

# Convergent roads, bridges and new pathways in criminology



Opening plenary session

Marc Cools

2019

EUROCRIM



Welcome on behalf of the Faculty of Law and  
Criminology

Michel Tison, Dean

2019

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Welcome on behalf of the City of Ghent and  
the Ghent Local Police

Veerle Dhondt, Chief Superintendent,  
Ghent Local Police



Welcome by

Lieven Pauwels, Conference Organiser, Ghent  
University

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# Convergent roads, bridges and new pathways in criminology

Warm Welcome to the 19<sup>th</sup> Conference of the ESC

By Lieven Pauwels, on behalf of the local Organisers

Prof. Dr. Lieven J.R. Pauwels

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Lieven.Pauwels@UGent.be

# Welcome to...

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- **...Belgium**
  - First B. ESC Conf Liège (2010)
- **... Ghent**
  - <https://www.visitflanders.com/en/destinations/ghent/history/>
- **Ghent University**
  - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghent\\_University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghent_University)

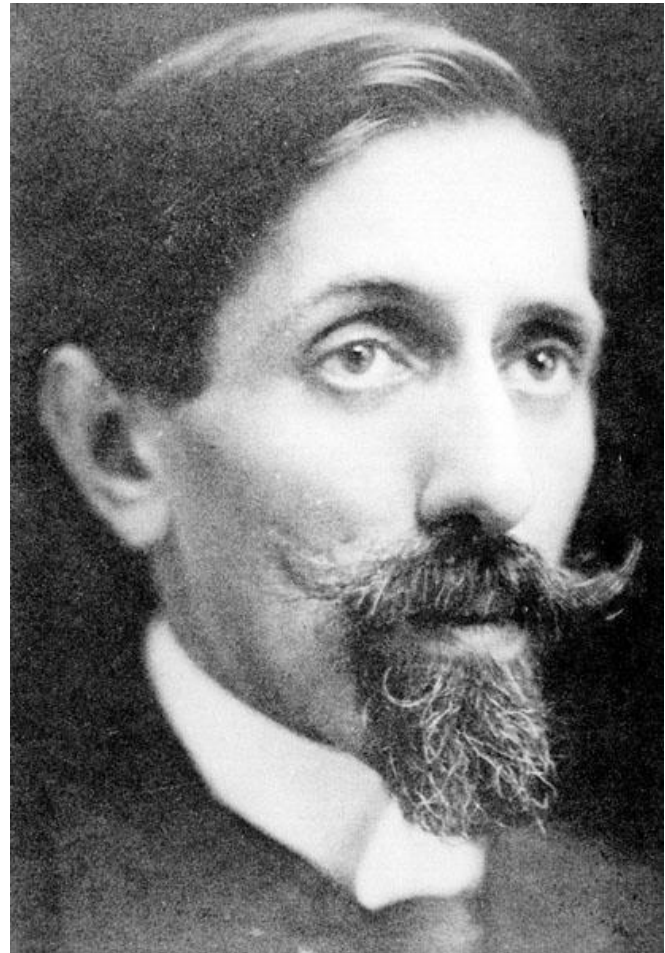


**Inauguration of Ghent Uni by the Dutch Prince of Oranje (October 9, 1817, painting by Mattheus Ignatius van Bree.**



# Criminology is embedded in *Fac of Law & Crim*

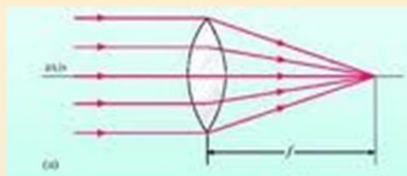
- **Dean Nico Gunzburg (1882-1984)**
- **Founder of School of Criminology**
  - Criminology
  - Criminal law
  - Special Needs Education
  - Medicine (forensic / biology)
- **4-year programme only since 1984**



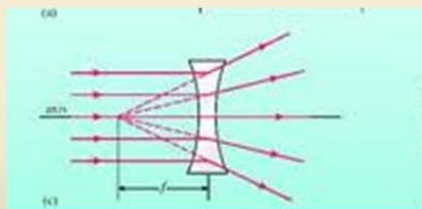
# Main theme

## Convergence and Divergence

CONVERGE = come together from different directions; merge into one



DIVERGE = branch out from a common point into different directions



# Additional information

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- **Conference App and Conference website:**  
<https://www.eurocrim2019.com/>
- **Online version of the Conference Programme (*Latest Version*, including errata)**
- **Twitter account**
- **@eurocrim2019: tweet pictures etc regarding presentations**
- **Google Maps to navigate between venues.**

ESC presidential address

Tom Vander Beken

2019

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# Hot and cold topics in European criminology

Tom Vander Beken

Presidential address

19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology  
Convergent roads, bridges and new pathways in criminology  
18 September 2019 - Ghent



# What should or could European criminology be?

18 September 2019 | ESC Address

## Open criminology & interdisciplinary criminology (newsletter message 1 & 2)

*“It is my conviction that both our field and our European Society should be seen as an environment to participate in the exchange of ideas and foster collaboration across the borders of our discipline, regardless of very narrowly-defined schools of thoughts, ontological stances and methodological preferences. My argument also implied that as criminologists we cannot withdraw within our discipline and not even within academia. Even if what we do is (still mainly) about the study of the processes of making laws, breaking laws and society’s reaction towards the breaking of laws, we need to keep our eyes open for what happens in other disciplines and society. Indeed, we must look outwards and bridge the gaps (if any) between other disciplines and society.”*

## Futures of European criminology (newsletter message 3)

Scenario’s about uncertainties related to interdisciplinarity and societal impact of European criminology: *Crime Science, Penal Policy, Da Vinci* and *Theoretical Criminology*

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# What is European Criminology?

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An empirical approach - (European) criminology is what (European) criminologists do

We know something about how we publish and (who we) cite, but what do we know about what we actually do?

What can accepted abstracts of the ESC conferences ( $n = 11,724$ ) learn us about criminology (in Europe), the topics addressed and temporal evolutions?

