



## Helsinki 2003: Criminologists Head North

By Sara Harrop

There is something pleasantly disquieting about landing in a city where you know not one word of the language: that rejuvenating frisson of apprehension as you leave the safe, multi-lingual no-man's-land of the airport and hover on the brink of the great unknown.

Aboard the bus to the city centre, I peer at the polysyllabic street names hoping I can decipher the right place to get off. Clean across the (to me) indistinguishable babble of Finnish, an English voice penetrates.

'So what's the latest on the death penalty then?'

Ah! At least I now know I am on the right bus!



How many times was this scene re-enacted on 27 August when 400 people converged on the Finnish capital for the third annual conference of the European Society of Criminology? After the success of the 2002 meeting in Toledo, conference organiser Kauko Aromaa and his team

had quite an act to follow. How could they give the chilly Baltic venue the same appeal as its balmy, labyrinthine Spanish predecessor?

Confining all accommodation and venues within a small geographical area helped considerably. Rather than needing to accost bemused taxi drivers with butchered requests to take them to the corner of

Yliopistonkatu and Fabianinkatu, participants were able to wander along clutching their ESC maps as badges of identification and, by following the stream of conversational snippets about sentencing, restorative justice, and recidivism, to arrive painlessly at

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## Eurobarometer: Crime & Rising Anxiety

By Maria João Costa

Europeans in 2002 generally were more apprehensive about safety in their neighbourhoods, and more conscious of drug-related problems, than in previous years, according to a special 2002 Eurobarometer report on public safety. Fear of crime was most pronounced in Greece, France, Luxembourg, Portugal, and the UK, and least in Austria, Germany, and several north European countries.

The Eurobarometer was established in 1973. It conducts opinion surveys two to five times per year on behalf of the European Commission in all E.U. member states. Reports are published twice yearly. Each survey includes approximately 1000 interviews per country, using representative samples. The Eurobarometer is designed to provide regular monitoring of social and political attitudes.

In autumn 2002, a survey was carried out on Public Safety, Exposure to Drug-Related Problems, and Crime. Prepared by the European Opinion Research Group (EORG), it was published in May 2003 and is available on

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## Third ESC Conference a Smash Success

By Kauko Aromaa and Tuomas Finne

The third annual conference of the European Society of Criminology in Helsinki, Finland gathered about 350 participants, not quite as many as in Toledo last year but nevertheless a good result. The feedback has been largely positive, flavoured with some deserved criticism. Plans for the next conference in Amsterdam, 25-28 August 2004 are underway ([www.eurocrim2004.com](http://www.eurocrim2004.com)).

The conference was opened by the Finnish Minister of Justice, Johannes Koskinen, ESC President Paul Wiles, and organiser Kauko Aromaa. The minister's comments dealt

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## Message from the President

The next twelve months will be full of important issues, both organisational and substantive. Contributions from all of you will be crucial to help me and the newly-appointed board manage the Society.

Let me explain the main changes we wish to see.

First, an elected president. Again this year the board solicited expressions of interest and nominations but no-one was nominated. The new president-elect, Sonja Snacken, was nominated by the board and elected at the general assembly in Helsinki. Sonja, the other board

members, and I will attempt to make the selection of the next president-elect the result of a genuine election.

Second, the appointment of a permanent secretariat and of an administrative structure. We want this structure to be operative by the time of the Amsterdam conference.

Let me move to more substantive issues, which may be of interest during the next twelve months.

Next year ten new countries will join the European Union, and in 2007 its membership will be further enriched by two more. European institutions have played an important role in combating crime and its consequences. In addition, the new constitution will soon come into force.

Fresh ideas are needed on how to prevent crime. New people will occupy new jobs in international and national institutions. New curricula will be developed by our universities.

The ESC can contribute to this through the ideas and work of its members. It can also help eastern and central European universities move ahead in their criminological curricula and research.

What are the most urgent needs of a larger Europe?

The first is the availability of relevant data for comparative analyses. The second relates to university curricula. There is an increasing variety of undergraduate,

graduate, and postgraduate programmes in criminology. We need to increase our knowledge of such initiatives, and to foster the training of students in criminology in Eastern European universities.

These two activities imply that the ESC should find the appropriate means to interact with the international institutions which

deal with European problems. These institutions recruit officers and look for experts. We will benefit from opportunities offered to us and at the same time contribute to an improvement in policies.

I think it useful to propose meetings with the representatives of those international and European organisations that deal with crime-related issues, for which an agenda should be drafted, including topics in which mutual cooperation is useful. Why these meetings and with which agenda? How can European criminologists help?

Here are some issues where cooperation could be reinforced: data for comparative analyses; development of methods for evaluating crime policies; technologies for preventing crime; trade-offs between security and rights

How would the ESC and its members benefit? Job opportunities and research opportunities.

These are my ideas and proposals for action. Please let me know your ideas and proposals. I'll raise them at the coming year's board meetings scheduled for October 18, 2003, January 17, 2004, and May 15, 2004.

See you all in Amsterdam. ■



Ernesto Savona



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# Criminology in Belgium

By Sonja Snacken

Criminology in Belgium has a long history. The first 'cercle de criminologie' was established at the Université Libre de Bruxelles in 1880, headed by the lawyer Adolphe Prins and the psychiatrist Paul Héger. In 1907, the *Revue de Droit Pénal et de Criminologie* was founded, offering a mix of articles on penal issues, jurisprudence, and criminology.

## University Degrees

Within the universities, schools of criminology were founded in the law faculties at Leuven (1929), Brussels (1936), Gent (1937), and Liège (1937). Training consisted of legal and clinical courses and offered a complementary interdisciplinary specialisation following another basic training (law, medicine, psychology). The courses led to a degree in criminology after a one- or two-year study, and could be followed by a PhD. There were a few dozen students per university.

This picture changed radically at the end of the sixties. With sociological approaches becoming more influential, criminology evolved into a critical social science, broadening its focus from the etiology of crime to include the functioning of the criminal justice system. Independent university research gained importance, and the number of PhDs increased. An additional, preparatory year was introduced to allow such professionals as social workers or police officers to obtain a criminology degree in three years. Some professional functions required a criminology degree (prison director, chief of police).

The Flemish universities (Leuven, Gent, Brussels-Flemish) eventually introduced full four-year undergraduate programmes in criminology, offering a large range of interdisciplinary training (juridical, sociological, clinical), criminological theories, and social science methodologies. Student numbers soared from a few dozen per university to several hundred. The French-speaking universities still offer two- or three-year programmes.

Postgraduate programmes have been introduced in several universities. The international attraction of postgraduate programmes in the French-speaking universities is guaranteed by the French language. Flemish universities offer postgraduate degrees in English.

Separate, fully-fledged criminology degrees such as those offered by the Flemish universities are uncommon in Europe. This has advantages and disadvantages. On the positive side, it has enhanced the visibility and recognition of criminology.

