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(hopefully the last)
online conference edition

ESC Executive Secretariat
Annual Report 2020

Candidate Profiles



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Aleksandras Dobryninas

Criminological Knowledge

Between Academic Truths, Political Interests and Popular Feelings



Dear colleagues, writing the previous Presidential message, I had a dream that our next ESC conference would be in Bucharest as it was planned. Unfortunately, the situation did not become better, and even now, we are probably still more in an inter-pandemic than the post-pandemic situation. However, now the ESC board and secretariat are organising another virtual conference, which I hope will be no less successful than last year's.

COVID-19 is still the most turbulent issue in the life of our societies, and one can easily predict the growing number of criminological research projects and publications connected with pandemic themes. Soon, we can expect new exciting data on the crime trends during the pandemic and post-pandemic periods, as well as new theoretical insights on crime in new bio- and information-technological societies. However, I would like to take the current pandemic situation as a counterpoint for a slightly different theme – the nature and role of criminological knowledge in society.

Looking at the COVID-19 situation worldwide, one could notice that scientific knowledge is not enough for solving pandemic-related problems in societies. The interests of influential groups and political decision-makers can stimulate or block experts' efforts to curb pandemics. Popular beliefs, myths and prejudices can seriously disturb the implementation of public health policy. Not being an expert in public health policy, I cannot get rid of the 'deja vu' feeling.

Several years ago, in the book on perceptions of criminal justice in society,¹ we analysed social knowledge about

criminal justice and its key elements—crime, guilt and punishment, from three different discursive perspectives—professional, political and public. Expert discourse aspires to a 'true' understanding of justice and elaborates criminal justice elements in various theoretical frameworks. Political discourse is inclined to view criminal justice through the prism of public safety and societal control, which could be a matter of interest and ideological preferences. Public discourse is rooted in ordinary life experiences and is focused on emotionally-coloured stereotypes and myths about 'law and order'.

The interplay of these criminal justice discourses can be illustrated by the attitudes towards the problem of intentional homicide in Lithuania. The high level of homicide in Lithuania and other Baltic countries is one of mystery for local and international scholars. According to the EUROSTAT,² until 2015, Lithuania had the highest homicide rates among E.U. countries, and only in 2016 was it replaced by Latvia. Although the number of homicides has significantly reduced during the last 25 years—and in 2020, its rate was 3,93 per capita—this figure still looks concerning compared to other E.U. countries.

1 Dobryninas, A., Čėsniėnė, I., Dobrynina, M., Giedraitis, V., Merkevičius, R. (2014). Perception of criminal justice in society. Vilnius: Baltijos kopija. 2014.

2 "EUROSTAT. Statistics explained: Crime statistics". (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Crime_statistics#intentional_homicides_in_the_EU-27_in_2018)

Several national and international studies have tried to explain the high homicide rate in Lithuania. In 2018, we completed interdisciplinary research on homicide problems in Lithuania.³ Looking at this problem from a sociological perspective, the research team drew attention to two macro and micro social factors. The first factor is related to belonging to the so-called “post-Soviet” socio-political cluster, which refers to former “Soviet republics” sharing similar negative socio-economic statistics (suicides, migration, prison population, etc.). The second one points to specific social and behavioural attributes accompanying homicides, e.g., 57% of homicides occurred when the perpetrator and the victim used alcohol together. The essential role of alcohol consumption in homicide cases is also reported in some international research.⁴ The results were intensively discussed among local criminologists, but they hardly seriously influenced the anti-homicide policy in Lithuania.

However, in political discourse, much more attention had been paid to the American television channel Fox News’ journalists’ material about the ‘deadliest cities in Europe’,⁵ which appeared at the beginning of 2020. The author ranked the deadliest European cities according to their highest homicide rate in 2017. Three Lithuanian cities—Klaipėda, Vilnius (both homicide rates were 3.9) and Kaunas (5.4)—appeared among the deadliest in this list. An ironic journalistic conclusion followed this data: ‘This is less than one-tenth of the deadliest U.S. city’s murder rate: St. Louis, [Missouri], [which] had a murder rate of 60.9 per 100,000 in 2018’.⁶ However, Lithuanian institutions, monitoring the investment climate and the country’s international image, ignored the irony of this report and took the presented information seriously. They supposed that such publication was a kind of defamation, that it was detrimental to the investment climate, that the authorities must investigate and deny this “false” data, and that the dissemination of similar information in the future should be strictly controlled. As one can see, this discourse is not interested in the social roots of homicide; the latter is rather treated as an image problem of public relations.

The last example is borrowed from the Leipzig DOK Festival award winner documentary *Exemplary Behaviour*,⁷ produced by Lithuanian directors A. Mickevičius and N. Mileris. The film must be watched, but I would like to comment briefly on one episode that takes place. In the beginning, one of the directors, Audrius, tells his fam-

ily story: how his brother was killed, how the body was found and identified, how two suspected men tried to escape punishment. After a lengthy investigation, one of the suspects finally confessed and ‘got’ ten years but was released from prison five years later on the ground of ‘exemplary behaviour’. At the same time, the other suspect was found ‘not guilty’. A monotonous voice tells this story with pauses, behind which there are no truths, no interests, only naked human pain. This is the pain of an ordinary man, who cannot understand professional ‘proportionality’ between the murder of the brother on the one side and five years in prison and ‘exemplary behaviour’ on the other.