Automated text analysis

Focus on hot and cold topics

research

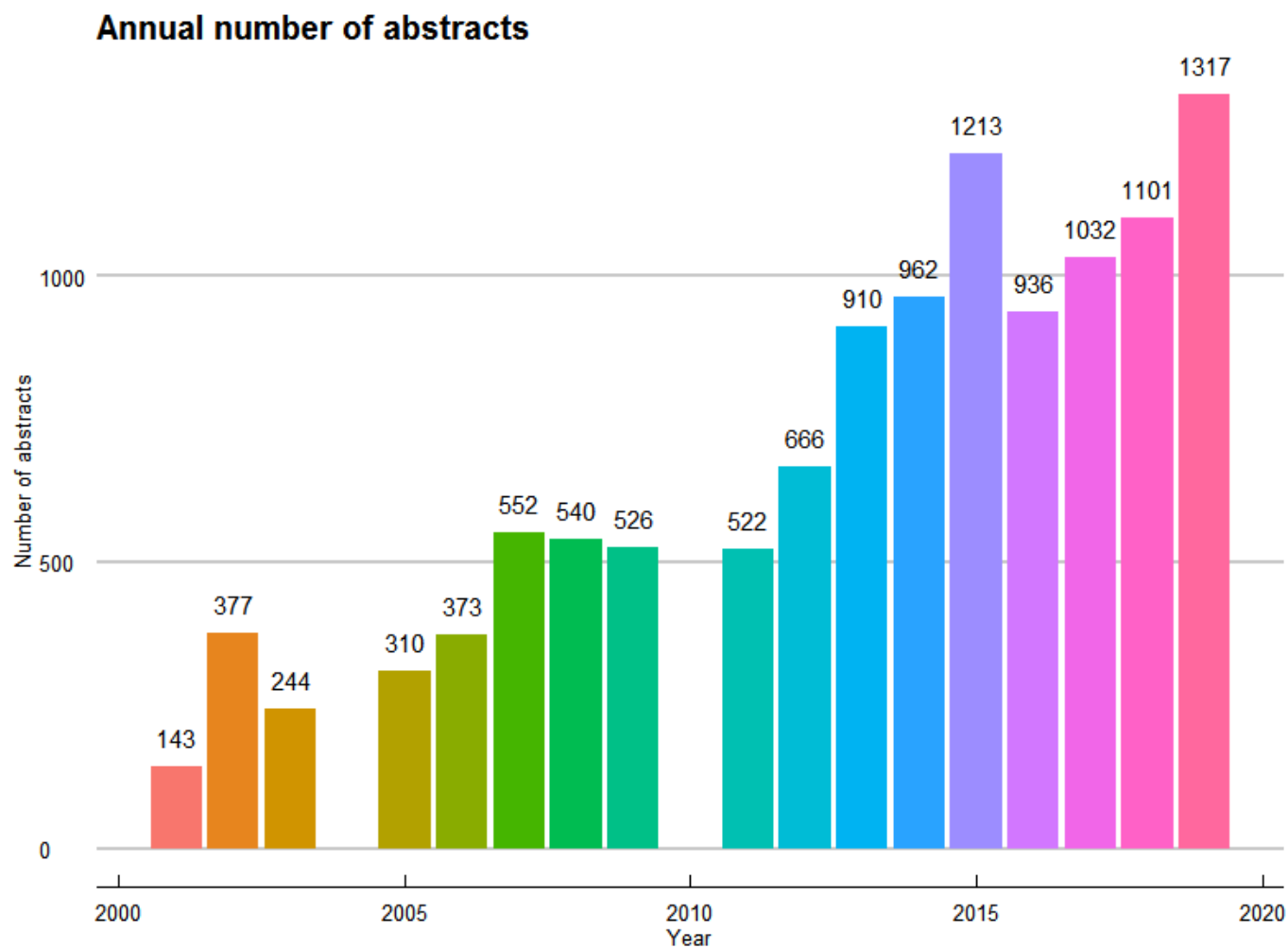
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# The ESC abstracts

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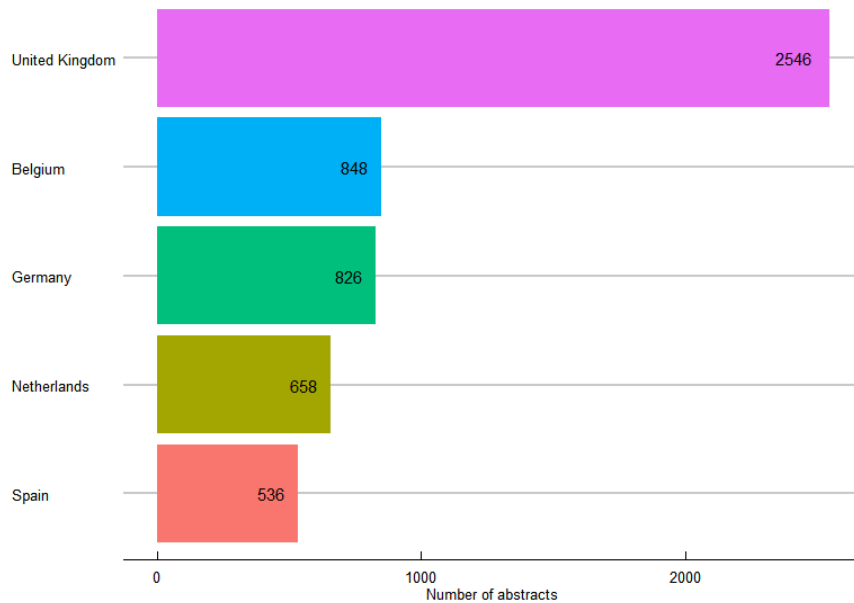
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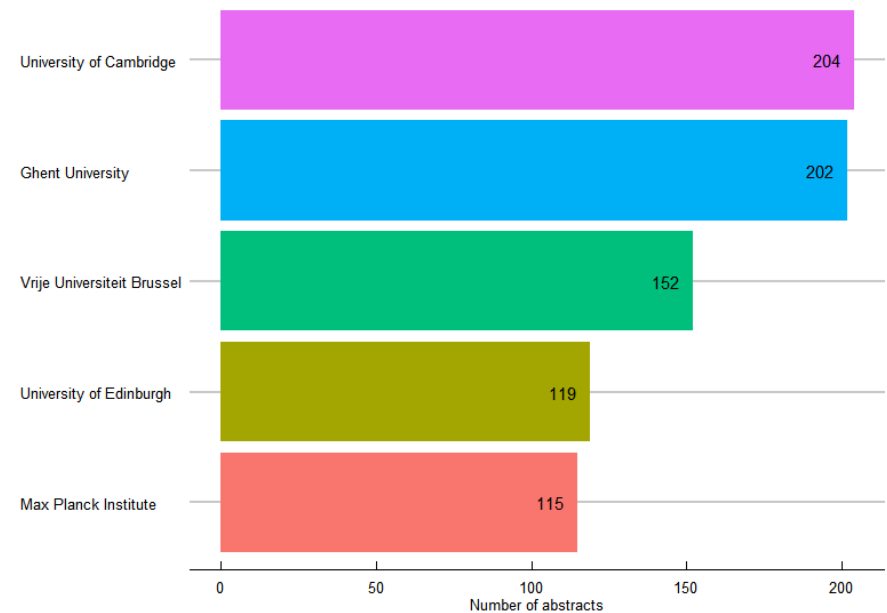
# The ESC abstracts

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**Top 5 contributing countries (first author)**



**Top 5 contributing institutions (first author)**



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# Methodology

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## (Correlated) topic models

Automated analysis of large-N text corpora

Combination of machine learning, natural language processing and text mining

Detection of patterns and word co-occurrences

N abstracts = 11,724

N words = 2,282,493

```
## Topic 1 Top Words:
##   Highest Prob: crime, crimin, commit, hate, includ, type, econom
## Topic 2 Top Words:
##   Highest Prob: group, peopl, young, member, youth, gang, ethnic
## [...]
## Topic N Top Words:
##   Highest Prob: prison, imprison, releas, inmat, incarcer, staff, life
```