The four-year course is very attractive to youngsters finishing high-school (although not always for the right reasons). They previously had to complete at least two years of additional training, usually in law, before beginning criminology (this sometimes gave criminology

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# Criminology in the Republic of Ireland

By Ian O'Donnell

Criminology in the Republic of Ireland is in its infancy. Recent years have, however, seen a sudden growth of interest and this is reflected in the number of university courses coming on stream. Funding has also begun to emerge and, if this continues, a new thread may appear in the international criminological tapestry.

The first Institute of Criminology in the Republic of Ireland was established in 2000 in the Faculty of Law at University College Dublin (UCD).

The Institute aims to be a centre of excellence that undertakes high quality research on crime, criminal justice, and the penal system in Ireland, enhances public understanding, and collaborates with national and international organisations.

The Institute has already recruited five PhD students with wide research interests: police-led restorative conferences, the impact of probation supervision on desistance from crime, psychological profiling of computer virus writers and hackers, sentencing of juvenile offenders, and the management of racist crime.

## Academic Courses

A taught course is not available at UCD; the emphasis is on research and doctoral training. However, a number of other institutions offer programmes, all of recent origin. University College Cork offers a one-year LL.M in criminal justice. It has a strong practical component and every student is required to complete a placement with a criminal justice system agency. The first cohort of up to twenty students enrolled in October 2003.

The Institute of Public Administration (IPA) offers a four-year part-time BA in public management. It has five optional streams, one in the administration of justice, and has an annual intake of approximately fifteen drawn from the police and prison services. Since 2002 the IPA has offered a two-year part-time MA degree in public management (criminal justice). The first group of ten students is now halfway through. Distance learning is the usual mode of study.

A four-year BA in criminal justice is available from Hibernia College, an on-line third-level institution established in 2000 to offer flexible web-enabled learning opportunities.

A centre for criminal justice was established at Limerick University in 1997. It has carried out a number of projects including studies of community service and cross-border police cooperation. No taught programme is available.

In Northern Ireland the University of Ulster offers a BSc in criminology and criminal justice. This undergraduate programme is available on both part-time and full-time bases. The Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice was established in 1995 at Queen's University Belfast. It

*Continued on page 19*



## UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY

The Institute of Criminology has a strong international reputation for academic excellence. The Institute has a distinguished senior faculty which includes Sir Anthony Bottoms, Manuel Eisner, David Farrington, Loraine Gelsthorpe, Adrian Grounds, Alison Lieblich, Shadd Maruna, Michael Tonry, Per-Olof Wikström, and Andrew von Hirsch. Its multi-disciplinary staff have backgrounds in criminology, sociology, psychiatry, psychology, philosophy, geography, history, and law.

### Radzinowicz Library

The Institute's library has one of the world's pre-eminent criminology research collections, including a wide selection of books, papers, periodicals, and historical materials. The library holds over 50,000 books and 18,000 pamphlets, receives nearly 300 periodicals, and has an aggressive acquisitions policy.

The Institute offers a wide range of graduate programmes:

- M.Phil. Degrees in Criminology or Criminological Research (the largest full-time graduate criminology courses in the UK)
- Ph.D. in Criminology
- M.St. in Prison or Police Studies

Students come from around the world, with strong undergraduate records in law, or social or behavioural science subjects, or extensive professional experience. The Institute admits approximately 40 M.Phil. students and 4-8 Ph.D. students each year. A number of awards and studentships are available, including Gates Cambridge Scholarships for non-UK citizens.

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Further information is available from:

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## Third ESC Conference *Continued from page 1*

with basic rights and the EU constitution and with the integration of criminal legislation in Europe. He concluded by pointing out that it is crucial that penal policy decision-making be based on facts and reliable research and that decision-makers interact regularly with experts and practitioners. ESC President Paul Wiles welcomed participants and observed that the choice of Finland as host country should remind all of the merits of Nordic crime policy.

ESC-Helsinki attracted 333 participants who presented 270 papers in 81 panels. Five plenary sessions (on crime control and integration; victims of crime; crime trends in Europe; constitutionalizing European criminal justice; Europeanisation of criminal law) were complemented by a small poster session, a sizeable book exhibit, and two visits to Finnish prisons - the most modern Vantaa prison, and the traditional 19th-century Central Prison of Helsinki.



*Sami Nevala and Tuomas Finne*

Participants also had opportunities to meet others at refreshment breaks, over meals, and at the receptions offered by the City of Helsinki and the Finnish Ministry of Justice. Thursday evening was free for attending any of the hundreds of events that together made up the annual "Night of the Arts", organised by the Board of

Culture of the City of Helsinki.

Participants came from 37 countries, including Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Greenland, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Ireland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The most represented countries were the UK (62, 19 percent), Finland (41, 13 percent), Sweden (32, 10 percent), the USA (25, 8 percent), the Netherlands (23, 7 percent), Italy (19, 6 percent), Norway (16, 5 percent), Belgium (15, 5 percent), Germany (15, 5 percent), and Denmark (12, 4 percent). This year's conference had a particularly strong Nordic participation, with 78 participants from Denmark, Finland, Iceland,

Norway, and Sweden. This was in part because the Scandinavian Research Council for Criminology was co-organiser of the conference.

Like last year, women were well represented. Forty-three percent of presenters were women, as were 36 percent of session chairs.

In addition, 44 percent (four out of nine) plenary speakers were women, as were 40 percent (two out of five) plenary chairs.

The most popular themes were organised crime, trafficking, and prostitution (5 panel sessions), drug policy and connections between drugs and crime (3 sessions), violence, in

particular violence against women (5 sessions), police-related research (5



*Kauko Aromaa*

sessions), juvenile delinquency and sanctions against juveniles (6 sessions), insecurity in European cities (2 sessions), and fear of crime (3 sessions). The conference programme also introduced one teaching session about methodology in criminological research and four author-meets-critic sessions at which new European criminological books were presented and discussed.

Plans are underway for next year's conference in Amsterdam, with the theme "Global similarities, local differences". Abstracts are due next spring to Henk van de Bunt, Department of Criminology, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV Amsterdam, the Netherlands, tel. +31 20 444 6231, fax +31 20 444 6230, Email: [h.g.vandebunt@rechten.vu.nl](mailto:h.g.vandebunt@rechten.vu.nl).

General information may be found at [eurocrim2004@rechten.vu.nl](mailto:eurocrim2004@rechten.vu.nl).

For registration and logistics: Symposium Secretariat ESC2004, c/o Convenience Conference Management, P.O.Box 77, 3480 DB Harmelen, the Netherlands, tel. + 31 348 567667, fax + 31 348 446057, e-mail: [nve@convenience-cm.nl](mailto:nve@convenience-cm.nl). ■

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Conference 2003 • Helsinki, Finland, August 27-30, 2003



EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

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## Criminologists Head North *Continued from page 1*

the University of Helsinki's Porthania building and the conference registration desk.

The City of Helsinki may not have been able to guarantee warmth and sunshine but it was able to provide copious quantities of fine food and alcohol and a sumptuous setting (the City Hall) for the welcome reception. An air of anticipation was palpable as people glanced around the room, scanning the assembly for familiar faces. There were old friends to be caught up with, new contacts to be made, and who knows? Perhaps research strategies to be dreamed up, collaborations to be formed, plans for innovative hard-hitting books to be hatched, and maybe even the seeds of fruitful criminal justice policies to be sown.

