND PENAL DECISION-MAKING"?

Because of its broad focus on sentencing as an exercise in decision-making, the Working Group's remit extends well beyond the issues connected solely to the judicial selection of punishment. Many other decision-making processes which either affect or are affected by judicial sentencing practices will also be included. So-called 'back-door' decisions, such as the grant of remission, parole or other early release to sentenced prisoners, clearly fall within this category. But so also do other decisions, at earlier and later stages of the overall criminal process, including prosecution charging practices, plea decision-making and, where it exists, plea bargaining, which may have a significant impact on the sentence ultimately imposed.

A non-exhaustive list of indicative areas of interest to the group includes: influences in the sentencing decision process; the politics of sentencing and penal policy-making; judicial discretion; the use of non-executive penalties; judicial and penal cultures; victims and sentencing; public opinion, public attitudes and knowledge of sentencing and punishment; multi-disciplinary courts; sentencing reform structures; penal aims and justifications; (in)equality and punishment; consistency and disparity in sentencing and penal decision-making; legitimacy and decision-making; release from custody; and plea-bargaining.

In all of these areas the working group attempts to bring comparative perspectives and a focus on changes in European law and policy.

RATIONALE FOR SETTING UP THE NEW GROUP

Although sentencing and penal decision-making is a long-established field which attracts numerous papers to ESC

each year there was no working group specifically dedicated to the topic.

Developments at the levels of the Council of Europe and the European Union provide further impetus for the creation of the proposed Working Group. Throughout much of its history, the European Court of Human Rights did not deal very extensively with sentencing issues as such, apart from matters connected with life sentences. More recently, however, it has decided many cases involving the extent to which prison conditions in some member states comply with Article 3 of the Convention. Meanwhile, European Union institutions are becoming more closely involved in criminal law matters, particularly through the creation of framework decisions on judicial co-operation and mutual recognition of judicial decisions. States may now, for example, refuse to surrender a person under a European Arrest Warrant if, at the time of the proposed surrender, he or she is at risk of suffering a violation of his/her rights under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights on account of prison conditions (or, presumably sentencing practices) in the requesting state. Here, then, we see the legislation and case law of the two major European institutions combining to have a potentially profound impact on the sentencing and custodial regimes of member states. Thus, it seems vital to have an ESC Working Group to examine the legal, social and policy implications of these developments.

THEMED PANELS & ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

Arising out of a set of consecutive pre-arranged themed panels organized at the ESC 2010 conference in Liège, the Group is running another set of panels for the Vilnius conference.

In April 2011, the Group held its first stand-alone symposium at Oxford University on the topic: 'Researching the Judicial Role in European Sentencing: Interactions & Dynamics'. Twenty-three delegates from more than a dozen different countries came together to exchange evidence, discuss ideas, debate, and, importantly, get to know each other. Julian Roberts, our gracious Oxford host, even secured the splendid common room in Worcester College for a champagne reception. Next year we will hold our second symposium and the goal is to convene one in different European countries each year. This will enable us not only to work on a particular theme but also get to learn about the host country's way sentencing and penal decision-making system.

We welcome members from: academia (whether well-established or emerging); practitioners, governmental policy officials, as well as individuals from non-governmental organizations.

If you would like to join the Working Group on Sentencing & Penal Decision-Making please contact its chair: Dr Cyrus Tata (cyrus.tata@strath.ac.uk) Centre for Law, Crime & Justice, Strathclyde University, Scotland.

Arjan Blokland & Menno Ezinga

EDLC WILL LAUNCH WEBSITE THIS AUTUMN

The European Developmental and Life-course Criminology working group (EDLC)

The European Developmental and Life-course Criminology working group is going digital! This autumn the EDLC will launch its website and provide its members and others interested in longitudinal criminological research a platform to share their publications, data and ideas. Thus far the EDLC has hosted thematic sessions at the ESC annual meetings and has been involved in organizing methodological symposia. While these sessions and meetings have provided opportunity for European researchers to get to know each other, in between meetings the EDLC lay somewhat dormant. The website is going to change that and will provide researchers with the latest on developmental and life course criminology for all over Europe 24 hours a day, every day.

The idea of starting a website had been around for some time, but did not materialize due to limited funds and technical knowhow. However, this summer the EDLC received funds from the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR) and VU University Amsterdam and was able to attract a professional web designer

who will set up the website. The trial version of the web site is already on the web and looks very promising. As soon as the website is up and running, EDLC-members will be notified and invited to share any information they have on activities, meetings or publications that may be relevant to other researchers.

The EDLC website will act as a bulletin board and notify members of seminars, summer courses and symposia related to developmental and life course research. Members will be given the opportunity to showcase their studies and list their latest publications. By providing detailed information on recent and ongoing studies EDLC-members will get to know each other's datasets. In time we hope the EDLC website will facilitate collaborative projects and coordinate data collection enabling comparative research.

For those interested in developmental and life-course criminology, membership of the EDLC is open for all researchers involved in longitudinal research. Please contact the working group at: edlc.esc@nscr.nl.