## 50 topics

Multiple topic models

Model selection: qualitative interpretation over quantitative model fit

Combination of machine learning and expert knowledge

## Detection of hot & cold topics

Trend analysis ( $p < .001$ ) (Griffiths & Steyvers 2004, PNAS)

With Dr. Christophe Vandeviver and Dr. Stijn Daenekindt

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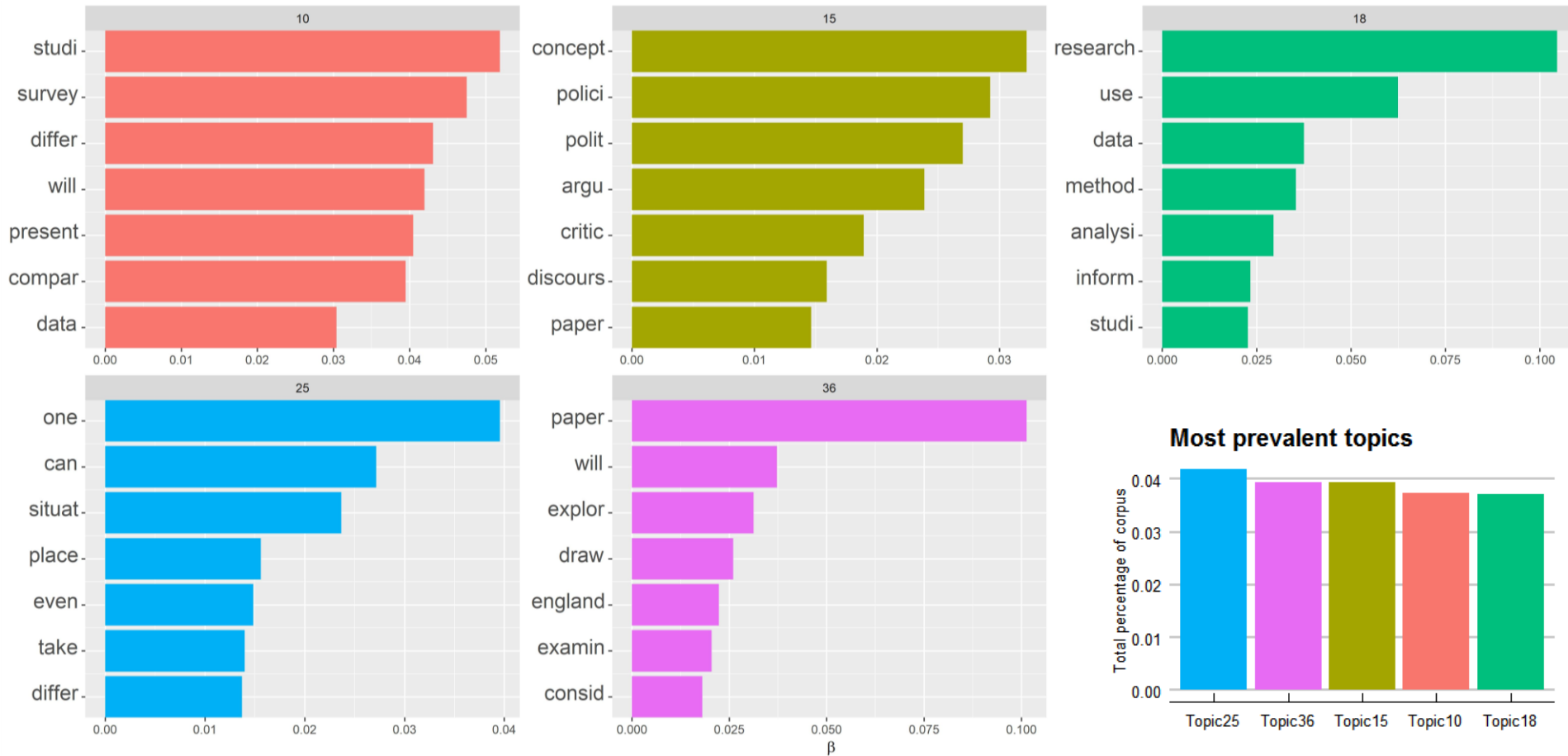
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# Most prevalent topics