At an event of this sort even more ideas are exchanged on an informal basis at social gatherings than at official sessions. One function of a conference is, after all, to enable young aspiring academics to mingle with the good, the great, and the eminent. After hearing a plenary presentation by someone who was previously just a name on the cover of a thought-provoking book, more timid conferees enjoy the opportunity to converse with their more prominent colleagues away from a microphone and several hundred curious eyes. The social programme is as crucial as the academic one to the success of a conference.

A dinner cruise around the Helsinki archipelago was arranged for the Thursday night and, on the Friday, we all had the chance briefly to feel like characters from a Tolstoy novel at a reception by the Finnish Ministry of Justice in the splendiferous, chandelier-decked Government Banquet Hall. A number of participants continued their Baltic sojourn with post-congress tours to

Tallinn and St. Petersburg. For those truly intent on a busman's holiday, tours of two local prisons, one traditional and one progressive, were arranged.

The theme of this year's conference was 'Crime and Crime Control in an Integrating Europe', a topic eminently appropriate to the venue. The Finnish Minister of Justice, Johannes Koskinen, pointed out in his opening address that this topic will prove crucial as the European Union

every conference venue is unique and comes complete with its own set of special circumstances. You can rely only to a limited extent on copying ideas picked up from predecessors and must always be prepared for the unexpected. Amsterdam, take note!

The path to a perfect conference seldom runs smoothly and disaster almost struck back in January when Olli Rikala, the original conference secretary, was enticed away by the offer of a permanent job in marketing.

Fortunately, by the end of February, a highly competent replacement was found in Tuomas Finne, a student of arts management at Helsinki University. With fluent American English, well-developed organisational skills, and an unflagging sense of humour, Tuomas set about keeping in daily contact with the various subcontracted service providers and answering more than 5,000 emails.

'I don't know,' says Tuomas, 'whether to worry most about the people who send me hundreds of emailed questions, some of them entirely gratuitous, or about those who don't ask me anything. They may drop a totally unforeseen bombshell on me at the last moment!'

Sami Nevala stepped in in June to help compile the programme framework. A master's student at the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control (HEUNI), writing a thesis on the fear of crime questions in the International Crime Victim Survey, Sami, unlike Tuomas, has a background and interest in criminology. His statistical and analytical skills proved invaluable in handling the formidable task of juggling the panel session timings to avoid potential overlaps of interest.

A veteran of several similar conferences, Sami had already met many of the Helsinki participants and relished seeing them all together on



*Kauko Aromaa (right) with friends at the Ministry of Justice reception*

develops, and ESC president Paul Wiles remarked that Finland, with its forward-thinking criminal justice policies and its gracious capital city, made an inspirational backdrop for such discussions.

When a conference runs smoothly, participants are blissfully unaware of the amount of preparation involved in arranging more than 250 presentations in ten parallel panel sessions, and keeping participants informed, entertained, and intellectually stimulated for three days. It is generally only when problems arise that the organisers come to the forefront. At the Helsinki event, fortunately, they remained very much in the background.

Practice makes perfect, of course, and Professor Aromaa admits that the seamless running of the Helsinki conference owes much to advice from the organisers of last year's Toledo meeting. However, he stresses that



his home turf. Both he and Tuomas talked enthusiastically of the satisfaction of finally matching faces to the hundreds of email personalities who had been their workday companions over the preceding months. Kauko feels pleased and proud to have headed such a lively and likeable team. 'The team have made the conference,' he says. 'Without them, the whole thing would have sunk months ago.'

### Early Preparation

Kauko Aromaa cannot stress enough the need to start conference preparations early. His own first round of planning began a year in advance with an initial quest for sponsors. The Academy of Finland and the Finnish Cultural Foundation regularly support this kind of international scientific event so he approached them with relatively high hopes. The third important sponsor is the Scandinavian Research Council for Criminology which provided a grant of •10,000 to deal with the initial preparation. Kauko is most grateful to all these institutions. Registration fees cover only about 25 percent of overall costs, so without their support the whole thing would have been impossible.

Naturally, financial contributions are not the only ones. A platoon of people worked hard behind the scenes to ensure that the Helsinki conference would be memorable for all the right reasons. Britta Kyvsgaard of the Danish Ministry of Justice, Jerzy Sarnecki (Stockholm University) and Paul Larsson of the National Police Directorate, Norway, formed the scientific programme board who designed the original plenary programme.

Besides Tuomas and Sami, Kauko would like to thank the secretariat of the Scandinavian Research Council in general, and Anna Esko, the general secretary, in particular. Her



*Helsinki, an appropriate setting*

contributions were immeasurable. He is also grateful to Professor Jukka Kekkonen of the University of Helsinki's Faculty of Law for the use of the Porthania and main university buildings, and likewise to his troupe of smiling stripy-shirted student volunteers who were always on hand to deal with practical problems and dispense advice from the cheapest place to eat near the university to how to work the photocopier.

Paul Wiles officially handed his presidential duties over to Ernesto Savona of the Catholic University of Milan. Professor Savona will serve as president until the Amsterdam conference in 2004, when Professor Sonja Snacken will step into that role. Thus the society's aims of moving both the presidency and the annual conference around Europe have been fulfilled. Krakow as a 2005 venue will mean a welcome move eastwards.

### Another Successful European Conference

From snippets of conversation gleaned from people browsing through the criminology publishers' book stands during coffee breaks or sipping white wine beneath the crystal chandeliers of the Government Banquet Hall, comments about the conference were very positive. Presentations were generally sharp and serious and the organisers had included thoughtful little touches such as a day-by-day road map of the programme with a map and list of suggested restaurants on each page.

The jovial, bearded figure of Kauko Aromaa was omnipresent, and seemingly omniscient, throughout. Usually to be seen wielding plastic bags full of spare programmes and ESC flags, he could normally be spotted striding purposefully across the ground floor of the Porthania Building, patiently answering a barrage of questions. 'Kauko,

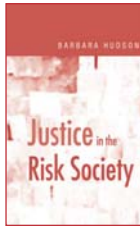
where's the bathroom?' 'Professor Aromaa, who's speaking in the next plenary?' 'Kauko, where are we supposed to meet the boat tonight?'

Although the official language of ESC conferences is English, the general atmosphere was agreeably European. English may be helping to integrate Europe but the linguistic diversity of our continent adds so much interest! Huddles of German and Dutch speakers switched to English mid-sentence in order to converse with some Israelis. Snatches of Spanish, Italian, and Greek were in evidence at all the social gatherings, as was, of course, Finnish. Scandinavians were particularly well-represented.

Timing the conference to coincide with Helsinki's 'night of the arts' was also a good ploy. On the Thursday night, the whole city became one huge free show as dance performances and operas were held in parks, art galleries and museums opened their doors, and every aspiring young band in town seemed to be setting up their instruments on street corners.

