



## ESC in Edinburgh 2008: Criminology in the Public Sphere

By Richard Sparks and Alistair Henry

The 2008 annual meeting of the ESC will be held in Edinburgh, Scotland on September 2-5, 2008. The theme this year is "Criminology in the Public Sphere." The conference will include a rich mix of plenaries, panels, and poster sessions, lubricated by a diversity of social events including a concluding ceilidh.

Those planning to attend should note two critical dates:

Abstracts of papers to be presented must be submitted to the conference organizers **by May 31, 2008**. Do not



dawdle as the deadline will be rigidly observed.

Early registration closes **on July 1, 2008**, after which fees increase by 75 Euros for all registrants except students and by smaller amounts for students. Details concerning early and late registration are set out in the table on page 6.

Information on booking accommodation can be found on page 6.

Besides enjoying the benefits of the annual

meeting, participants will be able to explore Scotland and

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## Stockholm Prize?

*Flemming Balvig (Copenhagen), Nils Christie (Oslo), and Henrik Tham (Stockholm) in 2005 expressed the view that the Stockholm Prize would disserve the interests of criminology and criminologists. Three years later they believe that their apprehensions have been confirmed. Below we reprint the original letter in which they expressed their concern, and a more recent statement explaining why they believe events have proved their apprehensions warranted.*

In March 2005 we sent the following letter to Professor Lawrence Sherman and some other members of the Scientific Committee of the International Society of

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## European Prison Populations Stable

By Stan C. Proband

Prison populations in Europe have stabilised, according to recently released Council of Europe annual penal statistics (Aebi and Lagrande 2008). Rates in 21 of 46 reporting jurisdictions were lower on September 1, 2006 than a year earlier, and in four other jurisdictions grew by one percent or less. Rates increased in the other 21 jurisdictions.

The data show that European countries' imprisonment practices vary enormously. Women constitute three to nearly eight percent of prisoners in various countries, a

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### NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR ESC AWARDS

Nominations are sought for the ESC's 2008 "European Criminology" and "Young Criminologist" Awards. Winners will be announced at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Edinburgh. Eligibility criteria and procedures for selection of award winners are set out in the award particulars on page 4 and on the ESC website.

Nominations should be sent to Professor Marcelo Aebi, ESC Executive Secretary (see page 2) by 31 May.

# Message from the President Drug Policies in Europe and What They Mean for European Criminology

By Krzysztof Krajewski

The foreword to the 2007 annual report on *The State of the Drugs Problem in Europe* states: 'The report addresses two fundamental questions. What is known about drug use in Europe and the problems it causes? And what has been learned about responding effectively to drug-related problems? These questions are important because, regardless of political persuasion or ideology, policymakers across Europe recognise that the drugs problem presents a complex set of issues for which there is no simple solution. They recognise that the way forward lies in analysing the available evidence regarding the size and nature of the problem and the costs and benefits of different interventions. The report also demonstrates Europe's commitment to balanced, evidence-based policymaking and to sustained effort over time rather than relying on 'quick-fix' solutions. As a result, Europe should be proud that its response to this difficult and often emotive issue is both rational and humane'.



Compared with some other regions of the world, prohibitionist drug policies in Europe often show a softer side. In some countries, this has extended to depenalisation or even decriminalisation of personal possession, and development of various treatment alternatives for drug-addicted or -using offenders. Much more serious consideration is usually given than elsewhere to

prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and similar policy concepts.

User demand is often considered primarily to be a matter of public health and social policy. Only the illicit supply of drugs remains predominantly a matter for law enforcement, although the form and character of this enforcement remain somewhat distinctive and much less drastic than in some other parts of the world.

This may confirm the image of well-balanced drug policies in Europe, where the attitude of an 'owl' – as characterized by Peter Reuter – seems to prevail, falling between the drug policy extremes of 'hawks' and 'doves'.

While all this is most probably true, one should not forget that it is difficult to speak of unified European drug policies. Huge differences still exist concerning approaches to drugs in general, and to drug use in particular. These differences become greater when one compares Central and Eastern with Western Europe.

Western Europe experienced a much longer period of 'cohabitation' with a serious drug problem, which started during the 1960s in most countries. Until 1989, Central and Eastern Europe remained – if not completely a 'drug free' zone – largely isolated from the world market in illicit drugs and all its associated problems. The end of this isolation after the fall of the Berlin wall often produced 'moral panics' and, sometimes, unbalanced reactions.

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# Who Attends the ESC Conferences?

By Gian Guido Nobli and Stefania Crocitti

Data we collected and analysed in the aftermath of the 2007 ESC annual meeting in Bologna provide an opportunity to look back to see how ESC meetings have evolved since the first one in Lausanne in 2001. The numbers show that the ESC is achieving its goals of becoming a

forum for criminologists from throughout Europe and attracting scholars from throughout the world.

The meetings are definitely getting larger. The Lausanne meeting attracted around 300 participants. Numbers have varied since then but the trend has been upwards. More

than 800 people registered for the Bologna meeting.

A number of patterns stood out in our analyses. First, every meeting has included at least ten participants from each of Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Well over half of

## Countries Represented by at Least Ten Participants, All ESC Conferences

This table shows information about participants at all ESC conferences over the past 7 years. It shows data only for countries with at least 10 participants. Information about all countries is available only for the past 4 years.