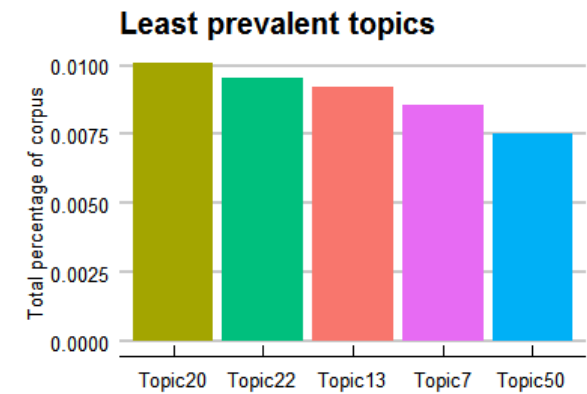
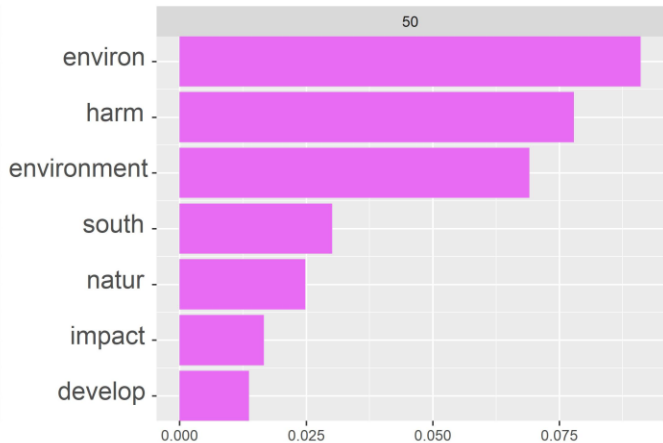
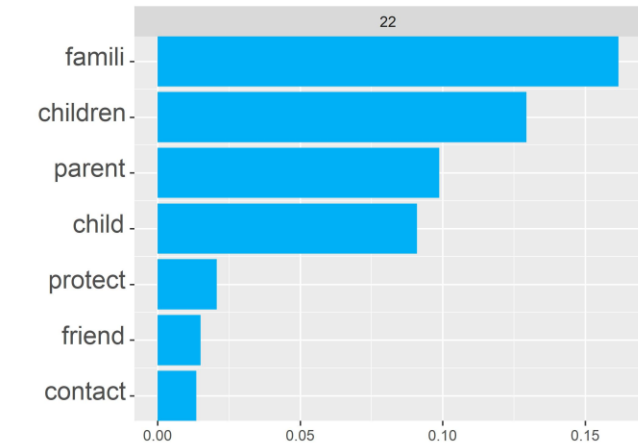
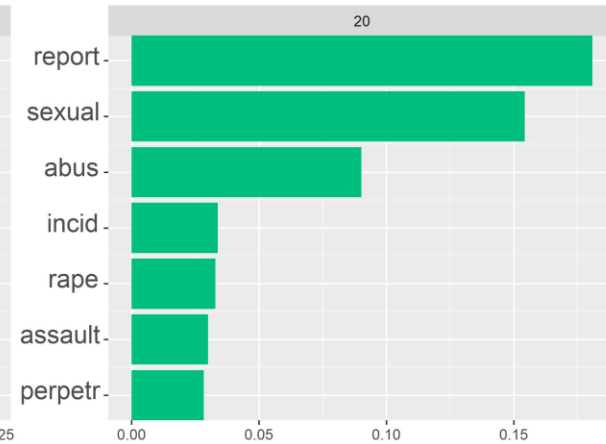
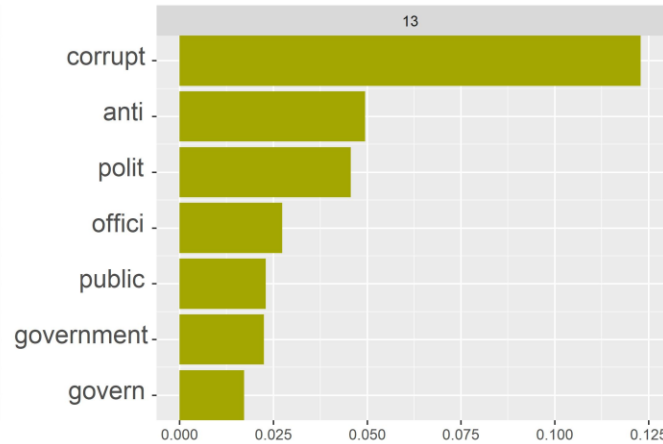
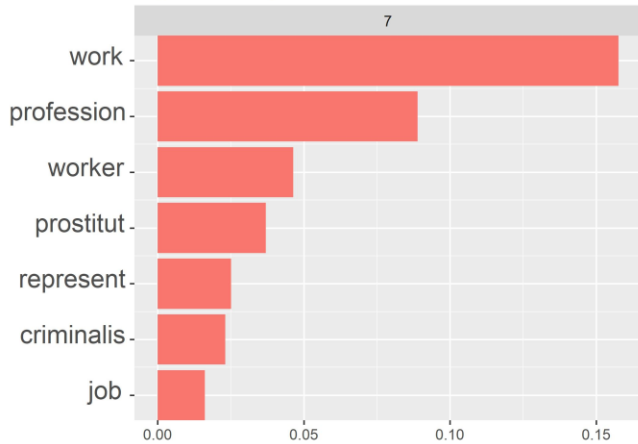
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research publications consultancy conferences

# Least prevalent topics

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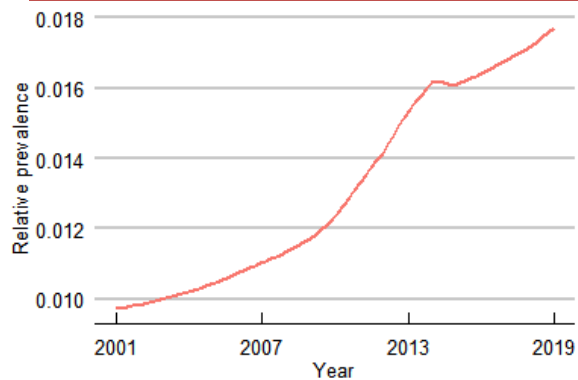


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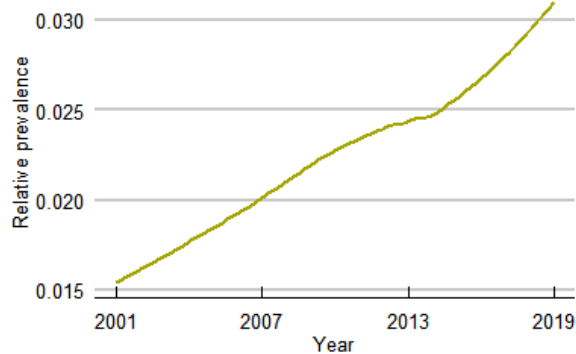
# Hot topics

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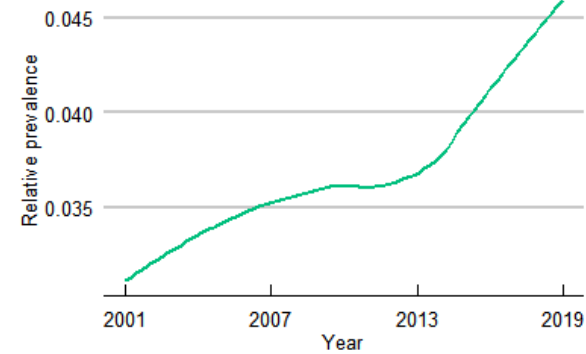
## Victim, experi, support