So if you missed out this year, remember the 4<sup>th</sup> annual ESC conference takes place in Amsterdam from 25-28 August, 2004. You will have a whole new city to explore, secure in the knowledge that you will run into someone you know at least once a day, you can stock up on cheese and diamonds, and you might even meet a future research collaborator and learn something new about the penal system in the Czech Republic too! ■

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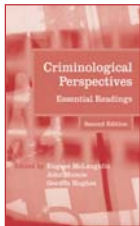
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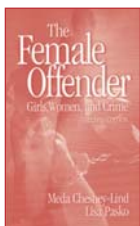
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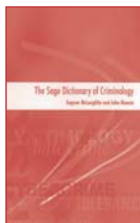
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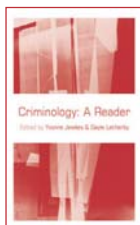


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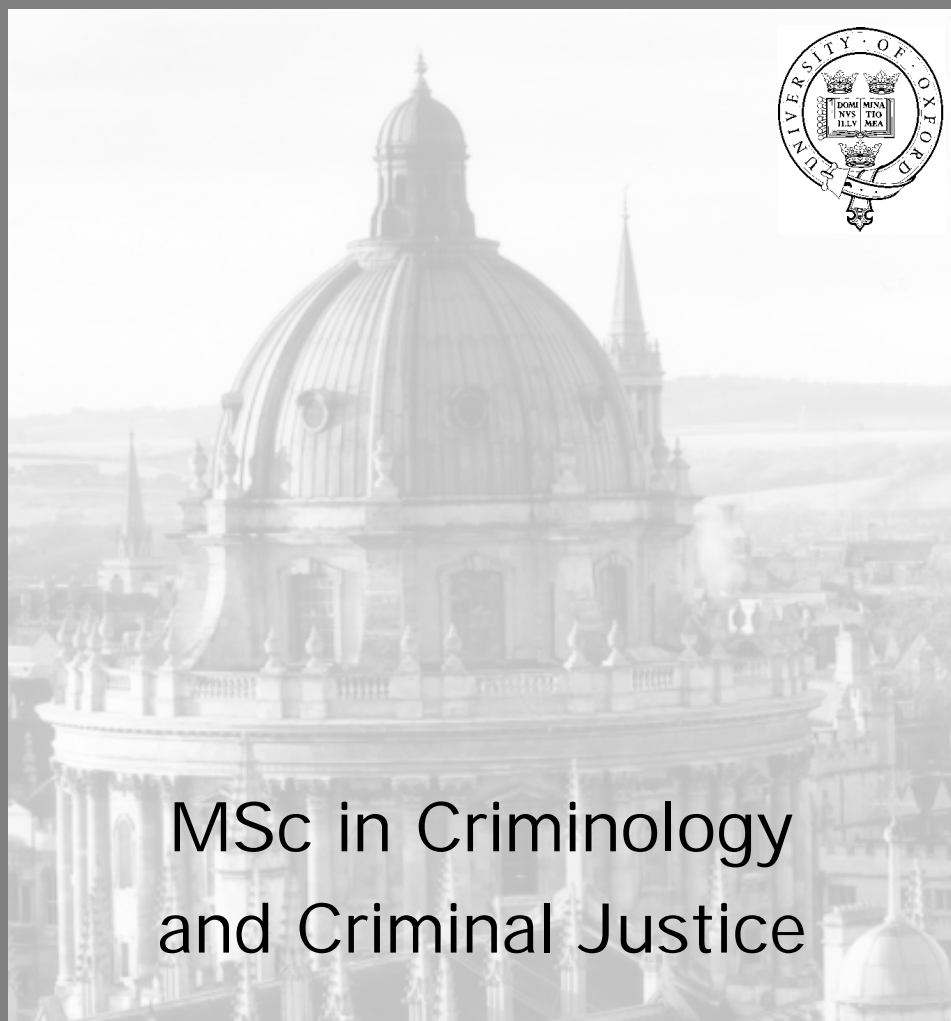
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## Criminology in Belgium *Continued from page 3*

students the reputation of failed law students).

Finally, it allows for an interdisciplinary training that turns criminologists into something like 'generalists in criminal and penal matters', possible interpreters and coordinators between the different juridical and social science professions.

With the the last 15 years' increased public and political attention to crime, demand for criminological expertise has soared, leading to new jobs within the criminal justice system, prevention programmes, local security initiatives, and private security.

### Research

Most criminological research is carried out in the universities. This includes fundamental and applied, the latter being preponderantly quantitative.

Fundamental research is financed through three channels: the universities, the National Science Foundation (FWO), and the Ministry for Scientific Policy (Department for Scientific, Technical and Cultural Affairs: DWTC).

The National Science Foundation finances PhDs, 3-4 year research projects, and Belgian participation in international research networks.

Criminological research long languished at the margins of other disciplines but slowly gained recognition in the 1990s. As part of public support for universities, funding is provided for independent academic research, to be decided by the universities themselves, usually through their own research councils.

The Ministry of Scientific Policy (DWTC) finances long-term (5 years), high-level inter-university, and interregional research networks on selected topics.

Policy research is mainly performed in the universities with external funding, and is financed by a variety of ministries. This is linked to divisions of responsibility among different political levels: federal (e.g., justice, police), regional (e.g., education, welfare), and local (e.g.,

prevention). This led in the past to fragmented and dispersed research projects, aggravated by divisions of topical interest among ministries.

Attempts at better coordination and more transparent decision-making at the federal level have resulted in the creation of longer-term research programmes on police matters within the Ministry of Interior (since 1985) and on justice matters within DWTC (since 1989).

Policy research on crime and justice in Belgium was fostered over the last twenty years by political

### Since the mid-1990s, the etiology and treatment of sexual offenders has gained importance, further fostered by the Dutroux scandal.

upheavals following several violent incidents, and by scandals about police and judicial ineffectiveness in addressing them. Electoral successes since 1991 of extremist right-wing politicians focusing on immigration and insecurity, and growing attention to victims of crime, especially after media coverage of the Dutroux case in 1996, have also stimulated research.

These developments focused public and political attention on crime and security, the need for police and judicial reform, and political and judicial authorities' lack of legitimacy in the eyes of the public. Many political and legislative initiatives have been undertaken, accompanied by demands by the ministries, or proposals by universities, for evaluation and follow-up.

Internal research departments were created in the ministries of justice (National Institute for Criminalistics and Criminology, Department for Penal Policy) and interior (General Police Support Service, Secretariat for Prevention) in the mid-1990s. These departments have had to foster coordination of research. This has led, however, to new problems.

Because of the absence of a

tradition of internal research in Belgian ministries, many aspects of the functioning of the research departments were unclear, including their scientific independence from policymakers, relations between internal and external policy research, and availability of internal data for university research.

To enhance consultation and coordination, transparency of decision-making and financing, access to data, and quality control, a 'Consultation Platform for Justice and Security' was set up in 2000 among the research departments and the penal law or criminology departments of the universities.