Such cases are far from being a reason for teaching criminological truths and enlighten participants in political or public discourses on how they have to treat criminal justice. Discourses are not simply speaking; they have their own institutionalised ‘policing’ (Foucault) and cannot be a matter of simple voluntarily change. Cases rather have to show how unexpected and contradicted are the interpretations of criminal justice inside different discursive practices. Instead of direct criticism and conceited teaching, it is better to work with mutual respect for other discourses and their audiences, developing and appropriating their knowledge about criminal justice. This knowledge probably also has the right to be a part of criminological knowledge.

Dear colleagues, finishing my last Presidential message, I would like to express my wish to meet you again in good health and mood at the e-conference EURO-CRIM 2021, which I hope will bring considerable new achievement in our knowledge about crime, justice and society.

3 Čepas, A., Dobryninas, A., Valickas, G. (red.) (2018). Nužudimai Lietuvoje. Justicija.

4 Andersen, M.A. (2012) „Homicide in Lithuania“. In M. C. A. Liem, W. A. Pridemore (eds.), Handbook of European Homicide Research: Patterns, Explanations, and Country Studies (p. 437–449). New York, NY: Springer. „Global study on homicide: Understanding homicide: typologies, demographic factors, mechanisms and contributors. UNODC. 2019, p. 91.

5 „Top 10 deadliest European cities“ (<https://www.foxnews.com/world/top-10-deadliest-european-cities>)

6 Ibid.

7 „Exemplary Behaviour“. (https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9792010/?ref_=ttawd_awd_tt)

Marcelo F. Aebi and Grace Kronicz

ESC Executive Secretariat Annual Report 2020

IN BRIEF

In 2020, the European Society of Criminology (ESC) had 1036 members, and 582 of them took part in the 20th Annual Meeting of the ESC, organised online on 10 and 11 September in collaboration with the ESC Working Groups. Six different awards were presented during the conference. Michael Hough received the 2020 European Criminology Award; Rok Hacin received the 2020 ESC Young Criminologist Award; Steve van de Weijer, Rutger Leukfeldt, and Wim Bernasco received the European Journal of Criminology Best Article of the Year 2019 Award; Wim Hardyns received the 2020 ESC Early Career Award; Martin Killias and David J. Smith received the 2020 Distinguished Services to the ESC Award; and Dirk van Zyl Smit and Catherine Appleton received the 2020 ESC Book Award. Through an electronic vote, the ESC members appointed Catrien Bijleveld as President-Elect, Fernando Miró-Llinares as At-Large Board Member, and Daniel Fink as Auditor. At the end of the conference, Aleksandras Dobryninas took office as President of the ESC, replacing Lesley McAra until the end of the next conference.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION AND ESC MEMBERSHIP

Unsurprisingly, the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the upward trends observed in previous years in terms of ESC membership and conference participation. The ESC Board was forced to cancel the presential conferences foreseen in Bucharest and decided instead to organise the 20th Annual Meeting of the ESC online from 10 to 11 September 2020. The conference was open to ESC members and free of charge.

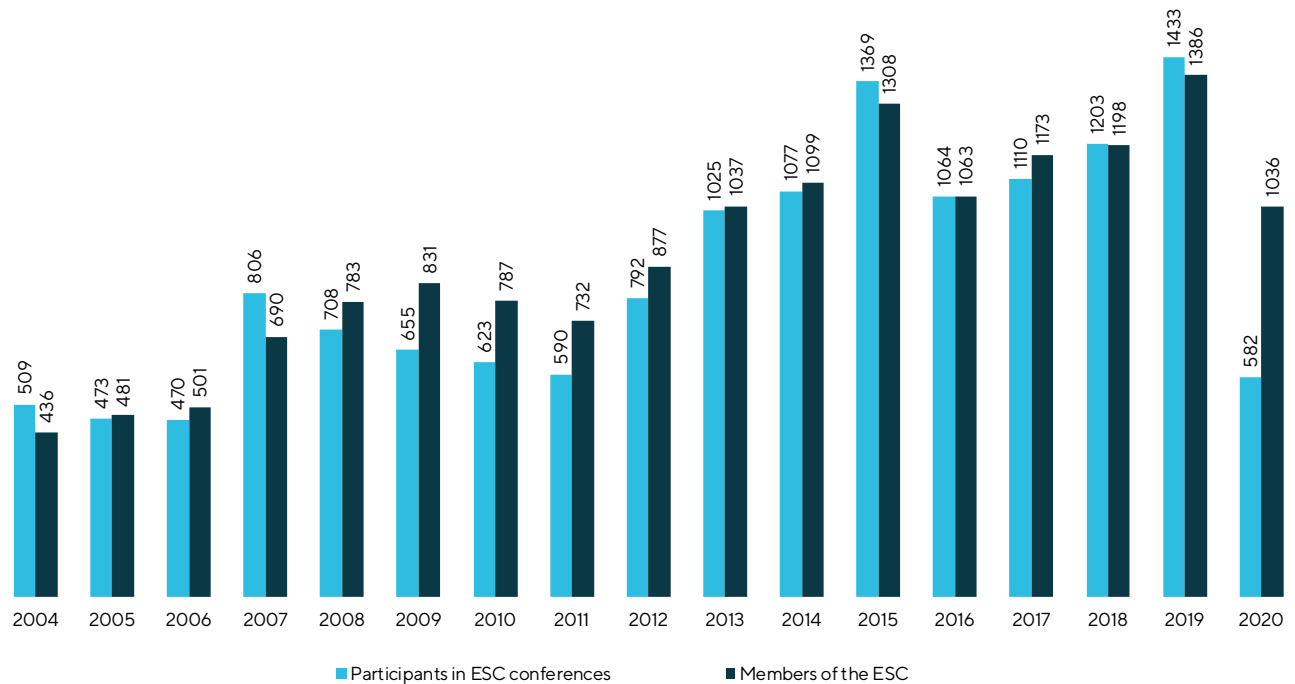
The opening and closing ceremonies of the conference were recorded and can be watched on the ESC's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCommPTU1z27MXC9rFlkCz6w>).