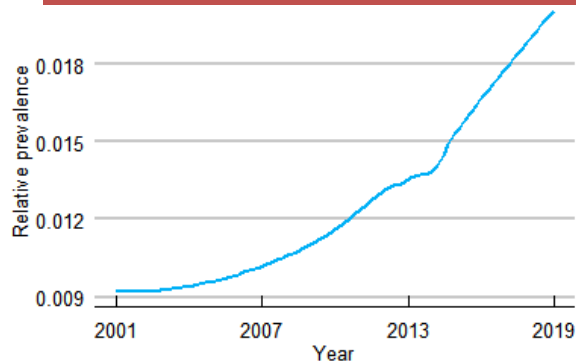
## Interview, process, experi



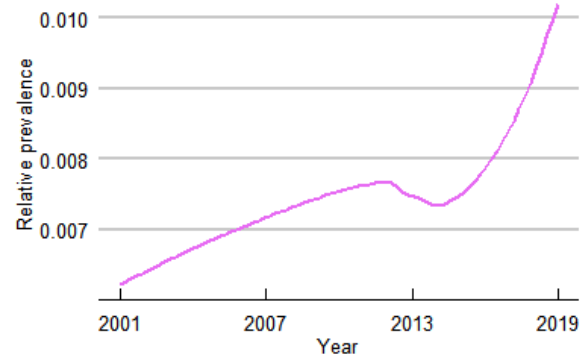
## Research, use, data



## Media, online, technolog



## Environ, harm, environment



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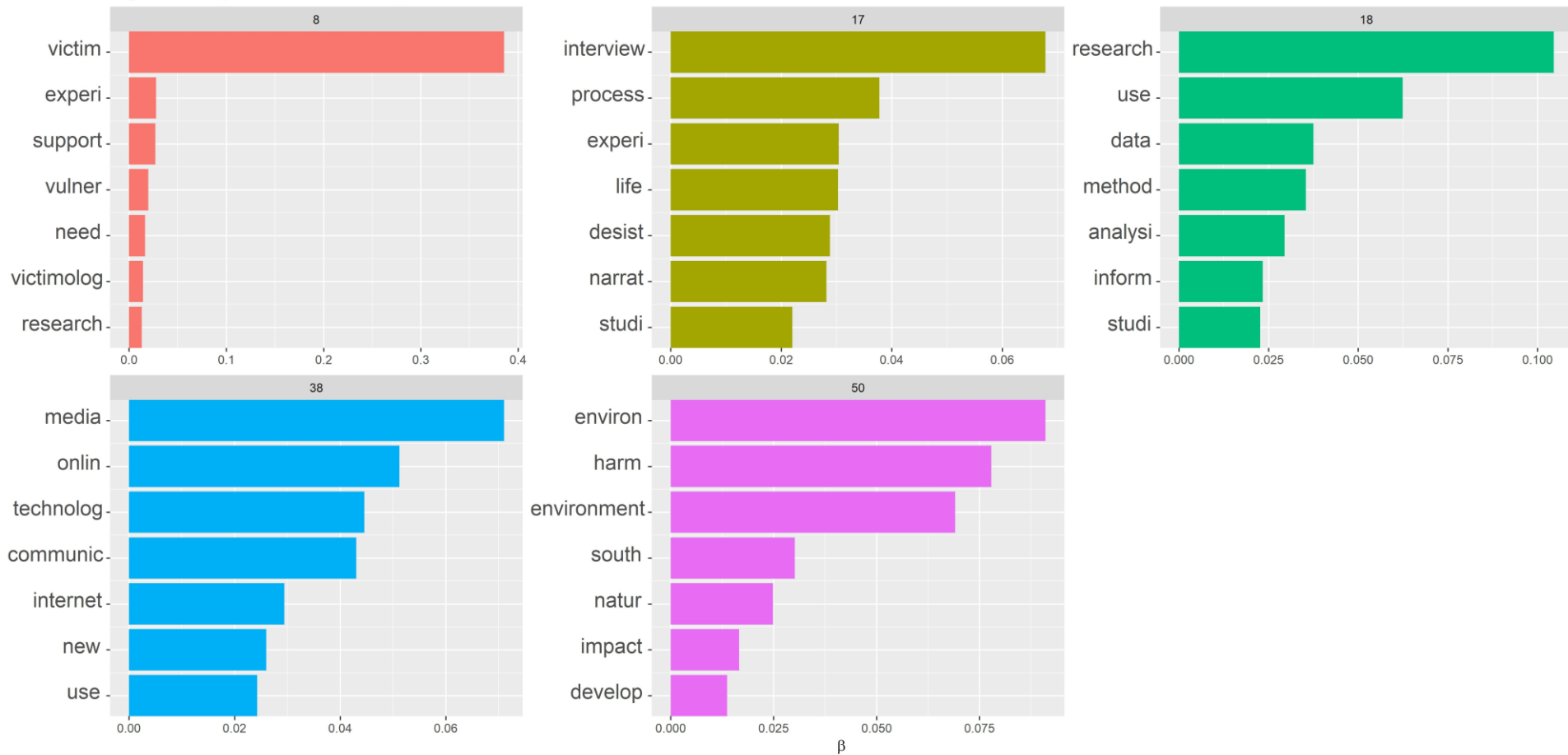
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# Hot topics

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Highest word probabilities for hot topics



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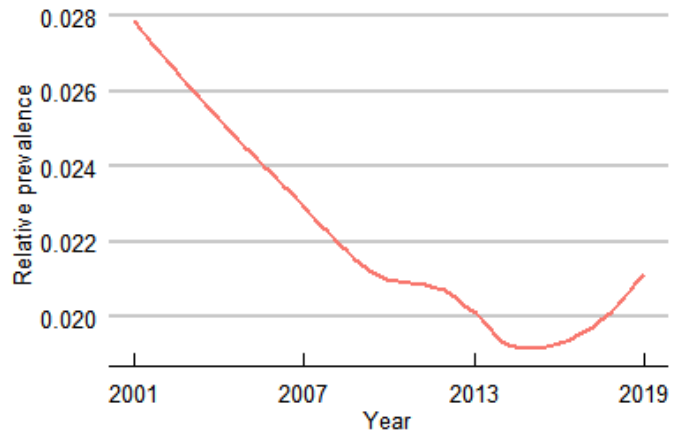
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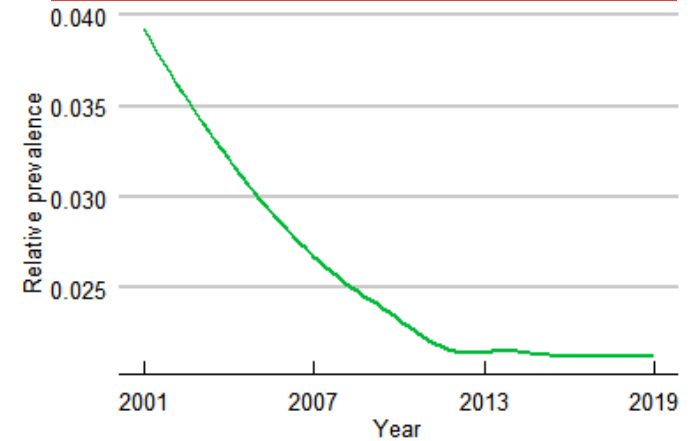
# Cold topics

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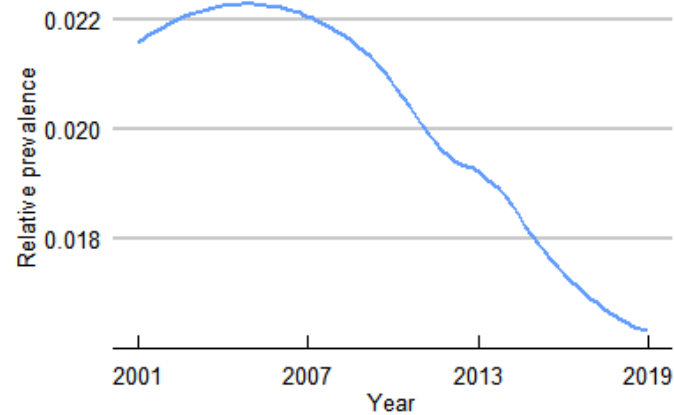
## Crime, crimin, commit