There is no consensus on how to achieve these goals. For the ministerial research departments, the balance between coordination and ad hoc considerations remains uneasy. Universities fear for their independence in proposing relevant research topics and for their co-optation as providers of political legitimation (Devroe 2003). Whether the development of the internal ministry research departments will reduce financing for independent external policy research remains to be seen.

At European Union level, research financing has long been limited to legal aspects of EU cooperation. With increased focus on justice and security, interest in criminological topics should increase, as Paul Wiles noted in his president's message in the March 2003 ESC Newsletter.

Private commercial research bureaus are (as yet) rarely involved in criminological research in Belgium, unlike in such neighbouring countries as the Netherlands. Large consultancy firms, however, increasingly are being asked for assessments of financial efficacy, quality control, and implementation of reform in the police, justice, and prison services.

### Major Research Topics

Ministry control of financing of university research projects has resulted in a predominance of work on police and insecurity, criminal policy, and justice system functioning.

Etiological studies on such subjects as juvenile delinquency and drug addiction are rare and are usually conducted by psychologists or psychiatrists linked to the university criminology institutes. Since the mid-1990s, the etiology and treatment of sexual offenders has gained importance, further fostered by the Dutroux scandal. Lack of integrated data and statistical systems has led to more descriptive studies of certain crimes, especially drug offences, but also hooliganism, transnational crime, and computer crime.

Criminal policy studies concentrate on a variety of subjects: feelings of insecurity, social exclusion, and prevention; specific crimes (drug offences, sexual offences, organised crime); victims; administration of the criminal justice system.

Police studies expanded substantially in the 1990s, and encompass the development of integrated police statistics, relations between the police and the public, organisation and functioning of the different services, inter-agency cooperation, and private security.

Judicial systems have been less frequently studied. Topics here include the functioning, workload, and increased competences of public prosecutors; the use of remand custody and its alternatives; sentencing of particular offences or

offenders (drug offences, sexual offences, ethnic minorities, female offenders); the relations among sentencing, penal inflation, prison overcrowding, and life sentences.

Research programmes of the ministry of scientific policy currently tackle topics such as changing interactions between judicial and social or civil services (schools, mediation) and public attitudes to justice.

With regard to prisons, the main topics studied have been overcrowding, lack of prisoners' rights, regimes for specific categories of prisoners, welfare and support for prisoners by external services, violence, electronic monitoring, and parole. Prison staff have also slowly gained increased attention.

Juvenile justice systems have long been studied in Belgium. Discussions are underway about future policy directions including from welfare, human rights, and restorative justice models. Empirical research concerns the influence of these discussions on professional practice; the introduction of mediation, community service, and family group conferencing; and juvenile institutions and treatment.

How can we assess developments in criminological research in Belgium? Police operations and courts have been opened to scientific inquiry. Universities have generally succeeded

in maintaining their independence from the authorities. However, this research has brought limited theoretical innovation, hence reducing the proportion of fundamental research.

Theoretical models and concepts developed or supported in the separate criminological institutes, often influenced by interactionist and critical theories, shape the ways commissioned, policy-related research is tackled. To give a few examples: the concept of *acteur social* in the creation, transgression, and application of the penal law (Université Catholique de Louvain); the concept of 'social vulnerability' and restorative justice as a new paradigm in penology and victimology (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven); a human rights approach to penal law, police, penology, juvenile justice, medical power (Universiteit Gent, Vrije Universiteit Brussel); and penal welfarism and actuarial justice (Université Libre de Bruxelles), etc.

## Reference

Devroe, E. 2003. 'La rencontre entre la recherche criminologique et la gestion de la politique criminelle.' *Politeia* p. 176.

*Sonja Snacken is professor of criminology, penology and sociology of law at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and president-elect of the ESC.*

## EUROPEAN QUANTITATIVE CRIMINOLOGY

I would like to invite ESC members with research interests in quantitative criminology to join the newly formed *European Quantitative Criminology (EQC)* working group.

Apart from defining a pool of European criminologists with quantitative orientation and promoting communication among them, the EQC working group's shape and objectives are open for discussion. Possible functions include organizing quantitative criminology or research methods panel sessions at ESC conferences or holding one-day EQC workshops, establishing cross-national quantitative criminology research ties to aid in competing for European Commission funds, offering a student award for the best quantitative paper submitted to the ESC meetings, and drafting guidelines for quantitative research methods courses, etc.

If you would like to join, please send your name, position, affiliation, and (optional) quantitative research specialization/expertise to [atseloni@uom.gr](mailto:atseloni@uom.gr). Your views and suggestions for short and longer-term functions of the EQC group are greatly welcome. Please include the group's abbreviation, 'EQC', in the subject field of your e-mail message.

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  - Sentencing
  - Corrections
3. Victim surveys and fear of crime
4. Theoretical and historical approaches
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# Eurobarometer *Continued from page 1*

the web ([http://europa.eu.int/comm/public\\_opinion](http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion)).

In 1996 and 2000, the Eurobarometer included questions about street safety after dark and contact with drug-related problems.

The 2002 special survey covers street safety after dark, drug-related problems, personal expectations regarding victimisation, and opinions about crime and prevention.

The special report compares and contrasts its results with results from the 1996 and 2000 general surveys. The data are analysed country by country, and in terms of socio-demographic variables.

## Fear of Crime – Street Safety

In comparing the 1996, 2000, and 2002 findings, I report absolute results without reporting statistical significance. Across the EU, there was a slight increase in the percentages of those feeling a bit or very unsafe, as figure 1 shows. The largest increases between 1996 and 2002 were in Greece, the UK, Italy, Luxembourg, Finland, France, the Netherlands, and Denmark. The most pronounced change occurred in Greece.

The International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS) has asked the same question since 1992. ‘How safe do you feel walking alone in the area you live after dark? Do you feel very safe, fairly safe, a bit unsafe or very unsafe?’ Countries are generally ranked in the same order<sup>1</sup> in ICVS and Eurobarometer results. The major exception is Belgium where Eurobarometer respondents show higher levels of anxiety.

Questions about feelings of safety differ significantly from questions about perceptions of risk. The most recent ICVS report points out that the relationship between ‘fear of crime’ and victimisation experience may be misleading as ‘fear of street crime may be influenced by specific “cultural” pressures, such as media presentations of violent crime’ (van Kesteren, Mayhew, and Nieuwebeerta 2000).