Frank van Gemert

EUROGANG

Last year, in June the Eurogang working group met in Neustadt an der Weinstraße in southwestern Germany. Forty researchers from eleven different nations participated in an intensive and informative workshop. Presentations dealt with the following three themes: methodological and definitional concerns; group processes of gangs; and emerging gang research in Europe. A forthcoming volume by Springer (Esbensen and Maxson, eds.: *Youth Gangs in International Perspective: Tales from the Eurogang Program of*

Research) compiles the papers presented at that meeting. The 11th EG workshop will be convened in September 2011 in Hillerød, Denmark. Themes for this workshop will focus on gang desistance and policies and programs for preventing and intervening with gangs. Researchers from 10 nations will interact with Danish practitioners to explore more effective responses to gangs. More information about the Eurogang program can be found on its website: <http://www.umsl.edu/~ccj/eurogang/euroganghome.htm>.

Joep Beckers & Judith van Erp

EUROPEAN WORKING GROUP ON ORGANISATIONAL CRIME (EUROC)

The European Working Group on Organisational Crime was established in 2010 to stimulate research in the field of white collar crime and organisational crime in Europe, and to promote exchange and collaboration between the various European researchers and research groups working in this field.

European criminology has traditionally focused on the conventional offender and conventional crime. Crime committed in the context of organizations remains a theoretical

and empirical challenge. EUROC intends to contribute to the theoretical and empirical underpinning of the research domain.

The working group on organisational crime focuses on crime, deviance or semi-legal "cosmetic compliance" behaviour, committed by corporations, firms, organizations, state actors or by individuals in an organisational context. These acts can be white collar crime, financial-economic



crime (financial market fraud, cartels, corruption, et cetera), environmentally damaging or green crimes, product safety violations, state-corporate crime, or war crimes.

We pay attention to the aetiology of the phenomenon, by focusing on issues of criminalisation, motives and opportunities on macro, meso, and micro level. We also address the reactions and approaches (regulation, governance, and enforcement) to organisational crime from the perspective of a variety of public and private actors, such as various local, national and international governments and state institutions (police, inspection services, judiciary, policy makers, et cetera), private regulators such as NGOs and private security firms, and internal regulatory forces such as compliance officers, auditors and accountants.

At present, EUROCC has fifty-five members from fifteen different countries, such as Belgium, the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Hungary and the Netherlands. Most of our current participants work at European universities, but some are employed by other institutions.

At this year's ESC conference in Vilnius, Lithuania, EUROCC will organise 3 to 5 panel sessions with 12 to 20 papers (at the time of this writing 3 panel sessions have already been confirmed, while 2 are still in the making), covering a wide range of topics related to the central theme of organisational crime: white collar crime and its public and private control strategies; occupational crime and state-corporate crime. Two of the panel sessions will be devoted to green criminology and environmental crime.

The working group distributes a newsletter twice a year. ESC-members interested in white collar or organisational crime are very welcome to join the working group or to subscribe to the newsletter at eurocc.esc@gmail.com. For further details you can also contact Judith van Erp (vanerp@law.eur.nl), Gudrun VandeWalle (Gudrun.vandewalle@hogent.be), Wim Huisman (w.huisman@rechten.vu.nl) or Joep Beckers (beckers@law.eur.nl).

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Anja Dirkzwager

PRISON LIFE & EFFECTS OF IMPRISONMENT

Prison Life and the Effects of Imprisonment aims to facilitate and encourage European research on life in prisons and the consequences of imprisonment. Additionally, we want to promote communication between European researchers involved in prison research and to establish cross-national research ties.

The group was founded last year after the conference in Liège. At this moment about twenty members from nine different countries have joined the working group. The members of the working group are involved in research on different aspects of prison life. Research interests include, but are not limited to:

- How prisoners perceive conditions of confinement
- Adjustment to prison life
- Quality of prison life
- Prisoners' rights
- Consequences of imprisonment
- Prisoners' social networks
- Prisoners' mental health
- Socioeconomic position of prisoners
- Effects of parental incarceration
- Prison officers
- Rehabilitation

We always welcome new members. So, all ESC-members involved in research projects on prison life and its consequences are invited to join. If interested, please contact adirkwager@nscr.nl.

VILNIUS CONFERENCE

The group called upon its members to submit papers for the ESC conference in Vilnius. The group was able to organize a thematic session on prison life and a session on the consequences of imprisonment at the first ESC conference since its foundation.

This resulted, for instance, in a presentation about prisoners' feelings of safety and their fear of being victimised while in prison. For this study, prisoners from thirteen European countries were interviewed. Another interesting paper will describe coping strategies Portuguese prisoners use to adjust to prison life.

In a second thematic session, a longitudinal study on the effects of imprisonment on the further life course of prisoners and their families will be presented. Aside from the research design, the results of the first wave regarding prisoners' mental health and their social networks prior to imprisonment will be discussed.

The working group will also plan an informal meeting during the ESC conference. Email notification about this will be sent shortly. If you are not a member yet, but you would like to join us at this informal meeting, please contact: adirkwager@nscr.nl.

FUTURE PLANS

More thematic sessions will be scheduled at future ESC conferences. In addition, plans for stimulating ideas and collaboration will be implemented, like a business meeting at the next ESC conference in Bilbao and the development of a website.