## Rate, data, statist



## Offend, crimin, sex



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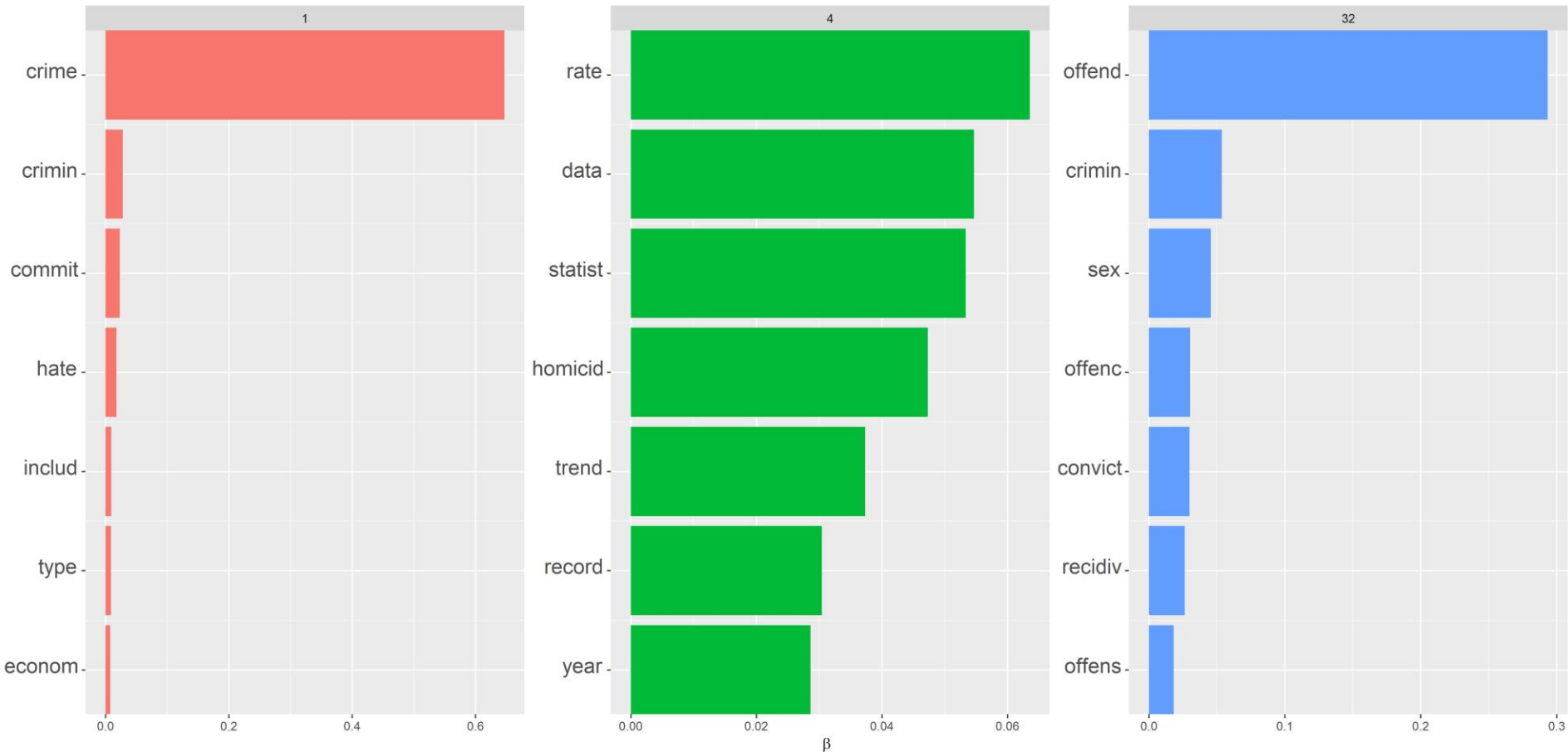
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# Cold topics

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Highest word probabilities for cold topics



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# Food for thought and further exploration

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When differentiated into 50 topics, modelling ESC abstracts of ESC conferences shows:

- Most prevalent topics: meta language of ESC abstracts (or European criminology)?
- Stability for most topics over time
- 5 hot and 3 cold topics

European criminologists: general practitioners instead of specialists?

Strong subdisciplines or themes move to their own fora and conferences?

European criminology: increased attention for scientific method and study design?

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Local organiser's address

Lieven Pauwels

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# Criminology in Belgium... in a nutshell

Lieven Pauwels  
Antoinette Verhage

Prof. Dr. Lieven J.R. Pauwels

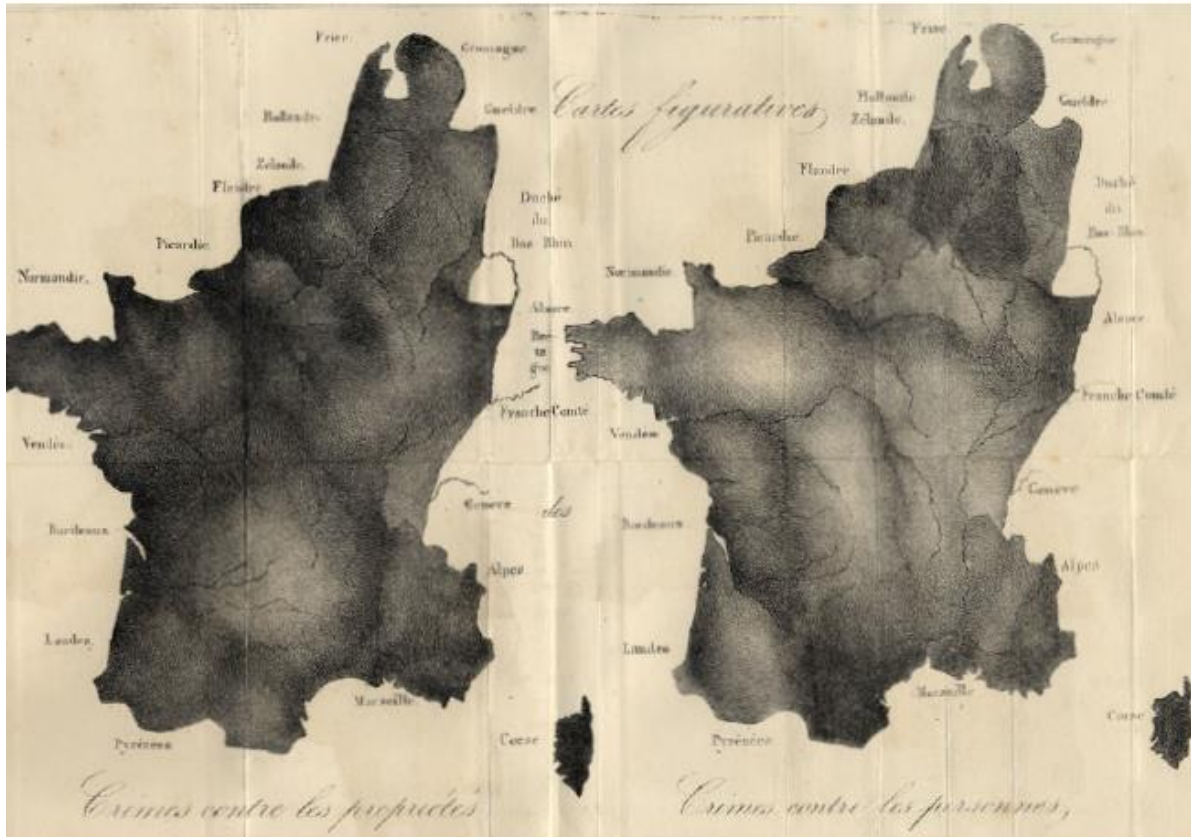
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Newsletter of the *European Society of Criminology*