Figure 1 shows the trends in the number of ESC members and conference participants from 2004 to 2020. It can be seen that, in 2020, there were 1036 ESC members. This corresponds roughly to the number of members observed in the mid-2010s (namely in 2013, 2014 and 2016) and can be considered a good result, given the circumstances. On the other hand, the number of participants in the conference decreased to 582, which corresponds to the numbers seen in the late 2000s. Taking into account that the conference was free of charge for the 1036 ESC members, one is almost obliged to conclude that we clearly prefer a presential conference to a virtual one. Unfortunately, that will have to wait until 2022 in Málaga (followed by Florence in 2023 and Bucharest in 2024), as the 2021 conference will have to take place online again because of the pandemic.

THE ESC BOARD IN 2020

The members of the ESC Executive Board usually meet twice during the annual conference and twice outside of it—traditionally in May in the hometown of the President, and in November in the city where the next conference will take place—but in 2020, the number of virtual meetings was multiplied exponentially. Soon it became customary to spend a Saturday morning discussing how to deal with the effects of the pandemic on the conference and on the rest of the ESC activities. A subgroup of the members also met weekly, every Thursday of the summer of 2020, to organise the e-conference.

FIGURE 1. PARTICIPANTS IN THE ESC ANNUAL MEETINGS AND MEMBERS OF THE ESC FROM 2004 TO 2020



The authors of this report take this opportunity to thank the whole Board for their engagement during a very difficult year. We thank in particular Andra-Roxana Trandafir (University of Bucharest, Romania), who acted as the conference organizer, and we send special thanks to the Heads of all the ESC Working Groups, who acted as peer-reviewers and organisers of the session of the conference. Without your collaboration, the 2020 e-conference would have never taken place. Thank you.

ESC AWARDS

In 2020, the ESC delivered six awards, three of them for the first time. The whole ceremony was recorded and can be watched on the ESC's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCommPTU1z27MX-C9rFlkCz6w>).

2020 EUROPEAN CRIMINOLOGY AWARD

Michael Hough, Emeritus Professor at the School of Law, Birkbeck, University of London, United Kingdom, received the 2020 ESC European Criminology Award in

recognition of his lifetime contributions to criminology. The award committee—composed of former ESC presidents Rossella Selmini (Chair, University of Minnesota, United States of America), Gorazd Meško (University of Maribor, Slovenia) and Tom Vander Beken (University of Ghent)—considered that Michael Hough 'has been the leading UK scholar in the last 40 years in a variety of fields in criminology and criminal justice studies, particularly in qualitative and quantitative studies on victimization and fear of crime, policing, legitimacy and trust in criminal justice institutions, and sentencing and probation. His contribution to the development of criminological knowledge at national and European levels—as shown by his extensive comparative publications and his participation in a high number of European projects and networks—is impressive. His publication record (articles, books chapters, authored book, edited books, and research reports) on a variety of topical themes has generated the highest number of citations among the nominees in World of Science and Google Scholar. As a former research officer of the Home Office, and, later in his career, as an advisor to political bodies, Professor Hough has made a remarkable contribution to the development of policy-oriented research in criminology and promoted active and engaged roles for criminolo-

gists in European society. This is also demonstrated by his many publications addressed to wide audiences. Finally, Professor Hough is a long-term member of the European Society of Criminology and has actively taken part in the Society's conferences, presenting and organizing thematic panels and strengthening cooperation and networks among European scholars'.