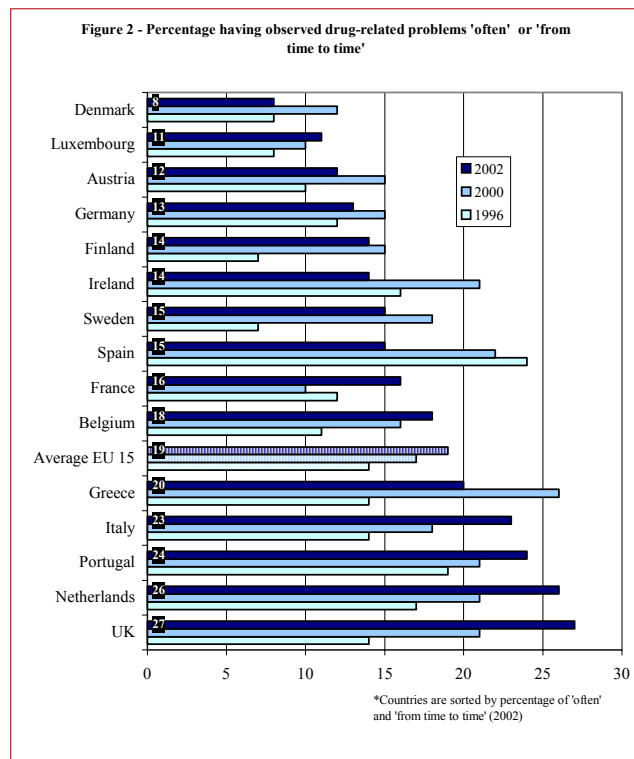
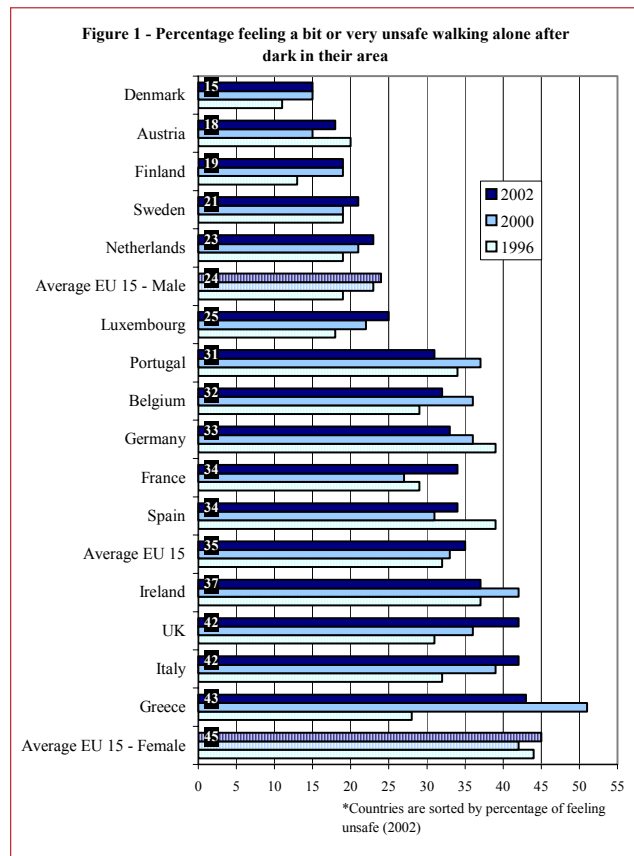
## Drug-related Problems

Respondents were asked about their contact with drug-related problems in their neighbourhood over the last twelve months. These included such things as seeing people dealing in drugs or taking or using drugs in public spaces, or finding syringes left by drug addicts. Drug-contact responses were ‘often’, ‘from time to time’, ‘rarely’, ‘never’, and ‘don’t know’.

Figure 2 combines ‘often’ and ‘from time to time’ answers. Across the EU, exposure to drug-related problems grew steadily from 1996 (14%) to 2000 (17%) and again to 2002 (19%). The number replying ‘never’ is decreasing more rapidly than the number replying ‘rarely’ is increasing.

## Perceptions of Risk

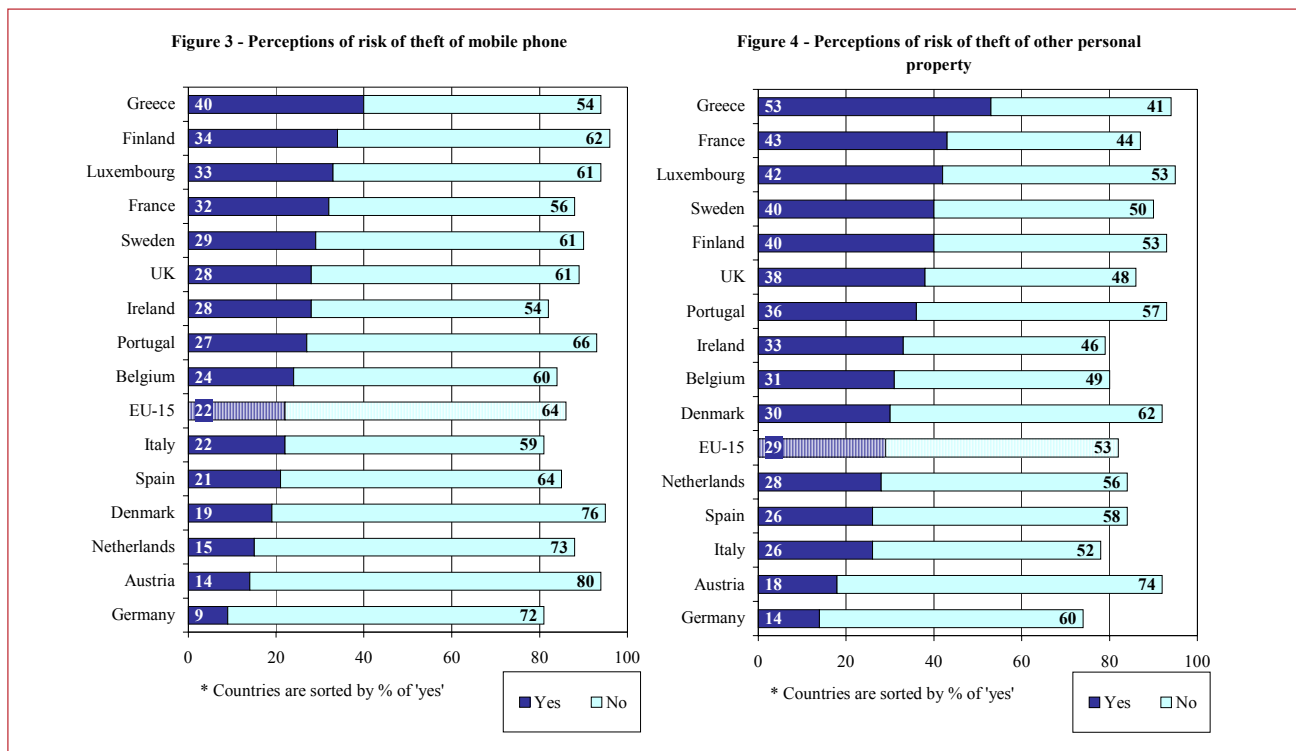
Respondents were asked ‘Over the next 12 months, do you think there is a risk that you will personally be the victim of one of the following (theft of mobile phone; theft of other personal property; mugging or robbery in order to steal a mobile phone; mugging or robbery in order to steal something else; burglary or break-in at home; and assault



or threat of assault)? Yes, no, don't know?'

Surveys generally find a relationship between people's concern about crime and actual risks. The Eurobarometer does not measure victimisation, so the relationship cannot be evaluated. In victimisation surveys conducted locally, links are found between the likelihood of burglary and





perceptions of risk of burglary.