Lausanne (2001)	Toledo (02)	Helsinki (03)	Amsterdam (04)	Krakow (05)	Tubingen (06)	Bologna (07)
UK-90	UK-122	UK-62	UK-127	UK-103	Germany-82	UK-188
Netherlands-44	Spain-60	Finland-41	Netherlands-107	Germany-33	UK-74	Italy -111
Germany-40	USA-40	Sweden-32	USA-39	Poland-32	USA-33	USA-55
Italy -26	Belgium-27	USA-24	Germany-36	USA-30	Belgium-31	Belgium-50
USA-23	Netherlands-22	Netherlands-23	Belgium-35	Netherlands-30	Netherlands-27	Netherlands-47
Sweden-18	France-22	Italy -19	Italy -13	Belgium-23	Canada-22	Germany-41
Belgium-15	Italy -18	Germany-16	Norway-13	Italy -20	Sweden-21	Canada-31
France-13	Germany-16	Norway-16	Spain-13	Australia-13	Italy -20	France-23
Spain-11		Belgium-15	Canada-11	Switzerland-12	Switzerland-17	Switzerland-22
		Denmark-12	Sweden-10	Finland-12	Spain-17	Sweden-21
			Finland-10		Austria-14	Norway-20
					Finland-13	Spain-19
					France-11	Finland-18
					Czech Rep-11	Greece-14
					Israel-11	Denmark-13
					Slovenia-11	Austria-12
					Poland-11	Czech Rep-12
					Greece-10	Israel-12
					Taiwan-10	Slovenia-12

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### NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR ESC PRESIDENT

Nominations and applications are sought for the ESC presidency. Nominations must be received by May 15, 2008. The president is elected for a three-year term, the first as president-elect beginning at the conclusion of the 2008 annual meeting in Edinburgh, the second as president in 2009-10, and the third as past president. Nominations will not be regarded as complete without written agreement or confirmation by the Nominee.

Nominations should be sent to Professor Marcelo Aebi, ESC Executive Secretary (see page 2).

### NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR ESC ESC BOARD

Nominations and applications are sought for two ESC board members. Nominations must be received by May 15, 2008. Members are elected for a two-year term at the conclusion of the ESC meeting in Edinburgh. Nominations will not be regarded as complete without written agreement or confirmation by the Nominee.

Nominations should be sent to Professor Marcelo Aebi, ESC Executive Secretary (see page 2).

## ESC SCHOLARLY AWARDS

The ESC is for the second time soliciting nominations for scholarly awards for career contributions by a European criminologist and for an outstanding article by a younger European criminologist. The career award in 2007 went to Professor Anthony Bottoms (Cambridge) and the young criminologist award went jointly to Professors Philip Verwimp (Free University Brussels) and David Green (Oxford).

The award committee for career contributions consists of former ESC presidents Kauko Aromaa (HEUNI), Hans-Jürgen Kerner (Tübingen), and Sonja Snacken (Free University Brussels). The award committee for outstanding work by a younger scholar consists of Benjamin Goold (Oxford), Catrien Bijleveld (NSCR, Leiden), and Mike Levi (Cardiff).

### ESC Young Criminologist Award

The ESC Young Criminologist Award recognizes an outstanding article written by a European criminologist who was 35-years-old or younger when the article was published. The nominee must be the sole author of an article on a criminological topic published in a peer-reviewed journal in a European language within the three calendar years preceding the year of the proposed award.

The terms 'criminologist' ('persons actually in research, teaching, and/or practice in the field of criminology') and 'criminological' relate to criminology as defined in Section 1 of the ESC Constitution ('The term criminology, as used in this Constitution, refers to all scholarly, scientific and professional knowledge concerning the explanation, prevention, control and treatment of crime and delinquency, offenders and victims, including the measurement and detection of crime, legislation and the practice of criminal law, and law enforcement, judicial, and correctional systems').

A jury of three members will be proposed by the Editorial Board of the *European Journal of Criminology* to the ESC Executive Board. Each year, one member of the jury will be replaced by a new member.

The jury will transmit its recommendation to the Executive Board by 31 July in a report that describes the process followed to reach a decision. The Executive Board may approve or disapprove the recommendation of the jury. It may also decide not to give the award in any given year.

Nominations should be forwarded to the Executive Secretary of the ESC by 31 May of each year and include (1) a letter of nomination explaining why the nominee's work warrants recognition, (2) the nominee's curriculum vitae, (3) a copy of the original article, (4) if the article is published in a language other than English, a translation of the article into English (unless all jury members speak or read another European language and the article is in that language), and (5) a description of the journal in which the article was published, including a description of its peer-review processes.

### ESC European Criminology Award

The ESC European Criminology Award recognizes the lifetime contribution of a European criminologist.

The terms 'criminologist' ('persons actually in research, teaching, and/or practice in the field of criminology') and 'criminological' relate to criminology as defined in Section 1 of the ESC Constitution ('The term criminology, as used in this Constitution, refers to all scholarly, scientific and professional knowledge concerning the explanation, prevention, control and treatment of crime and delinquency, offenders and victims, including the measurement and detection of crime, legislation and the practice of criminal law, and law enforcement, judicial, and correctional systems').

The jury consists of the most recent three past Presidents of the ESC. If one or more of such persons is unavailable, she or he will be replaced by the next previous past President. The ESC Executive Board is responsible for constituting the jury.

The jury will transmit its recommendation to the Executive Board by 31 July in a report that describes the process followed to reach a decision. The Executive Board may approve or disapprove the recommendation of the jury. It may also decide not to give the award in any given year.