The Awards Ceremony took place during the 2020 ESC e-conference, the laudatio of the awardee was delivered by Rossella Selmini and the acceptance speech of Michael Hough is published in issue 2021/1 of the Newsletter of the ESC, *Criminology in Europe*.

2020 ESC YOUNG CRIMINOLOGIST AWARD

Rok Hacin (Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, University of Maribor, Slovenia) received the 2020 ESC Young Criminologist Award in recognition of his article 'Prisoners' perceptions of legitimacy of prison staff in Slovenia', published in 2018 in the *European Journal of Crime, Criminal Law and Criminal Justice*.

The award committee—composed of Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac (Chair, University of Zagreb, Croatia), Catrien Bijleveld (NSCR and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands) and Olga Petintseva (Ghent University and Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium)—considered that: 'The candidate has a promising academic profile and an explicitly European/international outlook. The article that was central to the deliberation focuses on prisoners' perceptions of the]legitimacy of prison staff in Slovenia. The researcher was able to get access to a wide array of settings (all Slovenian prison facilities) and empirically tested complex theoretical premises regarding legitimacy. The author argues why the legitimacy of prison staff is important, which he also convincingly positions in the context of post-socialist societies. Furthermore, the analyses make necessary nuances according to different prison regimes. The committee particularly values the European outlook, which clearly demonstrates that concepts and generalisable models require contextualisation and testing in different settings. The article raises important questions for [the] criminological understanding of legitimacy. Overall, the paper is well-written and has a clear structure. Hacin Rok was 28 years old at the time of publication of the article and [...] is strongly engaged in teaching and service to the scholarly community and society at large'.

EJC BEST ARTICLE OF THE YEAR 2019 AWARD

Steve van de Weijer, Rutger Leukfeldt and Wim Bernasco received the *ESC European Journal of Criminology Best Article of the Year 2019 Award* in recognition of their article 'Determinants of reporting cybercrime: A comparison between identity theft, consumer fraud, and hacking', published in issue 16/4 (pp 486–508) of the *European Journal of Criminology* (EJC).

The award committee, composed of Lesley McAra (Chair, University of Edinburgh and ESC President), Dario Melossi (University of Bologna and EJC Editor-in-Chief) and Maria Libak Pederson (Winner of the Award in 2019) considered it to be an important and well-founded article that makes a significant contribution to knowledge.

2020 ESC EARLY CAREER AWARD

In 2020, the ESC delivered for the first time the ESC Early Career Award, which recognises the outstanding scientific achievement of an early career European criminologist. It was awarded to Wim Hardyns (Institute for International Research on Criminal Policy [IRCP], Faculty of Law and Criminology, Ghent University).

The award committee—composed of Letizia Paoli (Chair, KU Leuven Faculty of Law, Leuven, Belgium), Effi Lambropoulou (Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens, Greece) and Éva Inzelt (Etvos Lorand University, ELTE, Budapest, Hungary)—considered that 25 of Wim Hardyn's articles 'have been published in internationally peer-reviewed journals and many of these journals have a high impact factor. In fact, since 2009 he has published not only in criminology journals but also in journals of other disciplines, primarily computer sciences and some of these journals have higher impact factors than criminology journals. Twenty-two other articles have been published in peer-reviewed journals without impact factor, primarily in Dutch. Wim has also published 40 book chapters, 20 as first or single author. Several of these books have been published by international publishing companies. Wim has also been editor of nine volumes, four times as first editor. Wim's track record is not only impressive from a quantitative but also from a qualitative point of view. He has a broad expertise that spans the following fields: quantitative criminology, survey methodology, big data analytics,

crime prevention, policing strategies, security and new technologies, sport-related crime, and radicalization and terrorism. Specifically, he has conducted groundbreaking research on predictive policing in Europe, a new and important theme in criminology. He launched a large-scale research program on this topic in 2015—and he has thus been one of the first, if not the first, criminologist(s) in Europe to study predictive policing. His aim has so far been twofold: to develop and test evidence-based predictive policing algorithms in Europe, on the one hand, and to conduct real-time field experiments in police forces on the other hand. This program has resulted in several studies, high-level publications in renowned journals and ongoing PhDs in this new field of criminology’.

2020 ESC BOOK AWARD

The ESC Book Award was also presented for the first time in 2020. It was awarded to Dirk van Zyl Smit and Catherine Appleton in recognition of their book *Life imprisonment: A Global Human Rights Analysis*, published in 2019 by Harvard University Press.