International surveys depend upon similar understanding of the questions asked. The administration must include strict translation to assure, as far as possible, the same meaning, and allow respondents to provide equivalent responses. In this part of the 2002 survey, comparisons of the average responses concerning theft with responses concerning mugging or robbery suggest some problems.

Scores are very different between countries. In some cases there were significant levels of 'don't know' answers. Across the EU 18% of respondents could not or would not evaluate victimisation risk for four of the six types of crime. The following figures illustrate inter-country comparisons of perceptions of risk. 'Don't know' answers are not shown, but can be calculated as the difference between the total and the sum of 'yes' and 'no' responses.

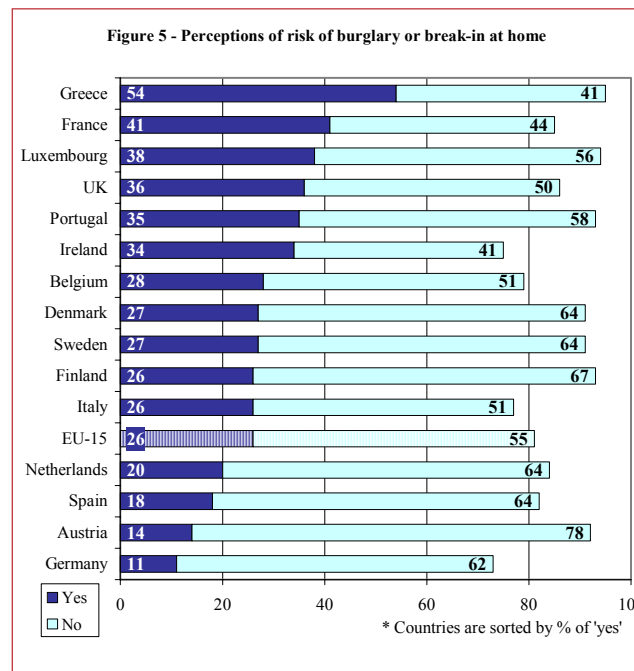
In the 2002 special report the figures are examined in light of socio-demographic variables, and also in light of other survey results about respondents' access in their household to fixed and mobile phones. In general, country rankings are consistent across the countries involved. Perceptions of risk are generally lowest in Austria, Germany, Italy, and Denmark, and highest in Greece and France.

- Perceptions of risk of theft of mobile phone and other personal property are higher among women (23% and 31%) than among men (21% and 28%).
- Younger respondents revealed higher anxiety about mobile phone theft over the next year. The 15-24 age-group registered highest anxiety concerning theft of other personal property.
- The longer respondents had spent in full-time education, the greater the risk of theft perceived.
- The more urbanised the area, the more perception of risk of theft seems to rise.
- Across the E.U., perceptions of risk of burglary or break-in at home are greater among women (28%) than among men

(25%) and among older people (rising from 21% for the 15-24 age group to 30% for those 55 and above).

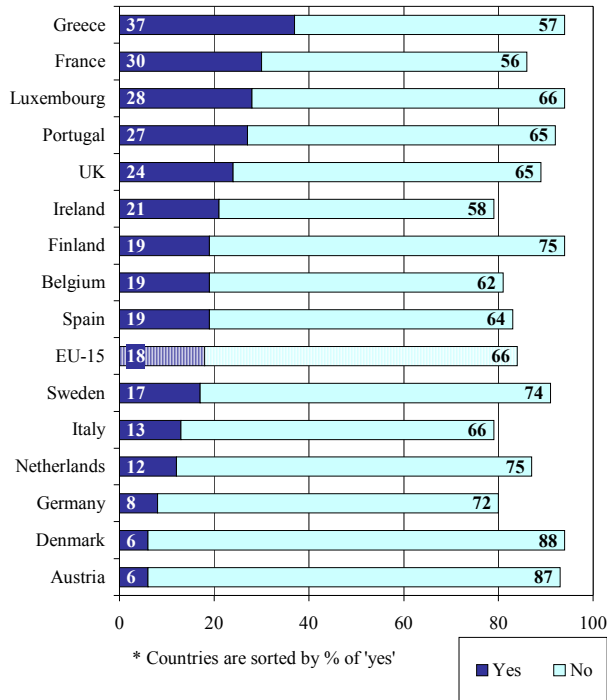
- An increased perception of burglary risk is found in urbanised areas and among those with access to a mobile phone.
- The level of income does not predispose to a higher or lower expectation of burglary risk (28% among those in both edge categories).
- An increased perception of risk of mugging or robbery to steal a mobile phone and to steal something else was found in urbanised areas and among women.
- Age appears to influence responses related to mugging or robbery to steal a mobile phone, with higher 'yes'

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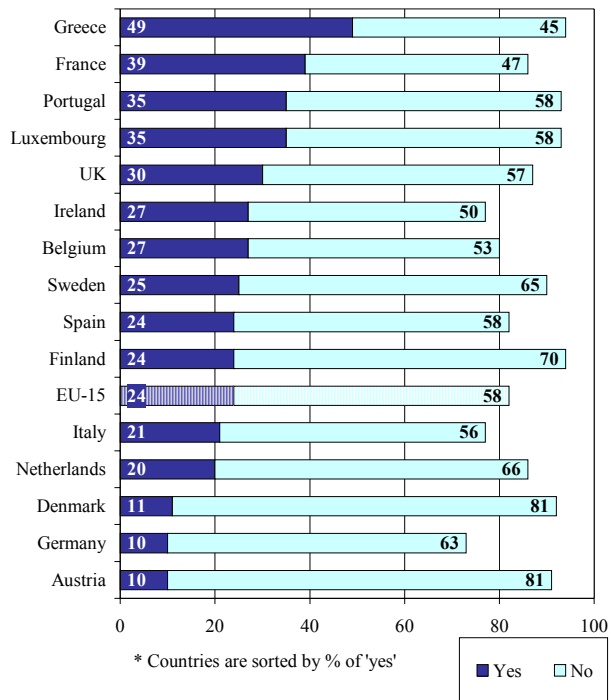


# Eurobarometer *Continued from previous page*

**Figure 6 - Perceptions of risk of mugging or robbery in order to steal a mobile phone**



**Figure 7 - Perceptions of risk of mugging or robbery in order to steal something else**



responses registered among younger people. Age appeared to have no effect on responses concerned with mugging or robbery to steal something else.

- Income does not appear influential in perceptions of risk of mugging or robbery to steal a mobile phone. In relation to mugging or robbery in order to steal something else, the poorest and the wealthiest tend to feel the most vulnerable.
- Those who said they had access to (but did not necessarily own) a phone reported a considerably higher concern about theft (23%) than the E.U. average (18%).
- Average responses concerning theft are generally higher than responses concerning mugging or robbery. The pattern is maintained for every country except Portugal. This exceptional result could arise from inadequate translation of the inquiry.
- The figures for men who felt at risk of assault or threat of assault were slightly lower (23%) than for women (25%).
- Perception of assault risk tends to decrease with age (28% in the 15-24 age-group, 22% in the 55+ age-group).
- The greater the degree of urbanisation, the greater the perceived assault risk (20% - 29% for the polar categories).