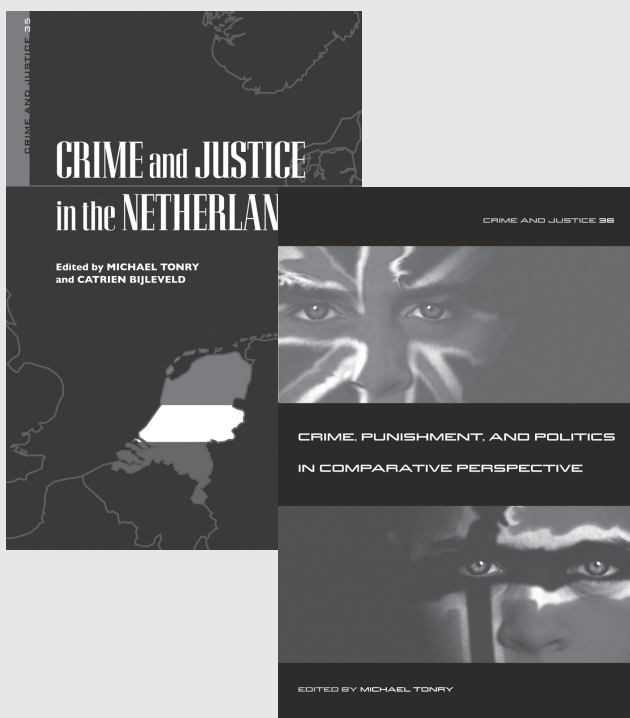
Nominations should be forwarded to the Executive Secretary of the ESC by 31 May of each year and include (1) a letter of nomination explaining why the nominee's work warrants recognition, and (2) the nominee's curriculum vitae. The nominee must not have been a member of the ESC Board during the 5 years preceding the year of an award.





# CRIMINOLOGY

*from Chicago*



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Contributors: Anthony N. Doob, Cheryl Marie Webster, David A. Green, David Downes, David T. Johnson, Jen-Paul Brodeur, Michael Tonry, Rene Levy, Sebastian Roche, Sonja Snacken, Tapio Lappi-Seppala, and Tim Newburn

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"Using scholarly research, field research in Milwaukee, and graphics, Pager shows that ex-offenders, white or black, stand a very poor chance of getting a legitimate job (though black men with clean records fared the same as whites just out of prison). As a result, many live in poverty or return to crime. Pager is not an activist clamoring for reform but instead presents her findings in a clearheaded manner, pointing out the societal consequences of the predicament and suggesting ways for change."—*Library Journal*

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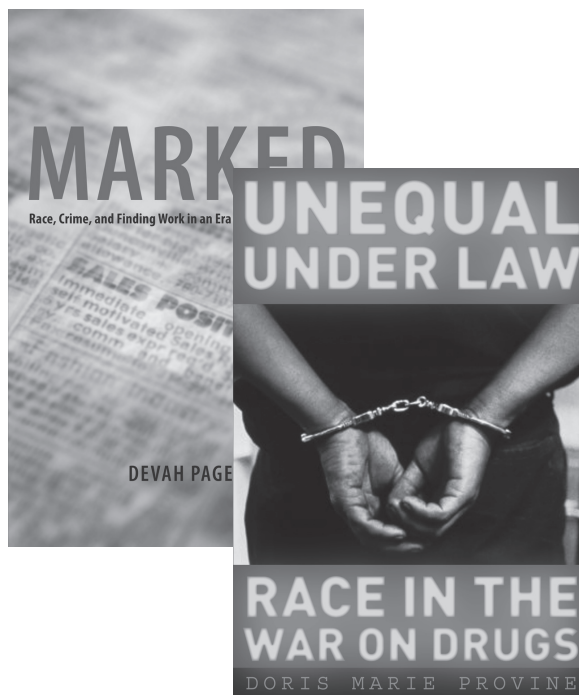
## UNEQUAL UNDER LAW

Race in the War on Drugs

Doris Marie Provine

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PAPER \$18.00



# ESC in Edinburgh *Continued from page 1*

its capital city. Scotland is a small nation in Europe with a population of around 5 million people. Scotland has been part of the United Kingdom since the 1707 Act of Union with England and Wales, but has nonetheless retained a strong civic culture and maintained its

own distinctive cultural and political flavour.

Important Scottish institutions, including the legal system, survived the Union and have evolved according to their own traditions while also absorbing influences from the UK, Europe, and beyond.

Scottish universities have played a vital role in sustaining this distinctiveness. Together, they have also served to maintain Scotland's reputation as an internationally renowned seat of learning. The ideas of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Scottish Enlightenment, exemplified in the works of James

Hutton, David Hume, and Adam Smith, have spread far beyond Scottish shores in advancing the application of science and reason to the study and analysis of the world. Such ideas still resonate within criminology and the social sciences today.

As the capital city of Scotland, Edinburgh is home to many longstanding public institutions, as well as notable new ones. Much of Scotland's distinctive legal system – including, for example, the highest criminal and civil courts of the land, Crown Office, the administrative apparatus of Scotland's independent public prosecutors (the procurators fiscal), and the Scottish Law Commission (an independent body promoting law reform) – finds its home

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES (IN EUROS)

	Before 1 July 2008	After 1 July 2008
ESC members	250.00	325.00
ESC members (students)	125.00	150.00
Non ESC members	325.00	400.00
Non ESC members (students)	165.00	200.00

Registration forms can be downloaded from the conference website (<http://www.lifelong.ed.ac.uk/eurocrim2008/>) and faxed to Prof. Marcelo Aebi, Executive Secretary, Fax: +41 21 692 4605 or forwarded by e-mail to: [secretariat@esc-eurocrim.org](mailto:secretariat@esc-eurocrim.org).

accommodation is particularly strongly advised for participants wishing to spend some time at the Edinburgh Festivals in July or August).