The award committee—composed of Aleksandras Dobryninas (Chair, Vilnius University, Lithuania), May-Len Skilbrei (University of Oslo, Norway) and José Ángel Brandariz (University of A Coruña, Spain)—considered that ‘...Dirk van Zyl Smit and Catherine Appleton’s *Life Imprisonment: A Global Human Rights Analysis* should be seen as the latest result of a long academic project devoted to exploring sentencing and prison issues, and especially sensitive aspects of the prison landscape. [...] In the framework of this long-lasting scholarly effort, van Zyl Smit and Appleton bring once again to the fore a much laudable commitment to human rights in examining the varied phenomenon of life imprisonment sentences in the second decade of the century. Being a notably ambitious book that constantly lives up to its high expectations, there are some aspects of *Life Imprisonment* that should be particularly stressed. First, it is an encyclopaedia-like monograph, which provides a broad review of relevant literature on life imprisonment worldwide, paying significant attention to the phenomena of very long prison sentences on every continent. It thereby supplies an amazingly nuanced picture of this topic in penology, so that the book will be relevant to anyone who wants to get an overview over the field. Second, *Life Imprisonment* masterfully combines a variety of scholarly perspectives in its approach to the topics un-

der study. Human rights law is evidently the soul of the manuscript, but it is adequately coupled with an empirical gaze that goes far beyond the law-in-the-books and jurisprudence viewpoint. It presents the relationship between practices and their consequences, on the one hand, and human rights doctrine and case law, on the other. This means that the book contains a reflective and dynamic discussion of how the human rights framework sheds light on the boundaries of these practices, rather than a static human rights evaluation. Third, van Zyl Smit and Appleton’s book is the result of a rare ability to mobilise global academic networks to obtain up-to-date information on life imprisonment in a wide variety of world regions, sub-continent and jurisdictions. In this sense, *Life Imprisonment* is a manifestation of a global criminology effort, which brings penal scenarios that are infrequently considered by international literature to the attention of the academic community. The Jury believes that this and many other aspects will soon turn *Life imprisonment* into a classic book, a hallmark of twenty-first-century European criminology’.

2020 DISTINGUISHED SERVICES TO THE ESC AWARD

Last but not least, in 2020, the ESC also delivered the Distinguished Services to the ESC Award for the first time. Two awards were delivered, one to Martin Killias and one to David J. Smith, in recognition of their outstanding service contributions to the effective functioning of the European Society of Criminology.

The award committee was composed of Tom Vander Beken (Chair, Ghent University, Belgium), Aleksandras Dobryninas (Chair, Vilnius University, Lithuania) and Csaba Györy (Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) and Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary). The committee considered that: ‘Without Martin Killias’ efforts, there would be no ESC. It’s possible, likely that someone would have tried to establish something similar, but not till later. It’s unknowable whether a later effort could have been as successful. The ESC had the remarkable, excellent fortune that Martin Killias was prepared to devote sizeable amounts of time to its establishment and early operation. Together with his colleagues, he organised the first informal planning meeting in Toronto in November 1999 and the official organising meeting in The Hague in spring 2000. He also was among those who organised the first annual meeting in Lausanne in

late summer 2001. Martin drafted the ESC constitution and was the ESC's first president and, until a permanent Executive Secretary was hired, oversaw all day-to-day administrative and financial operations'.

The award committee also considered that: 'David J. Smith laid the foundations on which the *European Journal of Criminology's* success is built and equally importantly did that in a way that substantially contributed to the ESC's achievement of its ambition to create a multi-national European community of scholars in criminology. Creating the *EJC* required countless hours of thankless work planning it; negotiating with Sage and the ESC board; establishing systems for solicitation, receipt, review, selection, editing, and [the] publication of articles; and negotiating with the University of Edinburgh about space, money, and staff. To assure disciplinary breadth and multinational participation, David appointed and actively consulted a small editorial advisory board and persuaded the ESC board to support its convening at each annual meeting. By the time David stepped down, the *EJC* was widely recognized as an up-and-coming international journal, potentially the most visible and influential in Europe. That accomplishment was crucially important to the success and credibility of the ESC'.

The Awards Ceremony took place during the 2020 ESC e-conference, the laudatio of the awardees was delivered by former ESC President Michael Tonry, and the acceptance speech of David J. Smith can be watched, together with the whole awards ceremony, on the ESC's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCommPTU1z27MXC9rFlkCz6w>).

ELECTRONIC VOTING

Another innovation introduced in 2020 was a system of electronic voting implemented in collaboration with the University of Lausanne. The system allowed ESC members to elect Catrien Bijleveld as President-Elect, Fernando Miró-Llinares as At-Large Board member, and Daniel Fink as Auditor.

EUROPEAN CRIMINOLOGY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT (ECOH)

The fourth wave of interviews for the European Criminology Oral History Project (ECOH)—conducted during

the ESC conference in Ghent in 2019—are now online and can be watched on the ESC's YouTube channel. This means that, currently, the following 27 interviews, which were conducted in Muenster (2016), Cardiff (2017), Sarajevo (2018) and Ghent (2019), are available:

Christopher Birkbeck, interviewed by Gary LaFree;
 Jiří Buriánek, interviewed by Eva Krulichová;
 Gerben Bruinsma, interviewed by Lieven Pauwels;
 José Luis Díez-Ripollés, interviewed by Anabel Cerezo-Domínguez;
 Aleksandras Dobryninas, interviewed by Eglė Vileikienė;
 Frieder Dünkel, interviewed by Ineke Pruin;
 Cyrille Fijanut, interviewed by Tom Daems;
 Yakov Gilinskiy, interviewed by Anna Gurinskaya;
 Ineke Haen-Marshall, interviewed by Dirk Enzmann;
 Tim Hope, interviewed by Adam Edwards;
 Mike Hough, interviewed by Ben Bradford;
 Susanne Karstedt, interviewed by Alison Liebling;
 Martin Killias, interviewed by Marcelo F. Aebi;
 Krzysztof Krajewski, interviewed by Irena Rzeplinska;
 Elena Larrauri, interviewed by José Cid;
 Michael Levi, interviewed by Nicholas Lord;
 Friedrich Lösel, interviewed by Caroline Lanskey;
 Dario Melossi, interviewed by Mximo Sozzo;
 David Nelken, interviewed by Stewart Field;
 Paul Ponsaers, interviewed by Antoinette Verhage;
 Sebastián Roché, interviewed by Jenny Fleming;
 Ernesto Savona, interviewed by Stefano Caneppele;
 Joanna Shapland, interviewed by Matthew Hall;
 Sonja Snacken, interviewed by Elena Larrauri;
 Michael Tonry, interviewed by Manuel Eisner;
 Lode Walgrave, interviewed by Brunilda Pali;
 Per-Olof Wikström, interviewed by Kyle Treiber.

You can also reach the ESC's YouTube channel through the ESC Website: <http://esc-eurocrim.org/index.php/activities/ecoh>. From 2016 to 2018, the ECOH project was placed under the responsibility of former ESC President Rossella Selmini; since then, it has been placed under the responsibility of José Angel Brandariz, former member of the ESC Executive Board. The interviews will resume as soon as we can meet in person again, hopefully in Málaga 2022.

Marcelo F. Aebi is Professor of Criminology at the School of Criminal Sciences, University of Lausanne, Switzerland, and Executive Secretary of the ESC

Grace Kronicz is the Secretary of the Executive Secretariat of the ESC

Thomas Mathiesen

1933–2021



Thomas Mathiesen, a key figure in the development of criminology and sociology of law, passed away this summer.

Mathiesen (b. 1933) grew up just outside of Oslo and spent his formative years in the US studying sociology. His stay in the US was important to Mathiesen's development as a scholar and public intellectual. He was theoretically informed by the Chicago School and living in the US during the McCarthy hearings made a great impression on him and was what he, in his professional autobiography, called 'his first important political experience'. There would be many of those later in his career, all of which he approached with a skepticism towards surveillance and political conformity.

He returned to Norway and defended his doctoral dissertation in 1965, *The Defences of the Weak—A Sociological Study of a Norwegian Correctional Institution*. The thesis was an ethnographic study of Ila Detention and Security Prison and would be the start of a lifelong engagement with criminal justice policies and research on surveillance beyond penal institutions.

Mathiesen was an active participant in Norwegian public discourse. His research on the role of the media, Schengen border control and criminal justice influenced not only generations of social scientists and legal scholars, but also politicians and civil society actors. David Garland has formulated Mathiesen's position as a scholar-activist, and throughout his career, he combined scholarship with building and supporting social movements.

Mathiesen was not averse to taking controversial positions. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, he took part in protests against the Norwegian state's plans to construct a power plant on the territory of the indigenous Sami population in Northern Norway. It attracted a great deal of attention that Mathiesen, a professor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Oslo, joined the public protests in front of the Norwegian parliament.

Above all, he is known for being one of the founders and a leading figure in KROM—The Norwegian Association for Penal Reform—established in 1968. Though many similar organisations at the time were established throughout Europe, Mathiesen's dedication to KROM is likely one of the reasons KROM remains active to this day. His legacy is not only found in the prison abolitionist movements in Europe and the US, but also in current police abolitionist research and debates over defunding the police. His long-lasting and present legacy to Norwegian, Nordic and European Criminology and Sociology of Law is his analysis of, and critical thinking about, the apparatus of the modern state.

In Mathiesen's research, one will repeatedly find his keen eye trying to unveil power structures. He spent his academic career forever questioning the legitimacy of the powers-that-be. For his research and contributions to society, he received many awards and appointments, among them the Emile Zola Award for Civil Courage. Mathiesen was a member of what has been called the «golden age» of Norwegian Sociology of the 1960s. He departed from the more functionalist approach of Talcott Parsons that was dominant at the time, instead developing a research agenda geared towards change, theoretically as much as politically. Mathiesen was a highly prolific writer and his work is and will continue to be important to his colleagues at the Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law at the University of Oslo and the wider criminological and socio-legal research community.

[May-Len Skilbrei](#) is Head of Department and Professor Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law University of Oslo

[Per Jørgen Ystehede](#) is Research Advisor at the Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law University of Oslo

Martti Lehti

1963–2021



The Finnish criminologist Martti Lehti passed away on 18 April 2021, after a short illness, at the age of 58. Martti Lehti received his doctorate in law in the University of Helsinki in 2001 with a historical analysis of a homicide wave in Finland in the early 1900s. He conducted his research career in the Finnish Research Institute of Legal Policy, and, from 2015, in the Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy at the University of Helsinki (KRIMO).