# CRIMINOLOGY IN EUROPE



**Reflections  
based on  
Pauwels, L., Verhage, A.  
(2019).  
'Criminology in Belgium.  
ESC Newsletter**

**Lieven Pauwels and Antoinette Verhage on Criminology in Belgium**

# Goals of this presentation

---

- **(1) Historical development of criminology / (criminal) policy in Belgium**
  - (2) *Criminology as an educational programme*
  - (3) *Research Topics and Funding*
- **It's not the first time ESC takes place in Belgium**
- **A lot has been written on criminology in Belgium:**
  - Daems & Parmentier (2017)
  - Hardyns & Pauwels (2016)
  - Daems, Maes & Robert (2013)
  - Dantinne & Duchêne (2010)
  - Bruinsma & Walgrave (2009)
  - Snacken (2007)
  - ... there is *a lot more, but in Dutch or French* (e.g. Festschrifts, edited volumes at the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the Leuven School of Criminology and the 75th anniversary of the Ghent School of criminology,...



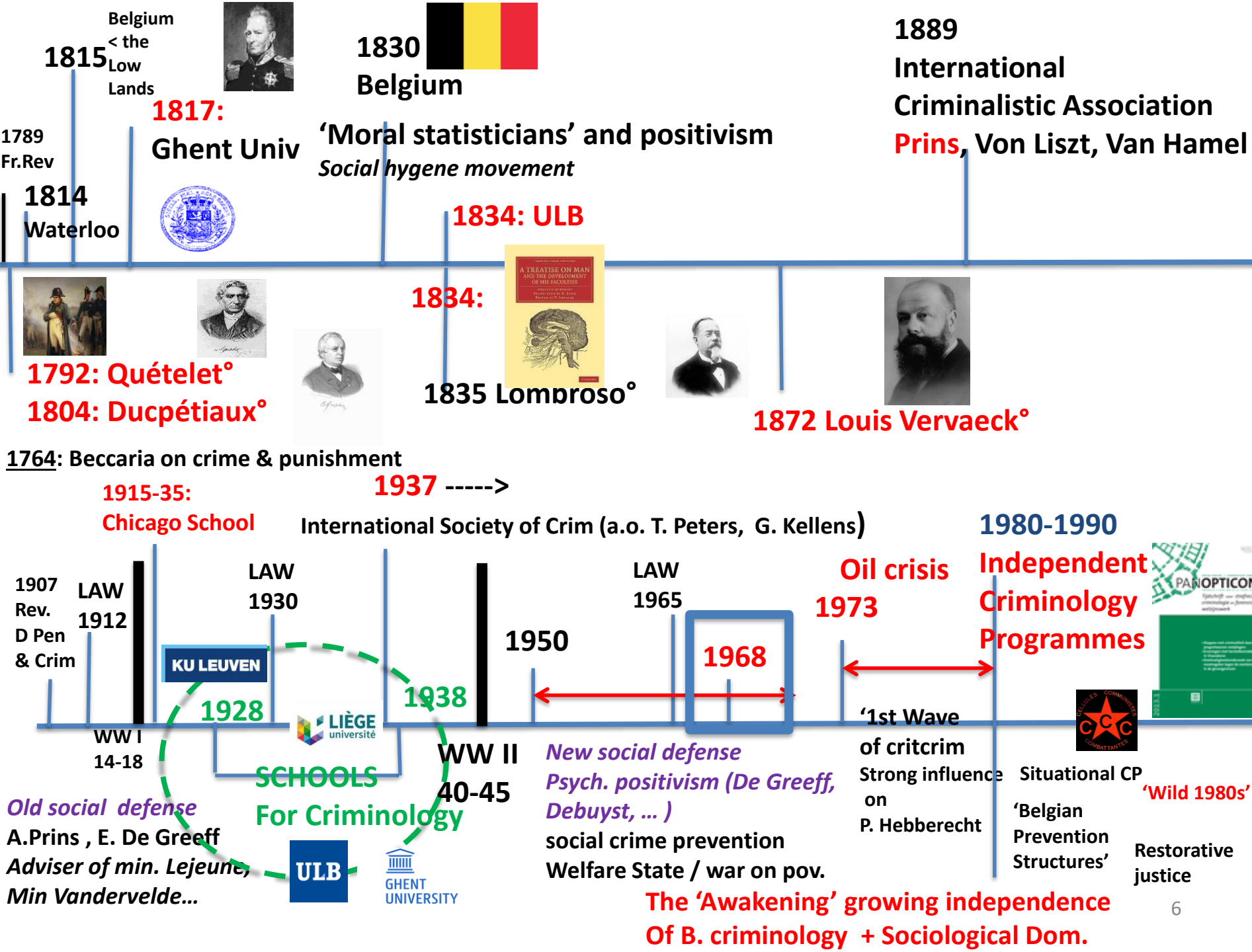
## Can Belgian criminology be presented in a nutshell?

*A selection of milestones  
For Belgian criminology  
& criminal policy*





**Let the journey begin!**





**Increasing international visibility**  
**By participation in large-scale projects (ISRD, ICVS, Eurogang, European Sourcebook, ... )**

**Zaventem Attacks**

**2020**

**1990-2000**



Increase in publications  
 'Metrics Mania'

**2000**

**2009**

**2015**

**S. Snacken  
 ESC Award**

'Refugee crisis'  
 RWA on the rise

**2019**  
 'Elections' ?

**Heydays of integrated  
 Social / situational CP**

**2001  
 9/11**



**2008**  
**L. Walgrave  
 ESC Award**

*1st criminological  
 PhD on articles  
 At Ghent Uni*

**2008  
 Bank crisis**



**1991**  
 'Black Sunday'  
 VI.Blok

**1996: Dutroux case**

**1998: Prep police reform**

**1993**

- **First integrated police statistics**
- **First national crime & vict survey**

• *Ponsaers, Bruggeman, Van Kerckvoorde*

• **NICC (current director C. Myncke)**

**Becomes fully operational**

**21th C:**  
 key-words Evaluation / Safety / Security /  
 'New Public Management' / (Penal) populism  
 Police Studies / Org. Crime / 'radicalisation studies'

**2004:**

**Ba/Ma Educational reform**

**Impact on criminology programmes**

**Increasing attention for research methods**

**20th  
 Anniv  
 ESC!!**

# How does that impact on Belgian criminology?

- **Key topics:** EVERY institution of crime control / 'new' phenomena (pol viol) /
- Every School has own core themes
- **Divergent or convergent?**
- Educ programmes vs research clusters
- Increasing gap policy and criminological knowledge!