Edinburgh offers a vibrant nightlife, bustling with bars, cafes, and

in Edinburgh.

The Queen's official residence in Scotland, the Palace of Holyroodhouse, is to be found at the end of Edinburgh's Royal Mile, in the shade of the volcanic hills of Arthur's Seat which frame the city.

More recently, the people of Edinburgh have celebrated the opening of Enric Miralles's Scottish Parliament building and the return of executive

a broad range of local and internationally flavoured restaurants. The city itself enjoys rare architectural beauty, from the medieval Old Town to the elegant, well-preserved Georgian New Town, coupled with ready access to green parks and meadows and framed by the lively Port of Leith to the east and the Scottish Highlands to the north.

Contrary to popular belief the city also generally enjoys very pleasant weather over the summer – particularly in August and September! As a tourist, business, and cultural destination

## ACCOMMODATION IN EDINBURGH

Accommodation options are available on the conference website (<http://www.lifelong.ed.ac.uk/eurocrim2008/>). You may book directly with the hotels or via Edinburgh Convention Bureau.

### EARLY BOOKING IS STRONGLY ADVISED

government to Scotland and the city.

Many of these institutions (old and new) will be available for delegates to visit during their stay. Edinburgh is a city steeped in history that also celebrates the modern and the future.

Edinburgh is a thriving cultural centre with the well-established Edinburgh International, Fringe, Arts, Jazz, Literature, and Science Festivals bringing thousands of visitors to the city every year. Many of these festivals run throughout the summer months, concluding just prior to the conference itself (for example, the Edinburgh International Festival will run between 8-31 August this year).

The festivals offer a very exciting prospect for those delegates who may wish to arrive early for a more extended visit (early booking of

Edinburgh is equipped with enviable accommodation and travel facilities for even large-scale conference events such as the European Society of Criminology Conference.

### Some Useful Links

- Edinburgh Festivals  
<http://www.edinburgh-festivals.com/>
- Scottish Tourism  
<http://www.visitscotland.com/>
- ECB's about Edinburgh page has some useful info  
[http://www.conventionedinburgh.com/about\\_edinburgh.html](http://www.conventionedinburgh.com/about_edinburgh.html)
- Likewise Edinburgh Tourist office  
<http://www.edinburgh.org/> and  
<http://www.edinburgh.org/guide/>



## GRADUATE CRIMINOLOGY IN OXFORD

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The University of Oxford's **Centre for Criminology** offers top quality taught masters courses and a doctoral research programme in criminology and criminal justice. We welcome enquiries and applications from students who may wish to study:

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*The Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil)*

The Centre considers applications for the MSc programmes and DPhil study between January and May. Places on the MSc degrees are limited and early applications are therefore encouraged. The deadline for those who wish to be considered for ESRC funding is early May and applications must be made in advance of that date. MSc and DPhil applicants may be eligible for fees-only bursaries.

The Centre currently comprises the following members who are involved in both teaching the MSc programmes and supervising research students:

Professor Andrew Ashworth; Dr. Mary Bosworth, Dr. Ros Burnett; Dr. Benjamin Goold; Dr. Carolyn Hoyle; Dr. Liora Lazarus; Professor Ian Loader, Professor Julian Roberts, Professor Federico Varese, and Professor Lucia Zedner.

For details of application procedures and links to college information,  
visit: [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/postgraduate/](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/postgraduate/)

For further details on the programmes and funding opportunities, please email  
[ccr@crim.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ccr@crim.ox.ac.uk), telephone: 00 44 (0)1865 274444, or see our website: [www.crim.ox.ac.uk](http://www.crim.ox.ac.uk)

## President's Message *Continued from page 2*

The evolution of Polish drug legislation offers an example. During the 1990s, Poland visibly tightened up: from full-scale decriminalisation of personal possession (ironically inherited from the communist regime), through a balanced approach of depenalisation of possession, to full-scale criminalisation resulting in soaring numbers of arrests and convictions.

It is regrettable that Polish drug legislation has been veering toward increased restrictiveness combined with a lack of decisiveness in implementing treatment-oriented alternative measures. This is quite different from trends observable in Western Europe.

And Poland seems not to stand alone. Comparable, sometimes drastic shifts in drug legislation and policies occurred during the 1990s in other countries in the region such as the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Slovakia.

The situation regarding harm reduction programmes also often seems to be precarious in Central Europe. The situation is much better than in some parts of Eastern Europe beyond the EU borders where, for instance, methadone maintenance treatment is still banned, or extremely limited. In the new EU Member States, methadone maintenance is generally legally available, but access is often limited due to financial, organisational, and other constraints.

Let me return to the example of my own country, where fewer than 1000 people are undergoing methadone maintenance. To achieve the West European average – considering the number of opiate users – there should be ten times that number.

All this shows one basic problem. Many Central and Eastern European countries seem to be prone to 'quick-fix' approaches to the drugs problem. This is demonstrated by the frequent legislative changes imagined by some to be panaceas for the problem. Countries seem to invest far less in sustained efforts over time concerning prevention, treatment, and harm reduction.

This is part of a broader problem in

Central and Eastern Europe. The region is susceptible to radical and punitive initiatives in criminal policy that, in the end, offer only illusions of simple and effective solutions for complex social problems. Public attitudes and policymakers' perceptions often appear to make rational public discourse and formulation of evidence-based policy far more difficult than in other parts of Europe (which does not mean that such discourse and policymaking are obvious in the West).