Lehti continued the historical statistical research tradition of the renowned Finnish criminologist Veli Verkko by building the world's most comprehensive international homicide data set, which he updated and expanded throughout his whole career. In its present form, the data covers over 250 nations and self-governing regions, several trends dating from the mid-1700s, and almost 200 countries from the 1950s. In the Finnish national context, Lehti held the undisputed role of 'official homicide expert'. He was largely responsible for the maintaining of Finland's real-time national homicide monitoring (FHM) system established in 2002. The system draws on information produced during preliminary investigations by the chief investigator. It is based on co-operation between the Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy, the National Police Board and the Police University College. It provides up-to-date detailed contextual case-level information of both victims and offenders.

Lehti was one of the key creators of the European Homicide Monitor (EHM). Originally funded by the EU, the EHM still offers the most advanced standardised framework for countries and regions to compare disaggregated homicide characteristics, patterns and trends. One of Lehti's last publications was the EHM-based Nordic Homicide Report (2019). He also participated in the 'backward extension' of the EHM in the Historical Homicide Monitor project.

Besides violent crime, Lehti's research interests covered a large variety of criminological topics, ranging from crime prevention and crime against businesses to human trafficking. Through his work in the Finnish Crime Prevention Council, Martti Lehti made a major contribution to policy planning in crime prevention. Lehti took his role as a public criminologist seriously. He became the standard information source for the Finnish media and criminal justice system on homicide and other types of violence. In this regard, his activity had a wide reach, as he provided information on violence to international organisations and NGOs. He did not shy away from dealing with sensitive but societally important topics, such as the immigration-crime nexus and intimate partner violence, from the point of view of criminology. For research colleagues around the world, Lehti willingly shared his data without restrictions. As a researcher, Martti Lehti was known for his exceptional work ability, systematic approach to data collection, and attention to detail. For colleagues working with him, his overriding personality features were warmth and friendliness. Martti did not want to make himself the center of attention, often preferring to help others in their projects. Colleagues could always trust in his help and support. In him, the criminological research community lost an esteemed friend and colleague.

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The authors are Martti Lehti's colleagues at KRIMO.



Klaus Boers

After receiving the usual law degrees, I qualified as a criminologist in through participation in empirical research on attitudes toward crime and sanctioning in Hamburg, and during a stay in Chicago (Northwestern University) resulting in a dissertation on fear of crime. German reunification provided opportunities to study the impact of social transformation and modernisation processes on victimisation, fear of crime, and (in qualitative case studies) on economic crime. In Tübingen and during a stay in Boulder, I began to work on life-course developments (Habilitation, a professorial dissertation). After an interim professorship in Dresden, I was appointed professor of criminology at the law faculty in Muenster in 1998. Four years later in Duisburg, Jost Reinecke and I started the Crime in modern Cities (CrimoC) panel study on the age development of delinquent behaviour (age 13 to 30) based on an integrative theoretical model. Currently, I am working on the (questionable) impact of early onset on persistent offending, and—together with Per-Olof Wikström—the effects of formal controls on further detection risks in Duisburg and Peterborough.

From 2012 to 2017, I was an elected and later appointed member of the ESC Executive Board (2016 organisation of the annual meeting in Muenster). Since 2011, I have been an elected member of the Board of the Kriminologische Gesellschaft (Society of German speaking Criminologists; 2017 president and organisation of the bi-annual meeting), and since last year, co-editor of the *Monatsschrift für Kriminologie und Strafrechtsreform*. From 2016–2020, I was vice-dean and then dean of the law faculty in Muenster. I have held guest professorships in Niigata, and currently hold one in Beijing (China University of Political Science and Law).

My research interests are still in life-course criminology, integrative theoretical models, economic crime, social control and attitudes toward crime and sanctioning. My understanding of criminological work is analytical, undertaking theory-guided empirical investigations. Since I attended an ESC meeting for the first time (in Krakow in 2005), the annual meetings and the broad spectrum of working groups with its vivid discussions have marked for me the most important forum of criminological discourse.



Marie Torstensson Levander

I am honored to be nominated for the role as At-large board member of the European Society of Criminology and, if elected, I would consider it a great privilege to serve the European criminology community. I have been an active ESC member since the start and had the pleasure to take part in and learn from its important annual gatherings. I am a strong believer in and advocate for the value of bringing together European scholars to strengthen the exchange of experiences and fostering cross-national collaborations relevant to the enhancement of our understanding of crime, its causes, and prevention.

I am currently a Senior Professor in Criminology at the Department of Criminology, Malmö University, Sweden. I got my PhD in Sociology at Stockholm University in 1987 and was appointed Associate Professor in 1993 and full professor in 2006. I have served as Head of the Department of Criminology 2009-2019 and member of and Faculty Board, Malmö University 2009-2012. I serve regularly as an advisor, evaluator on boards and commissions of research funders and the universities. I served as advisor to the scientific board for the Swedish Crime Victim Compensation, the Swedish National Crime Prevention Council, the Swedish National Police Board, the Scandinavian Council for Criminology, and the Swedish Ethical Review Authority, respectively. I have an extensive experience of undergraduate and graduate teaching and in the examination of PhD thesis.