## References

European Opinion Research Group. 2003. *Public Safety, Exposure to Drug-Related Problems and Crime - Public opinion Survey*. Report prepared for The European Commission.

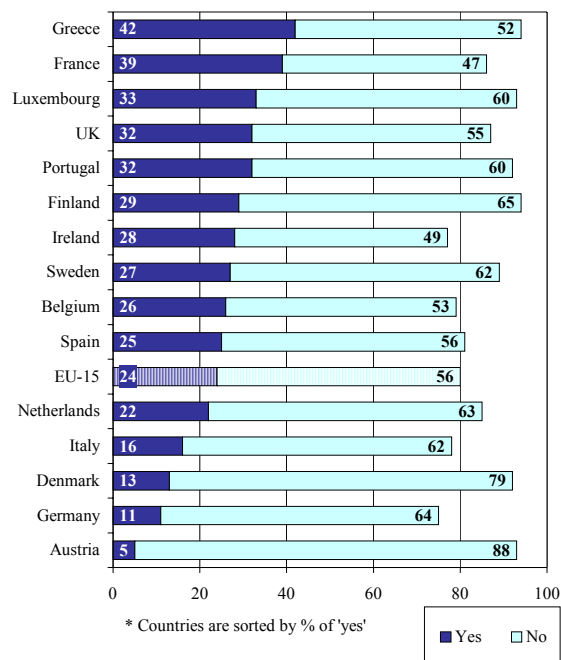
van Kesteren, J., P. Mayhew, and P. Nieuwbeerta. 2000. *Criminal Victimization in Seventeen Industrialised Countries - Key findings from the 2000 International Crime Victims Survey*. The Hague: Ministry of Justice.

## Note

<sup>1</sup> Comparing the survey results of the 2000 sweep of ICVS and Eurobarometer concerning Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, The Netherlands, Portugal, and Sweden. ■

*Maria João Morgado Costa is head of the Justice Statistics Department at the Legal Policy and Planning Office, Ministry of Justice, Portugal.*

**Figure 8 - Perceptions of risk of assault or threat of assault**



## Criminology in Ireland *Continued from page 3*

offers a range of postgraduate courses at diploma and degree level involving up to 60 students each year. A master's degree in human rights and criminal justice is offered jointly with the National University of Ireland, Galway.

### Other Research Centres

A research unit was set up at the Garda Síochána [Police] Training College in 1994. Its work is largely operational in nature and the findings are seldom published or made generally available. There is no research unit in the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, the Prisons Service, or the Courts Service. The Probation and Welfare Service has a single member of staff allocated to research duties.

The National Crime Council was established on a non-statutory basis in 1999. It has commissioned research into crime trends in Ireland between 1950 and 1998, public order offending, and domestic violence. It has also carried out a number of projects in-house.

Finally, the Law Reform Commission has played a role addressing rape law, principles of sentencing, and confiscation of criminal assets.

### Funding Opportunities

Prior to 1998 the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform did not have a research budget. An annual sum of around €500,000 is now available. Most of this is spent on prison-related projects. The biggest were a general healthcare study of almost 800 prisoners and a survey of hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV prevalence in another 1,200. Other commissioned research investigates public perceptions of crime, and attrition in rape and sexual assault cases.

The government is committed to carrying out a national victimisation survey in 2004 and biennially thereafter. This will require a substantial increase in funding. A white paper on crime is in preparation and may have implications for criminological research agendas.

The other primary source of funding is the Irish Research Council

for Humanities and Social Sciences, which has made its first award for criminological research. This is a three-year investigation of recidivism among Irish prisoners. It will involve close collaboration between UCD and colleagues from the universities of Missouri–St. Louis and Cambridge.

### Sources of Information

There is no society of criminology in Ireland. Nor is there a dedicated journal. In general the quality of the official data is poor. Even where courses are on offer, criminologists are scarce. Indeed there are probably no more than a dozen academics in the country working in the broad area of criminal justice, and for most it is a secondary interest.

The knowledge base thus is underdeveloped and much basic research has never been carried out. For example, there are virtually no data available on sentencing and little is known about how the constituent parts of the criminal justice system operate or interact. This can make simple inquiries excessively laborious and renders conclusions frustratingly tentative. Policy making often takes place in an informational vacuum.

Despite these difficulties interesting studies have appeared spasmodically over the years and these are to be found in long established publications that are not well known outside Ireland. These include the *Irish Jurist* (founded in 1848 and now in its fifth series), *Administration* (published four times a year since 1953), the *Irish Criminal Law Journal* (established in 1991), and the *Economic and Social Review* (in existence since 1969). A recent addition is the *Judicial Studies Institute Journal*, now in its third year.

There is no Irish textbook of criminology and students rely heavily on materials produced for other jurisdictions, which are not always appropriate. A number of attempts have been made recently to locate the Irish experience in a wider historical and comparative context and a selection of the relevant publications is listed below. However it remains true that the Irish voice is silent in

contemporary international debates.

### Influences

Ireland offers a case study in policy transfer. As a small island between Britain and the United States it can hardly avoid being buffeted by the winds of change in its larger neighbours. This can be seen in such developments as the rapid expansion in the prison population since the late 1990s, the introduction of mandatory minimum sentences of 10 years imprisonment for possession of drugs valued at over €13,000, and the infection of political debate with the rhetoric of 'zero tolerance.'

However Ireland is different too and there is important work to be done charting areas where it has innovated or managed to resist the pressure to yield to trends in the Anglo-American world. Going forward it may be that different reference points are required, such as other small EU countries. Such a reorientation could have many benefits despite the linguistic, legal, and cultural challenges it would doubtlessly present.

### References

Scholars in other jurisdictions are often starved of information about the Irish criminal justice system. The following publications might be of some interest:

O'Donnell, I. and F. McAuley, eds. 2003. *Criminal Justice History: Themes and Controversies from Pre-Independence Ireland*. Dublin: Four Courts Press.

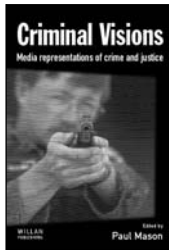
O'Donnell, I., and E. O'Sullivan. 2001. *Crime Control in Ireland: The Politics of Intolerance*. Cork University Press.

O'Malley, T. 2000. *Sentencing Law and Practice*. Dublin: Round Hall.

O'Sullivan, E. and I. O'Donnell. 2003. 'Imprisonment and the crime rate in Ireland.' *Economic and Social Review* 34(1):33-64. ■

*Dr Ian O'Donnell is deputy director of the Institute of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University College Dublin.*

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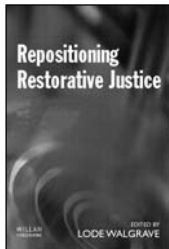
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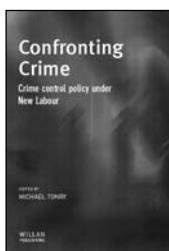
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