There are reasons for this, many of them products of Eastern Europe's troubled past, and communist inheritance. From the criminologist's point of view, however, there is one factor of crucial importance: the underdevelopment of a criminological research infrastructure and the resulting lack of relevant research results that could facilitate rational discussion (even if not rational decision-making). Without good research results and good empirical data, public discourse often remains mired in ideological quarrels.

Criminologists and criminological research in Central and Eastern Europe may not be able to overcome these problems by themselves. Broader research cooperation is necessary between scholars from the many countries in Western Europe that have established research traditions, and scholars from the new member states.

Only in such a way will criminology in Central and Eastern Europe be able to profit from the West's research experience and infrastructure, and become increasingly able to influence its own region's policy discourse in a more significant way. EU research funds including, for example, consecutive Framework Programs, and the network of personal contacts established within the ESC during its eight-year existence, should play *the* crucial roles.

All this, of course, goes far beyond the narrow field of drug policies with which I began this piece, a result of my personal interest and involvement in that challenging area. ■

## Stockholm Prize

*Continued from page 1*

Criminology.

"According to rumours, a new international prize in criminology will be announced at the Congress of the International Society of Criminology in Philadelphia this summer. The prize seems to be directed towards applied criminology and is to be presented by the Swedish Government. The winner should be decided on or may be only recommended by the Scientific Commission of the International Society of Criminology.

As you understand, we have no direct information on these plans. But if it is correct what we have heard, we find it so alarming, that we already now want to bring to your attention some of our concerns regarding such a prize.

Criminology is a part of the social sciences. But it is at the same time a part of where authorities have great interests. Governments have interests in influencing our topics for research, as well as profiles on those working in these areas. Applied research will be of obvious interest, basic research as well as critical research will naturally seem to be of less importance. That the prize is intended to influence criminology is also quite clear. On the home page of the ISC Congress it says: 'Thomas Bodström, Minister of Justice of Sweden, to make a major announcement that will affect the future of criminology'.

In this situation, criminology is a social science with a particularly strong need for *protection* against state interference. It is of extraordinary importance to create conditions where the various positions in the science can confront each other, sharpen their edges, decide among themselves what is gold – and what is opportunism created in the struggle for economic and political survival of individuals or research communities.

In this situation, we dare to state that such a discipline is particularly badly suited for prizes of the rumoured type. Criminology lies already today close to central state powers, and it would be difficult to



## Stockholm Prize *Continued from facing page*

prevent these powers to influence the choice of the prize winner. This in turn would have a direct effect on our discipline. Criminology risks increasingly to be defined through the prize and criminological milieus risk being directed towards the prize. Criminology as critique of the state is threatened.

We do not think that criminology will benefit from such a prize. The experience of the Swedish prize in economics in memory of Alfred Nobel is discouraging. Several commentators have pointed out the negative effects of that prize. If there, however, should be a prize, it would be of extraordinary importance to guarantee that the nomination should be 'purely' academic and particularly not be directed towards applied criminology. In order to guarantee this and to prevent negative consequences for criminology there should be ample time for a discussion of the prize among criminologists around the world.

As criminologists from Scandinavia, we feel a particular responsibility in this case. If Stockholm is involved, and the image from the Nobel prize looms in the background, the whole idea might be seen as a progressive one, a step towards humanity and welfare thinking. Scandinavia might thus give legitimacy to the undertaking. But as we have tried to show, a prize like this with a leaning towards applied criminology will probably be influenced by state practices. That will be state influence from all sorts of states, also the most authoritarian ones. The criminal policy influence from Scandinavia might thereby be quite different from what it traditionally has been."

Criminologists should dissociate themselves from the Stockholm Prize in Criminology.

The worries expressed in our March 2005 letter have have been borne out. The prize "will affect the future of criminology". And not in a beneficial way.

Criminology is a critical science. It is not a science that necessarily

approaches problems as the state sees them. It is a science that often makes both the definition of crime and the basic ordering of state affairs

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### **Universities are among the few efficient institutions we have that aim to preserve free critical thinking.**

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problematic. And it is a science that often proposes policy alternatives that are not favoured by state authorities from ministers and down to police and prison functionaries. For these reasons, criminology is a problem-raising science in need of protection from state authorities rather than their embrace.

Universities are among the few efficient institutions we have that aim to preserve free critical thinking. Often they are miserably weak and underfinanced, but they retain a principled good will towards critical thinking. Peer reviews and evaluations for positions and of manuscripts before publication are among the mechanisms for keeping standards high in and between universities, and offer shields of protection when critical research creates turmoil for researchers.

The Stockholm Prize is incompatible with this view of criminology as a disinterested and independent scientific discipline. Some individuals wanted to influence the development of criminology in a specific direction. They gathered money for a prize, big money that might represent real temptations for some.

Those behind the initiative and responsible for assembling the money selected a committee whose members would decide who receives the prize.

Conventional standards for selecting such committees were disregarded. No elections were held and to our knowledge there was no sustained consultation with criminological associations and

scientific communities around the globe. The announcements of prize-winners provide no scientific evaluations of their major contributions. The inherent problems in assembling such a committee are highlighted by the recent appointment to the committee of people who have received the prize. More of the same!

The profiles of the prize-winners have also been as expected: With one or two exceptions they are solid, reliable scientists engaged in helping states fight crime— as states see crime and using measures that are possible to use only if the deeper structural orderings of these states are not questioned.

We do not denigrate the scholarly quality of the committee members, or of the chosen winners. But it seems clear that this ostensibly general prize in criminology has been directed towards biology, medicine, individual prediction, and crime prevention.