My research profile cover both fundamental aspects of crime and its causes as well as applied topics of criminal

justice and its response to crime. My doctoral thesis in the mid 1980s focused on drug use among young males and females in a Swedish birth cohort. At that time, I also carried out studies of sexual offences and criminal justice procedures associated with such crimes and observational studies of street prostitution. During the 1990s I conducted police research at the Swedish National Police College. Together with colleagues, I studied the implementation of problem-oriented policing and community policing, introduced large scale victim and fear of crime surveys as a tool for planning and measuring effects of preventive work in the police organization, and outlined a knowledge-based strategy for national crime prevention. I have also been engaged in a number of cross-national studies including, for example, a study variations of police integrity in European countries and the US, and a Horizon 2020 cross-national project which studied fear of crime and victimization in three European countries. I have a broad methodological experience: having worked with longitudinal and cross-sectional designs, official records, self-report surveys and observational data, evaluations, and risk assessments. I have published peer reviewed papers addressing issues within these research areas, e.g. in *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health*, *Journal of Criminal Justice*, *British Journal of Criminology*, *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*, *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, *Nordisk Politiforskning*, *Social Psychiatry and Social Epidemiology*, *PLoS one*, *Child Indicators Research*, *Child and Adolescent psychiatry and Mental Health*, but also in book chapters and reports. In addition, I frequently communicate research

results with authorities and policy makers on a national and local level.

The prime focus of my current research is the MINDS study in Malmö, of which I am the principal investigator. MINDS (Malmö Individual and Neighbourhoods Development Study), is a theory-driven, longitudinal project which aims to explore the role of the person-environment interaction and its age-related changes in crime causation. I am also very much engaged and involved in a European network for Analytic Criminology together with colleagues from several different European universities. A key aim of this network is to promote and advance theory-driven (mechanism-based) criminological research. In my current activities I have come to focus particularly on topics of gender and crime and the application of criminological knowledge to crime prevention policy and practice.

As an At-Large Board Member of the ESC a key aim of mine would be to contribute to the strengthening of the European criminological community by the promotion of European scholarly exchanges through the stimulation and support of collaborative and cross-national conferences, workshops, networks and publications. In this context, and particularly close to my heart, is the support and promotion of young, and particularly young female scholars, through the ESC and its activities. The ESC is the most important European forum for criminology and our young scholars are our future.



Barbora Hola

Barbora Hola is a Senior Researcher at the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR) and Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Law and Criminology at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. She has an interdisciplinary focus and studies international criminal justice, societal reconstruction after atrocities and the etiology of collective violence. Barbora has published extensively on these subjects and has presented at international conferences and universities in Europe, Australia, Africa and the Americas. Barbora recently co-edited *Perpetrators of International Crimes: Theories, Methods and Evidence* (OUP, 2018) and *The Oxford Handbook on Atrocity Crimes* (forthcoming, 2022), the latter of which adopts a criminological lens to study and understand large scale, systematic criminality, such as genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes. Currently, Barbora is writing a manuscript on transitional justice in post-Communist Czechoslovakia (under contract with OUP). Besides her research and teaching in the International Crimes, Conflict and Criminology Master's programme at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Barbora is a fellow of the Center for International Criminal Justice, a knowledge centre dedicated to interdisciplinary studies of mass atrocity crimes and international criminal justice (www.cicj.org) and a co-chair of the European Society of Criminology Group on Atrocity Crimes and Transitional Justice (<https://eactj.org/en/>). In 2018, she was appointed as a member of De Jonge Akademie of the Netherlands Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences (<https://www.dejongeakademie.nl/nl/science-spots/leden-in-beeld/barbara-hola>). In 2017,

Barbora was one of four candidates who received the prestigious WISE (Women in Science Excel) fellowship from the Dutch Organization for Scientific Research to develop her empirical studies on international criminal and transitional justice after atrocities. Barbora is not only passionate about her research but also actively dedicated to its dissemination among practitioners and students through her teaching. She values collaboration, particularly with young researchers. She actively engages students in her research and supports them in their scientific aspirations. Together with colleagues, she started a CICJ Research Lab course that focuses on the connection between research and education and engages interested students in ongoing research projects. During her career, she has regularly consulted practitioners in post-conflict states. In 2017, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) asked her to train Bosnian judges on sentencing for international crimes. She trained Rwandan prosecutors on the punishment and rehabilitation of perpetrators of international crimes within a Netherlands Universities Foundation for International Cooperation (NUFFIC) training program. In 2015, the International Center for Transitional Justice invited Barbora for consultations with stakeholders in Colombia to discuss her research in light of the then ongoing peace talks between the Colombian government and the rebel group FARC-EP. In 2019, she also assisted judges at the International Criminal Court in their deliberations on the sentencing of Bosco Ntaganda, who was recently convicted at the ICC.