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION



tusind tak  
谢谢 dakujem vám  
ありがとう  
ngiyabonga  
dziękuję  
merci  
baie dankie  
धन्यवाद molte grazie  
suksema  
danke  
thank  
you  
gracias  
obrigada  
obrigado  
teşekkür ederim  
شكرا  
tack så mycket  
ngiyabonga  
dziękuję  
merci  
baie dankie  
धन्यवाद molte grazie  
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# 2019 AWARDS

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# ESC European Criminology Award 2019



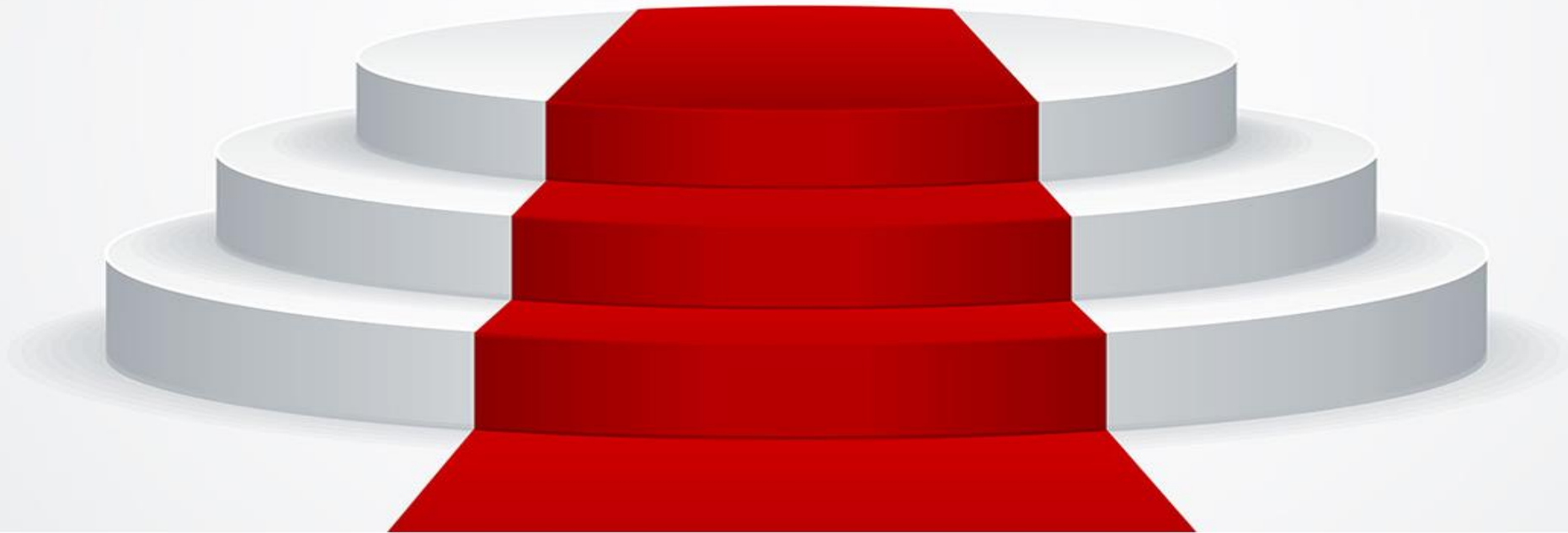
Laudatio: Michael Tonry (University of Minnesota  
Law School )

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# AND THE WINNER IS...

Tapio Lappi-Seppälä  
Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy



# ESC Young Criminologist Award 2019



Laudatio: Anna-Maria Getos (Zagreb Faculty of Law)

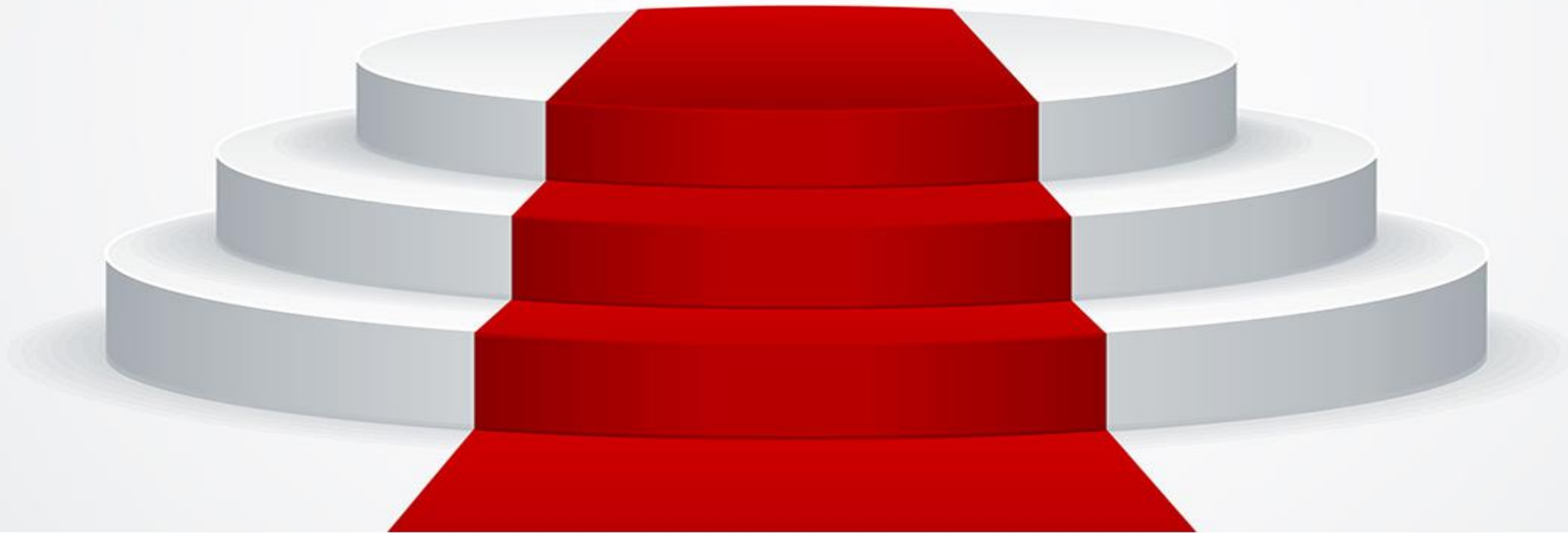
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# AND THE WINNER IS...

Kjersti Lohne (University of Oslo)

“Penal humanitarianism beyond the nation state:  
An analysis of international criminal justice”





# European Journal of Criminology Best Article Award 2018



Laudatio: Tom Vander Beken

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# AND THE WINNER IS...



Article

## **Do offenders have distinct offending patterns before they join adult gang criminal groups? Analyses of crime specialization and escalation in offence seriousness**

**Maria Libak Pedersen**

Ministry of Justice, Denmark / Aalborg University, Denmark

European Journal of Criminology  
2018, Vol. 15(6) 680–701  
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