This is not how criminology is understood by most criminologists. Nor is it in line with the most celebrated definition of the field by Edwin Sutherland who saw criminology as the study of delinquency and crime as social phenomena including the making of laws, the breaking of laws, and of reacting towards the breaking of laws. This is an approach to criminology that includes a critique of the state, the study of macro conditions promoting crime, and analyses of the interpretations of crime and deviance by the actors involved.

And the state plays a helpful role. The winners are embraced with receptions and celebrations in Stockholm at the level of state visits, and, of course, with big monetary awards. The whole procedure could not have been better designed to create a tame criminology and tame criminologists.

We see the Stockholm Prize as a conscious effort to redefine and redirect criminology. Criminology is at risk of being defined by the prize and the criminological milieu is at risk of being shaped by it. Criminology as critique of the state is threatened. ■



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# Prison Populations Stable *Continued from page 1*

**Table 1**  
**Prison Population Rates, Selected Countries, September 1, 2006**

	Rank	Reported Rate	Adjusted Rate	Rank
Russia	1	609	596	1
Poland	2	230	232	2
Czech Republic	3	186	167	3
Hungary	4	155	150	4
Spain	5	146	134	5
England	6	145	145	5
Netherlands	7	125	100	7
Austria	8	105	100	7
Germany	9	96	87	11
Belgium	9	96	90	9
France	11	92	90	9
Switzerland	12	79	74	13
Sweden	12	79	77	12
Ireland	14	74	72	14
Finland	15	71	71	15
Denmark	16	69	69	16
Norway	17	68	68	17
Italy	18	65	63	18
Mean (49 Jurisdictions)		147		142
Median (49 Jurisdictions)		114		105

Source: Aebi and Lagrande (2008), tables 1, 1.2a.

small difference when compared with foreigners who make up one to 69 percent of prisoners in different countries. Some countries' prisons hold many drug offenders; other countries' prisons hold few. Short sentences are common in some countries, long ones in others. There is no standard connection between prison population rates and prison admission rates. Some countries with low population rates have high admission rates and vice versa.

The Council of Europe's SPACE I statistics for 2006 report data for 49 of the 50 prison administrations operated by the 46 member states. Data are lacking only from the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The team compiling the SPACE I statistics has worked to improve the completeness, consistency, and accuracy of the reported data. Efforts to check and validate submitted data increase each year and definitions are being standardized.

The data for 2006, for example,

calculate per capita imprisonment rates and rankings in two ways, as submitted by member states and as adjusted so that the populations being compared are comparable.

The Netherlands, for example, traditionally includes some youth offenders, some residents of mental health institutions, and some illegal immigrants being held under administrative law rather than under criminal law authority in its prison population numbers. Most other countries do not include these groups. When the Dutch data are adjusted to exclude them the imprisonment rate as of September 1, 2006 fell from 125 per 100,000 to 100.

Table 1 shows reported and adjusted prison populations and rates for 18 countries. The adjustments do not significantly alter the rankings but, in addition to the reduction in Dutch rates, reduce rates of three countries by about ten percent. Spain's falls from 146 per 100,000 to 134, the Czech Republic from 186 to

167, and Germany's from 96 per 100,000 to 87.

As has long been true, Russia's imprisonment rate is the highest in Europe and the Scandinavian countries' are the lowest (with the anomalous exception of Italy which experienced a precipitate drop in 2005-6). Between the extremes, the eastern and central European countries (Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic) have the highest rates and western European countries (France, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands) fall in between.

Table 2 shows year-to-year percentage changes in 45 countries' imprisonment rates from 2005 to 2006. The biggest increases and the biggest decreases (save for the anomalous Italian decline) occurred in eastern and central Europe. Changes in other western European countries were generally modest.

Table 3 shows female and foreigner percentages in the prison populations of the 18 countries included in table 1. For all 49 jurisdictions included in the SPACE I statistics, the mean percentage of female prisoners was 5.1 and the median percentage was 4.6. The extreme cases were Poland where only three percent of prisoners were women, and Spain where eight percent were.

Differences in foreign prisoners' presence were much greater. In all 49 jurisdictions, they constituted a mean average of 20.3 percent of prisoners and a median of 9.8. The extreme cases were, again, Poland, where fewer than one percent of prisoners were foreigners, and Switzerland, where 69 percent were.

Some of the differences in foreign percentages are artifacts of national differences in the ease or difficulty of gaining citizenship. The high Swiss percentage is at least in significant part a product of restrictive nationalization laws which result in many second and third generation immigrants being counted as foreign. In France and the Netherlands, by contrast, where citizenship has traditionally been easier to obtain, some first and many second and third

*Continued on next page*

## Prison Populations Stable *Continued from previous page*

**Table 2**  
**Prison Populations Rate Changes, 2005-2006**

Increase of more than 4%		Between -4% and +4%		Decrease of more than 4%	
Armenia	115.1	Spain	2.6	Switzerland	-4.2
Georgia	50.9	England and Wales	1.7	Macedonia	-4.5
Turkey	21.0	Lithuania	1.6	Hungary	-4.5
Slovenia	14.7	Sweden	1.0	Romania	-4.8
Malta	14.5	Norway	0.8	Netherlands	-6.7
Cyprus	12.1	Bulgaria	0.7	Ukraine	-6.8
Albania	12.1	Germany	0.0	Slovakia	-6.9
Northen Ireland	11.2	France	-0.3	Moldova	-7.9
Monaco	10.5	Czech Republic	-0.4	Latvia	-9.0
Serbia	10.0	Liechtenstein	-0.9	Denmark	-9.3
Luxembourg	7.4	Austria	-1.3	BH: Republika Srpska	-11.6
Poland	7.3	Iceland	-1.6	Italy	-36.1
Croatia	7.2	Estonia	-1.8		
Belgium	6.6	Portugal	-2.4		
Russia	5.5	San Marino	-3.1		
Scotland	5.4	Finland	-3.3		
Greece	5.0				
Azerbaijan	4.2				

Source: Aebi and Lagrande (2008), table 1.5

generation descendants of immigrants are Dutch and French citizens and accordingly are not counted as foreigners. Such differences would need to be understood before strong conclusions could be drawn from data such as that shown in table 3.

Some stark, and almost undoubtedly real, contrasts do stand out. Foreign percentages are much lower in eastern Europe than elsewhere, and much higher in western and southern Europe, with the Nordic countries falling in-between. These patterns are hardly surprising. Eastern Europe has experienced more emigration in recent years than immigration, and southern and western Europe have experienced substantial immigration, legal and illegal, from north Africa, the Balkans, and western Asia.

Table 4 presents data for the 18 countries on the offenses of which prisoners were convicted. Although means and medians for the 49 SPACE I jurisdictions are similar, for each offense category a few countries are outliers. In Russia, Italy, and Finland

**Table 3**  
**Female and Foreign Prisoners, September 1, 2006\***

	Percent Female	Percent Foreign
Russia	6.9	2.8
Poland	3.0	0.7
Czech Republic	4.6	7.3
Hungary	6.7	3.7
Spain	7.8	31.2
England	5.8	14.0
Netherlands	6.4	32.7
Austria	5.1	42.9
Germany	5.1	26.9
Belgium	4.4	41.6
France	3.7	19.8
Switzerland	5.7	69.0
Sweden	4.1	21.4
Ireland	3.4	12.6
Finland	6.6	8.1
Denmark	4.5	18.9
Norway	5.4	18.2
Italy	4.7	32.3
Mean (49 Jurisdictions)	5.1	20.3
Median (49 Jurisdictions)	4.6	9.8

Source: Aebi and Lagrande (2008), table 3.

\*Including pretrial detainees



**Table 4**  
**Sentenced Prisoners by Offence, September 1, 2006**

	Homicide	Assault	Rape	Robbery	Drugs
Russia	17.3%	14.6%	3.3%	11.9%	9.3%
Poland	6.8	n.a.	2.6	19.2	n.a.
Czech Republic	0.9	21.7	3.0	9.7	8.0
Hungary	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Spain	5.8	4.2	5.9	n.a.	27.4
England	9.9	1.6	5.8	13.3	16.8
Netherlands	13.8	6.9	2.9	13.6	18.9
Austria	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Germany	7.1	11.0	7.7	12.7	14.9
Belgium	5.0	11.1	5.3	16.3	14.3
France	8.9	19.6	20.7	9.9	13.9
Switzerland	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Sweden	9.9	11.1	5.2	9.2	23.9
Ireland	12.8	14.0	9.4	9.5	14.4
Finland	19.2	20.0	3.2	6.7	15.2
Norway	6.7	10.5	4.9	5.0	29.1
Italy	n.a.	n.a.	7.2	6.8	29.4
Mean (49 Jurisdictions)	14.0	8.7	4.9	12.4	16.8
Median (49 Jurisdictions)	12.7	6.4	4.3	11.9	14.4

Source: Aebi and Lagrande (2008), table 7

for example, more than one prisoner in 6 was convicted of homicide (nearly one in three in Italy). Rape offenders make up unusually large fractions of French and Irish prisoners, and unusually low fractions in Finland, Poland, the Netherlands, and the Czech Republic. Drug offenders are conspicuously present in Swedish, Norwegian, Italian, and Spanish prisons and comparatively scarce in eastern Europe. A large number of interesting research projects lurk behind the data.

Tables 5 and 6 are complementary. Table 5 shows the percentages of prisoners in the 18 countries serving sentences up to a year, 1-3 years, 3-5 years, 5-10 years, and longer than ten years. Large percentages of prisoners in the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden—40 percent or more—were serving sentences of a year or less. In Russia, Italy, Belgium, and Germany relatively few prisoners were serving short sentences and more than half had sentences of five years or longer. In England, nearly two

*Continued on next page*

**Table 5**  
**Prison Populations, by Sentence Length, in Percent**

	Under One Year	1-3 Years	3-5 Years	5-10 Years	10 Plus Years
Russia	25.3%	n.a.	24.9%	35.5%	14.4
Poland*	22.9	43.7	13.8	9.1	6.2
Czech Republic	36.4	26.8	12.6	15.2	9.0
Hungary	16.8	33.1	18.2	21.8	10.1
Spain	36.1	n.a.	(38.9)	17.7	7.4
England	13.4	21.9	22.4	23.3	19
Netherlands**	42.3	26.2	11.1	12.4	6.0
Austria	19.4	37.8	18.1	14.6	10.1
Germany	42.4	(19.3)	(25.6)	(8.2)	4.5
Belgium	4.2	14.5	25.1	32.6	23.6
France	32.6	20.9	10.9	13.7	21.9
Switzerland	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Sweden	22.8	33.9	16.6	17.7	8.9
Ireland	28.4	18.5	18.6	19.3	15.2
Finland**	34.5	37.4	13.1	8.3	4.8
Denmark**	40	(17.3)	(20.7)	13.3	6.8
Norway	44.3	26.4	10.3	11.6	7.4
Italy	3.0	8.4	14.2	27.6	46.8

Source: Aebi and Lagrande (2008), tables 9, 10

\*4.4% unknown or not available

\*\*2.0% unknown or not available

( ) numbers in parentheses were submitted for slightly different ranges.

## Prison Populations Stable *Continued from previous page*

**Table 6**

	Population Rank	Admissions Rank	Admissions/100,000
Russia	1	2	478
Poland	2	7	246
Czech Republic	3	10	186
Hungary	4	17	124
Spain	5	18	89
England	5	7	246
Netherlands	7	4	273
Austria	7	11	173
Belgium	9	14	146
France	9	16	135
Germany	11	13	149
Sweden	12	9	241
Switzerland	13	1	738
Ireland	14	5	259
Finland	15	15	144
Denmark	16	3	340
Norway	17	6	253
Italy	18	12	153

Source: Aebi and Lagrande (2008), table 12

thirds of prisoners were serving three or more years.

Table 6 shows prison admission rates for the 18 countries. It is complementary because it suggests possible reasons behind the patterns shown in table 5. Switzerland and Denmark rank first and third in admission rates but have among the lowest prison population rates, implying that many people are sent to prison for relatively short times. Belgium and Italy have among the lowest prison admission rates, implying that relatively few people are sent to prison for relatively long times. Russia tops the league tables in almost everything—prison admission rates, prison population rates, and sentence lengths. ■

*Stan C. Proband is an independent criminologist who frequently contributes to leading journals.*

## Who Attends ESC Conferences? *Continued from page 3*

**Table 2**  
ESC Meeting Participants, by Gender

	Lausanne 2001	Toledo 2002	Helsinki 2003	Amsterdam 2004	Krakow 2005	Tübingen 2006	Bologna 2007
Men	59.6%	57.1%	58.2%	61.2%	56.6%	57.9%	54.1%
Women	33.3%	39.4%	37.2%	38.8%	42.5%	40.9%	45.9%

participants in each meeting have come from those six countries. However, as years have gone by, both the numbers of countries represented and the numbers sending a critical mass of at least ten people have steadily grown. Table 1 shows countries sending at least ten participants to each meeting.

Second, the number of countries from which sizable numbers of participants come has increased

substantially. In the early years, eight to eleven countries sent at least ten people. At the Tübingen and Bologna meetings, nineteen countries sent ten or more participants. The countries were slightly different in the two years; altogether 21 countries have sent ten or more people to at least one ESC meeting.

Third, unsurprisingly, and demonstrating the wisdom of the ESC board's decision to distribute

meetings widely throughout Europe, meetings draw especially heavily from the region in which they are held. Representation from host countries is always high; so is representation from the region. Toledo and Bologna drew heavily from Southern Europe, Helsinki from the Nordic and Baltic countries, and Krakow from Eastern and Central Europe (this is not evident from table 1 because delegations were typically less than 10).

**Table 3.**  
**Participants at Bologna by Country**

		%
UK	188	23,3
Italy	111	13,8
USA	55	6,8
Belgium	50	6,2
Netherlands	47	5,8
Germany	41	5,1
Canada	31	3,8
France	23	2,9
Switzerland	22	2,7
Sweden	21	2,6
Norway	20	2,5
Spain	19	2,4
Finland	18	2,2
Greece	14	1,7
Denmark	13	1,6
Austria	12	1,5
Czech Republic	12	1,5
Israel	12	1,5
Slovenia	12	1,5
Portugal	9	1,1
Australia	8	1,0
Poland	7	0,9
Bosnia & Herz.	6	0,7
Lithuania	6	0,7
Hungary	5	0,6
Ireland	5	0,6
Japan	5	0,6
Russia	5	0,6
Turkey	5	0,6
Iceland	3	0,4
Ukraine	3	0,4
Cyprus	2	0,2
Estonia	2	0,2
Nigeria	2	0,2
Venezuela	2	0,2
Argentina	1	0,1
Armenia	1	0,1
Croatia	1	0,1
Iran	1	0,1
Mexico	1	0,1
New Zealand	1	0,1
Pakistan	1	0,1
Serbia	1	0,1
Slovakia	1	0,1
South Africa	1	0,1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>100</b>

Fourth, as table 3 shows, attendance had become global. Forty-five countries were represented in Bologna and 43 in Tübingen. Every continent was represented and many regions reached critical masses (e.g., 60 participants from Central and Eastern Europe; 75 from the Nordic countries).

Fifth, as table 4 shows ESC meeting attendees are a serious lot. Although all international scholarly meetings attract academic tourists, most people who attend ESC meetings participate in the program. Except in Amsterdam, more than 90 percent of registered participants (97 percent in Tübingen) made at least one presentation.

Finally, as table 2 shows, participation by women has steadily increased. Less than 40 percent of

participants in the first four meetings were women (only a third in Toledo) but percentages have grown since then. In Bologna, 46 percent of participants were women.

The ESC data base on past meetings will support many other analyses. No doubt future issues of *Criminology in Europe* will provide some. ■

*Gian Guido Nobili is head of the Research Unit on Criminology, Service of Safety Policies and Local Police of the Emilia-Romagna Region and Stefania Crocitti is a research analyst in the unit and PhD candidate at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano.*

**Table 4**  
**ESC Conferences: Participants who Presented at Least One Paper**

	Speakers	Participants	% Speakers
Bologna 2007	711	806	88.21
Tübingen 2006	498	512	97.27
Krakow 2005	431	473	91.12
Amsterdam 2004	409	509	80.35

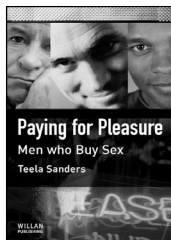
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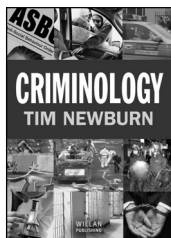


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